



CONFIDENCE NEWS

MAY 27 - JULY 26 2014 WINDWARD PASS PATROL



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Captain's Cabin

From the Cabin...

Family and friends of CONFIDENCE, I trust you are all well. It's great to be home! What a deployment we had — very busy, extremely challenging and still, a lot of fun. We left Cape Canaveral on 27 May and recertified our small boat pursuit team before heading south through the Old Bahama Channel to the Windward Pass. During the deployment, the crew got to experience port visits in Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. While down-range, we embarked Aviation Detachments from Coast Guard Air Stations Savannah and Borinquen, we interdicted and repatriated 80 Haitian migrants, and we chased three different suspected drug smuggling vessels. Wow!



As you all know, this deployment fell directly over the Florida school summer vacation. Making matters worse, the deployment fell directly over the heart of transfer season. That made it very difficult for the veterans aboard since all the shipmates that left us were replaced by others that are not yet qualified in any of the watch stations. This resulted in a lot of the crew having to stand additional watches making everyone very tired, most of the time. The good news in all this is that we welcomed aboard some new shipmates since our last deployment including LT Jones, LT Hayes, ENS Gonzalez, ENS Sheehy, ENS Hamel, CWO Watkins, ETI Glaeser, MEI Puma, DCI Thayer, ET2 Traynor, OS2 Newman, BM2 Del Conte, GM3 Arrington, DC3 Simanu, EM3 Lampman, SN Daley, SN Bowers, SN Gaunt, FN Cespedes, SN Goldberg, SN Morgan, SN Hyman, and SN Lovold. Sadly, we had to say 'goodbye' to some of our CONFIDENCE family too (see page 13). Plus, we had some great support from DCI Warner, IT1 McAvoy and DC3 Martin who filled in for some missing shipmates, as well as CG Academy Cadets Hellar, Kidwell and Wright, aboard for their summer cruise.

Sadly, this Newsletter is my last. I will wrap up my two year assignment and be relieved on 15 August by Commander Jeff Yarosh. Naturally, this is bitter-sweet for me and my family. Though we love CONFIDENCE, I recognize that all of us have to move on at some point and its CDR Yarosh's turn. As I move on to my next assignment at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC, my thoughts and prayers will stay with this crew and with the families. On behalf of Jennifer and the rest of my family, I'll say that it has been an honor to serve CONFIDENCE and her crew — the finest crew in the Coast Guard! Read on in this newsletter and see what they've accomplished during this deployment in ensuring America is safe.

Fair winds and following seas,
 CAPT Jim Passarelli
 Commanding Officer

Chief of The Boat'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, Law Enforcement boarding's and Migrant interdiction.

As we return to Port Canaveral, we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our new CO and bid a heartfelt farewell to Captain Passarelli. We are looking forward to the arrival of several old and new shipmates and welcome them to the CONFIDENCE family. Congratulations to the crew for a great patrol, rest up and enjoy your stand down.

Semper Paratus,
EMC Anthony Luciani



Caribbean Through The Eyes of The CONFIDENCE

By: CDT Tyler Wright

We sail the Caribbean Sea. The same sea that the British Navy patrolled for almost 200 years en route to global domination. The same sea that the Spanish transported the tons of gold and treasure gained from its territories on its way to becoming another global power. The same body of water where ruthless buccaneers, such as Blackbeard called home and wreaked havoc anywhere they went. The Caribbean Sea has a certain historical mystique and aura to it; anyone who sails under these stars and throughout these blue waters will testify to the power of the sea here. However, this new and modern Caribbean Sea is no longer dominated by European powers or fierce pirates. Now these waters are plagued by drug runners, migrants, and numerous other illegal activities. This modern Caribbean Sea needs a new power to protect it from harm, as do the citizens of the countries who call this place home. It needs a powerful ally to keep these activities from reaching the shores of the United States. This job has been taken up by the United States Coast Guard, and the crew of the CGC CONFIDENCE. This is the account of the latest journey made through these waters by the CONFIDENCE and her crew.

