

USCGC RESOLUTE (WMEC-620) SEP 2023 – JAN 2024

HAMMERHEAD NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE...

- Letter from the CO
- Chief's MESSage
- Sailor of the Quarter
- Local Engagements
- Eight Bells Ceremony
- The Panama Canal
- Patrol Operations
- Helicopter Operations
- Fish Call
- Underway for the Holidays
- Order of the Shellback
- Welcome Aboard & Farewell
- Sunset Quarters
- Patrol Statistics



LETTER FROM THE CO

Dear RESOLUTE families, friends, and loved ones,

Greetings from the Eastern Pacific Ocean. It seems like ages since we last saw one another back on November 27th, 2023. Since then, I can assure you, that your loved ones kept busy, proudly stood the watch, and capably weathered the litany of challenges presented during our deployment.

For those not familiar, our current mission is in support of the U.S. Government's strategic efforts to disrupt, intercept, and seize narcotics at sea. Success can be measured in many forms, but when we prevent dangerous narcotics from reaching their intended destination(s), everyone wins...well everyone but the trafficking organizations. Over the span of RESOLUTE's 60-day patrol, your loved ones successfully interdicted 6,565lbs of Marijuana and 1,650kgs of Cocaine while detaining six suspected smugglers in two very complex cases. For our class of cutter (210' WMEC), that's a big haul, and one that everyone aboard and at home should be extremely proud of.

Your loved ones (my shipmates) are a resilient, resourceful, and hard-working crew dedicated to one another and deeply committed to executing our assigned missions in a safe and efficient manner. Like you, I could not be more proud of their many achievements throughout our deployment. During the patrol, RESOLUTE safely navigated over 8,500 nautical miles, conducted over 40 hours of flight operations, transited the Panama Canal (twice), had a swim call in over 9,000 feet of water, crossed the Equator four times (a significant milestone in a sailor's life at sea), visited Ecuador in South America, and landed a few Mahi Mahis, and a Sailfish during our fish calls – all around chasing narcotics traffickers in the vast Pacific Ocean. To say the least, we kept busy around conducting drills, training, and operations.

Patrols are never easy; this one was no different. I am fully aware your loved ones deployed over the holiday season. I cannot thank each of you enough for your sacrifice, support and well wishes during this period. I've often marveled at the phrase "*it takes a village*," in our case it is no different. We (RESOLUTE) cannot complete our work without your collective love and support. For that I offer you my most heartfelt thanks and assure you that we did our best to make the season as '*merry and bright*' as we could despite missing all of you. We held a secret Santa gift exchange, had cookie decorating, sang carols, hung decorations around trivia nights, karaoke, and other special events (bingo), all spearheaded by RESOLUTE's crew. It was an honor to share this experience with your loved ones. Again, I cannot thank you enough for your support over this special time while considering all that you sacrificed on your end which allows us to do what we do on ours. We look forward to seeing you again soon, until then, keep a weathered eye on the horizon, and I wish each of you the best as RESOLUTE remains "*Semper Paratus – Always Ready*."

Yours Aye,
Matthew R. Kolodica, Cmdr.
Commanding Officer, CGC RESOLUTE (WMEC 620)



Chief's MESSage

Greetings families, friends, and shipmates. As we approach the conclusion of another patrol, the Chief's Mess would like to express gratitude to RESOLUTE's families, friends, and all our TDY personnel. Your ongoing sacrifices and support have been instrumental in the successful completion of our missions—thank you! Amidst holidays, diverted port calls, repairs, drug interdictions, helo operations, and a dynamically changing mission, this patrol has been truly unique. Despite a busy patrol, the crew was able to enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation as RESOLUTE's crew appreciated a wonderful time sightseeing and enjoying the local culture in Panama City, Panama, as well as a unique and challenging stop in Manta, Ecuador. The morale committee made the patrol entertaining by hosting morale events such as bingo, trivia, and a Christmas gift exchange, before watching the ball drop as we began 2024. Completing a 60-day counter-narcotic patrol was demanding, yet rewarding as we seized 6,565 lbs of marijuana, and 1,680 kilos of cocaine. In addition, the crew underwent comprehensive training in damage control, aviation, medical procedures, detainee/migrant watch standing, engineering, and navigation, ensuring their proficiency and readiness for any situation. This training resulted in crew members obtaining 62 qualifications while conducting over 50 drills during this patrol. Whether dealing with a drug bust, training exercises, or simply standing the watch, the crew's professionalism and dedication to the mission were truly exceptional, particularly during the holiday season. As we return home and enjoy time with family, friends, and loved ones, the Chief's Mess extends heartfelt thanks to the crew for an outstanding patrol.

