

USS Tornado Completes Patrol to U.S. 4th Fleet



The Cyclone-class coastal patrol ship USS Tornado (PC 14) conducts a man overboard drill Sept. 16, 2020. Tornado is deployed to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility to support Joint Interagency Task Force South's mission, which includes counter illicit drug trafficking in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific. U.S. Navy / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Dan Serianni

MAYPORT, Fla. – The Cyclone-class patrol ship USS Tornado (PC 14) and embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment 408 (LEDET) returned to Mayport, Florida, October 13, following a 75-day counter-narcotics patrol in the U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations, said Lt.j.g Miranda Rossum, U.S. 4th Fleet Public Affairs, said in a release.

Tornado and embarked LEDET contributed to Joint Interagency Task Force South's disruption of an estimated 1906 kilograms of cocaine. This led to keeping an estimated street value of 133 million dollars' worth of drugs off U.S. streets.

"I could not be more proud of the ship and her crew, Tornado is going out on top," said Lt. Cmdr. Graham Van Hook, USS Tornado commanding officer. "Tornado is a beautiful ship that has repeatedly answered the call."

USS Tornado's size makes it capable of navigating into shallow waters as well as working with partner nation coast guards closer to shore than other U.S. ships.

Tornado joined other U.S. Navy warships, numerous U.S. agencies from the Departments of Defense, Justice and Homeland Security cooperating in the effort to combat transnational organized crime. The Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, Customs and Border Protection, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, and

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, along with allied and international partner agencies, are all playing a role in counterdrug operations.

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet supports U.S. Southern Command's joint and combined military operations by employing maritime forces in cooperative maritime security operations to maintain access, enhance interoperability, and build enduring partnerships in order to enhance regional security and promote peace, stability and prosperity in the Caribbean, Central and South American region.