

KUKUI NEWSLETTER

CHANGE OF COMMAND/ MAIDEN VOYAGE/ WLB LIFE/ CO'S GREETINGS

Fair Winds & Following Seas

May 4th, 2012, marked the accomplishment of a remarkable tour as Commanding Officer aboard USCGC KUKUI for CDR Bob Little. The list of achievements is impressive, but, most notably, CDR Little literally took KUKUI where no U.S. Military vessel had gone before, and established significant diplomatic relations with the island of Tuvalu, the worlds third smallest sovereign nation. CDR Little will serve his next assignment in our nation's capital as a speech writer for the Vice Admiral of the Coast Guard. Aloha!

CDR LITTLE LEAVES BIG SHOES TO FILL

And LCDR Ramassini is the man for the job. With a strong background in ATON afloat units, Mr. Ramassini has already made an impression with the crew and Command cadre. His experience and mission mindset have been acknowledged with great respect, and KUKUI's successes show no signs of letting up under her new Commanding Officer. Aloha!



Change of Command

There has got to be something bittersweet about being relieved of Command of a ship. Sure, moving forward in one's career is what we all strive to do, but at the end of the day, it must be a good feeling to look at a 225 ft. Black Hull and say, "That, right there, is my lady." Bittersweet because even though it

takes a great deal of responsibility to Command a crew of 50 across the Pacific 10,000+ nautical miles, at the end of the day, sometimes you just want to drive across town and see your family. Bittersweet because as much as you want the show to go on, at the end of the day, it's someone else's show.



DECK: CWO3 Bartlett (N/A) BMC Adkins, BMI Jones, BM2 Quinn, SNBM Aker, SN Puglia, SN Greenwell, SN Paoli, SNSK Donatz, SN Rodriguez, SN Sihler, SN Kelly, SN Strawn (N/A)



OPERATIONS: LT Hatland, LT Hunter, ENS Jaskot, SKC Fraughton, YNI Kamalo, HSI Porterfield, FS1 Wiggins (N/A), BMI Korte, SK1 Dishman, BM2 Iaci (N/A), BM3 Dawson, FS3 Born-Grissom (N/A), FS3 Bumanglag (N/A), FS3 Jones (N/A)



ENGINEERS: CWO4 Slobojan, MKC Quinones, MKC Jeffrey, MKC Kostka, MK1 Sheesley, MK1 Fetzter, DC1 Soto, ET1 Bracy, DC2 Miller, ET2 Harbinsky (N/A), MK3 Iwanicki, EM3 Martin (N/A), EM3 Reigosa (N/A) MK3 McBride, FN Marks, FN Keene, FN Estavillo (N/A)

The Maiden Voyage

GETTIN'THE SHOW ONTHE ROAD

LCDR Ramassini assumed Command of KUKUI on Friday, May 4th; on Monday, May 7th, the schedule of operations had KUKUI underway conducting local AtoN - needless to say, no time was wasted in getting the show started for the new Captain. Despite the busy weekend, and a three-week operation that lie ahead, Mr. Ramassini (and Mr. Harris, XO) granted KUKUI's crew a three-day weekend entering the schedule.

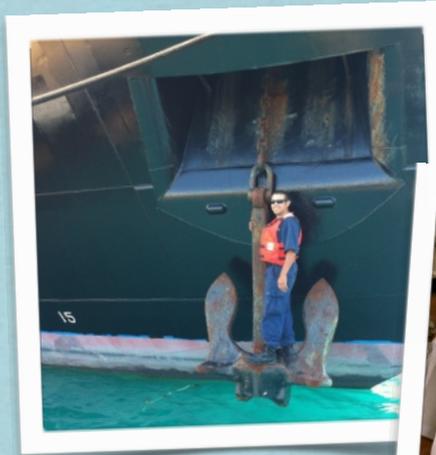
Efficient utilization of the small boat and AToN crew also allowed for a shortened underway period, affording the crew much appreciated rest, and allowing the opportunity to address areas in need of attention. The small boat/ AtoN crew (BM2 Quinn, BM2 Iaci, BM3 Dawson, EM3 Martin, SNBM Aker, SN Greenwell & FN Marks)

repaired 12 discrepant aids in three days while the remainder of the crew prepared KUKUI for getting underway.

The decks loaded with buoys, sinkers, bridles and chain, the reefers stocked above the head with fresh produce, supply closets

stocked and ready, the scuba tanks full, the engines well-oiled and running strong, and the charts guiding the way, KUKUI finally let off one prolonged blast on Friday, May 12th as she left Pier Echo Base Honolulu under her new Skipper. The maiden voyage had begun.

AROUND THE SHIP



* SNBM Aker plays his part to ensure KUKUI's anchor pockets are prepped, primed, and painted. Alliteration aside, the hull ended up a beautiful backdrop for the Change of Command.



Few Images are greater than a stoic EO and BOSN standing side-by-side in their dress whites. These are KUKUI's highly decorated and respected Warrant Officers: Mr Slobojan and Mr. Bartlett.

ATON OPS: BY THE NUMBERS



The Dive Team (LTJG Cooper, YN1 Kamalo, BM1 Jones, DC2 Miller, BM2 Iaci, SN Greenwell & SN Paoli) makes way to recover a sunken mooring buoy off the coast of Lahaina, Maui.



KUKUI works a monstrous 9'X36' buoy off the coast of Barber's Point. This would be the final ATON evolution of the successful three-week operation.

K-Bay/ P.H. Fixed Aids	13
K-Bay Buoys	8
Diver Buoys	4
Kahului Buoy	1
Barber's Point Aids	3
Joint Ops (Dive + Boat)	1
TOTAL	30

WORK HARD, PLAY HARD: WLB STYLE



Buoy Tenders: The Underdogs of the Fleet

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The work of a buoy tender typically doesn't align with the public image of what the Coast Guard is; there are no glorious helicopter rescues, seldom do they chase down drug runners, and search and rescue cases are few and far in-between. However, there's a reason why they call District 14 Buoy Tenders the best kept secret in the Coast Guard: the underway days are long, the operational schedule is busy, and the work qualifies for Discovery Channel's "Dirty Jobs" but the reward comes in the form of frequent liberty-calls in some of the Pacific Ocean's most exotic ports.

KUKUI's area of responsibility takes her to nearly every Hawaiian Island (most recently, Maui), but has also seen the likes of the Midway Islands, Kure Atoll, Canton, and Palmyra - some of the worlds most remote and

unexplored territories. What most people may not realize is that a good amount of operational usage of District 14 Buoy Tenders is dedicated towards fisheries Law Enforcement all across the Pacific, taking KUKUI to places such as Tahiti, Bora Bora, the Samoan Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and more. So while the work may be arduous, the rewards are priceless.

demonstrated rescue techniques from 50 feet, and had a qualifying climb of 300 feet. It was a great way to combine working, learning, teamwork, and morale.

WORKING IS FUN

Sometimes working and playing go hand in hand. As a prerequisite for anyone climbing a structure, one must attend a tower climbing course. Since many of the fixed aids KUKUI works count as tower structures, all of Deck Department was invited to participate in the voluntary course. Each climber learned the fundamentals of structure climbing and inspecting,



XO's Corner

KUKUI's crew has performed exceptionally over the past nine months, logging more than 1700 hours underway, servicing over 30 Aids to Navigation, conducting 33 law enforcement boardings and achieving superior results during eight thorough inspections. We've said goodbye and will miss 17 fantastic shipmates and welcomed numerous new members to the crew. I would like to thank the families and friends of KUKUI's crew for the sacrifices you have endured while KUKUI has been away from Honolulu and worked long hours inport to keep the ship operating with excellence in performing the Coast Guard's many missions. We cherish the time we get to spend with our families and thank for your continued support.

WELCOME ABOARD

LCDR Ramassini	MKC Mertz
EMC Padilla	MK2 Zapara
SN Strawn	SA Kelly
ENS Knox	ENS Miltenberger
I/C Surgeon	I/C Hayes

BON VOYAGE

CDR Little	CWO Spence
LTJG Cooper	MKC Jeffrey
BM1 Hamill	HS1 Porterfield
BM2 Quinn	ET2 Laureanoaudio
MK2 Kercado	EM3 Martin
FS3 Jones	BM3 Aker
SN Klingenberg	SN Barnes
SN Plaza	

CONGRATULATIONS

- LT Hatland, advancement from LTJG
- LT Hunter, advancement from LTJG
- CWO Spence, advancement from EMC
- MKCS Quinones, advancement from MKC
- BM3 Aker, advancement from SNBM
- SNSK Donatz, advancement from SN
- SN Sihler, advancement from SA
- BM3 Dawson, Coxswain Qualification
- DC1 Soto, Underway EOW
- MK1 Fetzter Underway EOW
- BMC Adkins, Underway OOD
- BM1 Korte, Underway OOD
- FN Marks; Boat Engineer

ABOUT ME



Name: Steve Ramassini

Years of Service: 15

Previous Assignment:

Chief, Design and Development; Performance Technology Center; Force Readiness Command; Yorktown, VA

Notable Achievement:

Led team who developed and implemented the "test out" feature for Coast Guard developed online Mandated Training.

Goals: UNIT: Sustain high morale and mission performance; PERSONAL:

Spend more time with my family; PROFESSIONAL: Earn my merchant license

Favorite Pastime:

Quality time with my wife and two boys

Best Quote: "That's a no fault foul... just make sure we learn from it." - Original

A Must Read: The Places You Will Go, by Dr. Seuss

A Must Watch: Grosse Pointe Blank starring John Cusack and Minnie Driver

GREETINGS FROM THE CAPTAIN



To the Families of CGC KUKUI, greetings and thank you all for the many sacrifices made on a daily basis to ensure the crew can focus on executing many missions **safely and successfully**.

My family and I are ecstatic to be here in Hawaii and to have the privilege of being a part of the greater KUKUI family! I recently introduced my Command Philosophy to the crew and want to ensure you understand the priorities:

1. Your SHIP;
2. Your SHIPMATES;
3. Your SELF, and;
4. Your COMMUNITY.

Within each of these categories I've outlined key points that exemplify the "how" behind living the command philosophy. To view the entire command philosophy or to learn more about me, please visit the unit website: <http://www.uscg.mil/d14/cgckukui>.

In the next couple of months I will be sending out a solicitation for a new unit Ombudsman. I ask that you keep your eyes open for this solicitation and consider applying to be interviewed for this key position within the KUKUI crew. As a heads up, the Ombudsman solicitation will request applicants to submit a resume and a statement indicating "why" they would like to serve as the Ombudsman.

I look forward to continuing to learn about each of your families and working with your loved ones.

Yours in Service,
Steven E. Ramassini, LCDR
CO, USCGC KUKUI (WLB 203)