RESOLUTE Chief's Mess:

CSC Brian Black, MKC Ryan Mills, MKC Brett Banks, EMC Justin Williams, BMC Brendan Gamble, BMC Joseph Noreikas



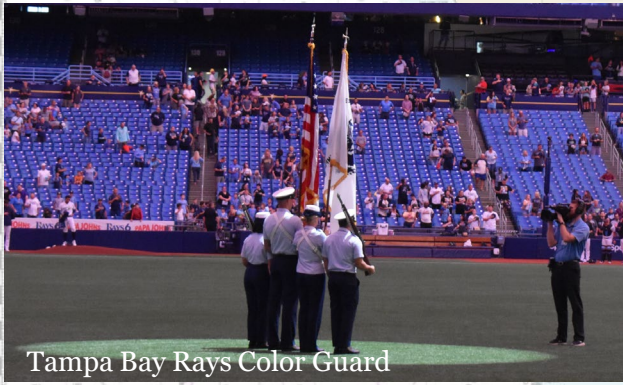
Sailor of the Quarter

DC3 Joshua Bruhn



Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua Bruhn is a Damage Controlman onboard RESOLUTE and was selected as RESOLUTE's "Sailor of the Quarter." Onboard, DC3 is a member of the Repair Division, where he is responsible for all damage control equipment, lifesaving equipment, the cutter's sewage system, shipboard plumbing systems, and welding. During the past quarter, DC3 demonstrated outstanding devotion to duty, dedicating hours to unclogging deck drains during port calls, repairing the ship's sewage system inport and underway, and conducting damage control training for new crew members. DC3's superb ingenuity and technical abilities have greatly improved the cutter's material condition and led to 3 successful patrols. Bravo Zulu shipmate!

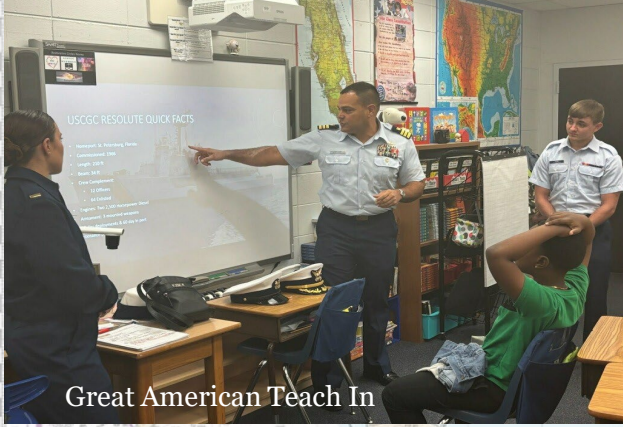
Local Engagements



Tampa Bay Rays Color Guard



Navy League Barbeque onboard RESOLUTE



Great American Teach In



Tampa Bay Buccaneers Color Guard

During this past inport period, RESOLUTE crew members were busy with Public Relations in the St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay area. The crew participated in the following events:

- Tampa Bay Rays Color Guard
- Tampa Bay Buccaneers Color Guard
- Navy League Gratitude Barbeque
- Cub Scout Troop 263 Tour
- Navy League Annual Golf Tournament
- Northwest Elementary School Trunk or Treat
- Northwest Elementary School Great American Teach-In



LTJG Sanders and Troop 263

Eight Bells Ceremony

Two newly pinned Permanent Cuttermen



CWO Curtis, CO of CGC JOSHUA APPLEBY



CUTTERMAN'S CALL!

