U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard

MARINE BOARD OF INVESTIGATION

Update 9: Coast Guard continues search for missing El Faro crew

News Release
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MIAMI – Coast Guard crews continue searching for possible survivors from the cargo ship El Faro Tuesday night, which is believed to have sunk during Hurricane Joaquin.

Crews have searched a total of 172,257 square nautical miles while searching in the vicinity of the ship's last known position 35 nautical miles northeast of Crooked Islands, Bahamas.

The Coast Guard located a deceased person in a survival suit in the water Sunday.

A heavily damaged life boat with markings consistent with those on board the El Faro was also located Sunday. Additional items located by Coast Guard aircrews within search areas include a partially submerged life raft, life jackets, life rings, cargo containers and an oil sheen Sunday.

Multiple crews searched for survivors from the El Faro. Assets involved in the search included:
Two Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules fixed wing airplanes
Two Air Force C-130 airplanes
One Navy P-8 fixed wing airplane
One Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter
Coast Guard Cutter Northland, a 270-foot medium endurance cutter homeported in Portsmouth, Virginia.
Coast Guard Cutter Resolute, a 270-foot medium endurance cutter homeported in St. Petersburg, Florida.
Coast Guard Cutter Charles Sexton, a 154-foot fast response cutter homeported in Key West, Florida.
Three commercial tugboats.

All three Coast Guard cutters will stay on scene and search through the night.

Sea and weather conditions during Tuesday's search include one-foot seas and two-knot winds with 10 miles visibility.

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