

# BEAR TRACKS

## USCGC BEAR NEWSLETTER

Written by BEAR Sailors for BEAR Sailors, Family, and Friends  
Edited by ENS James White



### Northern Caribbean/Windward Pass Patrol

Greetings BEAR sailors, family, and friends and welcome home after patrolling the waters of the Caribbean Sea! Having been at sea since the early days of the New Year, the BEAR crew is excited to be coming home. Under the tactical control of the 7<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District, BEAR patrolled in the vicinity of the Windward Pass, between the Haitian and Cuban coasts. During the deployment, BEAR saved lives by deterring unsafe voyages across the open ocean, supported international relations, and conducted search and rescue, counter-narcotics and migrant interdiction operations on the high seas. As BEAR travels homeward, our focus shifts from operations to preparations for our upcoming inport and dry dock availability with the great news that we will be able to be close to our families for several months as the contract for our dry dock was awarded locally. This patrol we welcomed LTJG Funke back to BEAR as temporary crew and provided ENS Smith with his first full underway Coast Guard experience. We also appreciated ENS Hughes' assistance with our navigation software during the first leg of our patrol and enjoyed the company of AMT3 Wienceck who spent several days aboard BEAR working as our Aviation Department representative and assisting on the bridge. We also enjoyed having SN Perez-Perez from CGC TAMPA, who gained valuable underway experience that we hope benefits him and his home unit. Our other guests included Mr. Michee Luis, a Creole interpreter, and Leading Seaman Andy Deveaux of the Royal Bahamian Defense Force (RBDF). Enjoy your time home together. Read-on and share in the adventures which your support makes possible!

### Welcome Aboard!

FS2 Majure  
ME3 Patterson  
SA Loughheed  
SA Hicks  
SA Earhart  
SA Gamboa  
FA Uliasz  
SA Gutshall  
LTJG Funke (TAD)  
ENS Smith (TAD)  
ENS Hughes (TAD)  
AMT3 Wienceck (TAD)  
SA Perez-Perez (TAD)  
Mr. Luis (Creole Interpreter)  
Leading Seaman Deveaux (Bahamian Shiprider)

### Fair winds and following seas:

SN Behr  
SN Joyner  
SN Dore  
SN Moore  
FN Raph  
FN Stevens



# FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Greetings BEAR Family and Friends,

With our patrol on its final homebound leg, I'm proud to once again reflect on some of the tremendous accomplishments by your BEAR crewmembers while we were away. Despite this patrol being one of the shortest we've had in years in terms of days away from homeport (just over 30 days), it was action packed as BEAR was called upon to exercise a variety of Coast Guard missions.

After leaving homeport and starting our transit south to our operating area, our patrol tasking was changed sending us to the Windward Passage (WWP). Since we would be operating with an assigned HH-65 helicopter during the patrol, we coordinated flight operations/work-ups with the deploying helicopter and air crew while offshore Miami. We were able to complete valuable training to increase our collective proficiency including vertical replenishment and helicopter in flight refueling exercises that had eluded us for the last 18 months. After meeting a patrol boat and conducting a personnel transfer to embark our Creole Interpreter and a passenger for transport, we patrolled along our voyage to the familiar surroundings of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO). During the transit south, we conducted our 4<sup>th</sup> burial at sea ceremony, this time honoring my grandfather, a prior Navy sailor, and committing him to his final resting place in the deep of the sea. The ceremony was a professional, respectful and humbling event, and I offer my sincerest gratitude to all of my shipmates who assisted in what will be a treasured memory for my family and me.

Following a short overnight stop in GTMO, BEAR was once again patrolling when our vigilant watch standers spotted a suspect vessel on a nearly zero illumination night. BEAR quickly intercepted, finding an unlit and overloaded sailboat carrying suspected Haitian migrants. In keeping with our mission to preserve safety of life at sea, BEAR escorted the vessel throughout the evening back to Haiti, ensuring it returned safely back to port. BEAR continued overtly patrolling, deterring unsafe voyages by those attempting to immigrate by sea including several transits through the picturesque Canal de la Tortue, along Haiti's north coast. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of January while offshore Haiti, BEAR paid homage to the perseverance of the Haitian people in the wake of the devastating earthquake that struck the country six years ago. The crew gathered to honor the anniversary on the flight deck where we had a short reading of remembrance followed by an address from our Haitian Creole Interpreter, Mr. Michee Louis. This small gesture was shared by the US Embassy in Haiti on social media in the hope of continuing to strengthen an ever growing bond between our countries.