On October 18th each year, units around the Coast Guard host a sea service celebration called an "Eight Bells Ceremony." Eight bells signify the eight, thirty-minute segments of a 4-hour watch stood underway. The ceremony is our way of honoring cuttermen of the past and present. This year, RESOLUTE hosted their annual Eight Bells Ceremony for all cuttermen in the St. Petersburg area.



RESOLUTE's original ship's bell

The Panama Canal

ORDER OF THE DITCH!

After the five-day journey from St. Petersburg, RESOLUTE completed a 51-mile, 7-hour transit of the Panama Canal. Sailors that transit the Panama Canal earn the "Order of the Ditch" certificate. The Panama Canal took 33 years to complete and was initially opened by the United States in 1914. The U.S. controlled the canal until 1999. Approximately 14,000 vessels transit the Panama Canal each year- RESOLUTE did it TWICE!

RESOLUTE entering the Panama Canal



RESOLUTE in the locks



RESOLUTE transits the Gatun Lake



Patrol Operations



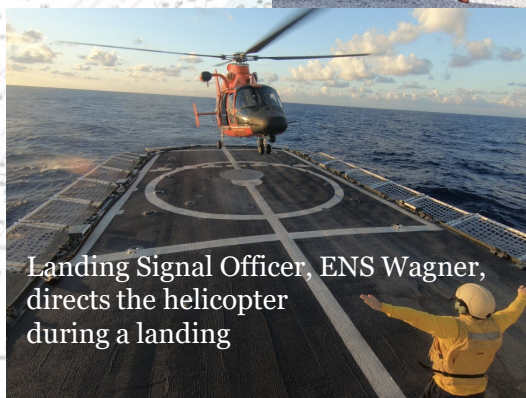
RESOLUTE interdicted two “go-fast” style vessels smuggling drugs through the Eastern Pacific Ocean. The crew seized 6,565 pounds of marijuana, 1,680 kilograms of cocaine, and apprehended 6 suspected narcotics traffickers. Our boarding teams, aviators, engineers, bridge teams, and combat information center all contributed to 2 successful cases. We proudly supported Joint Interagency Task Force South and U.S. Coast Guard strategic objectives to stop the illicit flow of narcotics from Central and South America.



Flight Operations



Aviation fuel team fueling the helicopter



Landing Signal Officer, ENS Wagner, directs the helicopter during a landing



“NOW SET FLIGHT QUARTERS!”

RESOLUTE deployed with a helicopter and aviation crew from the Helicopter Tactical Interdiction Squadron (HITRON) for the entire patrol. HITRON is used onboard cutters to employ aerial use of force tactics to interdict go fast vessels smuggling narcotics. They were invaluable during our 2 cases.

HITRON flew nearly every day underway to stay proficient. Even though they aren't cuttermen, we enjoyed having the aviators onboard!



Fish Call

**“DOWN DOWN
ALL LINES, UP UP
ALL FISH!”**

RESOLUTE boasts a large crew of anglers. Fish calls in the Eastern Pacific were a great source of morale for the crew.

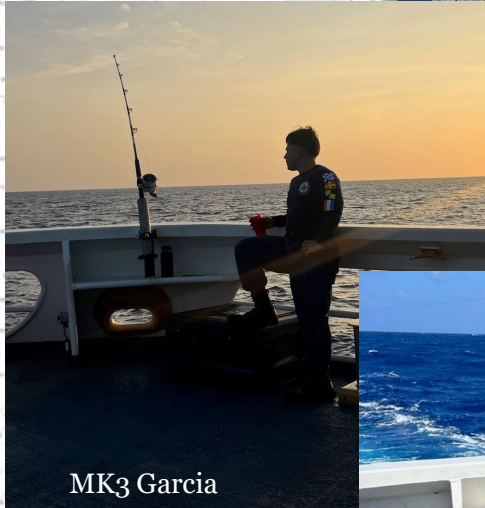
**Patrol Master Fisherman:
EM2 Alex Ornelas**



