

SENECA eNewsletter –25 December 09 – 12 January 10

Good day, shipmates.

Outstanding patrol!

We patrolled the waters of the Pacific with a HITRON bird. I know how proud you all are of that because of how many HITRON T-shirts you all bought, which also fills up the HITRON MWR coffers.

Friday to Sunday, 25-27 December: Patrolled the Western Caribbean off the coasts of Columbia and Panama. Flew HITRON AUF 2x night in search of TOIs.

Monday, 28 December: Moored Ciudad de Panama for mid-patrol break, stores, fuel, and to prepare for our Canal transit.

Tuesday, 29 December: Commenced our night transit of the Panama Canal.

Wednesday, 30 December: Completed night transit of the Panama Canal northbound from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean.

Thursday, 31 December: Conducted 76MM Gunnery Exercise with our new gun. It was awesome as she fired on the first attempt. It took a little Gunnersmate TLC to get the remaining 29 rounds out the barrel, but it only took one love tap. Test SAT. We are most appreciative of all the hard work and due diligence it takes to make that happen by all the mission support shipmates from WAT Boston to our Coast Guard Yard Armory. BZ !

Friday to Monday, 1-4 January: Patrolled the Western Caribbean off the coasts of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Flew HITRON AUF 2x day in search of TOIs. New Year's was celebrated with a Casino Night using SENECA Bucks: Horse Racing, Black Jack, and Prize Auctions on the Mess Deck; Texas Hold 'em in the Wardroom with FSC dealing. I like the way Chief counts money. (AUF = air use of force; TOI = targets of interest)

Tuesday, 5 January: Patrolled the West Coast of Cuba enroute to our mid-patrol break.

Wednesday, 6 January: Adventure Day. Anchored off National Park Services Fort Jefferson in Dry Tortugas and toured on a cold day. Got to feel the Arctic Blast effecting the Southern US.

NPS Ft Jefferson: <http://www.nps.gov/drto/index.htm>

Thursday, 7 January: Portcall Key West, Florida. Conducted a mid-patrol break, unloaded stores and fuel. Conducted an outbrief with JIATFS Senior staff. Our shipmates below proved to be excellent hosts and briefers when SENECA hosted a Joint Inter-Agency Task Force Southeast's (JIATFS's) delegation during our Key West port call. Deputy Director Rear Admiral S. Perez USN, his Operation Chief (J3), our USCG JIATFS Liaison Officer, and another 10 JIATFS staff members were very impressed by your efforts. They provided an outstanding lunch, an Eastern Pacific Patrol Debrief, and a tour of SENECA that showcases her operational assets (CIC, OTH & CB-L) that executed SENECA's recent JIATFS mission. Their efforts increased the knowledge of these visitors on SENECA's, 270 cutters, and Coast Guard capabilities and attitudes. You left RDML Perez with the following impression which he noted in SENECA's Record of Inspections, "Crew all have a 'Can Do, Send Me in Coach' attitude". Bravo Zulu ~ Well Done, shipmates.

Friday to Monday, 8-11 January: Transited enroute homeport.

=> OUTCHOPed JIATFS on 10 January. The Winter Weather was very cooperative as we were able to turn for 18 knots over 60% of our transit, which is most unusual in the Northwest Atlantic in the Winter.

=> Tiger Cruise 8-9 JAN: Our First Lieutenant's Mom took us up on the challenge to ride with us from Key West to Mayport. She was a joy to have aboard and we appreciate her setting the standard for future Tiger Cruisers by making some outstanding cookie/bars for all of us, about a case. She got a good adventure with a night small boat

transfer from our OTH to Station Mayport's 47321. I am grateful for my boss, Atlantic Area/CAPT, for allowing us to have a Tiger Cruise; we look forward to having more in the future.

=> Saturday - Morale Night. Officers and Chiefs cooked up some fine pizzas and wings for our shipmates under the able direction of FSC. There were way too many Chiefs and not enough Indians in the Galley, but our Officer did their best to fill in.

Tuesday, 12 January: Transited Cape Cod Canal; moored Pier 3A at Base Boston by nightfall.

Happy New Year. Go Vikings !!

For new shipmates: If you would like your family and friends to receive this periodic eNewsletter, please send me their emails and I will add them to the distribution list.

For family and friends of SENECA: If you would like to know more about our fine cutter and me, please visit this web site.

Cutter SENECA <http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/cgcSeneca>

Be well, God bless, Semper Paratus ~ Always Ready, Sincerely,
wjw

CAPT Wm. J. "Willy" Wolter
Cutter SENECA (WMEC 906)
~ underway patrolling the high seas ~