The first stop we made on our 60 day voyage was in Grand Turk, part of the Turks and Caicos Island Chain. From the moment we pulled in, we were in awe of the white sand beaches and crystal clear water. The crew immediately flocked to Jack's Shack with a CGC CONFIDENCE life ring in order to bribe the owners to stay open for an afternoon full of the local beer, beach volleyball, and jerk chicken. Some ran to the local Margaritaville, where the Carnival Fantasy joined the crew for a fun filled afternoon enjoying margaritas and pina coladas. Some enjoyed the world class diving in Grand Turk, seeing the famous "drop-off", where the water goes from 20 ft to a nearly 7000 ft deep. Grand Turk was a beautiful and relaxing port call.

Next stop was everyone's runaway favorite destination, the always sunny Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Everyone dove into the local culture in the area; Subway, McDonalds, Taco Bell, the gym, and the famous O Kelly's Irish Bar. Some were even lucky enough to visit the islands lovely detention facility (don't call it a prison), and saw some of the local residents (don't call them prisoners). Don't worry, everyone's tax dollars are hard at work making sure they are well taken care of. Luckily, this would not be our only stop in the beautiful GTMO.



Next stop was Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. The crew pulled into this port call excited to enjoy the next few days at one of the many all inclusive resorts located in the area. What no one expected was the amount of Canadian high school teenagers that had seemingly taken over the island. But nonetheless the crew set out to enjoy a few days of all you can eat and drink fun. Some enjoyed the tour of the local Brugal Rum Factory, where some people bought half a lifetime supply of rum to forget about said Canadian teenagers running around and screaming. Others went on an all day excursion through the Dominican Republic's rainforests, where they jumped off and swam through waterfalls. All in all, it was a great time had by all.

The last stop of course had to be everyone's favorite Guantanamo Bay for one last round of fun. Again, the crew wasted no time diving into the local culture of the area. This time, there was a softball game held between the E-5 and below and the E-6 and above members of the crew. The game was filled with great sportsmanship, no yelling, and zero trash talking between both sides. However, the E-5 and below team must have left their athleticism at the pier, after getting beat 28-7. (The sun was in their eyes). All and all, Guantanamo Bay is a great place to stop and replenish morale and American culture.

On the operational side of things, CONFIDENCE completed its mission in bottling up the Windward Pass and keeping migrants free from the shores where they were not supposed to be. We intercepted two sets of migrants, investigated several TOI throughout the Windward Pass, boarded several vessels, and conducted more flight operations than can be recalled.

The port calls were fun for all, making the time at sea worthwhile (except maybe for the OODs). This was a first patrol aboard CONFIDENCE for many of her crew, and the last for others, but regardless it was one for the ages. The job is difficult, being away from loved ones and families, but it is patrols like these and the memories forged between shipmates that make it worthwhile. Someone has to step up and protect these I waters and the United States from the hazards that attempt to put them in danger, and that has been the job of the United States Coast Guard and the crew of the CGC CONFIDENCE. As CAPT Passarelli says, "We are always in the hunt."



What Motivates SN Bartnick?

By: SN Matthew Bartnick



When Mr. Gonzalez approached to ask me to write a letter for the CONFIDENCE newsletter I told him I would love to do it but I would need a topic to write about. He told me that I could write about anything as long as it was family friendly. That's the honest truth of where I came up with the idea to write about you guys; the family and friends of the CONFIDENCE's crew.

I have only been in the Coast Guard for a short amount of time, but in that time I have learned how difficult it is to explain what we do to people. I have learned that being away from home can be one of the hardest things a person can be asked to do. In no way am I complaining because I know full well that all of my shipmates and I signed

up to do this job. We protect the home front by carrying out these missions and we take tremendous pride in that. Regardless, it doesn't change the fact that while we are out here, we are constantly thinking of you guys. When we have an 18 hour day and then have to stand the next watch, we are thinking of our families to help us get through. It's your emails and phone calls and understanding that helps us pass the days. Those things have the ability to reset us. That is invaluable.

I know that you guys already know how important you are. But I don't think that you *hear* it enough. To all the mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, fiancés, and everyone else dealing with Coast Guardsmen and women that are away from home; thank you. Thank you for dealing with the points of minimal communication, the weeks of absences, and all of the extra things that fall upon you while we're gone. Thank you for being the true support system of some of the strongest men and women I have ever met in my life. You guys are our motivation.

