

COUNT ON US!**The Dependable Delivery**

The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter **DEPENDABLE** has been very busy over the past several months. **DEPENDABLE** returned to Cape May at the end of September upon completion of an extremely successful 5-week counter-drug patrol in the Caribbean Sea, and subsequent 3-week training availability in Little Creek, Virginia.

DEPENDABLE departed Cape May in August to patrol the waters of the Caribbean Sea. During this patrol, we worked extensively with other Coast Guard, Navy, interagency, and international partners to deter, detect, and interdict illicit narcotics traffickers. As a direct result of these combined efforts, the crew of **DEPENDABLE** successfully interdicted a high speed “go fast” vessel carrying 1,200 kilograms of cocaine, thus preventing those drugs from reaching our streets.

Upon our departure from the Caribbean Sea, the crew quickly shifted gears into training mode. **DEPENDABLE** made its way to Little Creek, Virginia for a 3-week Tailored Ship’s Training Availability (TSTA) assessment, which both improved and measured the crew’s skills and ability to conduct a variety of naval warfare missions. **DEPENDABLE**’s training was principally focused in the areas of damage control, engineering, navigation, gunnery, and deck seamanship, and was overseen by a cadre of training “ship riders” from the Coast Guard’s Afloat Training Group, which is based in Norfolk. The training went extremely well, and we emerged at a much higher level of operational readiness for future deployments.

The crew of **DEPENDABLE** has returned home for a well-deserved break from operations. This fall brings us an opportunity to make repairs, upgrades and conduct maintenance in preparation for another upcoming patrol.

Inside this issue:

From the Captain	2
Meet the Crew	3
Advancements	4
Awards	4
Divisional Highlights	5
Operation Stork	8
Patrol Snapshots	9
XO’s Corner	10

FROM THE CAPTAIN

DEPENDABLE Friends & Family,

As I pen this note, we find ourselves having recently completed a very successful patrol, and now amidst a productive pier side maintenance period back in Cape May. When we departed homeport in early August, we were sailing on the heels of the summer transfer season, which meant that over a third of our complement were new to the cutter. As a result, we aggressively pursued two critical lead objectives – training and qualifications for our new shipmates, and counter-drug operations in the Caribbean Sea. As you'll see in this edition of our newsletter, the men and women of DEPENDABLE – newcomers and "old salts" alike – answered the call on both fronts, realizing operational success in the form of a cocaine seizure early in the patrol, and significantly bolstering our operational readiness via a multi-week training availability in Virginia during the later part of our deployment. We hope this finds all going well with you and yours, and thank you for your continued support to DEPENDABLE. Count on us!

Sincerely,

Lee Petty
Commander, USCG
Commanding Officer



*MEET THE CREW***Benjamin Levy**

Rate/ Rank: Boatswain's Mate Third Class

Age: 22

Department: Operations

Last station: Base Seattle

A little bit about me: I am a big Philadelphia sports fan. I have a twin brother who lives in Hollywood, California. I met my girlfriend in Boston on a port call.

If I were CO for a day, I would... : give myself and others "small boat liberty" for the day to cruise around and go fishing with the unit's small boats.

**Anthony McCabe**

Rate/ Rank: Storekeeper First Class

Age: 32

Department: Support

Last station: Station Rockland, ME

A little bit about me: My home town is Deltona, Florida. I've been in the CG for over 13 years.

If I were CO for a day, I would... : Have a meeting

**Matthew Revell**

Rate/ Rank: Electronics Technician Third Class

Age: 21

Department: Support

Last station: ESD Cape May, NJ

A little bit about me: I am from Missouri and I love to run.

If I were CO for a day, I would... : install a Rockstar vending machine



ADVANCEMENT



FS2 Jacob Doss

AWARDS

Non-Rate Sailor of the Patrol

SN Nicholas Alger



Sailor of the Quarter

BM3 Benjamin Levy

OPERATIONS



This past summer every division of the Operations Department worked diligently to prepare for the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) Inspection conducted in early June. This inspection served as a prelude to the unit's practical evaluation during the Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) in Little Creek, Virginia. Subsequently, for the remainder of the summer, the Operations Department took advantage of 2 solid months of nice weather and dedicated work time to complete

many projects. This included Deck Division completing a hull restoration project to keep the cutter's hull looking bright white. Other divisions worked to upgrade equipment and prepared for DEPENDABLE's first counter-narcotic patrol in over a year.

This patrol was going to be particularly challenging in an effort to balance watch-station qualifications and pre-TSTA training all while carrying out the Coast Guard's mission in the deep Caribbean Sea. Every watch stander pulled their load equally, standing watch before and after a workday filled with training and drills in preparation for TSTA, all while carrying out the mission of detecting, deterring and interdicting drug traffickers. BM3 Ben Levy, who recently earned his initial coxswain qualification and certification, made his solo debut driving the small boat to and from a US Navy frigate transferring a representative contraband sample from an ongoing case. The highlight of the patrol came in the middle of the night when a small vessel traveling at a high rate of speed, known as a "go-fast", was detected in the vicinity of our position. With BM2 Christopher Holmes at the wheel of the small boat, the pursuit team, consisting of MKC Mike Bailey, ME1 Greg Petrongolo and ME3 Rob Pagano, successfully and safely stopped the go-fast. The interdiction resulted in a seizure of 2,645 pounds of cocaine worth upwards of thirty million dollars.