Continuing our lifesaving mission, BEAR was diverted from our patrol area to search for and rescue a sailing vessel reported to have torn sails and inoperable engines some 400NM away. After arriving on scene and ensuring safety of the vessel, with assistance from the Cuban Boarder Guard, BEAR resumed patrol and began transiting back to the WWP. We only made it a few miles before an extremely alert bridge lookout spotted four Cuban migrants adrift on the open ocean in a makeshift sailboat. After our small boat showed the men their location and the forecasted weather, they quickly realized that they were woefully unprepared for the perils of their attempted voyage and sought rescue from BEAR.

In order to facilitate transfer of our guests to another Coast Guard cutter, we shifted our planned Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic port call to a second visit to GTMO, which for many of us has become our Caribbean "home away from home." Following a restful, but surprisingly rainy 3 days in port, we returned to sea ready for the last leg of our patrol. We soon added another mission to our patrol repertoire when we responded to a request for law enforcement (LE) boarding assistance from the country of the Bahamas. BEAR dispatched our LE team and conducted a nearly 24 hour long pier side boarding of a vessel suspected of narcotics smuggling. Working alongside the Royal Bahamian Police Force, our LE team located two hidden compartments recovering cocaine and a concealed weapon, helping stem the flow of illicit narcotics in the area. As I write this, we are now headed back north and are excited to get home to all of our family and friends.

I'd like to close by saying thank you to the crew for their tremendous effort this patrol. I would also like to thank all of our family and friends for their unwavering support that enables BEAR to serve our great nation.

Best Regards,  
CDR Andrew Meverden, Commanding Officer



# QUALIFICATIONS

## **Inport Officer of the Deck (OOD)**

ENS Bienlien  
ENS White  
FSC Wheeler  
BMC Stephens  
GMC Gonzales



## **Quatermaster of the Watch (QMOW)**

BM2 Fitzgerald  
BM3 Pickering

## **Gangway Petty-Officer of the Watch (GPOW)**

BM2 Fitzgerald  
OS2 Pamphile

## **Boatswain's Mate of the Watch (BMOW)**

SN Kane  
SN Horne  
SN Behr

## **Helm and Lookout**

ME3 Pattersen  
SA Parnell  
SA Montes de Oca  
SA Earhart  
SA Gamboa  
SA Gutshall  
SA Hicks  
SA Lougheed  
SA Perez Perez

## **Engineer of the Watch (EOW)**

MK2 Winkelmann

## **Engine Room Watch**

EM2 Freming  
EM3 Jones

## **Underway Security Watchstander**

FA Perednas

## **Inport Security Watchstander**

OS3 Schiefer  
SA Nati  
SN Ulrich  
FA Perednas

## **Fuel Oil Water King (FOWK)**

MK3 Pipak

## **Aviation Fuel Handler**

MK1 Scott  
MK3 Richardson  
FN Sammet

## **Aviation Fuel King**

MK1 Scott  
MK3 Richardson

## **CIC Watch Supervisor**

OS2 Shirey

## **CIC Watchstander**

OS2 Pamphile  
OS3 Schiefer

## **Boarding Team Member**

FSC Wheeler  
ME3 Pattersen  
ET3 Yoder  
SN Slater

## **Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Sentry**

FSC Wheeler  
ME3 Pattersen  
ET3 Yoder  
SN Slater

## **Basic Damage Control**

SN Perez-Perez  
SA Rodrigues  
SA Parnell  
FA Perendas  
SA Montes De Oca  
SA Lougheed



## **Advanced Damage Control**

ENS Bienlien  
ENS Clarkin  
ENS White  
BMC Stephens  
SK1 Gillespie  
ME1 Reinhart  
EM2 Fremming  
BM2 Fitzgerald  
FS3 Morin  
OS3 Schiefer  
ET3 Yoder  
SA Nati  
SN Ulrich  
FN Pollard



# HARD WORK PAYS OFF

**SAILOR OF THE QUARTER**  
ET2 IMPEARTRICE

**TEMPORARY CUTTERMEN:**  
FN PEELE

## ADVANCEMENTS:

LTJG Davis  
LTJG Ludewig  
LTJG Kenney  
LTJG Moreno  
MK1 Winkelmann  
FS2 Tucker  
FS3 Morin  
OS3 Schiefer  
SN Horne  
FN Peele  
FN Hardrick



# ALL IN A DAY'S WORK...



# ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

After a busy inport period, BEAR kicked off the patrol by going on a typical shakedown cruise with the intention of heading offshore. However, a casualty to the dual point davit (which was quickly repaired after returning to homeport) changed our plans and BEAR ended up anchoring overnight in Chesapeake Bay. This allowed the Engineering Department, led by **LT Anais Greenley**, to test their casualty repair skills for the first time in nearly 10 weeks.

Shortly after leaving homeport for patrol, the Auxiliary division, led by **CWO2 Jack Dos Santos** and **MKC Michael Rawlings**, and consisting of **MK1 Robert Scott**, **MK2 Stephen Polley**, **MK3 Kendra Richardson**, **FN Carlos Rodriguez**, **FN Peter Sammet** and **FN Avery Pollard**, was called into action to respond to a high pressure hose leak on the “B” side of the reverse osmosis machine. Due to quick thinking and creative repair work, A-gang was able to return both sides of the R/O to full operating capacity, ensuring that BEAR retained the ability to continually make freshwater.

While down range for the patrol, the Main Prop division, also led by **CWO2 Jack Dos Santos** and **MKC Michael Allen**, and consisting of **MK1 Edward Stommel**, **MK2 Brett Winkelmann**, **MK3 Camden Carie**, **MK3 Andrew Pipak**, **FN Jacob Uliasz**, **FN Karson Hardrick**, **FN Anthony Perednas** and **FN Jeremy Peele**, responded to three major fuel oil leaks. Due to the hard work of the division, BEAR was able to quickly return to full operational status after each casualty and proved ready for this patrol’s ever-changing mission set.

The EM shop, led by **LTJG Lexie Ludewig** and **EMC Demosthenes Daniel**, and consisting of **EM1 Nicholas Colletti**, **EM2 Kevin Fremming**, **EM3 Tyler Burns** and **EM3 Malik Jones**, got to work replacing the old lighting in the Engine room with new LED versions making the engine room much safer for training and operations. During the patrol, the EM division also identified several faults in our lighting circuits and quickly completed repairs preventing damage to the ship.

After some well deserved rest following TSTA and the last patrol, the DC division, led by **ENS Neil Clarkin** and **DC1 Lucas Mangold**, consisting of **DC2 Dennis Laursen**, **DC3 Anthony Jaime**, **DC3 Blas Pulgarvidal** and **DC3 Ryan Bosley**, got back to work

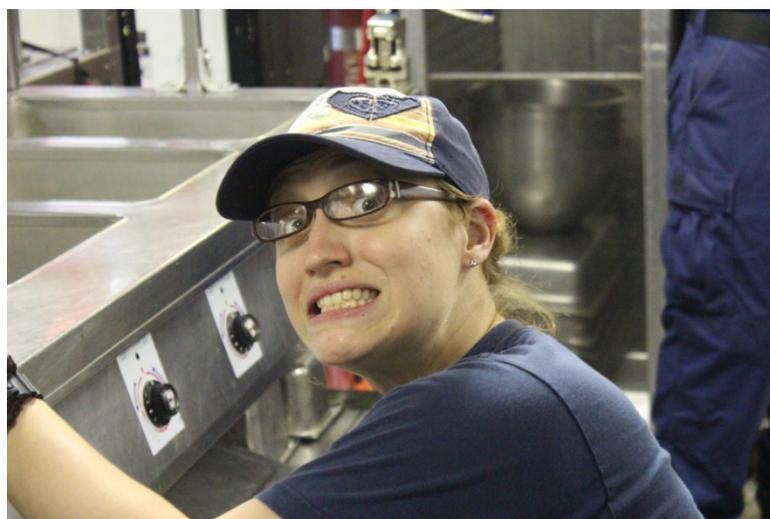
getting BEAR ready for patrol. The entire DC division was involved in replacing the drink line on the Mess deck as well as designing, fabricating and installing a one-of-a-kind garbage disposal system for the Scullery.



# ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (CONT.)

BEAR's port calls in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba allowed the fueling teams, led by fueling officer **LTJG Lexie Ludewig**, to take on over 35,000 gallons of diesel fuel. With the combined efforts from BEAR's Fuel Oil and Water Kings (FOWKs), **MK1 Edward Stommel**, **MK1 Landon Carter**, **MK2 Stephen Fleming**, and **MK3 Camden Carie**, all evolutions went as quickly and smoothly as possible keeping BEAR topped off on fuel and ready to conduct operations.

On a somber note, the engineering department and the whole crew sorely missed a vital member this patrol. Most unfortunately, **DC3 Anthony Jaime**, a motivational member of the crew, was involved in a tragic hit-and-run bicycling accident just before Thanksgiving. The crew and families of BEAR continue to keep DC3 and his family in their thoughts and prayers and we wishing him and his family a full and speedy recovery.



# OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

CGC BEAR completed another Caribbean Patrol, spending three weeks in the Windward Passage and Northern Caribbean Sea conducting Search and Rescue, Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations, Laws and Treaties Enforcement, International Relations, Counter Drug Operations, and ensuring safety of life at sea. These diverse missions could not have been completed without the expertise and dedication of the members of the Operations Department. Led by **LT Vic Galgano**, Operations Department personnel played a pivotal role in the rescue and repatriation of five Cuban Migrants, deterring an overloaded Haitian sailing vessel from proceeding with an unsafe voyage, locating and facilitating the seizure of over 21 kilograms of cocaine and one high powered firearm from a suspected narcotics trafficker, and the successful completion of over 60 Shipboard Helicopter Evolutions to include Vertical Replenishment and In-Flight Refueling. Congratulations on a job well done!

**WEAPONS DIVISION** – The elite members of the Weapons Division consisting of **GM2 James Hoff** and **GM2 Thomas Ross** were excited to be back underway after an extremely rewarding inport. The Weapons Division successfully completed this year's Ordnance Technical Inspection and Ordnance Safety Inspection with an average score of 98% across the board. **GMC Juan Gonzalez** did not sail with BEAR this patrol as he attending the intense three month MK-75 Operator Course. The Weapons Division continued to display expert knowledge in their craft, training crewmembers on small arms, .50 cal and the MK-75 weapons system. At the end of the patrol, BEAR used this training to complete a successful .50 cal and MK-75 gun shoot. Great job this patrol!

**LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION** - **ME1 Noah Reinhart** welcomed **ME3 Heath Patterson** from ME "A" school for his first patrol onboard BEAR. ME3 qualified Boarding Team Member and is quickly becoming an essential member of BEAR's Law Enforcement team. The LE team saw action with the response to a Haitian Sailing Vessel suspected of smuggling migrants and the interdiction of 4 Cuban migrants in international waters. So far the division has qualified four new Boarding Team Members and is making preparations for our District 1 Patrol, which will require heavy involvement by the LE team. We look forward to the operations in the months ahead!

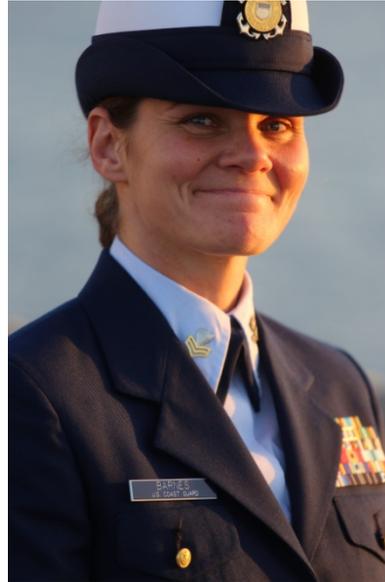
**COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER** - The Operations Specialists: **OS1 Paula Verden**, **OS2 Dominique Pamphile**, **OS2 Josh Shirey**, **OS3 Turner Adair**, and **OS3 Cory Schiefer** were led by **LTJG Nicole Kenney** and **OSC Don**

**Newton**. These individuals stood many hours of vigilant watches during the patrol, maintaining the overall tactical operational picture for the command. This kept BEAR in the best possible position for success while executing our various missions. BEAR's OSs ensured the ship was able to effectively communicate with interagency partners and all assets under our control, while simultaneously executing complex evolutions. The division is proud of the latest additions to our shop, **OS2 Pamphile** and **OS3 Schiefer**, who quickly earned their CIC watchstander qualifications.



# OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT (CONT.)

**ELECTRONICS-** The Electronics division, led by **ENS Daniel Bienlien** and **ETC William Coffey**, set the tone for a wonderful patrol following a very productive inport period, where BEAR scored a 98% during ETI and OTI, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the ET and FT shop. The effort put forth prior to getting underway continued throughout the duration of the patrol. The ET shop, as well as the IT shop, kept busy standing taught watches both in CIC and as migrant security watchstanders. Quick response prevented any negative effects on operations during short lived casualties to the SPS-78 Radar and SIRVSS. BEAR also was able to use the newly updated SEAWATCH System, which, thanks to the efforts of the ET shop, was a very smooth transition. Congratulations to **ET3 Benjamin Yoder** on achieving a Boarding Team Member Qualification! He was able to supplement a watch rotation in great need of more qualified watchstanders. Additionally, **ET2 Anthony Impeartrice** achieved the much deserved title of Sailor of the Quarter! He earned this award through tireless dedication to the shop, BEAR, and the Coast Guard. **ET2 Stephan Knight** was not able to make the patrol due to C-Schools, but we would like to congratulate him on recently becoming a new father!



**NAVIGATION-** The Nav Team, led by **ENS James White**, would like to send best wishes to **BM3 Amanda Prillaman**, who did not join us on this patrol, as she is preparing to add another member to her and BEAR's family. Congratulations! We would also like to welcome to the division **SN Daniel Horne**. Although SN Horne is already a BEAR sailor, the Nav Team was happy to have him join the division as he prepared for Boatswain's Mate "A" School after we return to homeport. Congratulations to **SN Sean Kane** and **SN Daniel Horne** on earning their BMOW qualification, and special thanks to **BM1 Erik Daigle** and **BM2 Chris Shore** for their hard work, flexibility, and assistance during this short but challenging patrol.



# OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT (CONT.)



DECK – Deck Division welcomed eight new members to our ranks for this patrol. Welcome aboard to **SA John Parnell, SA Jesse Montes de Oca, SA Stephen Earhart, SA Frank Gamboa, SA Eli Gutshall, SA Kyle Hicks, SA Jonathon Lougheed and SA Humberto Perez Perez!** Your contributions have already made BEAR better with your experiences and dedication. Keep up the great work, BEAR is lucky to have you! Our members continue to strive for excellence and continue to qualify in various positions to keep BEAR in the fight. Congratulations to all those who qualified as Helm and Lookout, Master Helmsman, Boatswain’s Mate of the Watch, Quartermaster of the Watch, Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch, Coxswain, Boat Crewmember, Non-Compliant Vessel Pursuit Crewmember, Boarding Team Member, Basic and Advanced Damage Control, and Inport Security. Deck Force continues to augment BEAR’s watch stations by keeping a watchful eye on the bridge as well as participating in boat and helicopter evolutions. Each team member stood extra watches during our law enforcement activities to make sure BEAR could function and safely navigate while most of our people were on the boarding team, the small boat crews, or migrant security details. These complex evolutions demonstrate the importance of diversifying qualifications and being able to fill in wherever we can to complete the mission. Our flexibility allowed BEAR to successfully complete multiple different missions! As the patrol winds down, we yearn for the company of our friends and family and cannot wait to get home and enjoy some much needed rest and relaxation. We would like to thank our extended BEAR family for staying strong at home while we completed our mission. We would not be where we are without you and we cannot wait to see you! Thank you to the rest of BEAR for your hard work and dedication as we completed another successful patrol!

# SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

Our support department, led by **CWO Mark Tahtinen**, had an amazing patrol filled with many achievements. The Storekeeper (SK) division was in high gear this patrol. Our team pulled off some amazing last minute logistic miracles in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba grabbing the last materials needed to ensure a successful patrol. As true shipmates, **SK2 Catalioto and SK2 Gibson** stood numerous hours on the bridge as Quarter Masters of the Watch, lightening the load for many of the members of the Operations Department. Meanwhile, **SK1 Gillespie** worked from Base Portsmouth during this patrol clearing out the shore side storage of items to be turned over to Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services (formerly Defense Re-Utilization Marketing Office). While ashore, SK1 Gillespie served as a critical logistics point of contact, processing PR's, MILSTRIPS, and CASREPS which were instrumental in supporting BEAR's success during our patrol and keeping us in the fight.

**HSC Dixon** has had a busy patrol having to cover a multitude of issues for not only our crewmembers, but BEAR's host of migrants throughout the patrol. He diligently kept BEAR mission ready by attending to crewmembers & sick and injured migrants. His work didn't stop there. He proactively raised awareness and prevention of disease risks in the operational area keeping our crew safe. He scheduled medical appointments for our return to home port in order to ensure BEAR crewmembers stay ready for deployment. Also, he provided CPR classes and created power point presentations on a monthly basis, keeping BEAR's medical readiness and training up to date.

**YN1 Lukkes** helped multiple personnel during this transfer season, processing PCS Departing Worksheets, Check in packets, helping members get moving needs handled, as well as preparing multiple awards and making travel arrangements for newly reporting personnel and departing personnel. YN1 Lukkes also took the lead in ensuring the all migrants taken onboard were properly processed, identified, and provided with necessary supplies for hygiene needs and supplies, as a crucial part of BEAR's Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations.

As always, the Food Service Division performed at a high standard in service of BEAR's crew. BEAR's FS division provided daily meals to over 100 crew and several Migrants. In charge of our galley operations is **FSC Jami Wheeler**. Working closely with Leading Petty Officer **FS1 Rebecca Lamm**, the division kept food fresh, plates clean, and the Mess deck always bustling with morale. In the galley, **FS2 Stephanie Majure, FS2 Chelsea Tucker, and FS3 Sirius Morin** served dozens of platters a day, proving that it takes an elite and dedicated spirit to serve and thrive as an FS aboard a Coast Guard Cutter. The addition of FS2 Majure in November 2015 and her culinary expertise from the commercial Food Service industry brought with it an extremely positive impact to the BEAR's galley and the experience of her division mates that has been appreciated by the crew; every meal a feast and every desert a banquet! As BEAR returns to homeport, we prepare for the arrival of a new graduate from the Food Service Specialist "A" School in Petaluma, CA, giving BEAR a fully staffed food service division for the first time years.



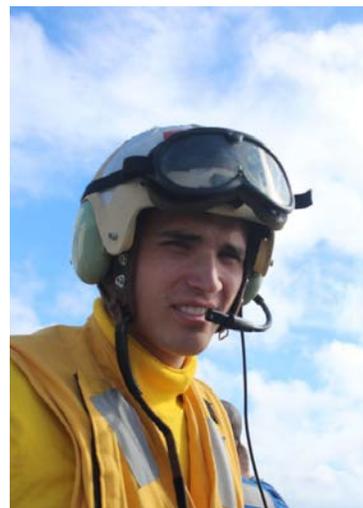
# FROM YOUR JUNIOR OFFICERS

To the crew of BEAR,

Thank you again for another fantastic patrol! Through your tireless efforts, we made the best out of this short time at sea. In spite of ever changing plans, operations, and events, you maintained a positive and optimistic attitude. Without your direct assistance, BEAR would have not had nearly as successful of a patrol. You have truly displayed “greatest strength through versatility” as BEAR performed not only Treaty Enforcement, but Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, and Migrant Operations.

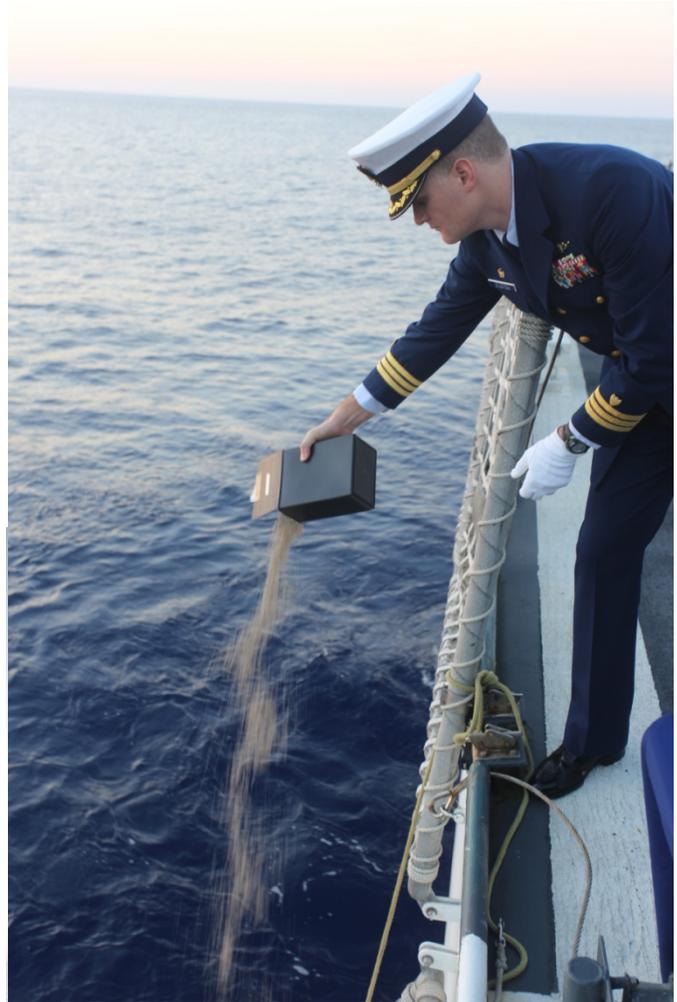
We appreciate your warm welcome to LTJG Funke as he re-joined BEAR for this patrol, as well as ENS Smith and ENS Hughes as they temporarily joined BEAR. Your continued encouragement and assistance will go a long way in not only the readiness of BEAR, but the development of the Officer Corps.

GO BEAR!



# BURIAL AT SEA

On 09 January 2016, BEAR had the honor of performing a burial-at-sea ceremony for a family member and former service member. At 1730, sunset, USCGC BEAR hove to in latitude 20°58.0' North, longitude 074°33.0' West, in the northern Windward Passage. The wind was very light. The sea was calm. Leo J. Meier was committed to the deep by his grandson, CDR Meverden, followed by an honor platoon of BEAR sailors. The playing of Taps was followed by a period of dignified silence as the crew paid their respects. It was a true honor for BEAR to provide this final service for a fellow service member.



# BEST WISHES AND SPEEDY RECOVERY

On 24 November 2015, **DC3 Tony Jaime** was riding his bicycle home from work when he was struck by a truck. The collision broke several bones and caused other serious injuries. DC3 Jaime was immediately rushed to the emergency room. On the way there, he was stabilized and called his wife to explain the situation in an unusually chipper tone; true to DC3 Jaime's persona. DC3 Jaime is now at home and recovering from his injuries.

DC3 Jaime did not join the rest of his shipmates on this patrol, but that does not mean he was not thought of every single day. Despite suffering his injuries, DC3 Jaime maintains an optimistic attitude that keeps not only his friends and families spirits high, but his shipmates as well. BEAR miss having DC3 aboard this patrol and we look forward to seeing him again when we get back to port; best wishes to DC3 Jaime and his family for a speedy recovery. We cannot wait for you to join us again, shipmate!



Tony is doing better! He is getting around a little easier since he is far enough out that he is now able to put weight on his healing bones! He still goes in for his procedures twice a week and his pain is getting slightly more manageable. He remains in good spirits even though he had another accident involving a pink car and a one year old. We miss all of you! Come home! (The picture was his idea.)

- Jamie Jaime

# ON THE HOME FRONT



OSC Newton

We can't wait for you to come home! We love you and miss you so much!!

Love,  
Lily and Anne

MK1 Carter

Luke, Libby, and I are happy your final Bear patrol was short and sweet!! You have accomplished so much and are leaving the Bear prepared for your next step in your career.

As a family; we thank everyone for the friendships, memories, and life lessons we have had the last three years. We hope the families on the Bear have a great in-port and rest of your tour is smooth sailing.

With Love,  
The Carters

