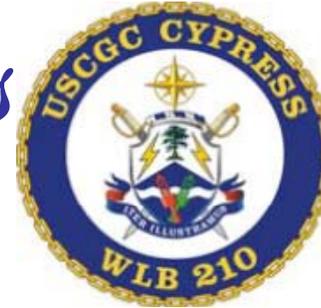


Cypress Times

Quarterly Newsletter



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What Exactly is AMIO?

By: LTJG Kurt Walker

Some of you might have heard that at least once a year CYPRESS participates in some form of law enforcement activity be it fisheries, drug interdiction, or migrant interdiction. This year CYPRESS has been enlisted for an AMIO patrol otherwise known as an alien migrant interdiction operation. Each year thousands of migrants attempt to land on U.S. soil illegally in hopes of a better life than the one they currently have in their home country. Typically these migrants hail from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba. One of the Coast Guard's missions is to patrol the Caribbean waters in hopes of intercepting vessels transporting these migrants and sending them back to their home country. Not only is the smuggling of migrants illegal but very often the conditions present on the vessels are extremely dangerous. It is not uncommon to see grossly overloaded vessels that are unstable, and are very prone to capsizing. As can be expected, the living conditions on these vessels are often quite poor. While it is possible for buoy tenders to go on the hunt they are ideally suited to be a holding platform for migrants due to their large buoy deck which can hold over a hundred migrants. Faster patrol boats will accumulate migrants and then bring them over to the CYPRESS where they will stay until they can be repatriated. AMIO is yet another example of the versatility of the flagship of District Eight.

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Here's looking at you, Tampa.

It seems like every time we get out a new quarterly newsletter Tampa seems to pop up at least once. This holds true again because I have to talk about the conclusion of our three month dry dock. Overall it was a successful three months; so much needed maintenance was performed on various parts of the ship in particular the shaft, crane, and deck equipment, not to mention the ship got a brand new coat of paint. It was hard to believe that we had been there for three months, during which a lot of the crew was able to take some much needed leave. However for others, specifically engineers, dry dock was a long and arduous process. Ideally, the CYPRESS shouldn't be going back to Tampa anytime soon and we can continue to perform our main mission of servicing aids to navigation in the Gulf of Mexico.



Dentally Speaking: Know your Benefits

By: HS2 “Doc” Culpepper

The TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) has switched from United Concordia to MetLife. What does this mean for active duty...absolutely nothing! Active duty members will still fall under United Concordia & will not be affected by this change. On the other hand, for the wives and kids reading this, the change will make you want to flash those pearly whites (or whatever color you may be sporting). Okay so maybe you're thinking yeah, yeah, yeah... I got the big fat envelope from MetLife. You may also have no idea where it is, or maybe you started to read it, but decided it looked better under a thin layer of dust. That's exactly what happened at my house, so I'll make this easy, and I will tell you flat out. Not only do we get the fashionable Peanuts character Snoopy, (if that wasn't enough) there is also a slew of improvements associated with this package. TDP changes include:

Coverage of posterior resin (tooth colored/white) fillings.

Increase in the annual maximum to \$1,300 per enrollee (formerly this was \$1,200).

Increase in the lifetime orthodontic maximum to \$1,750.

\$1,200 per year for services related to dental treatment due to an accident.

No cost shares for scaling and root planing (deep cleaning) for diabetics.

Coverage of an additional (3rd) cleaning for women during pregnancy.

Expansion of the survivor benefits to surviving spouse and child(ren).

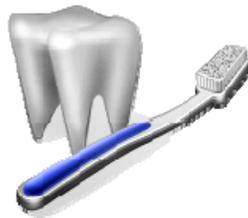
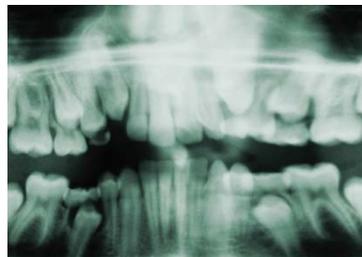
First-year premiums below current rates

While reading this you may be thinking,... “My spouse has yet to enroll me into the TDP and how can I get access to these benefits like my spouse?”