After five weeks of patrolling the Caribbean Sea, the crew transitioned into training mode in Little Creek, Virginia. Over the next two and a half weeks, every crew member was tested on their knowledge in various warfare areas which include Damage Control, Engineering, Seamanship and Command and Control. The long hours spent training this underway period and the many before have finally paid off for the crew. From machinery casualty drills to fire and flooding drills to man-overboard and navigation drills, the crew of DEPENDABLE earned an outstanding 96% average for the four warfare areas.



ENGINEERING

DEPENDABLE's engineers capped off our busy patrol with an outstanding performance at the Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) in Little Creek, VA where their engineering equipment casualty response, fire-fighting and damage control (DC) proficiency was tested during long days and dozens of drills. DEPENDABLE earned a 93% and 98% drill score average for Engineering Casualty Control and DC drills, respectively - an impressive feat that earned the ship Excellence Awards in both of those areas.

The Main Propulsion Division dutifully attended to some issues with our reverse-osmosis water making system within the first day of the patrol, but was able to make a successful repair before we arrived in our operating area in the Caribbean Sea. The pace never slowed for the guys down below as they tackled maintenance, several unforeseen equipment repairs and the training of many new shipmates.

The Electrical Division was able to resolve several generator issues while underway without any disruption to the ship's power. DEPENDABLE makes all of its own electrical power, water and any other "utilities" required to sustain 70+ people onboard the ship for months at a time - our electricians provide these services so dependably it can be easy to forget how much time and energy goes into maintaining this vital equipment.

The Auxiliary Division once again demonstrated their ability to maintain an incredible breadth of equipment in a challenging environment at sea. From air conditioning, refrigeration, boat handling davits, small boats, ship's steering and fuel systems, A-Gang kept all equipment ready to respond to DEPENDABLE's missions. They also handle all helicopter fueling operations, which includes the storage, purification and testing of DEPENDABLE's JP-5 jet fuel. The ability to support flight operations at sea greatly enhances our capability in all mission areas.

The DC Division is a two-man carpentry, welding, fabrication, fire safety, plumbing, flooring and all-around ship repair team. Although, this patrol saw heavy emphasis on training due to the large number of new crew members and the need to prepare for TSTA. DC1 Stevens dedicated many hours conducting classroom sessions in DC fundamentals for new shipmates. His enthusiasm and effectiveness as a teacher was recognized by the Afloat Training Group as the most outstanding training team member on DEPENDABLE.



SUPPORT



The Support department did an excellent job taking care of the crew with supplies, food, and medical care along with keeping the electronics and computer systems up and running.

SK1 Anthony McCabe and SK3 Daniel Kobs' inventory and procurement efforts led to 98 routine procurements for a value of \$70,000, and the precise management of all port call expenses. Their

logistics efforts ensured that DEPENDABLE received all necessary parts and equipment to carry out our mission successfully.

ET1 Shawn Russell, ET2 Michael Scott, & ET3 Matthew Revell were steadfast in their commitment to fixing all electronic equipment that everyone seems to break so easily! The ET shop corrected electronic bridge equipment casualties to ensure safe operations and navigation aboard DEPENDABLE.

IT1 Joshua Craig was critical in preserving our cutter computers, telephone lines, & internet connectivity throughout the patrol which ultimately allowed crewmembers to stay current on all the happenings back home.

HS1 Rorai "Doc" Greenan handled all medical issues ultimately resulting in the treatment of 78 crewmembers and 6 detainees

FSC Philip Ngo, FS1 Jacob Grim, FS2 Jacob Doss, and FS3's Jeffrey Ladjack, Alexander Donnell, & Kyle Velasquez kept crew morale high, serving over 13,912 delicious meals to the crew and our guests.

YN1 Roy Toomer diligently carried out all of his admin duties in addition to serving as a small boat davit operator throughout the patrol. His hard work ensured that four of DEPENDABLE's crewmembers made it safely back to the ship in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



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Positive news—



a baby's on the way!

Congratulations to Dependable's Proud Parents-to-Be!

Nicholas & Alison Ingersoll

James & April Walters

Bradley & Rosa Andreasen

Bill & Dawnelle Rayne

Preston & Jessica Haggadone



PATROL SNAPSHOTS



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



XO'S CORNER

Greetings families!

Thank you for all of your support while we were away doing all the exciting events captured here. With the large crew turnover this summer, for many of us (me included) this was our first patrol. We learned a lot and the crew did an exceptional job on patrol and during training. The crew is very proud of their recent accomplishments. Special Thanks to Laura Buckley and Lisa Bush for filling the role of Ombudsman during our patrol. Lisa was recently designated as our new Ombudsman and Laura helped greatly with the transition.

Good job with accountability and ensuring everyone was safe during Hurricane Sandy. Emergency preparedness continues to be important. We still have a month of hurricane season left (ends 30 Nov) and winter storms have the potential to bring Cape May to a standstill, with up to a foot of snow at a time and power outages throughout the area. For winter storms, keep enough food and water on hand, as well as blankets, candles, and batteries.

