



CONFIDENCE NEWS

MAY 15 - JUNE 11 PATROL



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Captain's Cabin



The dreaded final newsletter has arrived...

As I reflect on this CONFIDENCE tour, I can't help but marvel at how quickly the two years passed.

Over the past month, we have trained and qualified a second non-compliant vessel pursuit team (no small feat), completed 17 boardings, a search-and-rescue case, held 70 migrants, interdicted one Cuban sail boat with five migrants, steamed well over 2,000 nautical miles and rebuilt another generator. HS2 Eric Gillard was selected as Honorable Mention for the Douglas A. Munro Inspirational Leadership award; the Coast Guard's preeminent recognition for the enlisted workforce. Way to go Doc! I also wanted to recognize the large number of our junior ship-

mates that have qualified in jobs far above their paygrade. Non-rates standing Navigator and Auxiliary watches, qualifying in advanced damage control positions and working the davits, Third Class qualifying as Throttle, Second Class standing OOD and EOW watches and handling the immense responsibility of Pursuit Coxswain, and on and on... It's inspiring to see them in action and a testament to their performance as the service's next generation of Cuttermen.

I am very thankful to have met and worked with so many superb sailors over the past two years; this CONFIDENCE crew, current and past, has met every challenge with skill and determination and cemented their reputation as the go-to Cutter. Most of the time - they did that all with a smile and flexibility beyond even the Coast Guard's exceedingly high standards. Of course, that all comes with a price. Many, long days away from their families and friends, extra work inport or underway, 10-person duty sections, or simply more duty days. No matter what, without the support of such great families and friends, we couldn't have enjoyed nearly the same level of success. To my shipmates, all the families and CONFIDENCE friends, I simply say: you are the best and thank you. I wish you smooth sailing in all that you do.

I sincerely hope that many of you can join us for the Change of Command ceremony on 29 June. My family and I would really enjoy seeing you again. We will always treasure our time aboard CONFIDENCE and in Cocoa Beach.

Very respectfully,

CDR Matt Meilstrup

Command Chief's Corner



Greetings from the Chief's Mess. This was my first patrol as Command Chief and it was interesting one. We have seen a large number of our shipmates complete their qualifications which should help to maximize the time that they will be able to spend with their loved ones during this upcoming home port period. During the patrol the crew performed exceptionally as we conducted a myriad of missions including a Search and Rescue case, many Law Enforcement boarding's and Migrant interdiction. As we return to Port Canaveral, we will say good bye to many of our shipmates and we wish both them and their loved ones continued success wherever the Coast Guard may send you. We are looking forward to the arrival several new shipmates as well and welcome them to the CONFIDENCE family. Of note we wish to welcome the arrival of Macon Strock who was born on 26 May to his proud parents Justin and Lisa. Congratulations to the crew for a great patrol, Fair Winds to those that are departing and welcome aboard to those arriving.

Semper Paratus,
FSC Pete Drayer

Hotel Confidence

During our patrol of the Florida Straits from May 13 till June 11, we were busy conducting the Coast Guard's law enforcement and search and rescue missions. While transiting outbound to sea, we quickly encountered casualties, limiting our electronic navigation, forcing for the crew to navigate the old-fashioned way; the paper chart. After completing training for non compliant vessels, we met up with one of our sister ships and relieved them so they could get some much needed rest. We welcomed forty-one new friends to our flight deck. As the days went by, we slowly gained new friends from other Coast Guard vessels patrolling the area, nearing fifty members on our lovely flight deck hotel before they started to disembark for home. ME1 Mailander excelled as the hotel manager, ensuring everything ran smoothly while FS1 Krusko served diligently as the hotel concierge, making sure the needs of the guests were met. After our hotel became vacant, we sailed north to a much deserved break in Miami for a couple days of relaxation. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful Miami Memorial Day weather and events including a free Miami Marlins Baseball Game, a great activity for Memorial Day. There was no break from action after getting back underway, a migrant raft was spotted and we were ordered to intercept them. Our hotel was back in service, bringing 5 new friends on board.

While steaming towards our next destination, we were diverted for Search and Rescue. The Coast Guard received report that a vessel transiting from Mexico to Florida experienced casualties to both engines. After steam 160 Nautical Miles, the expert engineering skills of

ENS Gilligan, CWO Ripley, EMC Valenzuela and EM2 Kotter brought to life one of the “CRUZAN FOOLS” engines. It was a long transit escorting the “CRUZAN FOOLS” to Key West; luckily we had the current providing us a little boost. A day later, we pulled back into port for a little more downtime. After two fun days in Key West, we headed north towards Miami. However, chuck the chinchilla returned and messed with the starboard engine which eventually forced us to cancel the three days of scheduled helicopter landing training. So we decided to reopen our hotel for a few days and steamed back south to open for business. Shortly after getting back on scene, we welcomed our first set of five new patrons. Within a few hours the news of our reopening, we became very busy, conducting transfers

with fellow Coast Guard units, gaining more guests. Thankfully, our second phase was

limited to three days, 13 migrants friends and 3

transfers to patrol boats before we closed up

shop we could steam home and start the engineer-

ing department renovations. Thank goodness for

the Gulf Steam giving a little boost to ensure we

made it home on time.

