

# Cutter Confidence Seizes 1,090 Pounds of Cocaine From Smuggling Vessel



The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Confidence seized about 1,090 pounds of cocaine from this go-fast vessel in mid-May in the Pacific Ocean off Central America. U.S. Coast Guard CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. – A Coast Guard cutter in mid-May seized about 1,090 pounds of suspected cocaine with an estimated value of \$18.7 million from a go-fast vessel in international waters of the Pacific Ocean off Central America, the Coast Guard 7th District said in a June 2 release.

A maritime patrol aircraft spotted a suspected smuggling vessel and diverted the crew aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Confidence to the go-fast vessel's position.

Once on scene, Confidence's crew initiated a pursuit of the suspected smugglers who began throwing contraband overboard. Once the suspected smugglers complied with orders to stop their boat, the Coast Guard crew boarded the vessel and discovered the cocaine. Three suspected smugglers were detained.

On April 1, U.S. Southern Command began enhanced counter-narcotics operations in the Western Hemisphere to disrupt the flow of drugs in support of Presidential National Security Objectives. Numerous U.S. agencies from the Departments of Defense, Justice, and Homeland Security cooperated in the effort to combat transnational organized crime. The Coast Guard, Navy, Customs and Border Protection, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, along with allied and international partner agencies, play a role in counter-drug operations.

The law enforcement phase of counter-smuggling operations in the eastern Pacific is conducted under the authority of the 11th Coast Guard District, headquartered in Alameda. The interdictions, including the actual boardings, are led and conducted by members of the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Confidence is homeported out of Cape Canaveral and was commissioned in 1966.