EM2 Ornelas



EM2 Ornelas



MK3 Garcia



LT Rizzardi



EM2 Ornelas

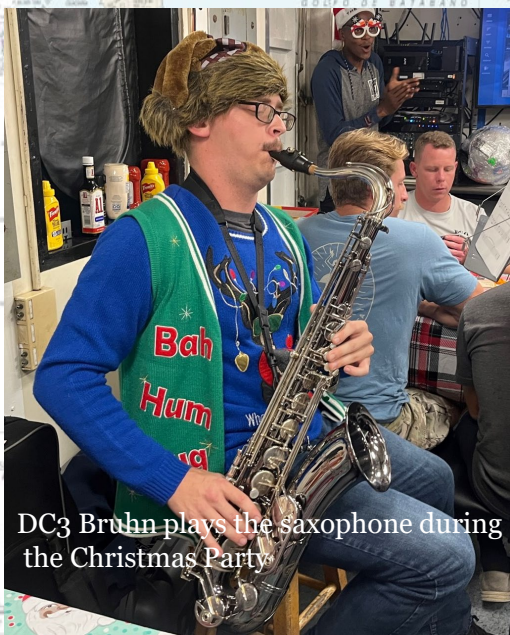


MKC Mills

Underway for the Holidays

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

While deployed over the holidays, RESOLUTE still took time to spread cheer, give gifts, and enjoy time with their "Coast Guard Family." The crew held a white elephant gift exchange, a Christmas Party, cookie decorating contests, and an ugly sweater contest. We hope you had the chance to see our Holiday Cards and our video from the Panama Canal!



DC3 Bruhn plays the saxophone during the Christmas Party



Ugly sweater contest

Order of the Shellback



While on patrol, RESOLUTE crossed the Equator, marking an incredible milestone in a sailor's life. Since the 18th Century, Line-Crossing Ceremonies have been tradition to honor a sailor's first crossing of the Equator. Those who have crossed the Equator are "Shellbacks." Those who have not are "pollywogs." To become a Shellback, a pollywog must complete the Line-Crossing Ceremony and appear before King Neptune, who will decide if they can join his nautical kingdom of Shellbacks. King Neptune and Captain Davy Jones paid RESOLUTE a visit to determine if the pollywogs were worthy of the Shellback title.



