

# CAPTAIN HOPLEY YEATON CUTTER EXCELLENCE AWARD

*The Cutter Excellence Award annually recognizes the crew of a large cutter, the crew of a mid-sized cutter, and the crew of a small cutter. Cutter crews recognized for this award will have demonstrated exceptional performance in areas such as operations and mission accomplishment; commitment to crew and families; cutter training and readiness; and engineering.*

## LARGE CUTTER

**USCGC STONE (WMSL 758)**

**CAPT ANNE O'CONNELL, USCG – COMMANDING OFFICER**

USCGC STONE has demonstrated unparalleled operational excellence and dedication, setting a new standard for the fleet. During two counter-narcotic patrols in the Eastern Pacific, STONE's crew earned national praise for a record-breaking mission that culminated in the seizure of 20,402 kgs of cocaine. This patrol included two major highlights: the interdiction of JIATF-S's largest drug-laden Low-Profile Vessel (5,542 kgs) and the historic, first-ever simultaneous interdiction of four go-fast vessels, yielding 4,937 kgs of cocaine. On a subsequent deployment, the cutter seized another 18,322 kgs of cocaine within the first two months and executed the largest multi-target drug seizure in JIATF-S history.

Beyond its impressive law enforcement achievements, STONE was a pioneer in the operational testing of the new MQ-25 V-BAT UAS, providing critical feedback that directly led to system upgrades. The crew also enhanced theater-wide intelligence by submitting 28 Field Intelligence Reports on new cartel tactics.

The crew's technical proficiency was honed through over 100 hours of flight operations and 18 live-fire exercises, resulting in a flawless Aviation Facilities Certification and the Atlantic Area Operational Excellence award. Their resourcefulness was further highlighted by the adept handling of a major propulsion casualty, which involved swapping a 1,100 lb. pump to ensure an on-time deployment. STONE's commitment also extends to its community, with extensive volunteer work for local Charleston charities and robust support for crew and family morale.



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## MEDIUM CUTTER

*USCGC RESOLUTE (WMEC 620)  
CDR IAN STARR, USCG – COMMANDING OFFICER*

USCGC RESOLUTE (WMEC 620) has demonstrated exceptional leadership and resilience. In October 2024, after dealing with Hurricane Helene, the crew immediately sortied to lead a Surface Action Group to safety ahead of Hurricane Milton and was the first national asset to provide critical communications coverage post-storm.

While deployed, RESOLUTE's impact was profound. Supporting Joint Task Force Southern Guard, the crew staged over 40 tons of material, built facilities for 1,200 personnel, and provided vital migrant security training. In the Eastern Pacific, the cutter interdicted nearly six metric tons of cocaine. Notably, they collaborated with the DEA and FBI to seize two metric tons and detain a high-value cartel operative. Despite suffering catastrophic structural damage on a subsequent mission, the crew's tactical skill led to the seizure of another two metric tons of narcotics.

The cutter's engineering department served as a model for the fleet, conducting the Coast Guard's first-ever full engine change-out on a Cutter Boat-Large and implementing an onboard 3D printing capability to replace over 100 critical parts.

Beyond missions, Team RESOLUTE showed immense compassion. Following devastating hurricanes that damaged the homes and property of over 40% of the crew, the command secured \$40,000 in disaster relief while shipmates organized cleanup efforts, embodying their commitment to crew and families.



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## SMALL CUTTER

*USCGC CHARLES MOULTHROPE (WPC 1141)  
LCDR KEITH NICHOLS, USCG – COMMANDING OFFICER*

USCGC CHARLES MOULTHROPE has demonstrated exceptional operational excellence and crew ingenuity in the face of numerous challenges. Deployed to the politically charged waters of Southwest Asia, the cutter executed 21 transits of the Strait of Hormuz, safeguarding the passage of 12 high-value vessels and defending against armed Iranian forces. In a pioneering role, CHARLES MOULTHROPE led the initial efforts of the COUNTER HOUTHU CAMPAIGN, successfully intercepting and seizing advanced conventional weapons destined for Houthi terrorists.

During the intense 12-Day War between Israel and Iran, the CHARLES MOULTHROPE served as a Surface Action Group lead for five other Fast Response Cutters, coordinating defensive maneuvers and ensuring the safety of multinational naval assets amidst missile and drone strikes. The crew's resilience was further tested by a catastrophic power failure in a hostile theater. Their swift and effective response, restoring power in a fraction of the estimated time, allowed for the timely completion of critical missions.

Beyond its operational triumphs, the CHARLES MOULTHROPE crew achieved a 99% satisfactory rate in their training availability despite significant crew turnover and pioneered the new TSTA 2.0 inspection. The crew also dedicated 456 volunteer hours to community service, showcasing their commitment to both mission and community. The cutter's after-action report on wartime constraints has led to fleet-wide improvements in defensive systems and a realignment of Coast Guard capabilities with the U.S. Navy.

