



CONFIDENCE NEWS

January 2011

THIS EDITION...

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Advancements/Promotions

LTJG James Daffer
LTJG Mary Morgan
LTJG Brandon Schumann
ET3 Daniel Littleton
FNDC Timothy Bakels
SNSK Robert Martin
SN John Deroulac
SN Gary Hutchison
SN Luis Pereira

Welcome Aboard

LCDR Dan Unruh
LTJG Mike Flint
LTJG Whitney Troutman
MKC Brian Hennessy
EMC Lyle Bowen
AMT1 Erik Schuttpelz
AET2 Chris Wolner
ET3 Daniel Littleton
OS3 Jonathan McKendrick
AMT3 Steve Wheelles
FN Brandon Bock
FN Ian Walters
SN Chad Romp

Captain's Cabin

Happy 2011 All!

CONFIDENCE completed yet another patrol of the Northern Caribbean. As usual, we provided Coast Guard presence but, unlike most patrols, did not spend the majority of our time near Haiti. We were involved in an interesting operation that occupied a significant amount of our patrol time and bumped our port call days until the very end of the patrol. At one point, we were recalled from a port call in Guantanamo Bay and, impressively, sailed within 2 hours. While we did not complete as many helicopter evolutions as desired, we were able to conduct a ton of boat ops (much to BM1 Allred's chagrin) and qualified a number of new coxswains, crew and engineers - well done to all. Much of the rest of our time was spent training and prepping for the upcoming drydock.

Speaking of the drydock, we got the good word that we'll be in Jacksonville; we're fortunate to be close to home. The XO, Department Heads and key engineers are hard at work devising a plan to maximize time at home while still completing the hard work at the drydock. We intend to schedule nearly every crewmember for "I-tempo" blocks of time at an office in the Canaveral area (typically about 3 weeks). This should provide them with some quality time at home. The rest of the time will be treated as underway time. If your sailors can get home from time-to-time, that will be great but the priority will be completing work on the ship.

Drydocks typically go like this: everybody is busy the first week, there's a lull for several weeks, work starts to pickup when the drydock realizes it's behind schedule, the last several weeks are horribly long and difficult, the ship completes sea trials to make sure everything works, sails for home and spends the next couple weeks putting everything back together.

We'll send another newsletter in the middle of the drydock period to show everyone what life is like in a drydock (and how impressive the ship looks out of the water). We'll also include a number of hails and farewells as yet another transfer season kicks into high gear.

Best wishes to all,

CDR Matt Meilstrup

P.S. Congratulations to BM2 Sean and Emily Hahner on the birth of Seth!

XO's Ramblings



Greetings Confidence Family,

This was a quick patrol which will be followed by an even quicker inport leading up to our drydock availability. We did have a couple people transfer in and out since our last newsletter. Please join me in welcoming SN Romp, SN Banks, FN Bock, FN Lee, FNMK Brown. We also said goodbye to SN Rinaldi, FN Thomas and FN Larsen; they all left us to attend school or to the Middle East. All three were outstanding shipmates, they will truly be missed.

As we wait for the final award of the upcoming drydock, I'll ask all of the families to be patient with the planning process. We are setting up times where the crew will be able to be back at homeport working. This period will be challenging due to the amount of work that will be accomplished while the ship is out of the water. It will be an all hands effort to ensure all of the contracted work is completed in a safe and correct manor. The crew will have the opportunity to leave the ship on weekends when they don't have duty and when there is no contracted work being accomplished. The good news is that we will have a full inport at Canaveral following this maintenance period.

This is also the time of year when I work extensively with all of the outgoing and incoming personnel for this year's transfer season. My job is to ensure we have qualified people here to ensure we can still complete our inspections and our mission requirements. Three of the major components of my decision process are our small boat inspection on 30-31 May, our ship-wide readiness inspection on 14-15 June and our next patrol/training availability. Departure times will depend heavily on when the new personnel will be arriving and our inspection schedule, but I promise that I will diligently pursue finalizing departure dates.

Carrie Pankey continues to support our crew and their families as our Ombudsman. I am in constant communication with Carrie with regards to schedule changes, so if you are a dependant and are not receiving information from Carrie, e-mail her at carriepankey@yahoo.com or YN1 Andreu Juan.M.Andreu@uscg.mil so we can update your contact information.

