



Homeland  
Security

**U.S. COAST GUARD**



## **Marine Safety Office Saint Louis**



### **CO's Corner**

"In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue"... and that is probably the majority of what we remember on Columbus' foray into the "New World." Whatever historians declare, we certainly understand the sailor's adventure he and his crew undertook to reach their goal. And just like Columbus, we had our opportunities this past month to adventure forth to help those struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Frances. This edition of the newsletter relays some of your shipmates' tales and proves once again how each of us is a true ambassador for our Service. We are proud of our DART and their toils to help those in Florida – adding our thanks for their quick response to the call and enthusiastic work. Another adventure we all share is our voyage through the work world. We have a series of Officer and Enlisted "calls" on October 17<sup>th</sup> and October 22<sup>nd</sup> to help you chart your careers into your New World – be it a future with the Coast Guard or into corporate America, take advantage of this opportunity. Rather than sail without a compass, equip yourself for your future – like Columbus, you never know where it will take you!

**Be Safe & Keep Sharp! CO**



### **Command Chief's Corner**

It's not too early to think about the 2005 transfer season! Many MSO and MSD personnel will be seeking billets this spring – now is the time to get your e-resume completed. Ensure you fill out a reasonable e-resume, because when the detailer looks at your resume he will look to see if you need sea time. If you are an underway rate, make sure you put a few cutters on your e-resume. If you are enrolled in the special needs program, make sure you check with work-life to see if the areas you are requesting to go can fulfill your special needs requirements. Also, if you are below the cut on the advancement list, put billets on your e-resume for your future pay grade even though you may not advance this season. If you have concerns about your transfer, please talk to the Command early so we can all work toward advancing your career!

### **Disaster Area Response Team – SEPT 2004:**

LT John Goebel – Team Leader.

LT Chris Pisares – Liaison Officer

St. Paul – LT John Goebel, MSTC Terry McDermid, BM1 Troy Sutton, MK3 James Latham, and BM3 Joel Bradley.

Quad Cities - MK1 Shawn Haynie, SK2 Carrie Firl, and BM3 Megan McNeal

Peoria – MK2 Sally Foster, PS2, Anthony Ferguson,

St. Louis – YN2 Crow,

MLC- HSC Loughridge...

### **Frances' Florida – my first trip!**

#### **MK3 James Latham**

On September 5<sup>th</sup> at 0400 I received a phone call that MSD St. Paul personnel were to report into work and be deployed to Florida for Hurricane Frances. By 0500 we were on our way to MSD Quad Cities to catch a flight on the Coast Guard 1712 a C-130 based out of Clearwater, FL, which would be flying us into Air Station Miami. However, due to inherent danger from the Hurricane Frances we had a delay in the flight until approx. 0300 on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The early morning came and we were off into the wild blue yonder...Six and a half hours later we were in Southern Florida; Miami BABY!

This was my first time in Florida, so I was very excited and ready to go to work. My shipmates were exhausted from the flight and decided they would like to go and check into the hotel and grab some grub, which was fine except for one thing- we had to test run the flood punt engines. Being the squared away individual that I am, I *volunteered* to stay and accomplish this task. Twenty minutes amassed and the project was successfully accomplished and I was able to get some rest for the night and prepare for the arduous mission before us.

The following days consisted primarily of saving lives and lending a sympathetic ear to the unfortunate. It's a tough job, but that's why we joined the Coast Guard...to be a hero every day. Our DART was responsible for evacuating over twenty-five people and numerous pets and animals from their flooded homes and getting them to dry land in a timely fashion, all the while watching out for gators, water moccasins, and other critters looking for a dry spot to ride out the flood. Alafia River, located in

Lithia, Florida, was our primary focus. After we provided sufficient relief and assistance there, we followed Frances North, ready to help all those who required it.