There are a couple of different ways to enroll:

You can call: CONUS 1-855-MET-TDP1 (1-855-638-8371). You will have to make a small premium payment of about \$20, which can be done over the phone.

There is also a website: <https://employeedental.metlife.com/dental/public/EmpEntry.do> The CG member will have to this, because a CAC card log-in is required. Click enroll beneficiary now, click red log on, select CAC log in, then click the plus sign to add enrollment.



Links in the Chain

By: Kurt Walker

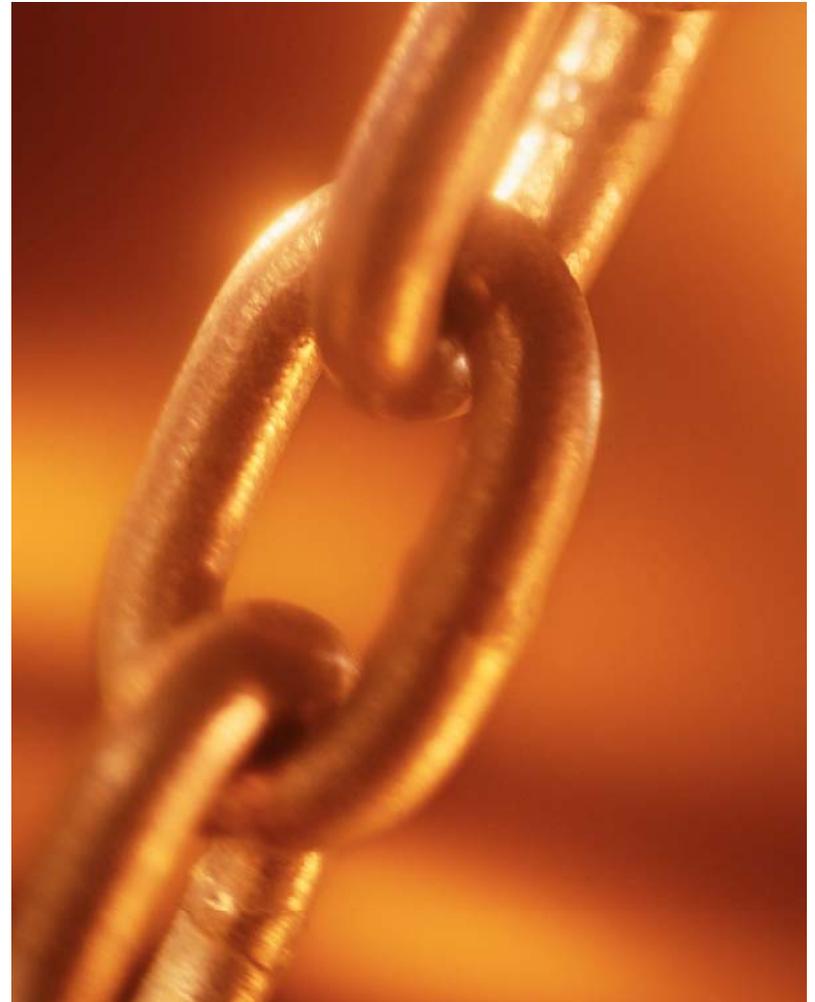
Hello again, CYPRESS newsletter readers. This edition I will be focusing on the Ship's Office Personnel, the yeoman and storekeeper. Both are very important entities onboard the ship.

The ship's office is home to the storekeeper and the yeoman. The storekeeper is typically a second class petty officer and their primary job is keeping our finances in order along with purchasing new supplies and equipment for all of the personnel on the ship. Considering that the CYPRESS has an annual budget of over \$500,000 it is a pretty important job. Furthermore, SK2 deals with numerous PR's (procurement requests) every week from various people needing a wide variety of materials ranging from cleaning supplies to engine parts. The storekeeper works with the Engineer Officer to ensure that the ship gets refueled on time and with the required amount. As a quasi collateral duty the SK2 is the property administrator for all of CYPRESS property meaning that he works in conjunction with the Property Officer to make certain that all of our records are maintained and are up to date with the latest information.

