

CGC Steadfast Returns Home after 45-Day Counter-Narcotics Patrol



U.S. Coast Guard members conduct drug offload in San Diego, Jan. 22. The drugs were offloaded after Coast Guard Cutter Steadfast interdicted 1,675 pounds of cocaine, worth more than \$28 million. U.S. Coast Guard / Petty Officer 3rd Class Alex Gray

ASTORIA, Ore. – The Coast Guard Cutter Steadfast returned to its homeport of Astoria, Oregon, Jan. 30 following a 45-day counter-narcotics patrol, where the crew transited more than 10,000 miles conducting law enforcement operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, the Coast Guard 13th District said in a Feb. 4 release.

During the deployment, the Steadfast's crew interdicted four vessels suspected of smuggling illicit narcotics. Steadfast boarding teams discovered and seized 1,675 pounds of cocaine, worth more than \$28 million, and detained seven suspected narco-traffickers.

Steadfast also completed biennial Aviation Standardization Training, certifying the cutter for Aerial Use of Force, and served as a training platform for tactical law enforcement units from Maritime Security Response Team-West.

The Steadfast crew celebrated Christmas and rang in the New Year while on patrol. The Steadfast's ombudsman coordinated gifts and a compilation video with holiday wishes from crewmembers' families. Crewmembers were surprised on Christmas morning when Santa visited and shared the personalized messages and gifts.

"The Steadfast crew, families, and friends really came

together to keep spirits high while deployed over the holidays,” said Cmdr. Craig Allen, Jr., commanding officer of the Steadfast. “During the patrol, the crew displayed superb skill and professionalism in achieving a perfect detection-to-interdiction record, thus ensuring the holidays were considerably less jolly for narco-traffickers.”

To ensure the safety of Steadfast’s crew during the COVID-19 global pandemic, the crew conducted pre-deployment COVID-19 testing, followed by a 14-day monitoring period.

Throughout their patrol, Steadfast’s crew maintained strict health precautions during all interactions with the public, including wearing face coverings at all times and undergoing intensive health screenings prior to each boarding.

The Steadfast is a 210-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in Astoria.