

TRADEWINDS

CGC KUKUI NEWSLETTER

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The South Trip



CGC KUKUI moored in Bora Bora, French Polynesia

On March 23, 2015 CGC KUKUI took in lines and headed south to enforce U.S. Fishery Laws, to provide support to our partners in Kiribati through the U.S. Bilateral Agreement, and to provide increased maritime domain awareness with our partners in French Polynesia. Even though our primary mission for the patrol was Law Enforcement, CGC KUKUI was briefly diverted to recover a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Buoy that was reported adrift, allowing us to get in a little ATON work. For the first leg of our law Enforcement Patrol, we were joined by Sergeant Benukai, a fisheries law enforcement officer from the Republic of Kiribati. Boarding teams from CGC KUKUI assisted Sergeant Benukai in boarding three longline fishing vessels fishing in the Kiribati Exclusive Economic Zone, verifying that the fishing vessels had the correct permits and were in compliance with Kiribati Fishery Laws. CGC KUKUI pulled into Papeete, Tahiti for a brief stop for fuel, where we disembarked Sergeant Benukai and embarked Petty Officer Cornille, a member of the French Navy. After a port call in Bora Bora, French Polynesia, CGC KUKUI was back underway, targeting fishing vessels in the American Samoa Exclusive Economic Zone. CGC KUKUI assisted the French Navy by providing increased maritime *(continued on next page)*

Welcome aboard to:

- BM2 Mike Valdes
- SN Jason Steinmetz
- FN Ian Sharp
- SA Nicholas Pestello
- SA Hailey Hutchinson
- SA Joahna Alovidor

Fair winds and following seas to:

- CDR Steven Ramassini
- LT Nick Devine
- LTJG Julie Kane
- MKC "J.T." Landry
- BM1 Chris Summers
- FS2 Brittany Warner
- ET2 Ryan Ruff
- MK3 Mitch Hopper
- SN Grant Kelly
- SN Armond Thompson
- SN Dusty Weems

Sailor of the Quarter Winter 2015: FS2 Brittany Warner



THE SOUTH TRIP CONTINUED

domain awareness and the French Navy assisted us by providing air support. While in the American Samoa Exclusive Economic Zone, boarding teams from CGC KUKUI boarded five U.S. flagged longliner fishing vessels. Boarding teams from CGC KUKUI discovered several safety violations and terminated the voyage of one vessel for manifestly unsafe conditions. CGC KUKUI also documented a “paper captain” violation, meaning that although a U.S. citizen was listed as the master of the U.S.-flagged vessel on all official documentation, a foreign citizen was in fact acting as the master, violating U.S. Law. After a brief stop in American Samoa for logistical purposes, CGC KUKUI headed to our second port call in Vava’u, Tonga. Once underway again, after another brief stop for fuel in American Samoa, we headed north, back to Honolulu, arriving home on May 4, 2015. Overall, it was a great patrol. We strengthened the United States government partnership with Kiribati and assisted them in protecting their fisheries; we were privileged to collaborate with the French Navy; we demonstrated the Coast Guard’s commitment to enforcing federal law in the American Samoa Exclusive Economic Zone; and we increased the safety of fishing vessels at sea.



Getting Ready for the South Trip



Although servicing Aids to Navigation is our primary mission, our versatility to act as a law enforcement cutter does not come without a lot of preparation. We restocked our equipment inventory and stepped up our training program, qualifying a total of 6 boarding officers and 5 boarding team members before the patrol.



By the Numbers:

Days Away From Homeport:	43
Nautical Miles Travelled:	8,475
Gallons of Fuel Burned:	102,267
Boardings Completed:	8
Violations Issued:	13

BUOY DECK TRAINING TEAM & DEPENDENTS' CRUISE



The last week of January CGC KUKUI welcomed the Buoy Deck Training Team onboard for a week of inspections and training. CGC KUKUI did extremely well, and the inspectors complimented the Deck and Engineering Departments on the excellent condition of all buoy deck weight-handling equipment. On the final day of the visit, CGC KUKUI got underway for some hands-on experience, working the lighted buoy just off the coast of Diamond Head. The Deck Departments of both CGC KUKUI and our sister ship, CGC WALNUT, demonstrated their skills by completing a full buoy deck evolution. Since we were only out for a few hours, we invited our families and friends out for a **Dependent's Cruise** to get a glimpse of how CGC KUKUI accomplishes the mission. Thanks to everyone that joined us!