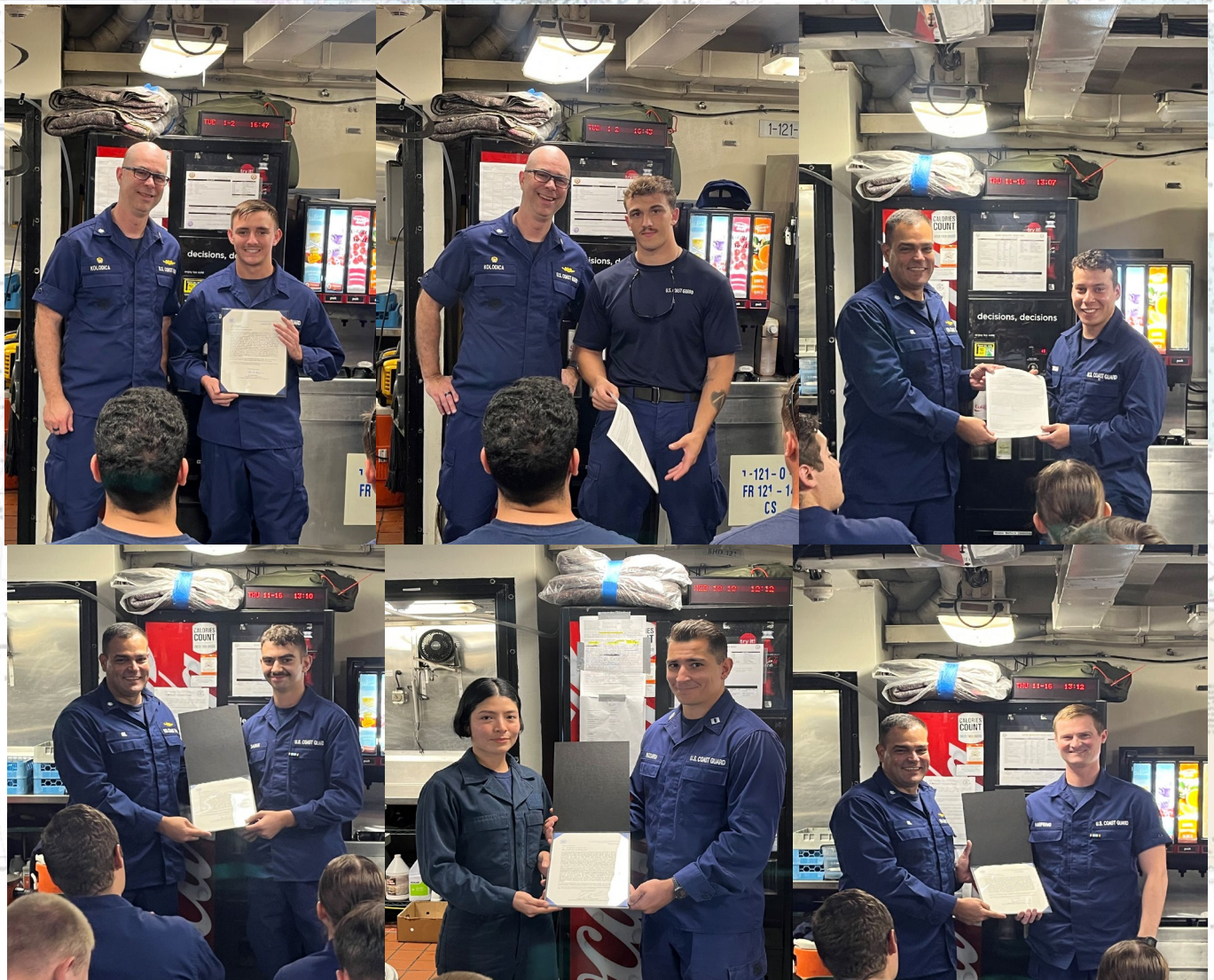
Welcome Aboard and Farewell

Welcome Aboard:

IT2 Tooley	OS3 Maharaj
EM3 Dutton	SA Beeman
CS3 Castro	SA Saldana
FA Danek	ET3 Johnson
OS3 Quinones	SN Vagedes
FA Pin	SA Shittu
SA Murguia	SA Renn

Fair Winds and Following Seas:

