



CONFIDENCE NEWS

Drydock 2011 EDITION

THIS EDITION...

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Advancements/Promotions

EM2 Josh Fontenot
MK3 Lavarious Brown
MK3 Justin King
SN Chris Taylor

Welcome Aboard

FS3 Jessie Boyer
MK3 Justin King
SN Charles Schnepf
SN Brandon Banks

Captain's Cabin

It's great to be home! Drydock, while close geographically, was a challenging period for all. In particular, the crew worked long hours in the heat (and it gets hot in many spaces when the air conditioning is secured) to complete a variety of shipyard-related and self-help work projects. Unquestionably, their efforts will pay big dividends for the ship, Coast Guard and future crews. The CONFIDENCE is going to be sailing for many more years and the ability to access some spaces is never better than during a drydocking.

We're all very happy to put that chapter in the ship's life behind us and have a normal inport period to get everything back to normal. Of course, as you well know, normal for CONFIDENCE still equates to quite a bit of work. In particular, we are scheduled for two major inspections: BOATSTAN and SMART/CART. The first evaluates our small boats and crews in a series of critical assessments of readiness, seamanship and training. The SMART/CART program is the initial step in the biennial Tailored Ship Training Availability and is a comprehensive review of almost every program in the ship.

So - it will be a busy couple of weeks prior to our first patrol in nearly five months. There are a number of outstanding Coast Guardsmen/people and families departing over the next few weeks. You will all be missed! It also appears that a number of high-performing new crewmembers and families are coming in. Welcome aboard!

I would like to recognize Carrie Pankey for her service as Ombudsman over the past couple of years and CDR-select Steve Miller for all his efforts as the XO. Thank you very much for all your help and hard work! Welcome aboard to our new Ombudsmen, Marcela Nicolini and Mandie Jarvis. I'm looking forward to working with both of you.

See you all at the get together the night of 16 June!

Best regards,

CDR Matt Meilstrup

THE LAST 3 MONTHS

By ENS Chris Salinas

It was dawn on a Wednesday. The air was crisp and the seas calm. The sun had only just begun to show itself over the river and trees to the east, but her red sky foretold the truth about that fateful morn. As the ship's crew mustered to prepare for the laborious day ahead, an atmosphere of blissful ignorance hung about the messdeck. But faster than you can say "firewatch", the wind began to whip, the caps were breaking at the crest, and a darkness was consuming the shipyard. The crew sprang to action battering down the hatches as the sky unleashed her fury upon them. The howling gale gave no warning, no steady approach; she only let her torrent of rain and wind attack, leaving the sailors upon that ship upon that dry dock no time to prepare... only react. Hatches were closed, dogs tightened, equipment covered, and prayers recited. However, Mother Nature was not finished, for with her winds she did continue to blow, directing her fury at the flight deck, where our portable toilets did stand. As the crew reassembled on the messdeck, trembling at the howl of the tempest overhead, the messdeck door creaked open to reveal a soaked OOD standing in the doorway shouting with language far from blessed. All of the assembled company listened as he told the tale of their portable toilets that flew with the gusting wind, only to meet a fateful end several fathoms below onto the dry dock floor. More astonishing, however, was the death-defying feat of one such brave portable throne that hung by but a small snag upside down by a lifeline from the flight deck, its blue contents evacuating through its vented roof. Then, in the blink of an eye, the lifeline could hold no longer, parting under the duress and causing the portable private chambers to meet its demise on the dry dock floor below.

While this may not have been a *typical* day for the CONFIDENCE and her crew over the last 3 months, it was certainly not the most absurd, craziest, or most horrifying (nor the only one involving toilets). However, now that all is said and done, our time in dry dock has resulted in some stories for the ages, some for the record books, and some we should probably just try and forget about. Regardless, dry dock has been a series of stories, each unique yet coming together to make the epic that was our time here at the North Florida Shipyards in Jacksonville.

Every day since February, the crew has been working constantly 7 days a week late into the night ensuring projects are completed quickly and correctly. Literally thousands upon thousands of man hours have been put in to ensure the ship is ready to get back out onto the water and do her job safely and more effectively. With the CONFIDENCE celebrating her 45th birthday this year, everyone on board was in agreement that she could use an upgrade or two. With over 70 specific dry dock work items with hundreds of individual updates and even more ship's force projects to complete, the shipyard stayed a busy place to ensure the ship received those improvements. Whole sections of steel were carved out, entire doors were replaced, the entire exterior of the ship was repainted, both anchors and chains were cleaned and painted, and to top it all off, the local sandwich shop around the corner increased their quarterly income ten-fold due to the large amounts of Coasties dropping by daily while the galley was getting a facelift.