TOWER CLIMBING CLASS

HOLIDAY PARTY



In February, CGC KUKUI sent 11 crewmembers to a Tower Climbing Course. During the course, the attendees learned safe climbing practices so that they can climb ATON structures. On the final day, each member climbed a 300 ft tower in Wahiawa on the West Side of Oahu.



Thanks to everyone who came out to our annual Holiday Party at the Hale Koa!



DECK DEPARTMENT

BY BM3 TIM POWERS

Aloha from the Deckies aboard CGC KUKUI! Since November we have welcomed BM2 Valdes, BM3 Materassi, SN Steinmetz, SA Pestello, SA Hutchinson, and SA Alovidor to Deck Force. Congratulations to BM2 Duran for making 2nd Class Petty Officer and to BM3 Materassi for making 3rd Class Petty Officer!



BM3 Materassi and BM2 Valdes do a heat 'n' beat

We are sad to say goodbye to the one hit wonder “Boy Band” from last quarter. After turmoil and heartbreak, the “Boy Band,” once known for their one hit wonder “HARD WORK WORK,” have regrettably gone their separate ways. But hold your tears! Critics say that there are rumors of our boys in blue touring America in 2016. But for now, good luck to SN Thompson (transferred to **PATFORSWA and then heading to IS “A” School**), **YN3 Kelly (attended YN “A” school - congratulations on 3rd Class Petty Officer!)**, **SN Wieczorek (heading to BM “A” school to become the only true rate)**, **SN Ramos (heading to IT “A” school – good luck, secret squirrel)**, and **SN Weems (currently at OS “A” school and on the fast track)**. We will surely miss you all! (Especially since we just lost 5 blue hats.) We are also saying goodbye to three of our supervisors; BOSN Smith - thank you for always knowing what to say to put a smile on our faces and giving us the motivation we needed to keep going; BM1 Summers - thank you for being the heart and backbone of Deck Department and for passing your specialty knowledge to all of us - we will always look up to you for your guidance and wisdom; and BM1 Laughlin - thank you for being a great leader by setting a great example and getting others to follow you, and congratulations on making Chief soon!

Our biggest operation of the last quarter was our South

Patrol. The patrol lasted a total of 43 days, and we visited American Samoa, Tahiti, Tonga, and Bora-Bora. The purpose of the trip was to work with other **countries’ law** enforcement agents to enforce fisheries laws in their exclusive economic zones, and to enforce U.S. Law in the exclusive economic zone around American Samoa. Though the port calls were short, we made the most of them. Many deckies enjoyed snorkeling, scuba diving, paddling, hiking, shopping, and many other wonders each island had to offer.



BM3 Duran back up SN Wieczorek during NOAA Buoy ops

Best wishes to CGC KUKUI’s family and extended family over the next couple of summer months. Until next time, stay classy.

P.S. For all of you Laysan Duck enthusiasts I have some great news. The Kure Atoll Laysan Ducks that, for a brief time, were on our very own CGC KUKUI are now proud parents! Early in May the Ducks gave birth to 19 ducklings.



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

BY FN TREVOR BARKHIMER

March 23rd, 2015 – CGC KUKUI gets underway for the crew's Law Enforcement Mission in the Southern Pacific. Unaware of KUKUI's spontaneous outbursts, the crew has no idea what she has in store. As the Deck Department gets ready to lower the CB-L she has a hiccup, fraying the wire cable on the single point davit, not allowing the crew to proceed further with their mission. Retracing her wake, KUKUI is homebound.