LCDR Steve Miller, Executive Officer Stephen.A.Miller@uscg.mil

Chief's Mess

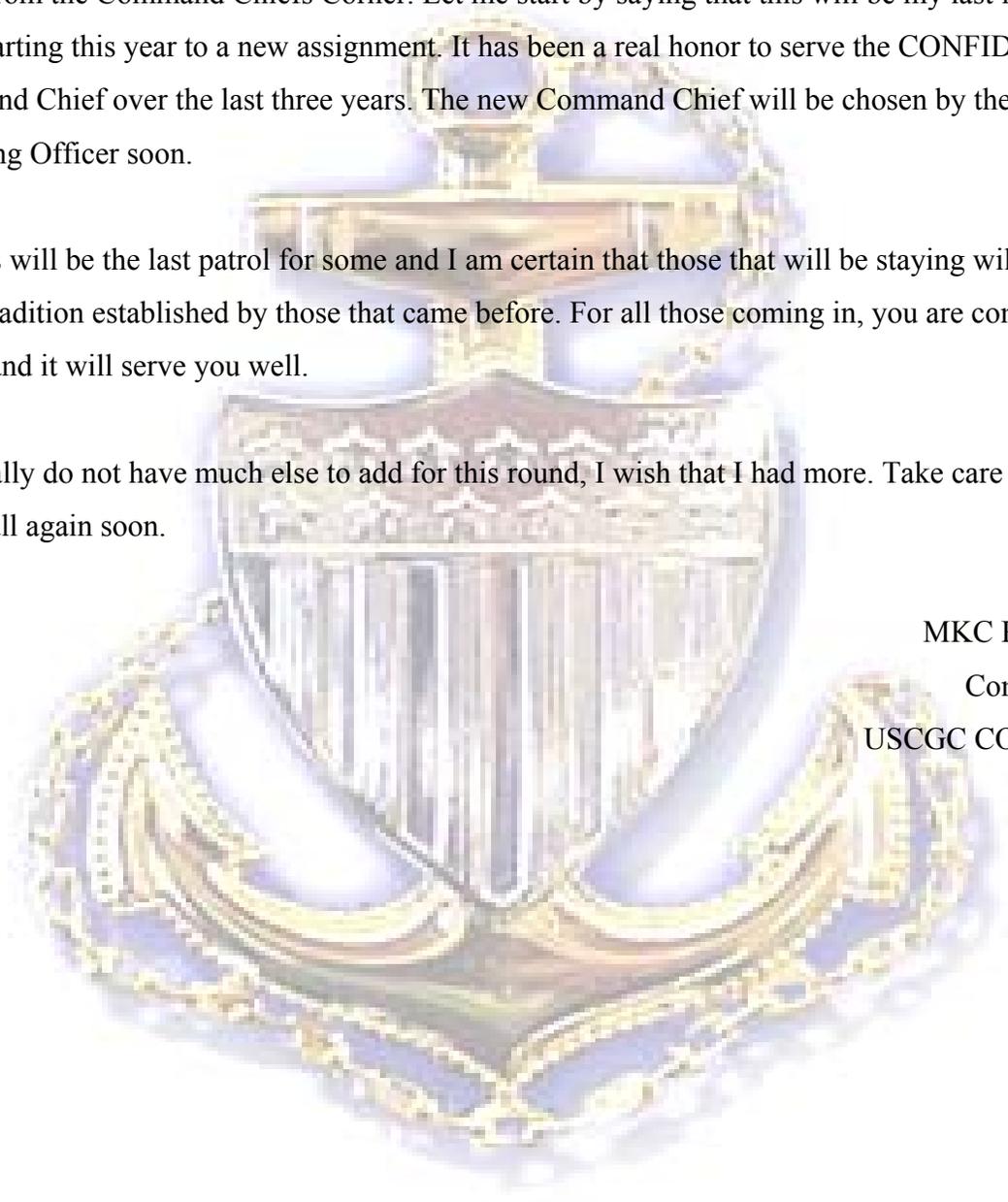
Command Chiefs Corner

Good day from the Command Chiefs Corner. Let me start by saying that this will be my last letter as I will be departing this year to a new assignment. It has been a real honor to serve the CONFIDENCE as the Command Chief over the last three years. The new Command Chief will be chosen by the Commanding Officer soon.

This will be the last patrol for some and I am certain that those that will be staying will carry on the proud tradition established by those that came before. For all those coming in, you are coming to a fine cutter and it will serve you well.

I really do not have much else to add for this round, I wish that I had more. Take care and I hope to see you all again soon.

MKC Robert Capps
Command Chief
USCGC CONFIDENCE





ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Welded on Paper by ENS Micah Knight

Greetings from the bottom of the boat! As this short, but seemingly long, patrol comes to an end, we want to reminisce on all the good times had in the Engineering Department. For many engineers, this is their last patrol with CONFIDENCE, and for some, this may be their last patrol ever! So, without being too somber, let's take a look back at the memories that got 2011 started off right!

Yes, for those of you wondering, Chuck struck again, this time with a vengeance. During Flight Ops, he attacked the CPP system and conveniently ruptured the hydraulic line for the pitch positioner. All we could do was, "request guidance" and wait it out as MK2 Daire heroically offered his hand to maintain pressure in the system. Chuck has also been tampering with our #2 MDE, secretly shearing off studs from our Raw Water pump and causing a persistent leak in the Engine Room. The battle against furry darkness was nasty, brutish and short... but the lines held for one more battle.



We'd like to recognize FN Ian Walter for his outstanding work this patrol. FN Walter was assigned here TAD from USCGC ZEPHYR, and has displayed great work ethic as a member of the Auxiliary Division. On behalf of the Engineering Department, thanks for your help this patrol and we hope to serve with you again.

We'd also like to welcome aboard FN Brandon Bock to the greatest cutter in the fleet! FN Bock hails from Southern California and is reporting fresh out of boot camp with hopes of becoming an MST. Again, welcome to CONFIDENCE, and enjoy the road that lies ahead.

Even though this was a short patrol, we do have some qualifications and accomplishments to acknowledge. Congratulations to MK1 Reel for getting underway and inport EOW qualified, and ENS Knight for getting underway EOW qualified. Also, shout out to DC2 Joglar and MK2 Daire for being selected for 1st Class Petty Officer, and congrats to MK3 Deaton and EM3 Fontenot for being selected for 2nd Class Petty Officer. A special kudos is in order for EM3 for being #1 on the advancement list.

Stay Cheesy Engineers. Enjoy homeport!

Operations Department Porthole

Courtesy of ENS Chris Salinas

Well, another patrol, albeit a short one, has come to an end. But no matter how short it is, the folks in the Operations Department never ceased to stay busy. Despite being a man down with the absence of OS1, the CIC Division stepped up to the plate to train new watchstanders and manage the usual chaos that comes with coordinating and communicating with other Coast Guard units. A job well done to them and all CIC watchstanders for their work and dedication in the realm of all that is super secret squirrel.

Our ET's and IT1 never stop working to solve the world's problems (sometimes several at a time). Well, they may not be the world's problems, but without them, it sometimes would feel as if the world is coming to an end. From the never ending issues with the server, the 1995-speed internet, and electronic equipment simply just going crazy in the wee hours of the morning, these guys do what it takes to keep the machines from taking over.

Can you determine your latitude simply by looking at the sun? Well the Navigation Division can. Simply put, from special sea detail to open ocean, nothing gives an OOD the warm and fuzzies at night like the confidence of knowing exactly where they are. This patrol, our Nav guys got us where we needed to go and even turned SN Tallyn (formerly of Deck Force) over to the Nav side, continuing to train him to one day be the Navigator of the Watch he's aspired to be since he was a child.

Down in the bottom of the boat, the WEPS division has also kept busy. From daily weapons maintenance and magazine temperatures to conducting Law Enforcement training on the flight deck (where FS1 Krusko claims he did not cry), the division has made sure CONFIDENCE remains Semper P for all potential law enforcement and defense situations. Now, if only we can get ME1 to stop wearing his tactical vest...

We'd like to send out a special shout out to OS3 Jonathan McKendrick, joining us from the CGC TORNADO this patrol. Not only did he qualify as a CIC watchstander in 2 weeks, but he was quick to point out safety issues in government vehicles in GTMO, saving his shipmates from potential harm. Thanks for using your head, OS3. You've been a great addition to the department and crew and are welcome to sail with us any time. Best of luck!



