

# Coast Guard Achieves Major Milestone in Drug Interdiction, Border Control Operations



ATLANTIC OCEAN (March 22, 2024) – The Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) and Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 50 work together to intercept a self-propelled semi-submersible drug smuggling vessel (SPSS), in the Atlantic Ocean, March 22, 2024. (U.S. Coast Guard Courtesy Photo/Released)

From U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, March 18, 2025

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Coast Guard achieved a major milestone

this week, interdicting over 80,000 pounds of illicit drugs since Jan. 21, being smuggled by drug cartels in an attempt to reach the U.S.

The Coast Guard's achievement comes as U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) deployed two U.S. Navy warships to the southern border to support Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Coast Guard operations.

These U.S. Navy warships will operate in direct support of the Coast Guard and carry Coast Guard law enforcement teams that will enable them to shift to Coast Guard control during interdiction operations. As the Coast Guard hardens and sustains its operational posture, including the arrival of these U.S. Navy warships, it is fully integrated with DHS and the Department of Defense (DoD) through NORTHCOM and U.S. Southern Command.

"The Coast Guard leads the U.S. government's efforts to control, secure and defend the nation's borders and maritime approaches, starting at the U.S. southern border where the president has declared a national emergency," said Adm. Kevin Lunday, acting Coast Guard commandant. "We are now leveraging U.S. Navy capabilities with Coast Guard teams aboard to augment our forces off Southern California and Texas. We are grateful for this crucial support from our teammates at NORTHCOM and the U.S. Navy. These Navy ships provide unique capability to complement U.S. Coast Guard operations to achieve 100% operational control of the border."

Since Jan. 21, the Coast Guard has tripled its forces operating on the southern border.

Later this week, the Coast Guard will further recognize its interdiction efforts with a record-setting drug offload by Coast Guard Cutter Stone (WMSL 758). Additional details will be provided via media advisory.

For more information about the Coast Guard, visit  
[www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil).