

ANNUAL REVIEW

2022



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS

Marine Interdiction Agents participate in the Miami Air and Sea Show



TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS LEADERSHIP TEAM	4
MISSION AREAS	7
AMO STRATEGIC GOALS	8
PEOPLE	10
HEROIC ACT DURING STAR TRAINING	11
AIR INTERDICTION AGENT DAVID CANO – RESCUE IN SAN DIEGO	12
SAN JUAN MARINE UNIT PROVIDES EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	12
FIRST RESPONDERS: SERVING AND PROTECTING PEOPLE ON AND OFF DUTY	14
IN MEMORIAM	16
SAFETY	18
GROUND TEAM AIR CONTROLLER SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING	19
RESCUE INNOVATIONS	20
AMO OPERATING LOCATIONS	22
OPERATIONS	25
SOUTHEAST REGION	26
SOUTHWEST REGION	32
NORTHERN REGION	38
AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS CENTER	44
NATIONAL AIR SECURITY OPERATIONS	48
AMO BY THE NUMBERS	54
ASSET OVERVIEW	56
INTEGRATION	58
AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS TO ACCEPT DELIVERY OF FINAL 41-FOOT SAFE BOAT	59
UH-60 MODERNIZATION	59
NEW INTEGRATION AND ANALYSIS DIVISION DEVELOPS CUTTING EDGE DASHBOARD	60
FT. PIERCE MARINE UNIT RELOCATED	60
COMMUNICATION	62
STRATEGIC AND CONGRESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2022	63
RECRUITING WOMEN TO AMO	64
AWARDS	66

MESSAGE FROM THE AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS LEADERSHIP TEAM

Each year, Air and Marine Operations (AMO) celebrates its people and achievements through publication of our annual review. It is an opportunity to highlight some of our successes and accomplishments throughout the fiscal year.

This year, our operational tempo increased as we saw unprecedented numbers of people in overcrowded vessels in the Caribbean waters. We joined our federal law enforcement partners to help manage the massive influx of people attempting to come into our country through our Southern ports of entry and borders.

In this year's review, you will read about agents who helped distressed people both on and off duty, as well as agents who worked to shut down drug stash houses and seize weapons. AMO has modernized its fleet and reached a flight hour milestone for our unmanned aircraft systems. We have advanced our 2030 AMO strategy, made efforts to recruit more agents who are women, and provided upgraded equipment to our marine agents.

We continued to focus on the safety of our agents, and the mental health and wellness of all our employees.

AMO's mission is critical and we couldn't achieve success without our people – agents, officers, and mission support personnel working day in and day out to protect our country. Thank you for supporting Air and Marine Operations.



Stephen A. Boyer

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Mr. Boyer has served in this role since January 2021, appointed from his position as Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner



Dennis J. Michelini

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Mr. Michelini has served in this role since January 2021, appointed from his position as AMO's Executive Director, Operations



Nathan P. Aller
CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr. Aller has held this position since 2021. He oversees a Headquarters team that services a staff of more than 1,800 federal agents and mission support personnel



Jonathan P. Miller
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OPERATIONS

Mr. Miller oversees aviation and maritime operations, operational planning, and formulating requirements



Erik R. Soykan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DEPUTY OPERATIONS

Mr. Soykan provides guidance, oversight, and direction to security missions that counter threats in the land, sea, and air operational environments



Robert S. Blanchard
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TRAINING, SAFETY, AND
STANDARDS

Mr. Blanchard oversees aviation and maritime training, safety, and standardization as AMO's senior safety and technical advisor



Trevor A. Blow
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MISSION SUPPORT

Mr. Blow oversees air and marine asset acquisition, financial and human capital management, materiel readiness, and facilities



William H. Robinson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SOUTHWEST REGION

Mr. Robinson coordinates operations across 18 locations in the Southwest Region



John W. Priddy
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SOUTHEAST REGION

Mr. Priddy coordinates operations across 24 locations in the Southeast Region



Scot T. Winslow
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL AIR SECURITY
OPERATIONS

Mr. Winslow oversees strategic air assets such as P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft and MQ-9 Predator B unmanned aircraft systems



Keith M. Jones
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AIR AND MARINE
OPERATIONS CENTER

Mr. Jones oversees air security efforts that integrate sensor data, law enforcement information, and intelligence



Vacant
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NORTHERN REGION

Marine Interdiction Agents
patrolling waters on a
Midnight Express



MISSION AREAS

Air and Marine Operations' assigned mission areas are established in legislation, executive orders, and departmental and U.S. Customs and Border Protection strategy and doctrine. AMO possesses unique and specific authorities within each of these mission areas and draws on specific functions in carrying them out.

AVIATION AND MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT

AMO is the lead federal organization in aviation and maritime law enforcement and participates in joint operations with U.S. Border Patrol; Office of Field Operations; and other federal, state, and local law enforcement partner agencies. AMO seeks to predict, detect, identify, classify, track, interdict, and conduct investigative activities to deter and intercept threats to the integrity of the United States through the coordinated application of aviation and maritime law enforcement resources. This includes detecting and deterring illicit border crossings, interdicting targets, collecting intelligence, performing patrols and surveillance, and preventing the import and export of illegal goods.

DOMAIN AWARENESS

To achieve aviation and maritime security, AMO requires domain and situational awareness. This refers to the ability to continuously detect, monitor, and track all potential air or marine threats operating within or approaching the U.S. borders in diverse environments that vary in weather, terrain, and lighting conditions. Domain awareness for land surveillance includes situational awareness coordination with U.S. Border Patrol to enable the detection, identification, classification, and tracking of land threats using a variety of capabilities. Both domain and situational awareness are critical elements in AMO's ability to successfully execute the surveillance continuum — predict, detect, track, identify, classify, respond, and resolve.

EXTENDED BORDER AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

Air and Marine Agents conduct joint operations with U.S. and foreign government partners along our land and coastal borders and in the extended border of the Source and Transit Zones in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. AMO is manned, equipped, and funded with border security at the forefront to interdict smugglers who traffic drugs, weapons, and undocumented individuals. These operations foster partnerships with foreign governments and collaboration with foreign law enforcement operations.

CONTINGENCY AND NATIONAL SECURITY OPERATIONS

AMO provides aviation and maritime expertise, coordination, observation, protection, communication enabling, and other services as part of a whole-of-government approach to major or large-scale incidents. Contingency and national security operations include federal disaster and humanitarian relief; designated National Special Security Events; response to terror threats, active shooters, and incidents; partnerships with non-law enforcement foreign operations; and search and rescue operations.

AMO STRATEGIC GOALS



Marine Interdiction Agent
outbound for patrol on an
All-Weather 38ft. Safe Boat

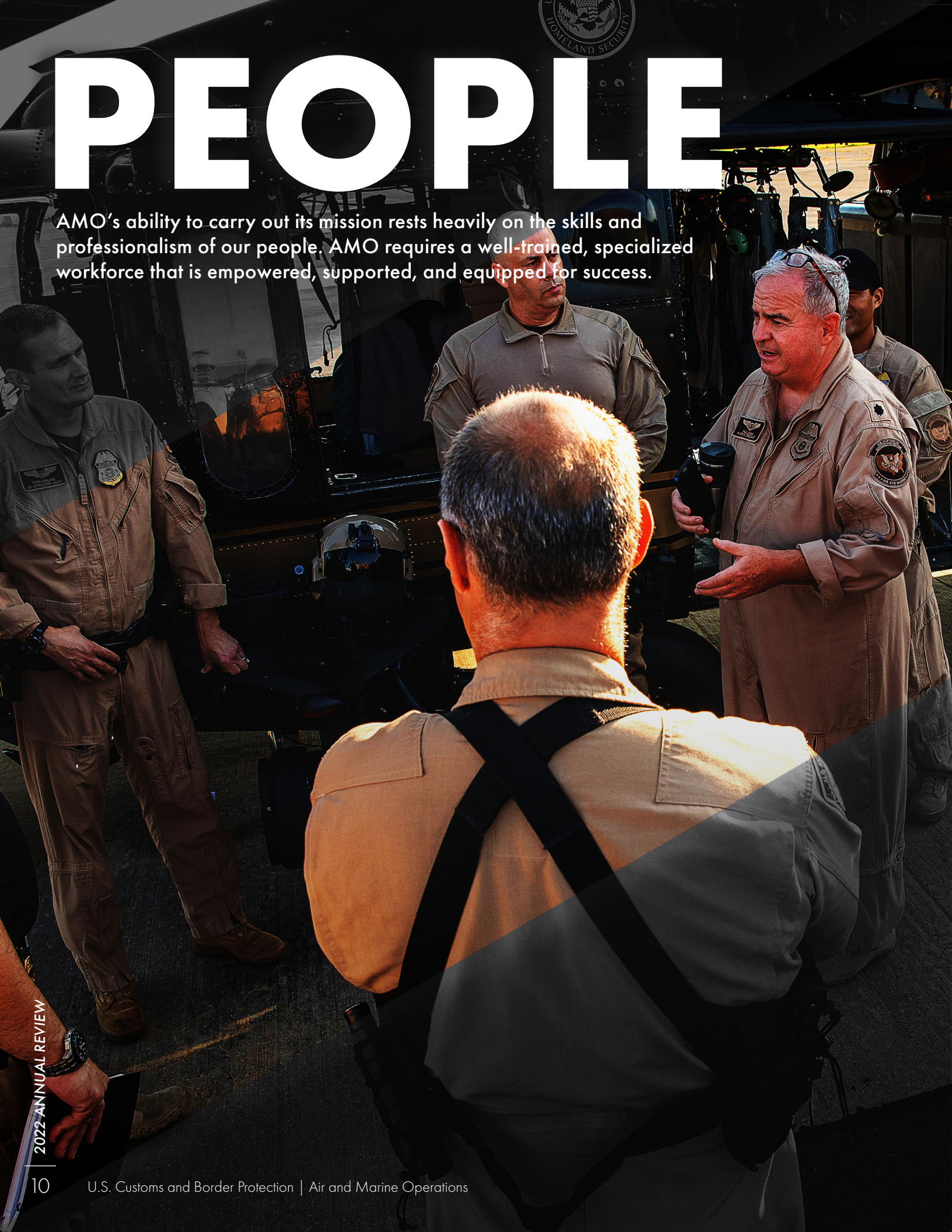


2023 ANNUAL REVIEW



PEOPLE

AMO's ability to carry out its mission rests heavily on the skills and professionalism of our people. AMO requires a well-trained, specialized workforce that is empowered, supported, and equipped for success.





HEROIC ACT DURING STAR TRAINING

Survival and Tactics Aviation Recurrent (STAR) training is one of AMO's premier accredited training courses that provides refresher training on wilderness survival; active shooter and police tactics; water mishap scenarios; and first aid, including how to stop severe bleeding and the proper application of tourniquets.

Supervisory Aviation Enforcement Agent (SAEA) Pedro Márquez and Air Interdiction Agent (AIA) Lisa Rezende attended the STAR training event in July at the National Air Training Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and discovered first-hand the value of STAR training. While at a local restaurant after a day's classes, the agents used the medical training received in class that week to render immediate, critical aid to a restaurant patron. A man, who recently had knee replacement surgery, missed a step and fell to the ground a short distance from where the two agents were sitting. The fall caused a significant injury, and the man was bleeding profusely. Realizing the severity of the situation, the agents

“THE QUALITY TRAINING WE RECEIVED WHILE AT STAR TRAINING DEFINITELY PREPARED US TO INSTINCTIVELY REACT TO THE EMERGENT, LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION AND ENABLED US TO SAVE THE INJURED MAN'S LIFE.”

- SAEA PEDRO MÁRQUEZ

acted quickly. AIA Rezende immediately began applying pressure to the man's leg, and SAEA Márquez directed the restaurant staff to bring something to make a tourniquet and called 911. AIA Rezende applied the tourniquet, and two off-duty nurses assisted by packing the wound to stop the bleeding. AIA Rezende and the two nurses stopped the bleeding and stabilized the injured man, while SAEA Márquez went outside to direct the paramedics. Once the paramedics arrived on scene, AIA Rezende briefed them regarding the medical care provided prior to their arrival. A restaurant staffer who witnessed the heroic actions of the agents stated that the paramedics said that had the tourniquet not been applied, the man may have died due to the amount of blood loss.

SAEA Márquez credited AMO's comprehensive and realistic scenario-based training, saying that “the quality training we received while at STAR training definitely prepared us to instinctively react to the emergent, life-threatening situation and enabled us to save the injured man's life.”

AIR INTERDICTION AGENT DAVID CANO – RESCUE IN SAN DIEGO

While on patrol and piloting an AS350 helicopter, Air Interdiction Agent (AIA) David Cano spotted a migrant in distress, face down and motionless on the side of a steep, mountainous incline. AIA Cano immediately reached out to U.S. Border Patrol to coordinate pick up of a Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue (BORSTAR) Agent to assist with what he knew would be a dangerous mission. With the BORSTAR Agent on board, AIA Cano returned to the migrant's location. Unable to fly and land on the steep incline, he landed and shut down the helicopter on top of the mountain, and the two agents traversed the steep incline down to the migrant. The migrant was unconscious and suffering from heat stroke. The agents attempted

to carry the migrant back to the helicopter, but the incline, excessive heat, and migrant's condition made it impossible. Realizing the migrant's situation was dire, AIA Cano then contacted the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to coordinate a hoist rescue. The CAL FIRE team arrived over head with a hoist capable helicopter, and the agents worked together with the CAL FIRE team to safely extract the migrant from the mountain. The rescue was a success due to AIA Cano's quick-thinking and expertise. His actions surprised no one who knows AIA Cano, as they are indicative of his tenacious spirit of service and exemplify the true sense of dedication our agents have for our mission.



SAN JUAN MARINE UNIT PROVIDES EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Marine Interdiction Agents (MIA) from the San Juan Marine Unit provided emergency medical assistance to a Homeland Security Investigations security officer who began slurring

his speech and then became unresponsive. The MIAs monitored the man's condition until Emergency Medical Services arrived and then contacted the security officer's

supervisor, who arrived on scene to secure the security officer's weapon and personal belongings. The security officer was transported to the hospital to receive further medical treatment.



Air and Marine Operations | Airbus AS350 A-Star patrolling sky

FY22 HIRING STATISTICS

559

Air Interdiction Agents

An Air Interdiction Agent (AIA) is a pilot that detects, tracks, and intercepts aircrafts, vessels, people, and contraband from the air environment at and beyond the border and within our nation's interior.

367

Aviation Enforcement Agents

An Aviation Enforcement Agent (AEA) is a law enforcement specialist on interdiction aircraft. AEAs identify trends and patterns to prevent terrorist acts and unlawful movement across our borders, apprehend suspects, and seize evidence.

368

Marine Interdiction Agents

A Marine Interdiction Agent (MIA) is a commander or crew member of a vessel who conducts maritime patrols, surveillance, and pursuit activities. MIAs intercept suspects and search vessels and suspects to gather evidence of illegal activity or potential terrorism.

517

Operations & Support Staff

Operations and administrative support staff are key members of a team dedicated to serving and protecting the American people.

1,811

TOTAL



FIRST RESPONDERS: SERVING AND PROTECTING PEOPLE ON AND OFF DUTY

Air and Marine Agents are trained to be on the lookout for emergency situations where their help is needed. Sometimes they are asked to help and other times they are faced with circumstances where they must help. Many jump into unknown situations and bring their skills, knowledge, and mental strength to make rescues, saving lives both on and off duty.

Houston Air and Marine Branch - While on vacation in Alaska visiting his son, Air Interdiction Agent (AIA) Herman Cestero encountered a person in distress, stuck in the mud, near a local dock. AIA Cestero acted quickly, retrieving a life ring and throwing it to the man. He then physically pulled the man approximately 30 feet to safety. The man was exhausted and unable to extract himself from the mud, and clearly in danger. The Commander of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Juneau commended AIA Cestero for his quick actions, noting the tide was coming in at the time, and the situation could have escalated had he not been there to help.

Erie Marine Unit – A marine vessel crew received

a call from the U.S. Coast Guard regarding a vessel in distress on Lake Erie near Northeast, Pennsylvania. Upon arrival, Marine Interdiction Agents observed a charter dive vessel with an unconscious individual on board. MIAs boarded, rendered first aid, and transported the patient to a marina where he received medical care.

McAllen Air and Marine Branch – A helicopter crew medically relocated a Texas Military Department Soldier to a hospital in Edinburg, Texas, after he collapsed due to dehydration while supporting the U.S. Border Patrol in border operations.

Yuma Air Branch - Helicopter crews responded to multiple events to help six undocumented noncitizens in distress from dehydration and heat exhaustion. The helicopter crews landed and provided water and emergency medical assistance until local medical services and U.S. Border Patrol agents arrived.

Deming Air Unit – An aircrew responded to the



U.S. Border Patrol's request for help with a distressed man in the Deming, New Mexico, area. The man stated he was lost, out of water, feeling dizzy, and vomiting. The helicopter crew found him and provided the location to the Deming Border Patrol ATV unit, who were then able to transport him to safety.

Marathon Marine Unit – Marine Interdiction Agents (MIA) were notified by the U.S. Coast Guard in Key West of a Cuban rustic vessel south of Marathon, Florida. MIAs onboard a Coastal Interceptor Vessel arrived on scene and quickly realized the rustic vessel was sinking with 23 Cuban migrants attempting to swim or grab any piece of debris to use as a floatation device. The agents began recovering the migrants by hoisting them up into their vessel. Everyone was rescued.

Tucson Air Branch – A helicopter crew received a report of a person stranded with a lower leg injury in the Huachuca Mountains south of Sierra Vista, Arizona. The aircrew – who had hoist capabilities – responded immediately. Once on the scene, an Air Interdiction Agent performed a double-up extraction from approximately 140 feet. The aircrew transported the individual to a U.S. Border Patrol station without incident.

Caribbean Air and Marine Branch - A command duty officer (CDO) received information from the Puerto Rico Office of Emergency Management stating that a 911 call was received requesting assistance with persons stranded on top of the roof of Motel Caribbean in Cabo Rojo. The CDO diverted a UH-60 search and rescue aircraft to confirm the report. Once on the scene, the aircrew spotted a person waving a white shirt on the rooftop. The building was surrounded by flood waters and the individuals had no options to safely escape the situation. The aircrew attempted to hoist the individuals, but the hoist broke during the attempt. The aircrew then decided to attempt to land on the roof. The roof had multiple obstructions protruding and the aircrew took three attempts to land successfully. The survivors were relocated to the Mayagüez Mall and survived thanks to the brave actions of this aircrew.



IN MEMORIAM



Scott Ritchey

Supervisory Air Interdiction Agent

Scott began his career with AMO in October 2007 in Tucson after serving with the U.S. Army. He played key roles throughout the organization, serving at the Jacksonville Air and Marine Branch and at AMO Headquarters.

End of Watch: October 9, 2021



Harry Bristow

Supervisory Management and Program Analyst

Harry joined the former U.S. Customs Service in 2000 and was instrumental in expediting the procurement of urgently needed vehicles, to support new marine agents in Puerto Rico, and new armored vehicles, to protect agents in Mexico and Guatemala.

End of Watch: July 14, 2022

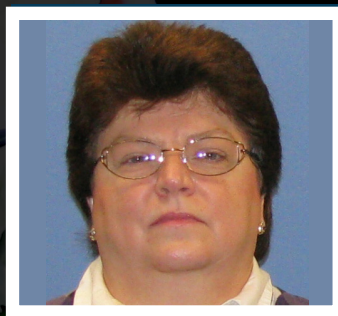


Brian Brain

Aviation Enforcement Agent

Brian dedicated 18 years of public service to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and was a valued Aviation Enforcement Agent at the Caribbean Air and Marine Branch.

End of Watch: July 12, 2022



Michelle Armstrong

Management and Program Analyst

Michelle began her public service career more than 32 years ago and joined AMO in 2015 as a Management and Program Analyst in the Logistics and Maintenance Division.

End of Watch: August 19, 2022



Didis (Didi) Vega

Mission Support Specialist

Didi began her government service in 2008 and was in training at the Southeast Region in Miami to learn the systems required to perform her duties as a Mission Support Specialist.

End of Watch: September 19, 2022



Ryan Bell leads Air and Marine Operations' Honor Guard members in preparation for funeral services.

SAFETY

Safety is a priority and an enduring AMO value. The intent is to shift AMO's focus on safety from an occupational requirement to a core part of our culture, beginning with our leadership and embraced across the workforce.



GROUND TACTICAL AIR CONTROLLER ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

Practice makes perfect. Agents from Air and Marine Operations' Ground Tactical Air Controller, known as GTAC, make sure they are more than prepared to respond to emergency situations. GTAC's mission is to maximize the safety of officers and agents through implementing and standardizing training, procedures, and technological solutions for those involved in high-risk enforcement operations, natural disaster recovery operations, national security events, and contingency operations.

It is imperative that when training for these situations, the scenarios are as close to real life as possible.

On July 22, 2022, the El Paso

Air Branch partnered with New Mexico State Police, Lordsburg Police Department, and other federal agencies to participate in an active shooter training in Lordsburg, New Mexico.

The AS350 crew provided real time footage to the responding GTAC team, which in turn provided incident command live updates. The GTAC team provided airspace deconfliction measures between other responding aircraft. The scenario concluded with an air request to transport wounded personnel to nearby hospitals.

In these training environments, GTAC links the rescuers to the survivors, communicating with aircrew to deconflict airspace and

provide situational awareness. This enables the aircrew to conduct hoists properly and safely.

"As the responsible executive for the GTAC program, I am privileged to witness the incredible successes and passion of our GTAC operators across the nation. From National Special Security Events to transnational criminal organization warrants, GTAC provides the most comprehensive and effective AMO expertise to a given mission set. As an organization, AMO continues to benefit from the passion and professionalism of the GTAC program, not only from a technological perspective, but through strengthening of partnerships across the law enforcement spectrum. These investments will continue to pay off in 2023 and beyond," said Southwest Region Executive Director, Hunter Robinson.



RESCUE INNOVATIONS: UPGRADING EQUIPMENT FOR MARINE INTERDICTION AGENTS

In response to recent significant maritime smuggling and mass migration events, Air and Marine Operations (AMO) began exploring ways – and equipment – to help Marine Interdiction Agents (MIA) do their job better. Whether it is an overloaded vessel that capsized in rough seas or was adrift for several days or weeks, MIAs were first on the scene. In many cases they are trying to recover struggling, exhausted, or even lifeless bodies from the water.

What tools and equipment could be provided to agents to help them with their mission? What efficiencies can be put in place?

First and foremost – throwables. This includes lines and floatation to throw into the water to assist in a rescue and prevent drowning. Coastal Interceptor Vessels (CIV) will be equipped with additional throwable lines and inflatable floatation

devices– particularly in the Southeast Region with a focus on Puerto Rico and South Florida, as well as in San Diego. These are areas where a majority of overloaded migrant vessels are located and have the highest potential to sink or overturn.

Getting people out of the water and into an AMO vessel has been a challenge in the past. Research uncovered a cargo net designed for large commercial playgrounds you would find at a neighborhood park. These specific cargo nets are made from enough polyester so it will float – an important component of what agents need. It also has plastic attachments that help with grip when an individual is trying to grab onto it. The net itself aids the agents who are trying to help pull people onto the boat.

“The cargo net also assists with just stopping the panic. When there are a lot of people in the



water all trying to cling to something to float onto to stay alive, the net is big enough to give a large group something to grab onto,” said Director, Marine Operations, Scott Leach.

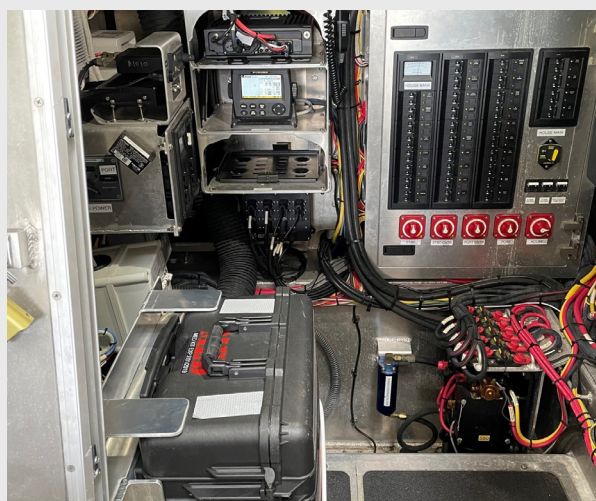
While the CIVs come with a ladder on the swim platform or the engine bracket, agents are encountering multiple people in the water and a small ladder has proven inefficient, they needed something better. AMO’s National Marine Maintenance Center has developed a purpose-built ladder that goes over the gunnel or can attach to the CIV’s handrails. This new ladder will provide a sturdy and efficient way for those in the water to embark the CIV.

Finally, Director Leach and his team looked at where the trauma kits were located on each vessel after hearing from agents that there were some issues with accessing them quickly from where they were stored in forward cabin.

“You can imagine in the middle of the night, rough seas, lots of people in the water and a 3-person crew on the vessel. Having to retrieve the kit in a situation where you really need it was a challenge. It was brought to our attention, so we came up with a solution,” said Director Leach.

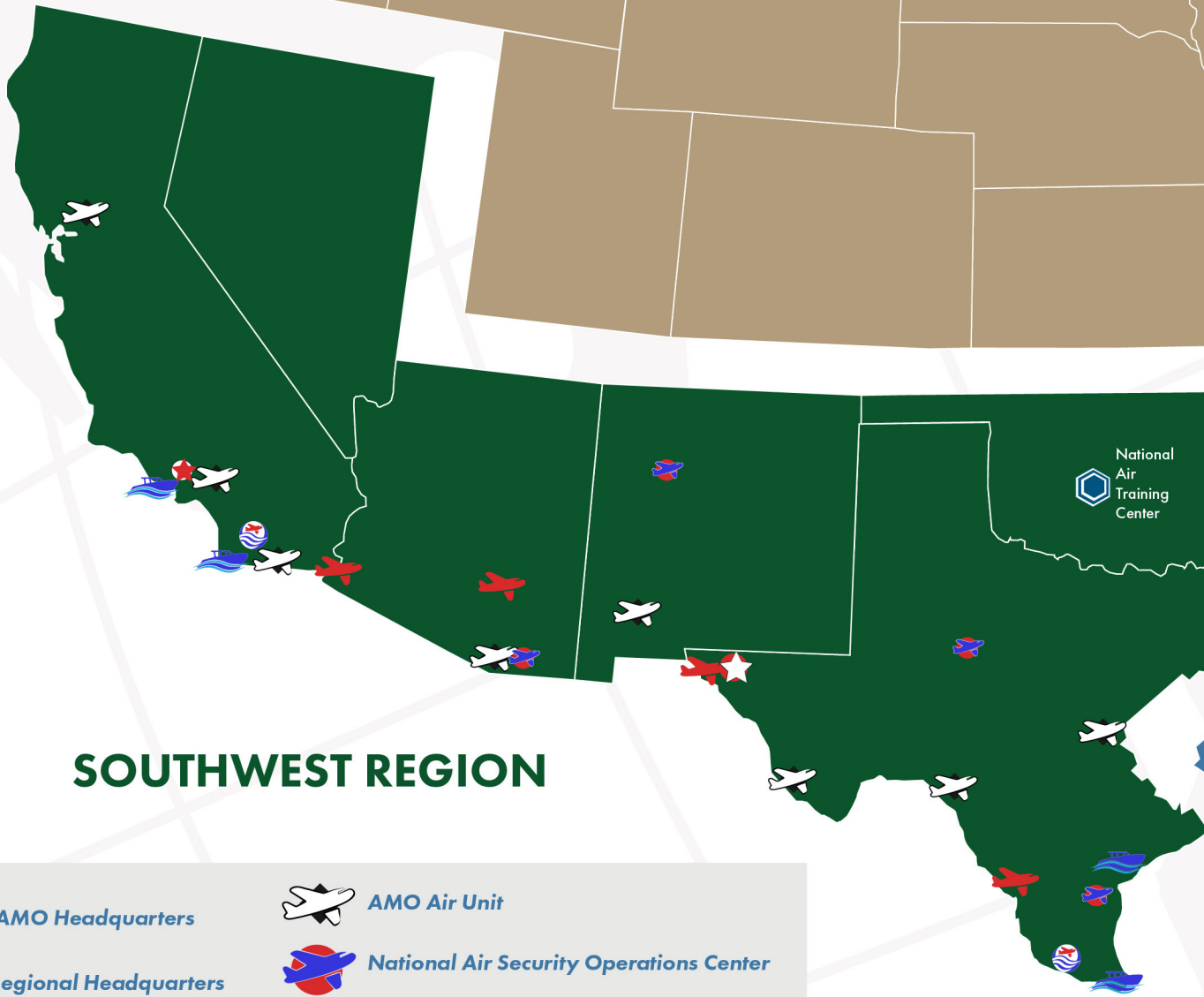
Looking at different ways the kits could be relocated, they are now mounted in a more accessible area, while still secured from the elements. There is now a cradle within the center console that has a quick release cable, so an agent doesn’t have to spend time crawling into the cabin for it when it’s needed in an urgent situation.

All of these improvements are based on feedback from agents in the field. The headquarters and field teams are always looking for better ways to the job and keep agents and those they encounter safe.



AMO OPERATING LOCATIONS

NORTHERN REGION



SOUTHWEST REGION



CBP & AMO Headquarters



AMO Regional Headquarters



Air & Marine Operations Center



Training Facility



AMO Air Unit



National Air Security Operations Center



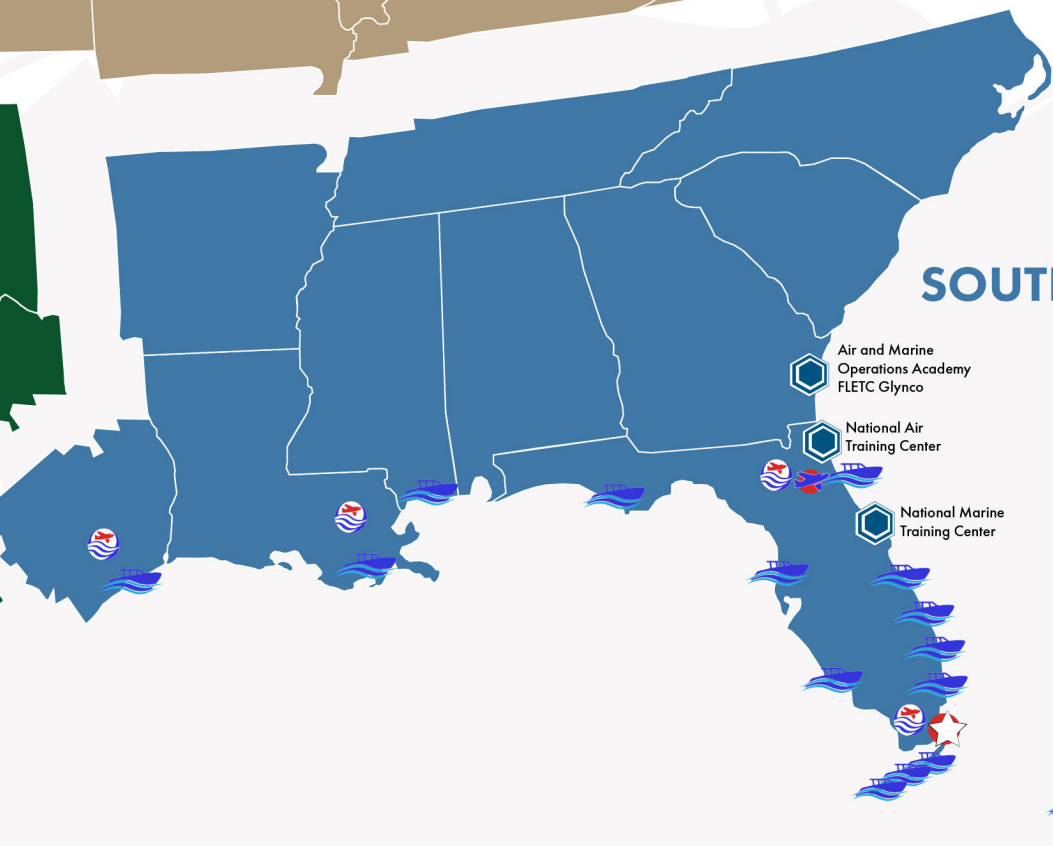
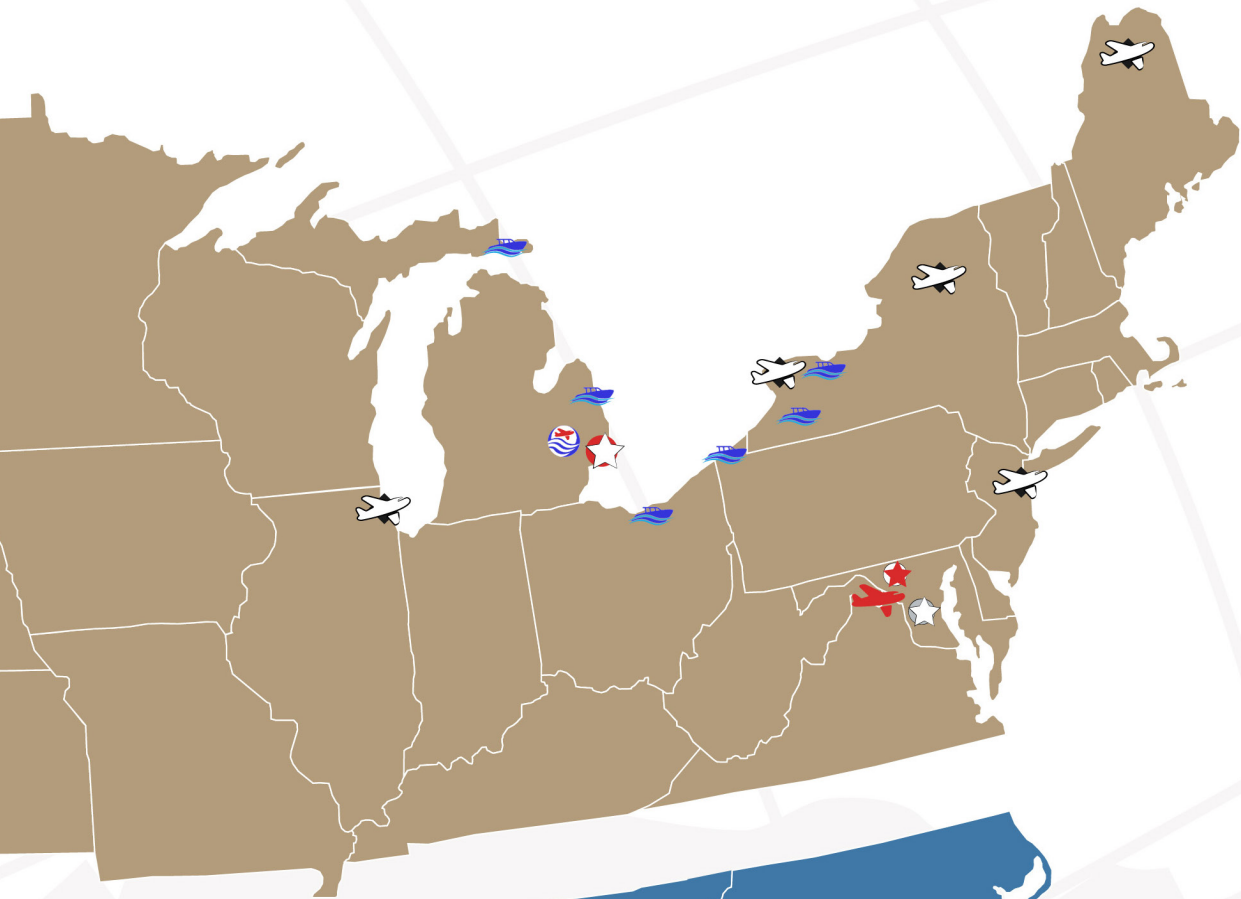
AMO Air Branch



AMO Marine Unit



AMO Air & Marine Branch



SOUTHEAST REGION

-  Air and Marine Operations Academy
FLETC Glyco
-  National Air Training Center
-  National Marine Training Center



22982

POLICE

Air and Marine Operations
teams up with U.S. Border
Patrol for Fast Rope training
in Los Alamitos, California,
prior to Super Bowl LVI

OPERATIONS

AMO operates in an environment with increasing demands and sometimes stagnant or decreasing resources. This requires AMO to identify ways to operate more efficiently and effectively using finite resources. This will strengthen AMO's ability to face threats which grow in magnitude and become increasingly sophisticated.



SOUTHEAST REGION



123,724 LBS
NARCOTICS
SEIZED

345
ARRESTS

432
WEAPONS

\$10,169,921
CURRENCY

12,823
APPREHENSIONS

SOUTHEAST REGION FY22 STATISTICS



14 Rotary-Wing
Aircraft



26 Fixed-Wing
Aircraft



66 Marine
Vessels



359 Law Enforcement
Personnel

3 Intel Research
Specialists

28 Mission Support
Personnel



The Southeast Region (SER) traces the coasts of Texas and Florida; extends north over the Atlantic to North Carolina; and reaches the Caribbean Sea, where AMO operates from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In these vast waters, SER effectively extends the U.S. border to face international threat profiles, addressed by multi-jurisdictional agreements, strategies, and partnerships, to combat those who smuggle drugs, people, weapons, and instruments of terror before they can enter the United States. More than 500,000 square miles of interior terrain, extending west to Arkansas, is under SER oversight, and together with a wide maritime area of responsibility, SER conducts operations across the entirety of air and marine mission sets.

HOUSTON AIRCREW PROVIDES CRUCIAL INFORMATION TO IDENTIFY STASH HOUSE

On July 14, 2022, agents from the Houston Air and Marine Branch worked alongside local and federal counterparts to identify a suspected drug stash house. Agents in an AS-350 aircraft helped guide agents on the ground to conduct three separate traffic stops. Those agents were able to acquire additional information regarding the stash house and obtain a warrant. Ultimately, the seizure resulted in 79 lbs. of hydro marijuana and gummies, 29 firearms, and \$4,400, as well as gold and silver.

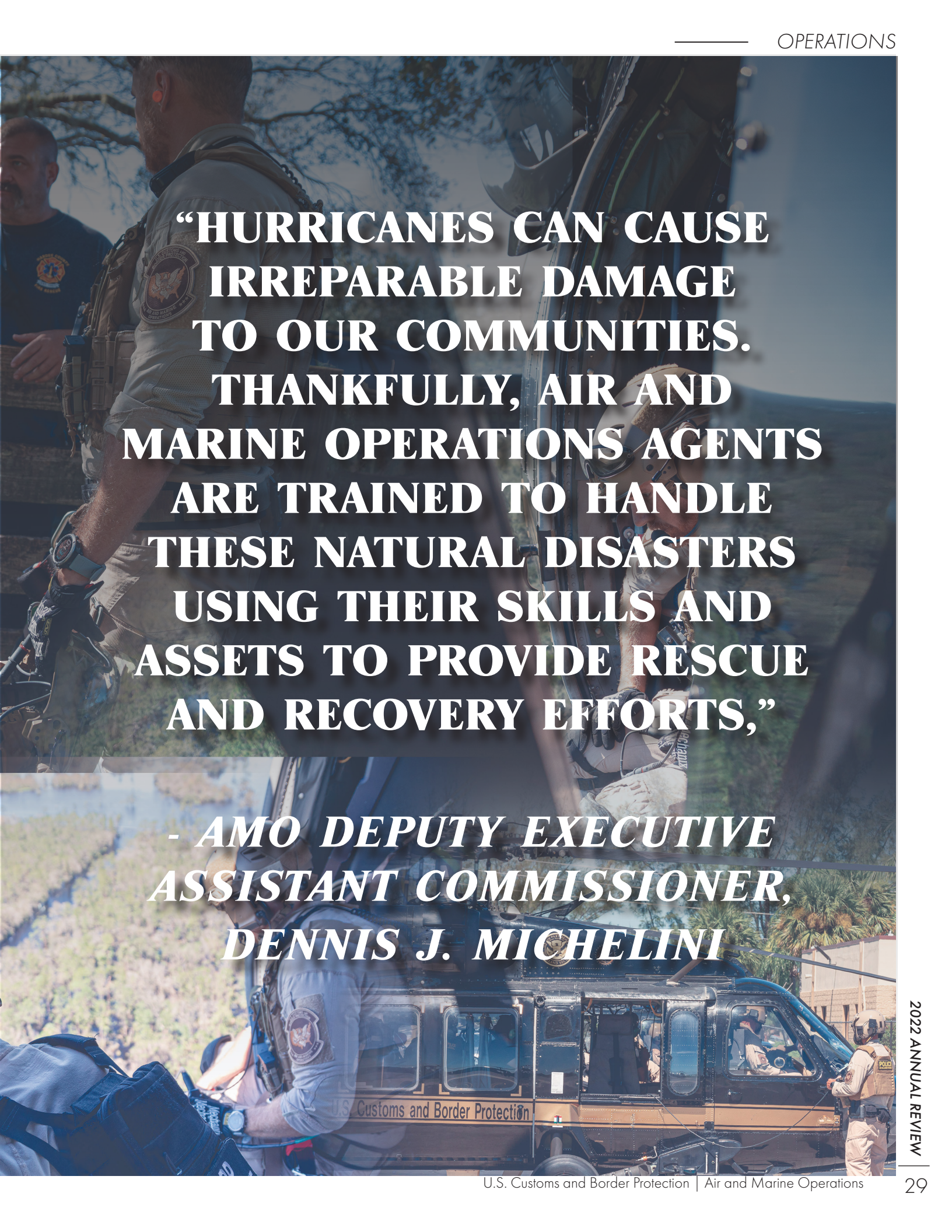
U.S. CITIZENS RESCUED FROM SINKING VESSEL IN FLORIDA

On March 16, 2022, Air and Marine agents rescued four adults from a sinking vessel, almost three and a half miles south of Marathon, Florida. Agents on two 41-foot Coastal Interceptor Vessels (CIV) were conducting boat training and overheard a mayday call on their radios. Occupants of the distressed vessel communicated that they were in a 26-foot center console and had four people on board. They stated that they were quickly taking on large amounts of water and in danger of sinking. Due to the proximity of the sinking vessel, both AMO CIVs immediately terminated their training and proceeded to its location. Once on scene and with obvious signs that the vessel was likely going to sink, AMO agents safely rescued all passengers.

The AMO crews notified the U.S. Coast Guard, who arrived on scene shortly thereafter and began to dewater the sinking vessel. Eventually the vessel was safely towed back to a safe harbor.

“When someone is in distress, their safety and well-being come before their citizenship, nationality, or immigration status,” said Supervisory Marine Interdiction Agent, Robert Sellers. “The same resources used for border security are immediately directed to those in need”.





**“HURRICANES CAN CAUSE
IRREPARABLE DAMAGE
TO OUR COMMUNITIES.
THANKFULLY, AIR AND
MARINE OPERATIONS AGENTS
ARE TRAINED TO HANDLE
THESE NATURAL DISASTERS
USING THEIR SKILLS AND
ASSETS TO PROVIDE RESCUE
AND RECOVERY EFFORTS,”**

**- AMO DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER,
DENNIS J. MICHELINI**



HAITIAN MIGRANT RESCUE

On August 6, 2022, Miami-based Multi-Role Enforcement Aircraft, UH60, and AS350 crews detected a sailing vessel with numerous people onboard near Key Largo, Florida. Aircrews provided video footage and overwatch while Key Largo and Miami-based 41-foot SAFE Boat crews and several other law enforcement officials interdicted the vessel which failed to heave to.

The sailing vessel ran aground, and passengers began to jump overboard, but officials apprehended all 323 Haitian migrants without incident.

AMO AGENTS FIND 794 POUNDS OF COCAINE

On June 1, 2022, Marine Interdiction Agents (MIA) stationed at the Mayagüez Marine Unit in Puerto Rico were conducting a routine patrol. They approached a vessel with a 21-foot center console with three persons on board, navigating east.

MIAs inspected the occupants and escorted the vessel to the Mayagüez boathouse for investigation.

On the shore, they requested assistance from a Puerto Rico Police Department K-9, who alerted to the presence of a smell it is trained to detect.

The Air and Marine Agents inspected the

vessel and found a hidden compartment containing bricks of what was later determined to be cocaine. Agents discovered 794 pounds of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$7.5 million.

Homeland Security Investigations Special Agents took custody of three men and the contraband for prosecution and investigation.

“Air and Marine Agents continue to use their awareness of our maritime context to detect and intercept contraband being smuggled into our coastal borders,” explained Augusto Reyes, Director of Air and Marine Operations, Caribbean Air and Marine Branch.

OPERATING LOCATIONS

The Southeast Region is comprised of five air and marine branches and nineteen marine units.



CARIBBEAN AIR AND MARINE BRANCH

- FAJARDO MARINE UNIT
- MAYAGÜEZ MARINE UNIT
- PONCE MARINE UNIT
- SAN JUAN MARINE UNIT
- ST. THOMAS MARINE UNIT

MIAMI AIR AND MARINE BRANCH

- FT. LAUDERDALE MARINE UNIT
- FT. PIERCE MARINE UNIT
- KEY LARGO MARINE UNIT
- KEY WEST MARINE UNIT
- MARATHON MARINE UNIT
- MIAMI MARINE UNIT
- WEST PALM BEACH MARINE UNIT

JACKSONVILLE AIR AND MARINE BRANCH

- FT. MYERS MARINE UNIT
- JACKSONVILLE MARINE UNIT
- PANAMA CITY MARINE UNIT
- TAMPA MARINE UNIT

NEW ORLEANS AIR AND MARINE BRANCH

- GULFPORT MARINE UNIT
- HOUMA MARINE UNIT

HOUSTON AIR AND MARINE BRANCH

- GALVESTON MARINE UNIT



SOUTHWEST REGION



37,753 LBS
NARCOTICS
SEIZED

298
ARRESTS

379
WEAPONS

\$2,606,830
CURRENCY

102,872
APPREHENSIONS

SOUTHWEST REGION FY22 STATISTICS



83 Rotary-Wing
Aircraft



21 Fixed-Wing
Aircraft



17 Marine
Vessels



407 Law Enforcement
Personnel

351 Essential Contract
Personnel

54 Mission Support
Personnel



AMO's Southwest Region (SWR) spans more than 2,000 miles of linear border and is responsible for conducting federal aviation, maritime, and land law enforcement operations within Nevada; Oklahoma; and the four southwest border states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. AMO's SWR includes the coastal waters off Southern California and Texas and some of the most inhospitable desert and mountain terrain in the United States. The U.S.–Mexico contiguous border provides a nexus point where three transnational threats converge: drug trafficking, undocumented migrant smuggling, and terrorism. The transnational criminal organizations operating along the southwest border are persistent, well organized, and adaptive and represent an ever-present danger to the physical and economic security of the United States. AMO's SWR applies its unique maritime and aviation capabilities in partnership with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to mitigate these transnational threats.

SAN DIEGO AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS INTERDICTS THREE SEPARATE SMUGGLING EVENTS IN ONE HOUR

Air and Marine Agents work closely with their fellow CBP law enforcement officers in the U.S. Border Patrol and other federal, state, and local agencies to secure our borders between the ports of entry.

Joint AMO operations with law enforcement partners are a daily and nightly occurrence, like when Marine Interdiction Agents (MIA) from the Southwest Region’s San Diego area of operations partnered with Border Patrol Agents to respond to a human smuggling event that, thanks to the heroic efforts of MIAs, resulted in a life-saving rescue.

Late one Monday night, an

AMO Multi-Role Enforcement Aircraft maritime patrol aircrew from the San Diego Air and Marine Branch detected three separate “lights out” suspect panga vessels traveling in the direction of the Maritime International Boundary Line toward the United States. The aircrew sent this information to the San Diego Marine Unit, which launched Coastal Interceptor Vessels to interdict the suspect panga vessels.

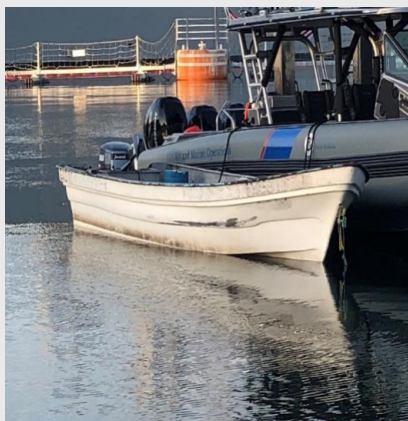
Smugglers often set sail after midnight and darken their navigation lights, hoping to evade law enforcement, but their tactics are no match for the sophisticated sensor technology aboard AMO’s

aircraft and vessels, as well as skilled Air and Marine Agents.

At approximately 2 a.m., crews aboard the Coastal Interceptor Vessels interdicted two of the three pangas at sea, while one panga made landfall on the rocky shoreline of Sunset Cliff in Point Loma, California, where migrants fled from the panga and attempted to abscond from the scene

AMO’s MIAs partnered with Border Patrol Agents to respond to the Sunset Cliffs area where the third panga made landfall.

As the agents arrived at Sunset Cliffs, one of the MIAs saw a female migrant in the



water, struggling to stay afloat against the high tides and being crushed by the panga. Without hesitation, the agent entered the ocean to rescue the woman. Despite the darkness, rough waters, and danger of the crushing panga, the agent managed to swim to the woman and tow her to the rocky shore, where another agent climbed down the rocks to assist, pulling the woman to safety out of the water. Emergency Medical Services arrived at the scene and transported the woman and another injured migrant to a local hospital.

In total, 72 Mexican nationals were taken into custody that night by U.S. Border Patrol to nearby Border Patrol stations to be processed.

“Smugglers have no regard for the safety of their passengers,” said Brandon Tucker, Director, Air and Marine Operations, San Diego Air and Marine Branch. “This situation could have been fatal for all onboard.”



LAW ENFORCEMENT SHUTS DOWN STASH HOUSE

An interagency collaboration between Air and Marine Agents, Border Patrol Agents, Homeland Security Investigations, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and local law enforcement officers from the Webb County Constable’s Office Precinct 2 in Laredo, Texas, led to the discovery of a suspected stash house in West Laredo, Texas.

A stash house is a home or building used to smuggle people, drugs, weapons, and/or money. Stash houses are a threat to national security and to the people in our communities, not only because of the criminal activity to which they are linked but also because of the unsanitary conditions which foster a breeding ground for illnesses or other communicable diseases. Many of the people that end up in stash houses have been exploited from the time they left their home country, which continues after they

are smuggled to the stash house. In many cases, they are forced to pay large sums of money and kept in dangerously unhealthy living conditions.

The coordinated law enforcement effort resulted in the arrest of over 30 undocumented individuals and the seizure of over 2,300 pounds of marijuana. The undocumented individuals were identified as being from the countries of Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. The marijuana was discovered with the assistance of a U.S. Border Patrol Service canine and had an estimated street value of over \$1.8 million.

All undocumented individuals were

medically screened and provided with personal protective equipment. The seized narcotics and individuals were taken into custody to be processed accordingly. This case was turned over to Homeland Security Investigations for further investigation.



OPERATING LOCATIONS

The Southwest Region is comprised of two air and marine branches, five air branches, seven air units and three marine units.



MCALLEN AIR AND MARINE BRANCH

BROWNSVILLE MARINE UNIT
CORPUS CHRISTI MARINE UNIT

LAREDO AIR BRANCH

SAN ANTONIO AIR UNIT

UVALDE AIR BRANCH

DEL RIO AIR UNIT

EL PASO AIR BRANCH

ALPINE AIR UNIT
DEMING AIR UNIT

TUCSON AIR BRANCH

YUMA AIR BRANCH

SAN DIEGO AIR AND MARINE BRANCH

BROWN FIELD AIR UNIT
LONG BEACH MARINE UNIT
RIVERSIDE AIR UNIT
SACRAMENTO AIR UNIT
SAN DIEGO MARINE UNIT



NORTHERN REGION



6,342 LBS
NARCOTICS
SEIZED

286
ARRESTS

547
WEAPONS

\$8,613,130
CURRENCY

607
APPREHENSIONS

NORTHERN REGION FY22 STATISTICS



22 Rotary-Wing
Aircraft



8 Fixed-Wing
Aircraft



27 Marine
Vessels



150 Law Enforcement
Personnel

78 Essential Contract
Specialists

25 Mission Support
Personnel



AMO's Northern Region (NR) operating environment differs vastly from other AMO regions and requires a unique law enforcement approach. The NR area of responsibility (AOR) extends from the state of Washington to Maine and includes 4,668 miles of land and water along the shared U.S.–Canadian border. The AOR encompasses regional non-border states, the upper Pacific Northwest, and the Great Lakes system. The NR conducts persistent border security operations through linked surveillance and sensor technologies; strategic air and marine missions; intelligence sharing activities; and operational coordination with U.S.–foreign law enforcement enterprise partners. The NR maintains primary responsibility for coordinating aviation and maritime operational security packages for designated National Special Security Events. Additionally, the NR collaborates with federal law enforcement partners by employing specialized aviation and maritime capabilities to target and dismantle high-threat elements of transnational criminal organizations operating in major U.S. cities within the AOR.



SUPPORT FOR STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

On March 1st, 2022, Air and Marine Operation's Manassas Air Branch and Great Lakes Air and Marine Branch provided aviation and maritime support to the 2022 State of the Union Address, a National Special Security Event. The Manassas Air Branch used three H-125 light enforcement helicopters to deliver persistent Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capability throughout the event. The aircraft provided live video feed to the Joint Tactical Operations Center (JTOC), which is used by U.S. Secret Service (USSS) senior leadership for real-time situational awareness, and USSS tactical response team leadership to direct teams, as needed. Air and Marine Agents were also located at the JTOC to provide aviation asset and ISR equipment expertise and AMO command representation. The Great Lakes Air and Marine Branch used personnel and two UH-60 helicopters to compliment the Air Mobility Package, consisting of a USSS Counter Assault Team element embedded with AMO tactical and medical personnel, to deliver an airborne quick reaction capability for high-threat contingencies. Finally, the Great Lakes Air and Marine Branch also used a 38-foot SAFE Boat Interceptor vessel with a combined crew of Air and Marine Agents and Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel in a coordinated effort with U.S. Coast Guard vessels to conduct maritime security patrols before and during the event.



ROCHESTER MARINE UNIT PERFORMS RESCUE IN FRIGID LAKE ONTARIO WATERS

On the morning of May 20, 2022, the Rochester Marine Unit received notification of a vessel taking on water four miles offshore, west of Braddock Bay on Lake Ontario. Two Rochester Marine Unit vessels were already underway conducting annual training and – being closest to the sinking boat – immediately responded to the scene. Upon arrival, the crews observed a white hull vessel, listing heavily to one side and quickly sinking, and located a male victim in the water. One AMO vessel crew

rescued the victim from the water and, once they had him on board, performed a basic medical assessment for possible injuries and hypothermia before transporting the victim to a fire and rescue vessel that was standing by closer to shore. The other AMO vessel crew remained and continued the search and rescue, looking for other victims and securing floating debris and other potential hazards from the sunken vessel.

Due to the quick thinking and

rapid response of the agents, the victim was located and pulled from the water before any life-threatening conditions set in. The water temperature of Lake Ontario at the time of the rescue averaged below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, giving an exposed person 30 to 60 minutes before exhaustion and unconsciousness set in. Survival time in this temperature is estimated to be somewhere between one to four hours.

The agents' training and timely response saved a life.





Air and Marine Operations' Air Mobility Package Team prepares for operational flights over New York City prior to the United Nations General Assembly.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

OPERATING LOCATIONS

The Northern Region is comprised of two air and marine branches, one air branch, seven air units, and nine marine units.



MANASSAS AIR BRANCH

MAINE AIR UNIT
NEW YORK AIR UNIT
PLATTSBURG AIR UNIT

GREAT LAKES AIR AND MARINE BRANCH

BUFFALO AIR UNIT
CHICAGO AIR UNIT
BUFFALO MARINE UNIT
ERIE MARINE UNIT
PORT HURON MARINE UNIT
ROCHESTER MARINE UNIT
SANDUSKY MARINE UNIT
SAULT SAINTE MARIE MARINE UNIT
TRENTON MARINE UNIT

BELLINGHAM AIR AND MARINE BRANCH

MONTANA AIR UNIT
SPOKANE AIR UNIT
BELLINGHAM MARINE UNIT
PORT ANGELES MARINE UNIT

GREAT LAKES AIR AND MARINE BRANCH APPREHEND BANK ROBBERS

On March 11, 2022, two suspects were arrested after they allegedly robbed a bank and then proceeded to crash their getaway vehicle. According to reports, a 53-year-old man from St. Clair Shores, Michigan, demanded cash from a teller at the Christian Financial Credit Union in Roseville, Michigan. Though unarmed, he got into a white van driven by another suspect and the pair fled the scene.

While Air and Marine Agents from the Great Lakes Air and Marine Branch were responding to the situation, the suspects were involved in a car accident and fled on foot. The aircrew began searching for the suspects and saw suspicious behavior in the backyard of a residential home--a person inspecting an article of clothing. Agents directed ground law enforcement and a K-9 to the area and both suspects were apprehended along with the cash.



AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS CENTER



37,445 LBS
NARCOTICS
SEIZED

51
WEAPONS

\$2,751,893
CURRENCY

317
ARRESTS

AMOC FY22 STATISTICS

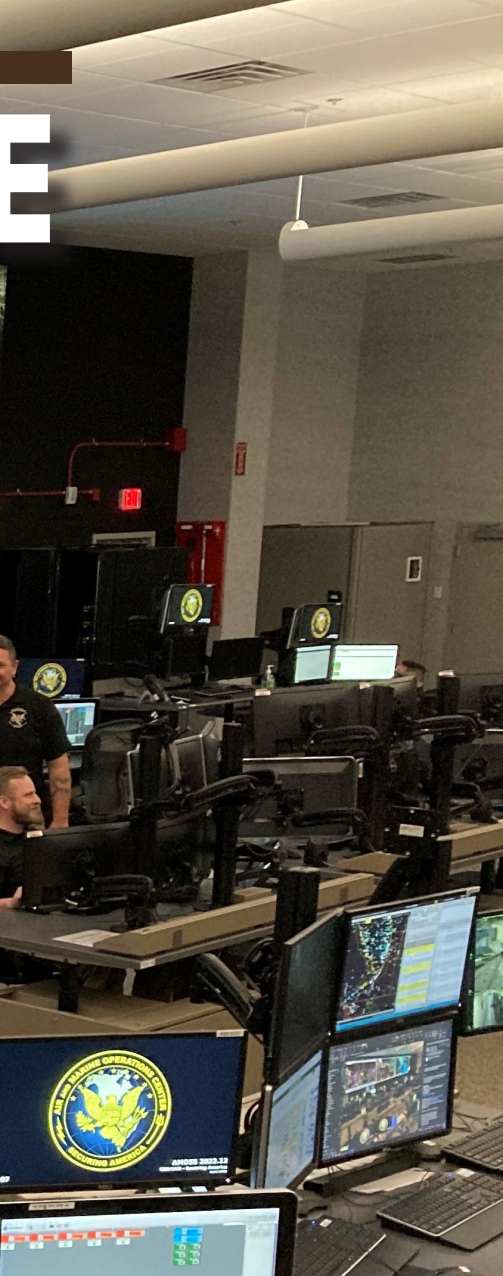


107 Aviation (Radar) specialists

17 Intel Research Specialists

14 Law Enforcement Personnel

22 Mission Support Personnel



The Air and Marine Operations Center (AMOC) in Riverside, California, coordinates the interdiction of aviation and maritime tracks of interest with U.S. authorities and international partners.

Established in 1988, the AMOC is an international, multi-domain, federal law enforcement center with domain awareness capabilities focused on detecting, identifying, tracking, and directing interdiction of suspicious general aviation and non-commercial maritime tracks of interest in the Western Hemisphere.

The AMOC is staffed by our Detection Enforcement Officers, Intelligence Research Specialists, and other experts in the air and maritime domains. They have built strong working relationships with the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the governments of Mexico, Canada, and the Bahamas. There are two auxiliary facilities: the Caribbean Air and Marine Operations Center, Puerto Rico, and, supporting air security and defense operations in Washington, DC, the Capital Regional Unit.

Throughout this fiscal year, the AMOC used its extensive law enforcement and intelligence databases and communications networks to determine the appropriate law enforcement response to suspect activities and coordinated multiple interdictions.

AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The Air and Marine Operations Surveillance System (AMOSS) is one of the most comprehensive, unclassified surveillance systems in the U.S. government. It includes nearly 600 individual sensors, including Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Defense air radars; Tethered Aerostat Radar Systems; maritime radars; space-based sensor technology, Department of Defense LINK data; and intelligence and law enforcement databases. AMOSS has begun to incorporate artificial intelligence and machine learning tools to alert operators on threats exhibiting suspicious behaviors and predicted outcomes. AMOC provides the AMOSS to key operational partners to create shared situational awareness of threats operating at, within, and beyond the borders.

SCENES FROM AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS CENTER

In October, after researching and vetting information received of an aircraft of interest, the AMOC detected a suspect Cessna-320 flying from St. Johns, Arizona, to Gainesville, Texas. Subsequently, the AMOC coordinated with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Denton, Texas, to have the Gainesville Police Department respond with a K-9, resulting in 2 arrests and the seizure of 150 pounds of marijuana and the Cessna-320 aircraft.

In November, the AMOC researched an aircraft believed to be involved in contraband smuggling and coordinated with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to provide movement notification of the suspect aircraft. The AMOC's sophisticated tracking capabilities enabled DEA agents to conduct a pilot certificate inspection when the aircraft landed in Ames, Iowa, leading to the seizure of \$325,690 and a Beech-36 aircraft valued at \$415,000.

Throughout October and into early November, the AMOC collaborated with HSI and the DEA to provide movement notification of an aircraft believed to be smuggling contraband. AMOC's tracking of the aircraft from Houston, Texas, to Gary, Indiana, resulted in 3 arrests and the seizure of 100 kilos of cocaine valued at \$2.1 million and one CL-600 aircraft valued at \$1.1 million.

Between mid-February and early March, the AMOC provided information on aircraft landing short of Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. The Information Analysis Center reported that on March 5th there was a narcotics seizure in the Puerto Peñasco, Mexico, area that correlated with the information continuously provided by the AMOC. The final seizure figures were 4,174 pounds of methamphetamine, 190 pounds of cocaine, 126 pounds of fentanyl, 4 pounds of opium paste, and 2 pounds of marijuana.





**Tethered Aerostat
Radar System (TARS)**

NATIONAL AIR SECURITY OPERATIONS

222,102 LBS
NARCOTICS
SEIZED

104,755
DETECTIONS

\$493,256
CURRENCY

18,553
APPREHENSIONS

NASO FY22 STATISTICS



1 Rotary-Wing
Aircraft



24 Fixed-Wing
Aircraft



8 Unmanned
Aircraft System



302 Operational
Personnel

282 Essential Contract
Personnel

32 Mission Support
Personnel

OPERATION CORVINA III

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Program Office (PO) demonstrated noteworthy mission performance through successful mission support planning and participation in Operation CORVINA III. Operation Corvina III was a multiagency Outside the Continental United States mission that was executed in collaboration with Joint Interagency Task Force South. The UAS PO exhibited exceptional initiative by anticipating requirements and preparing detailed maintenance/logistics support plans, which directly enabled Air and Marine Operations (AMO) National Air Security Operations to conduct integrated air and sea missions to detect, identify, and coordinate interdiction of Transnational

Criminal Organization's trafficking people and contraband in the Eastern Pacific. By employing the Guardian UAS to quantify and characterize maritime traffic during periods of illicit activity, AMO successfully executed refined MQ-9 tactics to disrupt these illegal networks. Further, to overcome operational challenges, the UAS PO equipped the Guardian UAS with the Detect and Avoid System, enabling it to fly safely in international airspace while untethered by ground-based radar. As a result of these efforts, UAS flew more than 800 hours, supported the recovery of over 28,000 pounds of cocaine and 9,000 pounds of marijuana, and contributed to the apprehension of 63 detainees.

SCAN EAGLE

AMO's National Air Security Operations Centers in Grand Forks, North Dakota; Sierra Vista, Arizona; and San Angelo, Texas, collaborated with the U.S. Coast Guard as a joint team to demonstrate the technology of the Scan Eagle unmanned aircraft system (UAS). The Scan Eagle is a medium UAS capable of flying Beyond Visual Line of Sight. The equipment was excessed from Naval Special Warfare in part to the Department of Defense ReUSE program.

Flight crews and a maintainer were trained and started operating the Scan Eagle in Grand Forks, North Dakota, in April of 2022. In August and September of 2022, a land-based technology demonstration in Van Horn, Texas, was completed. Over 100 hours of flight time were conducted. The Scan Eagle was directly responsible for assisting

in the apprehension of over 50 targets of interest.

The team was granted a Federal Aviation Administration waiver to fly the UAS Beyond Visual Line of Sight. This allowed the UAS to be flown over nearly 120 miles of rough terrain along the US-Mexico land border. Persistent loiter time of the UAS allowed the capture and classification of groups and individuals walking across the border.

Additional partners during the Scan Eagle deployments were U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Mobile Command Center and Office of Information and Technology; AMO's El Paso Air Branch and Alpine Air Unit; and BigPipe, a cross-domain network, infrastructure, and system that distributes operational mission data to federal, state, and local law enforcement.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS 11,000 FLIGHT HOURS MILESTONE

Air and Marine Operations (AMO) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Program Office (PO) actions led to the achievement of over 11,000 flight hours for the first time in program history. With only eight operational aircraft and the fleet undergoing multiple simultaneous modifications and upgrades, UAS exceeded mission productivity objectives in providing unparalleled system availability. With its distinctive 21+ hour endurance, range of sensors, command and control equipment, and ability to operate over land and

water, the MQ-9 Predator B UAS persistent surveillance proved an invaluable national security force multiplier. While navigating resource shortfalls, the UAS PO ensured the continued viability of advanced/networked sensors, enabling full motion video streaming and data feeds for synthesized domain awareness. MQ-9 hours directly contributed to the deterrence of illicit cross-border criminal activities. The provision of persistent, immediate intelligence data and a synthesized, over-the-horizon operational picture

enabled U.S. Customs and Border Protection leaders to more efficiently direct limited ground interdiction resources. Altogether, these combined efforts resulted in 104,755 detections, 14,235 apprehensions, and the seizure of 28,334 pounds of cocaine, and 9,189 pounds of marijuana. Sustained UAS PO effort made possible this record-breaking employment of Department of Homeland Security's premier strategic airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance asset.



THE P-3'S OTHER SPECIALTY: NATIONAL AIR SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER—CORPUS CHRISTI

The National Air Security Operations Centers in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Jacksonville, Florida, operating the legendary Lockheed P-3 Orion, are well known for their exploits detecting and prosecuting maritime smuggling vessels, averaging the seizure of over 200,000 pounds of cocaine a year on the high seas. However, AMO P-3 aircrews also step up to perform relief missions or provide air traffic advisory services for rescue aircraft in the aftermath of natural disasters, and, although search and rescue operations are not AMO's primary mission, our aircrews rise to the challenge when the high-endurance P-3, with its sophisticated sensor suite, is called to serve in the most dire of situations. One example is when the aircrew of a P-3 Orion Airborne Early Warning, operating from Panama City, Panama, became the difference between life and death for the crew of a small fishing boat.

The P-3 aircrew was patrolling the waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean in search of drug smugglers when they detected a small fishing boat, miles from anywhere or anyone, fully

engulfed in flames. The boat's crew had jumped overboard, and the P-3 aircrew sprang into action, searching for survivors of the inferno. Despite heavy rain and low clouds, the P-3 aircrew spotted the survivors struggling to stay afloat in the ocean. Noting the survivors exact position, the aircrew began coordinating a rescue by hailing the closest vessel, a yacht named "Power of 2," and vectoring it over the course of three hours towards the survivors. As the weather worsened, the aircrew was forced to extend their orbit and use the ocean drift information from the yacht's crew to maintain awareness of the survivors' location. Knowing that as the dark of night approached, any rescue would be impossible and the fates of the small boat's crew would be sealed, the aircrew persevered and their expertise enabled them to guide the yacht to the survivors' exact location. As darkness fell, the yacht's crew was able to rescue the survivors from the water.

According to the yacht's crew, the survivors were incredibly grateful to them and the P-3 aircrew. The yacht's captain added that the aircrew

performed exceptionally in the circumstances, highlighting that for the aircrew to locate the men in the water after the fire on the boat went out is testament to their skills, and commended, "At the speed, altitudes, and distances [the aircrew] cover, I am truly in awe."

"If it wasn't for our crewmembers, those three mariners wouldn't be alive today," said Air Interdiction Agent Cy Reynolds. "We spent the entirety of our mission low enough over the water to keep the burning vessel in sight and to search for the survivors. They were almost impossible to locate and keep in sight."

The dedicated, experienced crews of the P-3 Orion complement its unique capabilities that make it a versatile and critical tool. These aircraft and their crews form a multi-faceted approach to fulfilling our missions of countering terrorism, combating transnational crime, and securing the border, but also perform spectacularly during the occasional lifesaving search and rescue.

EXTENDED BORDER AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

Air and Marine Operations' (AMO) extended border and foreign operations mission involves collaborating with U.S. and international partners to conduct joint operations in the Source and Transit Zones of the Western Hemisphere, which include the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the eastern Pacific Ocean. During Fiscal Year 2022, AMO worked in partnership with our international allies.

In Mexico, AMO personnel at the Information Analysis Center (IAC), U.S. Embassy, Mexico City, Mexico, conducted the detection and monitoring of all illicit air and maritime traffic in source, transit, and destination regions and coordinated interdiction and apprehension efforts with Mexican and other partner nations.

Collaboration with the Air and Marine Operations Center and Mexican and other partner nations led to in depth analysis focused on identifying suspect pilot networks to further disrupt transnational criminal organizations (TCOs). Additionally, the AMO personnel at the IAC continued to strengthen relationships with high level officials from a wide array of Mexican government entities focused on combating TCOs. As a result of these relationships, the IAC was able to reestablish Operation Albatros, a joint operation between

AMO and the Mexican Secretariat of the Navy, Secretaría de Marina or SEMAR. This operation targets and disrupts the narcotics transshipment methods utilized by TCOs in the eastern Pacific Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. This operation in collaboration with SEMAR's maritime strategy resulted in a record year for SEMAR with over 30 metric tons of cocaine seized in 2022. Additionally in 2022, AMO coordinated and conducted over 1,000 hours of Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance missions and 209 hours of airborne technical collection support to Government of Mexico initiatives.

In Panama, AMO conducted 10 Multi-Role Enforcement Aircraft maritime interdiction operations in the Panamanian littoral waters. AMO also established its first long-term temporary duty advisor to the embassy in Panama to focus on advancing the AMO foreign operations strategy in Central America by developing relationships with the respective embassy and host nation stakeholders, supporting U.S. Customs and Border Protection activities where there is an aviation or maritime nexus, and by facilitating AMO extended border and foreign operations.





AMO engaged in multiple Guatemala-focused operations working alongside partner nation forces. In Operation Tikal Vice, AMO provided airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) support over areas of interest along the Guatemala-Mexico border, identifying and relaying indications and warnings of potential migration surges to Guatemala-based elements. In COLGUA IX, AMO partnered with the governments of Colombia and Guatemala, targeting air targets of interest (ATOI) originating from Venezuela and Colombia, with projected landings throughout Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico. AMO supported this operation with Orion P-3s and Multi-Role Enforcement Aircraft, which provided radar coverage, tracking of target aircraft, full motion video, and coordination with ground forces for end game responses. Lastly, in partnership with Joint Inter-Agency Task Force-South and government of Guatemala, AMO participated in the Ship Special Mission support to the Guatemalan Navy by deploying a DCH-8 maritime patrol aircraft to conduct focused maritime patrols to disrupt and degrade transnational criminal organizations. These interactions between AMO and partner nations afforded various capacity building opportunities, while also establishing lasting working relationships.

In Africa, AMO partnered with the Department of State to conduct maritime capacity building activities in Kenya in May, 2022. AMO personnel

from the National Marine Training Center traveled to Shimoni, Kenya, to provide tactical boat operators training to 21 personnel from various Kenyan maritime enforcement authorities. The training included underway and dockside practical exercises; basic boarding tactics; rescue and survival swimming techniques; proper operation and wear of new personal floatation devices; vessel search techniques; and hidden compartment identification.

AMO engaged in capacity building activities with the Jamaican Defense Forces in June, 2022. AMO personnel from the National Air Training Center–Jacksonville hosted two pilots from the Jamaican Defense Forces and provided a BE-350 Pilot Emergency Procedures Training as part of an AMO and U.S. Air Force – South initiative to build partner nation maritime patrol aircraft capabilities in the Western Hemisphere.

AMO's extended border and foreign operations mission collaborations continue to strengthen our partnerships with our international allies and enable successful execution of our mission to combat drug trafficking organizations and prevent narcotics and other threats from reaching the United States.

AMO BY THE NUMBERS

FY21

STATISTICS



36,818
UNDERWAY
HOURS



99,201
FLIGHT
HOURS

900

WEAPONS SEIZED

779,725 LBS

MARIJUANA SEIZED

324,772 LBS

COCAINE SEIZED

72,836

UAS DETECTIONS

122,035

APPREHENSIONS

1,119

ARRESTS

NORTHERN REGION

3 Branches

7 Air Units

9 Marine Units



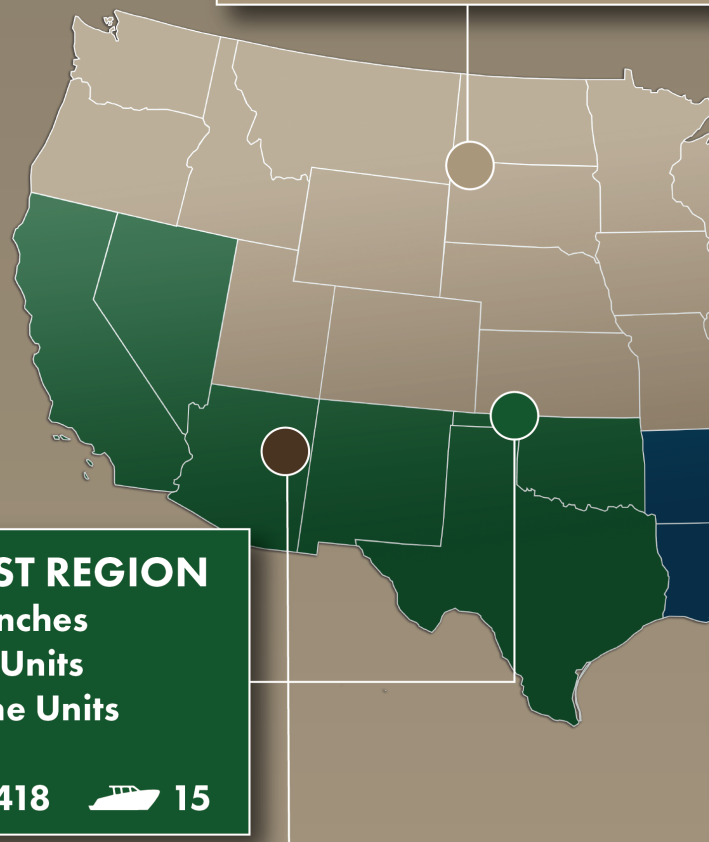
35



192



19



SOUTHWEST REGION

7 Branches

8 Air Units

3 Marine Units



95



418



15

AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS CARIBBEAN AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS

2 Operating



15


NUMBERS

NATIONAL AIR SECURITY OPERATIONS

6 Operating Centers




 35  192

HEADQUARTERS

 242

SOUTHEAST REGION

5 Branches
19 Marine Units



 35  366  71

OPERATIONS CENTER & MARINE OPERATIONS CENTER

Operating Centers

58

FY22 STATISTICS

	
38,598	99,099
UNDERWAY HOURS	FLIGHT HOURS

1,342
WEAPONS SEIZED

104,262 LBS
MARIJUANA SEIZED

250,616 LBS
COCAINE SEIZED

104,755
UAS DETECTIONS

134,981
APPREHENSIONS

967
ARRESTS

ASSET OVERVIEW





SIKORSKY UH-60 BLACK HAWK
(A, L OR M MODELS)



SIKORSKY S-76



AIRBUS AS350 A-STAR



AIRBUS EC120



INTERCEPTOR CLASS
ALL-WEATHER 33FT SAFE BOAT



INTERCEPTOR CLASS 39FT
MIDNIGHT EXPRESS



INTERCEPTOR CLASS
COASTAL 41 FT SAFE BOAT



INTERCEPTOR CLASS
ALL-WEATHER 38FT SAFE BOAT

INTEGRATION

AMO's mission areas continue to grow in complexity and breadth. AMO must respond by focusing on organizational, business, and resource needs for the future while maintaining its current fleet. Given the long-term acquisition lifecycle for operational assets, AMO must mature the resource-planning processes to ensure its people are equipped with what they need, when they need it.



AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS TO ACCEPT DELIVERY OF FINAL 41-FOOT SAFE BOAT

Air and Marine Operations (AMO), is close to finalizing the upgrading and modernizing of its marine vessel fleet by accepting delivery on the final 41-foot SAFE Boat Coastal Interceptor Vessel (CIV). AMO contractually accepted its final CIV on December 15, 2021, and the vessel arrived at AMO's San Diego Air and Marine Branch in early 2022.

An important goal of AMO's Vision and Strategy 2030 is to enhance and integrate

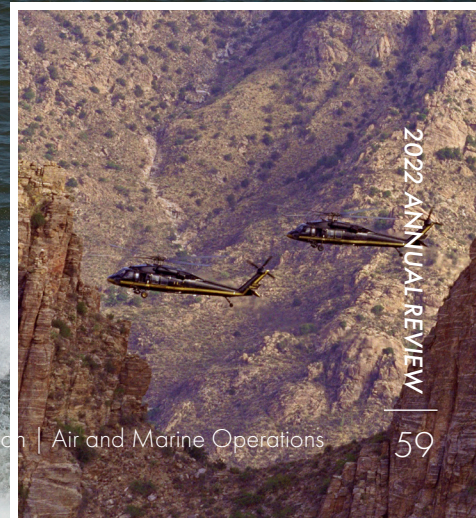
business and resource functions across AMO. Part of that goal is to streamline aircraft and vessel acquisition and installation of technology applications. To accomplish this in the maritime environment, AMO set out to replace and upgrade its fleet of Midnight Express vessels.

The acquisition contract, valued at \$48.4 million for 52 41-foot CIVs, was awarded to SAFE Boats International. The first vessel was delivered in 2016.

UH-60 MODERNIZATION

To date in Fiscal Year 2022, Air and Marine Operations (AMO) has acquired two HH-60 Lima model, medical military Black Hawks and converted them to UH-60 Lima model Black Hawks, for use in a humanitarian, rescue, and law enforcement capacity. AMO is converting six additional, with plans for several more. Air and Marine Agents use these

aircraft during high-priority missions, such as rescuing individuals during hurricanes, hoisting persons injured in remote areas, or collaborating with our law enforcement partners at events like the Super Bowl. Upgrading and standardizing AMO's fleet is just one way to empower agents to save lives, protect the American people, and secure our nation's borders.



NEW INTEGRATION AND ANALYSIS DIVISION DEVELOPS CUTTING EDGE DASHBOARD

In Fiscal Year 2021, Air and Marine Operations stood up the Mission Support Directorate's newest division, Integration and Analysis. The division was tasked with using AMO's vast amounts of data to better inform leadership decisions. In Fiscal Year 2022, the fairly new division was asked by the AMO Mission Support and Operations Directorates to help improve visibility of the UH-60 Black Hawk rotary-wing aircraft readiness status. Operations Research and Systems Analysts for the Integration and Analysis Division designed, programmed, and implemented a dashboard, providing a near real-time view of the UH-60 fleet, region, and branch mission capability rates; maintenance schedules; and flight hour execution to synchronize maintenance events with operational tempo. This new

capability allowed operators, maintainers, and leadership the ability to view all UH-60 assets to optimize flight hour allocation, preventing phased maintenance backlog, improving mission capability rates, and promoting transparency and healthier lines of communication between AMO operations and maintenance. The UH-60 maintenance dashboard was developed using an agile and user-centric methodology while leveraging existing U.S. Customs and Border Protection software to automate a process. Within six months, the UH-60 dashboard yielded a 99 percent improvement in processing time, from approximately 90 minutes to less than a minute. Integration and Analysis is continuously developing the dashboard and will fully automate it after the Office of Information and

Technology permits seamless connection between the Air and Marine Fleet Aircraft Management System and the UH-60 dashboard. Once fully automated, the UH-60 dashboard will achieve 100 percent process efficiency and allow program managers to manage the UH-60 fleet with full and accurate visibility of current status, enabling quicker and more accurate UH-60 operational decisions. AMO has historically contracted out all data visualization tools, costing anywhere between \$300,000 to \$1 million. This stewardship of government funds not only saves hundreds of thousands of dollars by programming the dashboard in-house, but also works to build a long-term AMO programming capability that will continue to save on substantial resources in the future.

FT. PIERCE MARINE UNIT RELOCATED

After a multi-year effort, Air and Marine Operations (AMO), Ft. Pierce Marine Unit has relocated and opened its new facility.

The new 7,200 square foot facility has been renovated from top to bottom, boasts state-of-the-art technology and security throughout, and features a boat slip to accommodate the operational needs of Marine Interdiction Agents.

"This new facility will allow Air and Marine Agents to better foster our relationships with our law enforcement partnerships along the Treasure Coast and be able to respond more rapidly in the maritime environment," said Supervisory Marine Interdiction Agent Phillip Di Marco.

The Ft. Pierce Marine Unit's area of responsibility extends north to Cape Canaveral and south to

Jupiter Inlet. These Air and Marine Agents patrol the coastline of the United States utilizing high-speed Coastal Interceptor Vessels, interdicting those attempting to smuggle drugs, weapons, and people, as well as supporting the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's shuttle program by providing fast response to security zone infractions.



COMMUNICATION

AMO's fast-paced evolution and mission sensitive work have presented obstacles to more transparent and effective communication to both internal and external stakeholders. Direct and open communication is vital to supporting better-informed employees, stakeholders, and a public that understands AMO's value and unique capabilities.



STRATEGIC AND CONGRESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2022

The below highlights just a few of Air and Marine's accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2022 in alignment with AMO's Vision and Strategy 2030.

People: Build a Mission-Ready Workforce

On January 10th, 2022, AMO announced the establishment of the Resiliency and Engagement Division. This new office better supports the wellbeing of our workforce and their families.

Operations: Increase the Effectiveness of Operations

AMO successfully developed a campaign to support an Eastern Caribbean effort; enhanced joint interdiction capabilities, planning, and executions; and analyzed intelligence and operation effects.

Integration: Enhance and Integrate Business and Resource Functions Across AMO

AMO surveyed 100 percent of operational aircraft and maritime platforms, identified 100 percent of radio systems with no sustainment processes, and developed recommendations for sustainment plans.

AMO mission support teams successfully completed a contract award for the All-Weather Interceptor (AWI) vessel and the first 13 vessels were placed on order.

The remaining nine EC120 and six legacy C-206 aircraft were retired, and a plan was developed to provide maintenance support for the transition of all UH-60M aircraft and associated equipment from the Southeast Region to Northern Region

AMO on the Hill

AMO is working to gain support on the U.S. Customs Waters Act of 2021, which would officially extend the law enforcement authorities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and codify the U.S. Coast Guard maritime authority in U.S. Customs Waters from 12 nautical miles to 24 nautical miles – expanding CBP's Mission to protect the American people.

Congressional staffs were briefed on AMO's Foreign Operations legislation, which would permanently authorize AMO to cooperate with foreign authorities, including the conduct of operations, providing air and marine support, capacity building, training, humanitarian support, and disaster relief in foreign territorial seas and air space, with the consent of the relevant foreign country. This bill would also grant CBP the authority to pay for any claims arising under such activities.

AMO Congressional teams were essential in preparing AMO's operational units for site visits of Congressional delegations and staff delegations to operating locations.

AMO's Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner, Dennis J. Micheleni, testified on March 31, 2022, for the Joint Hearing: "Assessing the Department of Homeland Security's Efforts to Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems"

- Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability (Committee on Homeland Security)
- Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security (Committee on Homeland Security)

RECRUITING WOMEN TO AMO

On August 26, 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection celebrated Women’s Equality Day. The agency is committed to hiring more women in law enforcement. Air and Marine Operations has made strides and also faces challenges in its recruitment efforts.

The number of female Air and Marine Agents continues to rise every year – it has almost doubled since 2018 from 26 to 48.

While the numbers may be small, AMO sees increases little by little as it focuses recruiting efforts to diversify its workforce.

On the other side of that, AMO has specific and unique hiring challenges for law enforcement positions.

Commercial pilots are presented with higher salaries, schedule flexibilities, and fewer prerequisites than the federal government law enforcement agencies.

On the mariner side, according to the International Maritime Organization, women represent only 2 percent of the world’s 1.2 million seafarers.

In addition, AMO has a very rigorous hiring process to include extensive background

checks followed by a multi-week basic training.

AMO’s mission is vital to public safety, and it needs people who want the opportunity to be a part of that mission.

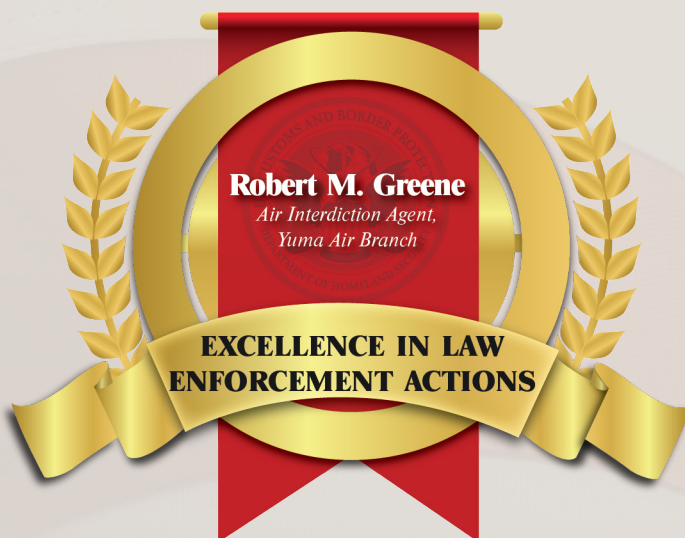
AMO also has a crucial team of non-law enforcement women who make up 33 percent of its workforce.

AMO is an elite and specialized function of CBP. The people of AMO are always working to see where they can do better and attract the best candidates for AMO.



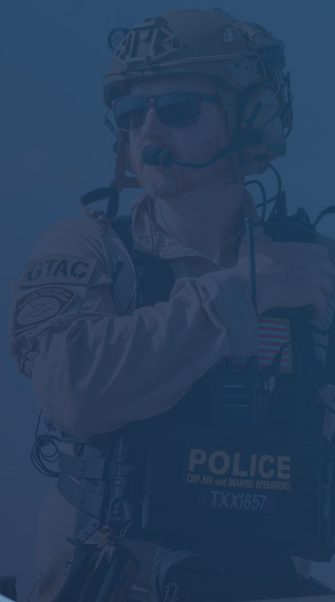


AWARDS





SAFEGUARDING THE NATION FROM THE AIR AND SEA



CBP Publication No. 3172-0423
April 2023
www.cbp.gov