Deck Department

CONFIDENCE DECK FORCE
“Renowned Throughout the Fleet”

From SN Bradley Nicolini, Deck Force PA Representative:

First off I would like to welcome SN Romp to the most outstanding Deck Force in the fleet. We picked up our new ~~giant~~ seaman from our last port call at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. His roots are planted solid in deck force, he will grow with us and provide shade for future members of deck department. Our very own BM3 Murray got coxswain qualified on the OTH small boat. BM2 Hahner left for the airport as soon as we got to GTMO and hasn't been seen since. His wife gave birth to a very healthy little Seth Hahner on 20JAN11. Congratulations to a new dad in Deck Force and good luck in the future at his new unit, USCGC CORMORANT. After being out at sea for 15 consecutive days, we pulled into GTMO for some good old fashion fun - so we thought. Before nightfall hit we were recalled. Though the crew was not too excited to hear we got recalled, we all put our game faces on and carried on our mission as guardians of the sea. After being underway for a few days, we pulled into GTMO one more time for a 3.5 day port call. There was a wetting down held at the local bar for LTJG Morgan, LTJG Schumann and our very own ringmaster LTJG Daffer. But there was a more important wetting down held underway. SN Nicolini, SN Hutchinson, SN Pereira and SN Deroulac all made their well deserved rank and it was time to celebrate. We hosted all the regular soda games such as soda pong, flip cup and quarters. In the last couple days, a new member was added to the 50 cal machine gun team; at which SN Paridon was added to FS1 Krusko as team Starboard. Although we will turn to team Port for SN Nicolini and SN Jerry if ever in a confrontation, it's nice to know we have backup.

From LTJG James Daffer, First Lieutenant:

Another successful patrol for Deck Force! Congratulations to SN Rinaldi on his selection to deploy overseas to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, one of only 14 chosen out of 72 applicants. He has been a consistent part of making this department great and dutifully ensured the continued improvement of grip strength ship-wide via his wildly popular Captains of Crush club. We welcomed SN Romp this patrol and so far he has been a great addition. SA Taylor nearly achieved full watchstation qualification this patrol, an outstanding accomplishment for a member who reported less than three short months ago. Congratulations to SN Pereira, SN Hutchison, and SN Deroulac on their recent advancements to E-3; they planned a great wetting down and cleaned out the soda locker. SNSK Martin was recently rated and moved over to Supply Department. The biggest change is that I now consistently remind him where his true loyalty rests. SN Poe set a new benchmark as CONFIDENCE's best messcook in history. His performance was such that he was offered a full time galley position with benefits including free time under the table payments. He also managed to qualify as master helmsman and maintain the aviation gear. BM1 Allred single-handedly made a drug bust this patrol! He qualified VIGILANT's sole pursuit coxswain prior to sailing, thus the credit for their recent bust naturally encompasses him. He is awaiting his Letter of Commendation. Lastly, we rewarded three individuals with the first "Friends of Deck Force" Award for sustained contributions to our department. Congratulations to FN O'Hara, MK2 Daire, and DC2 Joglar! Perhaps most monumental for Deck Force this patrol was the recent birth of Seth Hahner, our own BM2's newest family addition. This will be BM2 Hahner's final patrol prior to transfer season after over three years of service and contribution onboard CONFIDENCE. He has mentored, trained, and improved the lives of numerous junior members as they passed through CONFIDENCE and developed into an integral part of nearly every major evolution onboard. His most recent accomplishment includes qualification as inport and underway OOD – an extremely impressive feat given this is his first rated tour. Congratulations to BM2 for his many accomplishments these past three years and good luck on CGC CORMORANT!

On a related note, this is likely to be my final contribution to the patrol newsletter as First Lieutenant. Though too premature for farewells, it is difficult for me to describe the pride I take in this department and the exceptional individuals I have the daily privilege of working with. Reflecting on my 19 months of learning, managing, and often stumbling my way through life onboard CONFIDENCE, I am always amazed by the quality of our people. This department breathes me life anew on even my most frustrating of days; I could not have asked for a more rewarding opportunity. Though I reserve my goodbyes, I reiterate my thanks for their daily efforts.



SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

During our exciting patrol, besides being pushed around from port calls and having a wonderful/ mini spring break in GTMO, the supply department once again still runs CONFIDENCE. The Storekeepers on board welcomed me to supply department. Big news for them; they passed their second quarter inventory for fiscal year 2011. They also took time away from liberty in port calls to make part runs for the ship and cleaned liberty vans when we got there (even though GTMO should have cleaned them). They pushed through orders, trying to get everything we need for dry dock.

Doc gave a few people stitches not only from our ship but helped the USCGC CHANDELEUR. I guess he didn't think he had enough practice helping others so he took the liberty of helping himself when he decided to fall off a golf cart in GTMO. Doc also gave some C.P.R. training this patrol.