Now, as a result of the watchful eyes of the inspectors, the diligence of the firewatches, the skill of the workers and welders, and the strong work ethic of everyone involved, the ship is ready to get back out and do the mission.



Yes, we got a picture of it

~DRY DOCK FUN FACTS~

- There were originally 73 individual work items with 325 additional Condition Found Reports (CFR) submitted.
- There were over 78 additional work requests submitted, totaling over \$650,000 in growth costs alone.
- The original drydock contract itself was awarded at exactly \$2,037,872.00.
- The total cost of the hotel was \$83,500.00.
- Over 200 sq. feet of steel was replaced.
- Overhauled/replaced 18 strainer assemblies at a cost of over \$60,000
- Used 60 gallons of “non-skid” to cover the fo’csle
- Used 785 gallons of paint
- The porta-potties were cleaned 100 times
- The Galley was rebuilt 7 times
- We spent 81 days at the shipyard.
- HS2 Gillard once had to use a fire extinguisher on a welder whose pants had caught on fire.
- It is estimated that over 120 pizzas were ordered from the local Dominos, along with 86 lbs of fried rice from the local Chinese restaurant.
- While bringing the potable water system back online, approximately 70 gallons of water was inadvertently directed to the armory through the forward graywater tank. Fortunately, it was only chlorinated water (this time)...
- All of the carpeting in the lower officer’s berthing was lost as a result of a horrifying sewage back up and consequent flood.
- In a two month period, some crewmembers reported making the trip between home and Jacksonville so often that they put miles on their car roughly equivalent to driving across the country.
- Number of total man hours of work during dry dock: >30,000
- Friend of the shipyard: (I.e. person who ID'd most growth work):
 - 1) MK2 Daire - \$236,000
 - 2) ENS Bradley - \$108,000
- Not Friend of Shipyard (i.e. person who cost shipyard most money in rework)
 - 1) FS1 Krusko - \$10,000 in galley
 - 2) FNDC Bakels - \$4,500 for the Great Flood of Lower O's
- Person EO least wanted a call from:
 - 1) LTJG Schumann with "Hotel's on Fire", "Port-a-potties just blew off the flight deck", and "the sewage in your stateroom is rising like the mighty Missip"

Around the Shipyard



FNDC Bakels sacrificing himself to save MK2 Daire from certain doom at the hand of the new starboard propeller...



FN Lee shows his true dedication to getting those hard-to-clean places. That, or a serious game of hide-and-seek...



The Mighty CONFIDENCE out of the water resting in her dry dock



Normally not a view you'd like to have, but ok in this case.



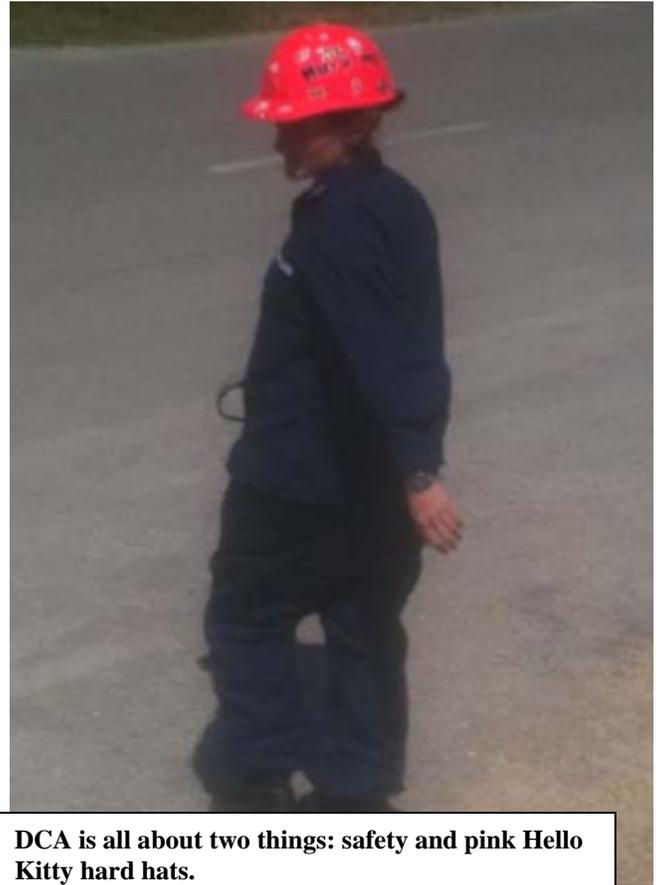
Connie's first day out of the water, and boy was she dirty!



Self Made Morale...



A special shout-out to SN Taylor for winning his debut Amateur Ultimate Fight while up in Jacksonville! (That's him in the red shinguards)



DCA is all about two things: safety and pink Hello Kitty hard hats.



Possible future campaign poster? Yes.