EMC Padilla and CWO Specht in ECC

March 25th, 2015 – KUKUI is mended and ready to set sail in another attempt to complete her mission. This time, the single-point davit operates flawlessly. After these events KUKUI sails south, leaving Honolulu a distant memory.



MKC Mertz and MK1 Wada reach 10 Years of Sea Time!



EM3 Bredesen and EMC Padilla troubleshoot the stern thruster motor



FN Barkhimer at work in the Main Machinery Room

All throughout the trip KUKUI was full of daunting surprises, from a ruptured ballast pipe, to a broken incinerator door, a loss of ship's service air, and, for her final tantrum, jacket water spewing throughout the upper and lower main machinery room. The KUKUI is tough and always keeps the Engineers busy, but given the expertise and hard work of the Engineering Department, KUKUI never stays crippled long.



DC3 Chun, MK2 Landry, and FN Barkhimer repair incinerator door

OPERATIONS & SUPPORT DEPARTMENTS



FS2 Gros baked a cake to celebrate the new DV rating and DV2 Robb's advancement



BM3 Carballo drives the CB-AL for small boat training



ET1 Lugo climbs the mast



HS1 Dias and YN1 Calhoun during Line-Crossing Festivities



Captain congratulates ENS McGarry on earning his Temporary Cutterman pin



BM3 Wood completes a man overboard drill while driving the CB-AL

THE DIVE LOCKER

BY DV1 DAVE PARTIN



DV2 Robb, LT Devine, DV1 Partin, DV2 Miller

HOOYAH from the denizens of the deep! This is the final edition of the always hard-working “Dive Locker.” Okay, now that the bad news is out of the way let’s discuss some history and fantastic developments. As many of you know, CGC KUKUI has had a dive team attached in some form or fashion since her keel floated on water. What you all may not be aware of is that divers have been conducting Aids to Navigation operations on buoy tenders in the Pacific since 1973. In fact, LTJG E. Thompson (Dive and Operations Officer) aboard CGC Buttonwood developed the idea that a small team of divers could effectively accomplish Aids to Navigation Maintenance saving time, money, and manpower.¹ This small but effective idea grew, saved the American taxpayer millions of dollars in waterway maintenance costs, and helped launch the Coast Guards 22nd Enlisted Rate and 19th Warrant Officer Specialty (DV/Diver and DIV Warrant Officer). The United States Coast Guard has solidified its stance as the world’s premier sea service by expanding its underwater capabilities. The new rate was a natural migration as select Coastguardsmen have been conducting diving operations on a full time basis at the Regional Dive Lockers East and West since 2008. The move to create a dedicated resource to explore and develop the underwater domain bolsters the Coast Guard’s continued drive for innovation. Further, this development recognizes that as technologies improve and terrestrials are able to stay deeper and longer on the ocean floor, a viable frontier on our home planet emerges. On April 1, 2015 a ceremony was held on the fantail of CGC KUKUI as the ship transited into the domain of Neptunis Rex (a.k.a. Crossed the Equator). Making way from the Northern Hemisphere to the Southern Hemisphere, three divers were christened, one was promoted, and all earned the honor of being plank owners within the Coast Guard’s newest rate. Special thanks to our Commanding Officer and Dive Officer for the awesome T-shirts and remarks. Also, HOOYAH to FS2 Gros for the delicious cake! The crew made it a truly memorable experience. Thank You.

Now for the operational recap. Polling the team, the most notable operational dive for ATON was Hickam Harbor Buoy 1. Mother Nature had bounced this buoy off station. We had to un-foul the aid’s mooring. Next step was to mark the aids assigned position so we had a visual reference of where to drop the 4.5K lb sinker. Finally, we lifted the sinker, placed the buoy in tow, maneuvered to its assigned position, and lowered it. This dive was dynamic and BM1 Laughlin demonstrated expert small boat handling skills as the weather began to deteriorate. Thanks Boats! We also had a Navy Seal delivery vehicle attached to SDVT-1 pop up close to our work area. That was cool. HOOYAH SDVT – “watch out for that heavy load!” The most memorable hull survey was the Arizona Memorial. Military dive teams regularly assist the Park Service in maintaining the National Memorial. It was truly an honor to visit the site, touch our hands to the hull, and inspect the grave. Thanks to all who helped coordinate and make that happen. All in all, from December to Present 16 buoys worked, 866 minutes of bottom time logged, 9000 miles traveled. Full hearts and Deep Seas!