-ENS Tatara and Cadet Freeman

Patrol Stats:

3480NM = 4002 Miles Steamed

17 Law Enforcement Boardings

70 Migrants on deck



FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

*FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS TO ALL
THOSE DEPARTING THE BEST SHIP IN THE FLEET,
GOOD LUCK AT YOUR NEXT UNIT*

CDR Meilstrup

LT Wescott

LTJG Balcunas

LTJG Knight

LTJG Bradley

CWO2 Ripley

BMC Burt

MKC Noel

MKC Provoyeur

BMC Reed

ETC Jarvis

BM1 Allred

SK1 Malik

FS1 Krusko

OS1 Rooke

MK2 Edwards

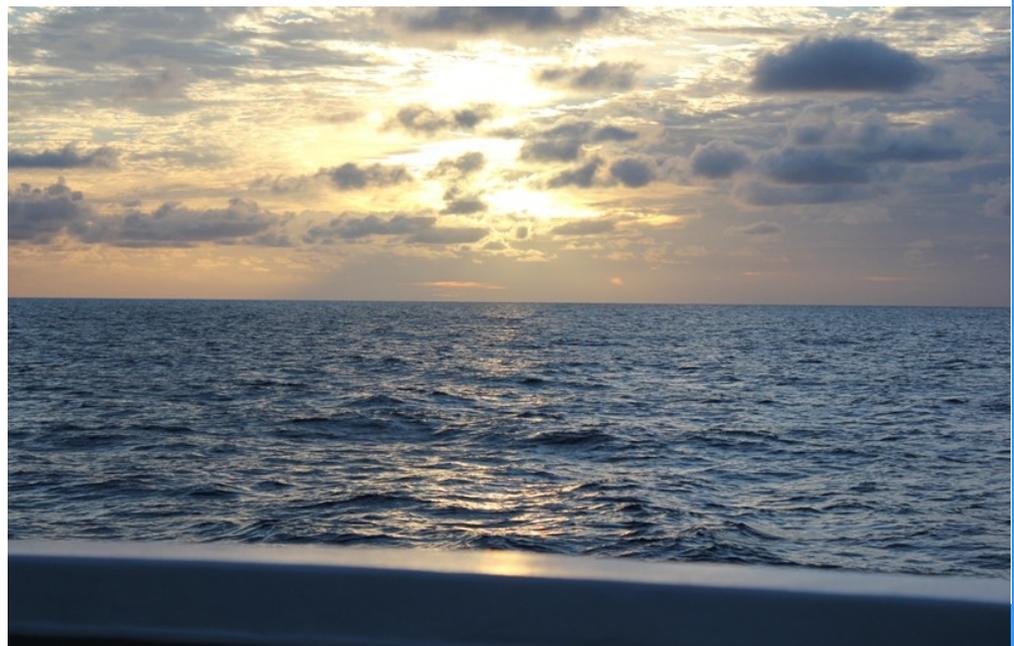
EM2 Jones

MK2 Preston

DC3 Digirolamo

ET3 Konnyu

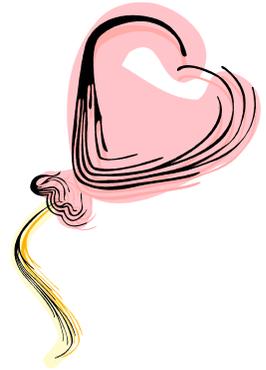
SK3 Martin



New Family Members



Macon Strock , 26 May 2012



CONFIDENCE CREW AND FAMILIES WELCOME ABOARD

SN Pulgarvidal Training Center Cape May, NJ

*U. S. Coast Guard Cutter CONFIDENCE
Change of Command Ceremony
where*

*Commander Matthew T. Meilstrup
will be relieved by
Commander James A. Passarelli*

*on Friday, the twenty-ninth of June
at six o'clock in the evening*

*U.S. Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral
9235 Grouper Road
Cape Canaveral, Florida*

Reception immediately following.

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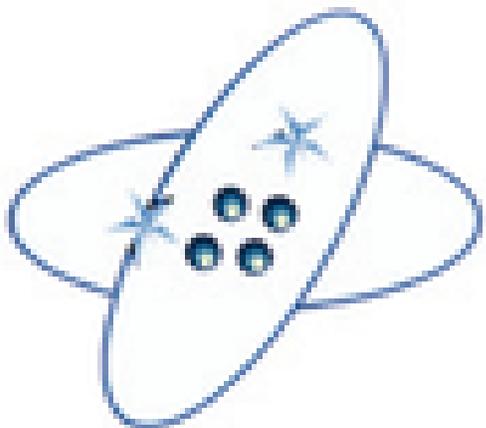
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Congratulations to all those who were promoted or advanced



ETC Keith Jarvis



A Look At the Patrol



