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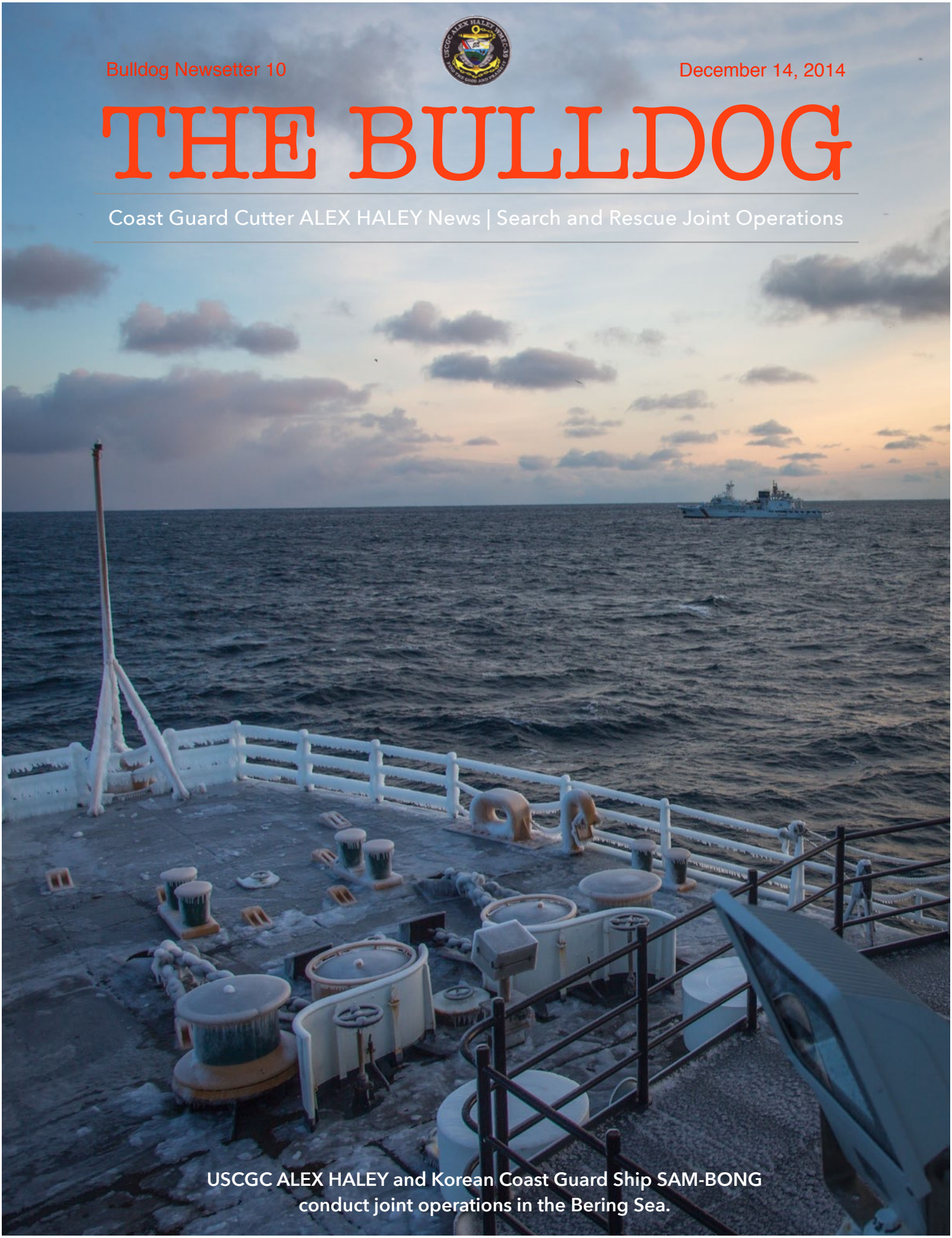
December 14, 2014

THE BULLDOG

Coast Guard Cutter ALEX HALEY News | Search and Rescue Joint Operations



USCGC ALEX HALEY and Korean Coast Guard Ship SAM-BONG conduct joint operations in the Bering Sea.

SEARCH & RESCUE

On the afternoon of December 1st, a large wave struck a 326' Korean fishing vessel in the Bering Sea. The crew was hauling in their latest catch when the wave rushed across the deck, flooding an open storage chamber. Soon after, an electronic locating beacon began transmitting what would become the last known position for fishing vessel 501 ORYONG. Good Samaritan fishing vessels in the vicinity immediately diverted to assist. Seven survivors were recovered at sea. Many others were recovered posthumously. U.S. Coast Guard District 17, quick to respond, diverted USCGC MUNRO and USCGC ALEX HALEY. The Republic of Korea dispatched two Korean Navy P-3 aircraft to Anchorage and the Korean Coast Guard Ship SAM-BONG made preparations to get underway. U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak commenced searches with C-130 aircraft alongside Cutters MUNRO and ALEX HALEY, as well as their embarked MH-65 helicopters. After MUNRO's departure, ALEX HALEY assumed the duties of On Scene Coordinator and continued searching with the Korean Navy P-3's, awaiting SAM-BONG's arrival.