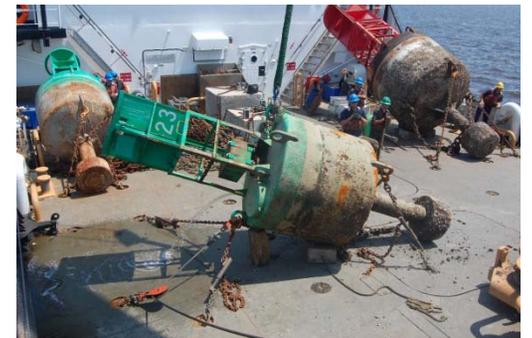
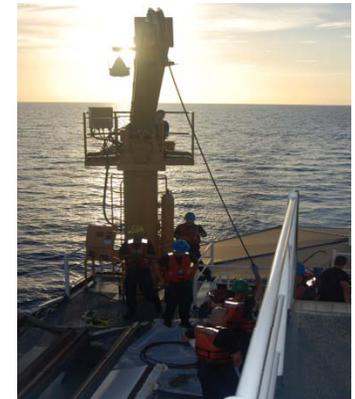
The yeoman is primarily responsible for all of the administrative issues that CYPRESS has. They deal with all of the travel arrangements that incoming and outgoing members have to make as well as when members need to travel to attend training classes and schools. Inevitably, every coast guard member has had at least one issue with their LES (Leave and Earnings Statement), and the yeoman works with the servicing personnel office and the pay and personnel center to resolve all of these issues. Furthermore, the yeoman maintains all of the members personal records and updates them with new information such as qualifications, marriage certificates, etc.

Lastly, both the SK2 and the YN2 stand watch on the bridge and are vital component of both the operations department and the entire ship.

Next issue look for the Lookout and Underway Engineer of the Watch



CYPRESS in Action



Captain's Corner

Hello CYPRESS family!

I'm writing this from another Coast Guard District, as you may know. We've had a successful trip so far, and have had to be very flexible (i.e. our tasking is quite fluid- it changes a lot). It's hot and the crew has been working hard to prepare and keep CYPRESS mission ready. This trip allows several of our new crewmembers, as well as the seasoned ones, to maximize training, sharpen skills, and perform another missions besides ATON (i.e. working buoys- our primary job).

We had a good bit of inport time this quarter due to a weather buoy trip that was postponed, a visit by the Buoy Deck Training Team, mission prep time, along with a christening and visit by the Eighth District commander (Rear Admiral Nash). All of that required a lot of work by the crew and the quarter was a successful one.

We've had quite a few new crewmembers report so far this summer. Some did not sail this trip due to required schools but we have a new XO (LT Steve Brickey), three new officers, three USCG Academy cadets, several more new crew with us, and the rest will eventually report and get settled in. Welcome them into the CYPRESS family and help them get settled, as you're able.

We are in hurricane season and we've had plenty of warnings to be prepared. Before the season officially kicked off we had two named storms in the Atlantic. We had tropical storm Debby a bit closer to home. Although we didn't have to evacuate, it doesn't mean that we won't get the chance this season, so take preparedness seriously: have a plan and be prepared. It will save you a lot of headaches and possibly more.

By the time the next newsletter rolls around, we'll have a new OMBUDSMAN, so I'll take this space to thank Jamie Burke for her service. Thanks, Jamie. You've been great.

I thank you for holding down your respective forts while your crewmember is out doing USCG business. Your jobs can be challenging and we truly appreciate the shore-side support. We'll be home as soon as we're able.

Semper Paratus!

-LCDR Paul Morgan
Commanding Officer