Our Yeoman helped arrange travel for BM2 Hahner so he could go see the birth of his child. YN1 Andreu also helped coordinate flights for newly reported people to GTMO so that way they can start getting qualified.

For all the cooks this patrol, they did an outstanding job with their meals and thanks to Chief Ashton for making some of the best mid rats meal on board the CONFIDENCE. Congrats to FS1 for becoming the new FSO. The cooks also had the majority of morale nights this patrol but supply department came out and helped.

This is the part where Supply Department would like to say bye to some of their shipmates even though they won't be leaving until this summer. We are saying goodbye to SK3 Titus now even though he still didn't get his orders yet, but you did an outstanding job onboard this cutter and helped me out a lot. We would also like to say farewell to FSC. You really did your job in the galley and mess deck making sure the cooks did their jobs as well as the mess cooks and helping out FS1 as much as you could. And last but not least goodbye to our SUPPO, LTJG Schumann. You will be highly missed by our crew and our department even though you have the most feminine water bottle onboard. You served your time well here and you will be missed. On that note we would like to welcome our new SUPPO, ENS Bradley, even though she can never replace Mr. Schumann's water bottle (we aren't sure if that's a good or bad thing).

SMK Martin

CONFIDENCE in the NEWS

If you see your loved ones on news or articles in the local newspapers, please record them on media or cut out the clips and send them to work with your Coastie so that we can keep them on file to share in future newsletters.

You can also see multiple press releases about the crew and their efforts at:

Coast Guard District 7 Public Affairs www.d7publicaffairs.com

Port Canaveral, Fla., based Coast Guard Cutter Confidence returns to homeport

<http://www.d7publicaffairs.com/go/doc/586/993387/>

CONFIDENCE Crewmember Responds to Rollover Accident

Written by ENS Eric Balcunas

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. - DC3 James Digirolamo, a native of Hollywood, FL, was on his way to work on Tuesday 07 December, when he witnessed a car lose control and roll over multiple times onto a median. DC3 Digirolamo pulled over and ran back to the overturned Mitsubishi sport utility vehicle. Two citizens had already stopped and had approached the SUV. As DC3 assessed the situation, he heard crying in the backseat. "Once I heard the girl screaming, my heart began to pound. I didn't know if there were injuries or fuel leaking." Despite the scattered broken glass, he crawled on his knees and pulled a 3 year old girl out of the vehicle. He held her in his arms until she calmed down, giving the child her toy for comfort. DC3 commented, "I held her for a while. When I saw that there were no scratches on her, I breathed a sigh of relief."

He turned his focus on the girl's mother who was still stuck in the driver's seat. DC3 Digirolamo tried all he could to free the driver's door, but was unsuccessful. Fire Rescue eventually arrived at the scene and took over rescue efforts. Later, the little girl was transported to a local hospital in Rockledge for precautionary measures.

When asked about his actions, DC3 replied, "It was just a natural reaction; I didn't have to think about it. Anybody in my position would have done the same thing." CDR Matthew Meilstrup, the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Cutter CONFIDENCE, was informed of the accident and DC3 Digirolamo's efforts. "We are all very proud of DC3 Digirolamo and his quick reactions to assist the victims of this accident. His actions were instrumental in comforting both the young girl and her mother until emergency response could respond," he said. The Engineering Officer, LT Jeffrey Payne, is extremely proud of the way DC3 handled the situation, stating, "I am certainly not surprised at his actions. DC3's training and natural personality leads him to always try and help others; to be able to quickly assess a situation and make sound decisions. Here it happened off duty, but this is how he is every day."



DC3 Digirolamo's act is one of many acts of selflessness and service to humanity that the Coast Guard and its members carry out everyday on land or sea. □

**CONTACT
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**FOR ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS NEWSLETTER,
FUTURE TOPICS YOU'D LIKE TO SEE, OR COMMUNITY
EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS
OFFICER AT:**

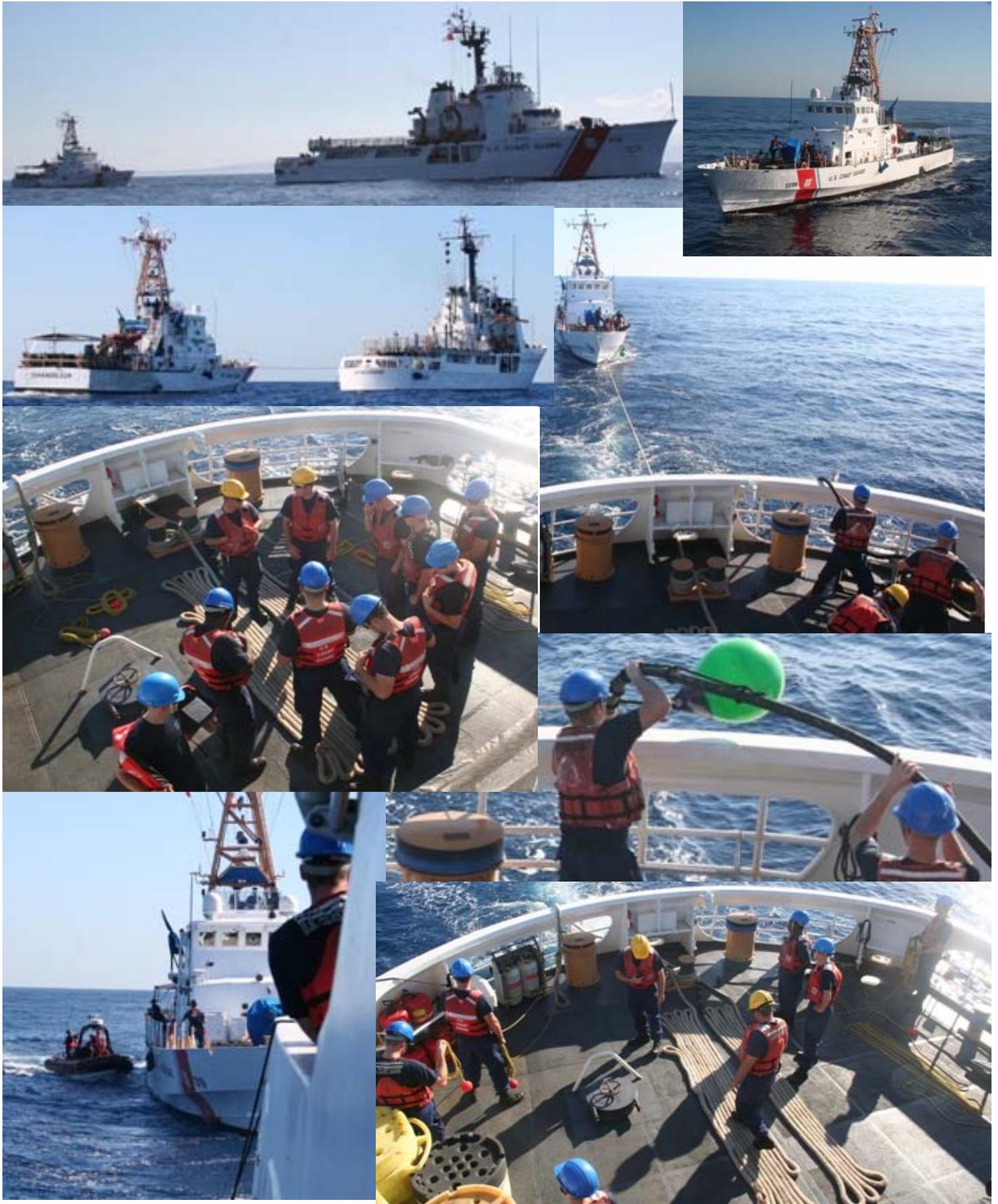
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A Look At the Patrol

CGC CONFIDENCE outbound Port Canaveral, FL 30 December 2010



ASTERNA REFUELING...



FACES



EM3 Jones Posing!



SN Nicolini and his Two Thumbs Up!



EO...Smiling?



What's DCA saying?



SA Taylor scanning for a seat!



After editing the brightness & contrast...this is the best we get ILT's stache on record!

BM1 Allred rockin' the shades!



A water toast..but what is Doc thinking..or is he napping?



MK2 Daire is too fast for the camera as FN O'Hara tries to smile!

Friendly Competition!!!



WELL DONE SHIPMATES!!

SAILOR OF THE QUARTER: IT1 MATTHEW LUCE



SN Pereira



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DCC Lindsey



BM2 Woodcock



HS2 "Doc" Gillard



MK2 Preston

BM1 Allred

Not Pictured:
LT Wescott
SN Deroulac
SN Hutchison



Speedy Quals:
SA Taylor