Upon SAM-BONG's arrival, ALEX HALEY and SAM-BONG conducted two days of joint operations before ALEX HALEY departed the scene for further tasking. The thoughts and prayers of the two crews were directed to the friends and families of the perished and unaccounted for. We are reminded of the treachery of the sea and the daunting power it holds. Our hopes remain with SAM-BONG as they continue their search at sea.

Above and below, ALEX HALEY and SAM-BONG conduct on station relief near the last known position of fishing vessel 501 ORYONG.

On this page: ALEX HALEY, MUNRO, CG-1712, and CG-6503 conduct joint search and rescue operations. Bottom: CG-1712 in St. Paul.

Multi Service Mission

AG1 John Dicola, USN

ALEX HALEY Command conducts operational planning with Navy and Air Force support.

SSgt Zachary Jankowski

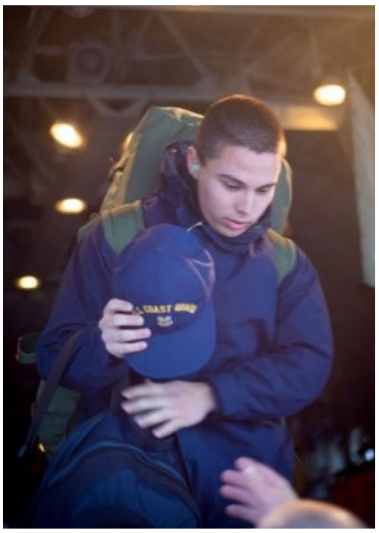
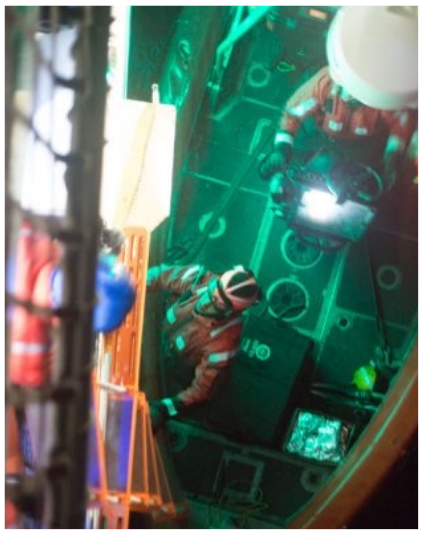
Joining forces on ALEX HALEY with the Navy and Air Force.

Working with other branches of the military is always exciting. During this patrol, the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, Korean Coast Guard, and Korean Navy came together to conduct one of the largest joint search and rescue operations within the Bering Sea. Aboard ALEX HALEY, the joint support continued as "shipmates" from the U.S Navy and Air Force joined our crew for real time support. From the Navy is Petty Officer First Class John Dicola and from the Air Force is Staff Sergeant Zachary Jankowski. PO1 Dicola is an Aerographers Mate from the Fleet Weather Center in San Diego, California. SSgt Jankowski is a Russian language translator from Joint Base Elmendorff-Richardson in Anchorage Alaska.

As an Aerographers Mate, PO1 Dicola provides tailored weather forecasts for optimal navigation planning. Strict attention must be given to the dangerous seas and low pressure systems that rule the Bering Sea during winter months. With over nine years of experience, PO1 Dicola has become an asset to the patrol already. His forecasts are the center of ALEX HALEY's search and rescue efforts in coordinating search action plans with Coast Guard District Seventeen and assets from the Republic of Korea. PO1 Dicola's military career includes three aircraft carriers and two tours in Japan supporting the U.S Navy's Seventh Fleet.

SSgt Jankowski's Russian language proficiency is a useful tool as ALEX HALEY conducts its search and rescue mission so close to Russian waters. Good Samaritan vessels are key during the first hours of any SAR case, as it was with fishing vessel 501 ORYONG. These vessels are usually the closest and quickest to respond to any maritime emergency. With the 501 ORYONG sinking only 122 nautical miles off of Russia's Chukchi coast, SSgt Jankowski was deployed to ALEX HALEY to ensure fluid on scene operations. SSgt Jankowski learned Russian at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. He has been stationed at JBER in Anchorage for three years and was previous stationed at Goodfellow Air Force base in San Angelo, Texas.

In Other News from ALEX HALEY

While the search and rescue case has commanded much of our attention, ALEX HALEY managed a few other operations this month. From helo training, small boat ops and even a few community outreach projects, ALEX HALEY remains dedicated to not only the mission, but also the people whom serve upon her and the people for whom she serves. From the top, ladies of ALEX HALEY served up some excellent Mexican dishes in the galley alongside a new cutter favorite dessert, churros. Middle left to right, AST2 Omar Alba is lowered to the deck of ALEX HALEY. SA Frank Garcia arrives in St. Paul via C-130 to report to ALEX HALEY. MK3 Myles Moorer awaits passengers to embark the small boat.

FN Seth Bergman conducts small boat checks. Bottom, while ashore on St. Paul Island, our aviation detachment took a few hours to hang out with local children.