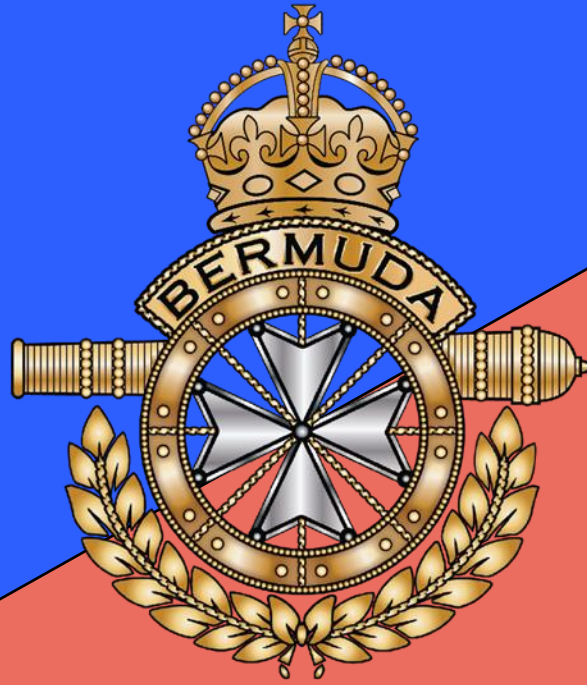


# ROYAL BERMUDA REGIMENT COAST GUARD



**Bermuda Drug Information Network - Briefing**  
**Friday 28 November 2025**



# Mission Statement

**The Royal Bermuda Regiment Coast Guard safeguards Bermuda's waters with professionalism, integrity, and collaboration. It ensures safety, law enforcement, and national security while maintaining readiness for search and rescue, environmental protection, and operations to preserve the island's marine heritage and Blue Economy.**



# Coast Guard - In Review



	Patrols	Vessels Observed and/or Intercepted	1st Warnings	Summons	Arrested	Warrants	Marine Regulation Tickets	BPS Shoreline Search	Customs	DENR	Safety Equipment Checks	SAR Incidents	Fishing/Lobster License Checks
2020	1047	22277	206	80	20	8	133	0		0	188	55	0
2021	943	20428	26	22	2	0	57	0		0	150	93	24
2022	1093	21145	5	2	1	0	97	0		0	183	85	4
2023	1065	14412	17	1	11	6	106	26		13	380	90	43
2024	1149	16158	35	7	5	1	77	11		13	603	100	24
2025	1040	14288	23	7	6	3	57	31	25	8	682	97	19
Total	6337	108708	312	119	45	18	527	68	25	34	2186	520	114



# Coast Guard Orbat

**CG - 17 FTS personal**

- 16 x RBR
- 1 x BPS

**CG -17 PTS personal**

- 16 x RBR
- 1 x BPS Reserve

**OSD - 9 FTS/PTS personal**

- 7 x RBR
- 2 x BPS

**USU - 16 FTS/PTS personal**

- 16 x RBR





# The Fleet

- 2 x Boston Whaler 18 Rigid Raider Craft (RRC), 1990,
- 2 x Boston Whaler 27 Guardian, 1996,
- 2 x Halmatic Arctic 24 Rib Gen II, 1998,
- 1 x Zodiac 923OB Hurricane, 2008,
- 1 x Boston Whaler 32 Justice, 2015,
- 2 x Sea-Doo RTX-300 Jet Skis, 2019.



# Operational Support Divers (OSD)

- **Certifications:**
  - PADI
  - National Academy Police Diver (NAPD)
  - Emergency Response Diver International (ERDI) – Hull Search, Full Face Mask, Emergency Response Diver Tech



# OSD's Role in Maritime Security

- Specialist diving capability supporting RBRCG maritime operations
- Conduct underwater searches, hull inspections, and evidence recovery
- Enhance counter-narcotics and counter-smuggling operations by detecting concealed contraband on vessels and seabeds
- Support environmental protection tasks (reef assessments, pollution response)





# Unmanned Systems Unit (USU)

- **Certifications:**
  - **FAA SUA class 3 license,**
  - **BCAA - Remote Pilot Certificate (RPC) / SUA Pilot Authorization,**
  - **BCAA Operational Authorization for Restricted / Extended Permissions,**
  - **Platform-specific proficiency (Parrot ANAFI USA),**
  - **ERDI – Hull search/inspection**
  - **Platform-specific proficiency (Deep Trekker Revolution)**







# USU

- The USU's UAVs and UUV's are utilized for various missions, including search-and-rescue operations, maritime security, law enforcement, and environmental monitoring.
- The training and operational readiness of the USU have been bolstered by collaboration with the Bermuda Police Service, ensuring a cohesive approach to maritime safety and security.