¹ Simmons, D. D. (1976, Spring). Tender Assisted Dive Team. *Pacific Shield: The Aloha District*, 7–8.



DV2 Miller tows a buoy in Kaneohe Bay

KUKUI KEIKI



Jessica and Emily de la Cruz (runners like their Mom and Dad!)



Hannah and Madison Mills



Kinsey Miller

Mikey's Meal Review

Talk about a great meal! On the 14th of April, 2015, Petty Officer Hassilev prepared an evening meal I will never forget. This historic platter began with gifts from the Earth. A florescent assortment of flawlessly steamed vegetables was the perfect way to prepare my soul for what was next to come. My fork was then introduced to a cumulus cloud of silky smooth mashed potatoes. Melting at the touch of my tongue, chills began to slither down my spine. I was dumbfounded when it came to my attention that these mashed tatters were in fact "instant." Finally, last but far from least was the main dish. This was the moment I had been waiting for. FS2 Hassilev prepared roast beef tenderloin with crab béarnaise. At first bite my eyes begave to roll to the back of my skull and I felt my heart skip a beat. This medley of flavors created by the beef and crab was so compelling it could make a grown man cry. This is without a doubt the best meal I've had the honor of devouring onboard KUKUI, if not in my entire life.

- SN Mikey Ramos

XO's Corner

If you've reached this point in the newsletter, you received a comprehensive glimpse into the life and accomplishments of KUKUI's crew over the past few months. Our fifty crewmembers and their families achieved goals, overcame obstacles, and strengthened friendships, all while improving KUKUI's ability to accomplish her assigned missions. Every single member of this crew can proudly say, "I helped make a difference aboard KUKUI." This is only possible because of the tremendous level of teamwork that exists here. Now that the transfer season is upon us, it is time to say farewells, accept new responsibilities, and strengthen esprit de corps with newfound shipmates. Fair winds and following seas to everyone departing KUKUI in the comings months, and thank you to all who remain aboard to keep the ship running strong! Welcome Aboard to those new members of the KUKUI Ohana, and Welcome Back to those who have plied these waters before. Finally, Mahalo to LTJG Julie Kane for compiling the last six editions of Tradewinds while serving as Public Affairs Officer.

LUCKY BAG



Left – XO and DIVEO after DIVEO made LT; Center – DV2 Miller rides a shark in Bora Bora; Right – DV2 Robb and BM2 Valdes help make pizza on Morale Night underway



Left – CO and EO in the scullery during Morale Night underway; Center – KUKUI pulls in to Bora Bora; Right – SN Wieczorek and SN Ramos strike a pose in American Samoa



Left – WOGS! Line-Crossing ceremony begins; Center – Skits during the Line-Crossing ceremony; Right – KUKUI leaves an aid watching properly in Kaneohe Bay

Captain's Cabin

*Ship, Shipmate, Self, and Community: Four watchwords I introduced into KUKUI's lingo three years ago when I was afforded the great privilege of command. These four watchwords guided us through challenging decisions, reminded us of why we chose a life of service, and comforted us when times got a little uncertain. Each member of Team KUKUI, whether part of the active duty crew, a spouse, a child or a parent, played an integral role in our continued and persistent success despite the odds we may have faced. My sincere and heartfelt thank you for your dedication and for doing your part to ensure KUKUI remained an **Employer of Choice** here is District Fourteen. I wish you all the best of luck moving forward. Thank you for your service, thank you for your professionalism and thank you for your impeccable integrity. Semper Paratus. Go Bears!*