I saw much of what the state of Florida has to offer, traveling virtually, East to West, South to North and everywhere between. It was a hectic week and all were fatigued, but the feeling of content, the knowing that, without team Coast Guard, the residents of Florida would still be in peril, overshadowed that. Suffice to say, this experience has helped to mold me into a better petty officer and given me a sense of accomplishment that goes without question. Those who I called shipmates before, I now call friend.

#### The Heartland in Florida!

LT Chris Pisares

MSD Quad Cities was notified of the DART deployment at the usual hour – 2:00 am. We deployed with the rest of the crew on a Coast Guard C-130 aircraft, with gear in tote, to the hazy, hot, & humid conditions of South Florida. Due to receding water levels, we were placed on standby and retired to our motel.

Yet again, at 2:35 am, we received our orders: immediately deploy our boats in the Tampa Bay area due to urban flooding. Now understand, from South Florida to Tampa Bay is a 260-mile trip and we're hauling a trailer with our boats – "immediate" is a relative term. Upon arrival to Lithia, FL, we saw the Alafia River crested overnight and flooded out a 10-block neighborhood. As ordered, we immediately deployed our boats and with the assistance of Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission officer, began a house-to-house check of the area.

Any devastation, regardless of magnitude, always reminds you of how very fortunate you are and what we witnessed is no exception. The water level was high enough that single story dwellings were underwater, the backboard on basketball rims were barely visible, and boat crews had to cautiously navigate the neighborhood due to power lines that were normally 12 feet in the air hang only 2 feet above the water's surface. Since the street signs were underwater, the boat crew navigated by noting the streetlights that indicated the location of the roadway. The understatement of the day was a road sign partially submerged that read "Road Under Water."

By the day's end: we assisted over 25 people and their associated pets of dogs, cats, parrots, & iguanas; provided reassurance to others that weathered out the floods in their homes; transported utility companies and Florida law enforcement personnel to assess the damage; and escorted numerous news media through the flooded area.

We worked long hours, in unfamiliar weather conditions and yet, as Hurricane IVAN approached, we were eager to voluntarily remain in the area to continue assisting others. We were called back home

and placed on standby for another deployment, if needed. Additionally, regardless of time of day, the crew conducted maintenance checks on engines, surveyed all boat equipment for damage, arranged meals and housing for the next day, compiled logistical statistics for record keeping, ensured the daily operations were conducted in a safe manner, and even managed to get some sleep through all this. As the designated liaison officer, I thank every one of you for your hard work and if we're asked to deploy again, I look forward to working along side each of you again.

#### Congrats!

**MK1 Brandon Hansen** - for graduating second in your class from the St. Charles County Fire Academy on August 1, 2004 after seven months of college coursework at Lindenwood University. The education in Fire Science involved instruction on topics such as hazardous material (HAZMAT) awareness, shipboard firefighting, and successfully passing State exams to qualify as Firefighter 1 and 2. It required a great deal of hard work, dedication, and effective time management to attend courses two or three days a week while maintaining his full-time duties at the MSO. *Bravo Zulu to MK1 Hansen!*

**BM3 Mathew Cossitt** who married the former Miss Jodi Seibert on July 24, 2004. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon in Walt Disney World and on a Royal Caribbean Cruise ship (where BM3 Cossitt was happy that he was not required to stand watch!). We wish them both a lifetime of happiness.



#### **Future Morale Event:**

29 Oct: 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 7 on 7 Flag football Tournament

#### **Fitness and Health:**

ALCOAST 420-04: Coast Guard Weight Standards/Physical Fitness Standards. These standards include semi annual weigh-ins during the month of October and April. YN1 Ames is our unit's representative and will be conducting weigh-ins for the entire unit. Reserve members will be weighed during the 16 October drill.



#### **Request and Complaint Mast:**

The Executive Officer will hold Request and Complaint Mast every Friday from 0900-1000. Please schedule your appointment with an e-mail.

**Birthdays:** LT Clark, CWO Schafer, BM2 Rosati, BM1 Troy Sutton, MK2 Foster, MST2 Morris, and BM3 Bradley.