FN Duke
 FN Carmona
 FN Paredes
 SN Harpring
 SN Chopek
 SN Meuth
 SN Sarkis



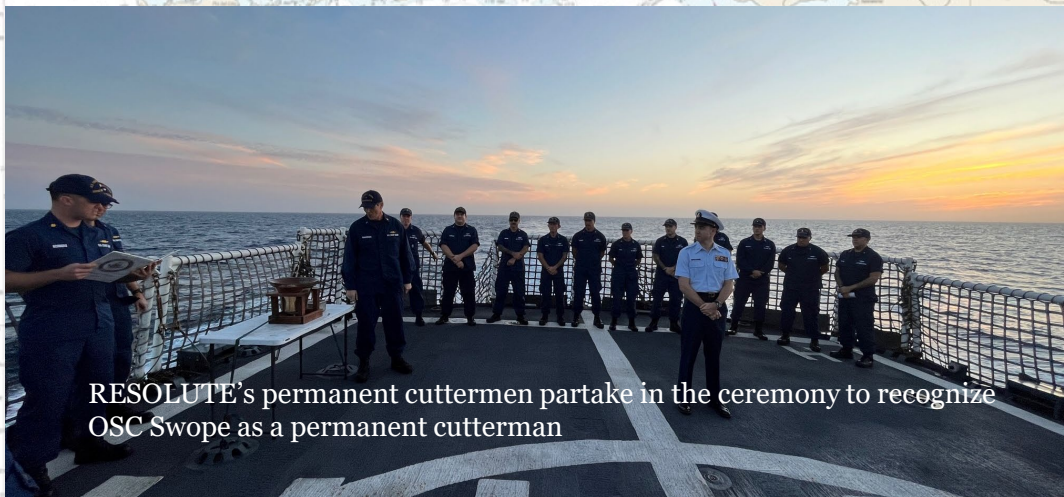
Sunset Quarters

RESOLUTE holds “Sunset Quarters” prior to returning home to recognize outstanding crew accomplishments. We also held a Cutterman’s Ceremony, where 1 permanent cutterman was awarded. To earn a permanent cutterman pin, you must serve at sea for at least 5 years. The cutterman pin was established in 1974 to honor the sacrifice and the devotion to duty of those who serve in the nation’s oldest seagoing service and continue to go back to sea. The pin acknowledges the selflessness and resilience of cuttermen that keep our service afloat.



OSC Swope and CDR Kolodica

OSC Swope receiving his permanent cutterman’s insignia



RESOLUTE’s permanent cuttermen partake in the ceremony to recognize OSC Swope as a permanent cutterman

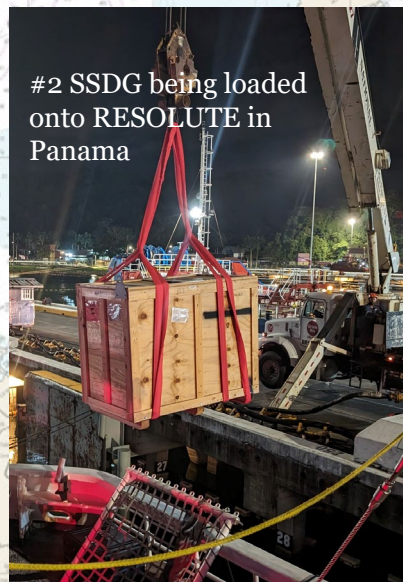
Patrol Statistics

Miles Steamed: 8,500
Flight Evolutions: >200
Gallons of fuel burnt: 60,000
Gallons of jet fuel burnt: 2,893
Birds that hitched a ride: >50
Meals Served: 179
Fish Caught: ~7
Special Sea Details: 10
Anchoring Evolutions: 3
Interdictions: 2
Contraband Seized: 10,269 lbs
Smugglers Detained: 6
#2 SSDG Casualties: 3
Power Losses: 2
Port Calls: 3
Equator Crossings: 4
Qualifications: 62
Memories Made: A lot

RESOLUTE small boat retrieves airdropped part



#2 SSDG being loaded onto RESOLUTE in Panama

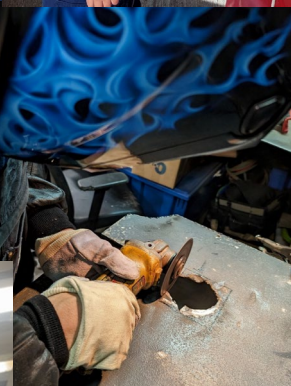


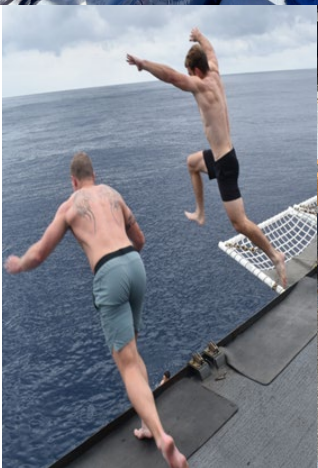
RESOLUTE underway in the Atlantic Ocean



Panama Canal







THANKS FOR READING!

Follow RESOLUTE on Facebook for more!