# RBR Coast Guard Missions

- Search & Rescue,
- Maritime Security,
  - Customs & Border Control,
  - Fisheries Control,
  - Law Enforcement
- Accident & Disaster Response,
- Pollution Response,
- Vessel and Traffic Management.



# IUUF Operations

- **Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUUF) in Bermuda involves unauthorized or unlicensed fishing that threatens the island's fragile reef systems and marine resources.**

- **It includes fishing in protected areas, taking prohibited species, and foreign vessels operating near the EEZ. The USCG, MMO, RBRCG, BMOC (RCC) and DENR work together to detect and deter these violations to protect Bermuda's marine environment.**



# USCG - IUUF Operations



- 2022, the USCG Cutter Angela McShan collaborated with DENR, the RBR CG, HM Customs, and BPS for a multi-month IUUF enforcement operation.
- 2023, the USCG Cutter Rollin Fritch arrived in Bermuda for the second annual fisheries enforcement operation.
- March 12, 2025, Bermuda and the United States signed a 'Shiprider' Agreement, allowing Bermudian law enforcement officers to operate aboard USCG vessels.



# 24/7 Maritime Security Posture

- Persistent patrols ensure deterrence and responsiveness,
- Small craft enable rapid interception of TOIs,
- Integration of drones increases surveillance range,
- Agency partnerships are force multipliers.



# Maritime Security

- Intelligence-led operations targeting criminal networks,
- Multi-agency coordination enhances operational impact,
- Significant drug, weapons, and contraband seizures,
- Continuous patrols deter illegal maritime activity,
- Luck.....



# MV Suhar

- MV Suhar (Oct 2023) – cargo vessel boarding after intel cueing.
- Police backed by the Bermuda Coastguard, and the Customs Department raided a cargo ship at port in Dockyard.
- Officers with police detection dogs boarded the MV Suhar, a giant cement carrier.
- Coastguard boats alongside with a dozen divers conduct an underwater search of the hull.





# Operation Arkab

- **2023 a sting operation in Bermuda waters intercepted two boats carrying suspected cannabis and cocaine worth \$20 million with the addition of weapons and ammunition, leading to multiple arrests.**
- **Coordinated Effort: The Royal Bermuda Regiment Coastguard, Bermuda Police Service, and Bermuda Maritime Operations collaborated in the seizure and subsequent search warrants resulting in six arrests.**







# Cash seized in suspected money-laundering

**A significant amount of cash was seized and a US national was arrested as part of a joint national security operation in summer 2025.**

**The 54-year-old was aboard a vessel that was intercepted and searched under the authority of a Proceeds of Crime Act warrant.**

**The vessel was seized during the operation, which involved the Bermuda Police Service, the Department of Customs, the Royal Bermuda Regiment Coastguard “and other key stakeholders”.**





Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
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## Regional & International Partnerships

- RCC, DENR, BPS, BFRS, M&P, HM Customs
- USCG provides offshore reach and interdiction support
- MMO, FCDO - UK Overseas Territories cooperation opportunities
- CARICOM IMPACS regional intelligence sharing



# Threat Trends Affecting Bermuda

- Increasing sophistication of Organized Crime transnational logistics,
- IUUF,
- Irregular Maritime Migration Pressures - Smuggling networks exploiting vulnerable populations,
- Offshore Jettisoning & Drift Loads - Increased discovery of drug packages drifting ashore. Indicates offshore trafficking routes close to Bermuda's waters,
- Rising use of semi-submersibles and fast boats worldwide,
- Introduction of the first unmanned semi-submersibles utilizing Starlink,
- Greater concealment of weapons within mixed cargo shipments





# Recommended Enhancements

- Coastal radar expansion & sensor integration,
- Increased drone fleet and night-operations capability,
- Dedicated intelligence analysis cell for maritime threats,
- Expanded training in advanced boarding and evidence handling,
- Working with the UK Joint Maritime Security Centre would strengthen Bermuda's maritime security by improving intelligence-sharing and maritime domain awareness. It would also enhance detection of criminal activity and increase coordination with UK enforcement assets.





# Questions