On behalf of all of crew, I give you my dearest thanks.

SN Matthew Bartnick

CONFIDENCE Teamwork

By: SN Peter Lovold

If there is one memory of Coast Guard boot camp that will stand out for years to come in my memory — aside from the constant marching, screaming instructors, and frigid New Jersey sleet — it is the heavy emphasis throughout training that was placed on teamwork. In recruit training, every evolution performed by recruits has a real-world application in the fleet; the way we addressed company commanders and other staff mimics radio communication; securing all of our belongings the proper way in our racks taught us to keep gear from flying about in rough seas on a ship; even the act of being required to step over and not on the bottom part of a doorframe demonstrated that on a cutter, one needs to raise their feet to traverse a water-tight door properly. Teamwork, however, was always the biggest of these. From day one, recruits are made to understand that if the group succeeds, it is because they worked effectively together. If one or some of the group fails, everyone fails.

The applicability of this emphasis can be found almost anywhere aboard Coast Guard Cutter CONFIDENCE. There are few — if any — major tasks that can be completed aboard the ship that can be done by just one person. A small boat, for instance, can be manned by as few as three people — a coxswain, crewman, and engineer — but without any of those three, could not be operated safely and effectively. Without a coxswain, the boat cannot be driven; without a crewman, vital functions such as passing lines and keeping a lookout cannot be performed; without an engineer, any sort of mechanical failure would leave the boat stranded on the ocean.



All three roles (and on many occasions, more) function together to achieve the missions set forth for small boat operations, including migrant interdiction, drug interdiction, mooring evolutions, patrols, and so on. This does not take into consideration that there are other personnel who make daily checks on each small boat to ensure that the structural integrity, electronic equipment, engines, fuel, and tools are in regular, working order. Furthermore, the act of even getting a boat into the water from the side of the cutter requires the coordination of — at minimum — eight deck hands and launching equipment maintained by the ship's engineers.

CONFIDENCE Teamwork (Cont'd)

The operation of the ship itself applies the same principles on a much larger scale. To achieve her mission, whatever it may be, CONFIDENCE requires a command staff to direct, plan, and lead the crew of the ship through specific tasking as it pertains to the mission at hand. On the bridge, the Officer of the Deck (OOD) carries out the commanding officer's orders via commands to the helmsman, who steers, and lookout who, well, looks out. Supplying the Officer of the Deck with vital navigation information is the Quartermaster of the Watch, who also keeps the entire ship informed on events and bulletins throughout the day. At all times on the bridge, the OOD and Quartermaster use navigation and communication systems maintained by the ship's electrical and communications personnel. CONFIDENCE is herself driven by a complicated network of engines, generators, ventilation systems and electric circuits, which are kept up and running by the whole engineering department, under the command of the Engineering Officer. One top of all of this, CONFIDENCE frequently engages in evolutions that require ship-wide coordination and the efficient performance of collateral duties by almost all hands. One of the most robust of these evolutions is helicopter operations, which involves landing a helicopter on the flight deck of the ship as it moves, often through large swells, and typically includes refueling said helicopter as well. As the event is directed from the bridge, the helicopter tie-down team and refueling team stand ready on the flight deck to secure the helicopter and replenish its fuel tanks as the rotors spin mere feet above their heads. Without the cohesive and effective teamwork of everyone involved in such a complicated event, it could easily result in disaster.

Fortunately, and thanks to the reliability that exists between different roles on the ship, it doesn't; a testament to the necessity of good teamwork that exists in the U.S. Coast Guard, teamwork which is demonstrated every day that CONFIDENCE is at sea.



A Letter From a New Shipmate

By: Mr. Roscoe Greene

This letter was written by our Royal Bahamian Defense Force Ship Rider, after spending four weeks aboard CONFIDENCE. Mr. Greene quickly acclimated to the underway lifestyle and became part of CONFIDENCE. Mr. Greene could always be found on the mess deck conversing with crewmembers and sharing his life stories as a proud member of the Royal Bahamian Defense Force.

J. A. Passarelli
Commanding Officer
USCG Confidence (WMEC- 19)
Florida, USA

SHIPRIDER DUTIES

Sir,

I, Leading Seaman Roscoe E. Greene, take this time to express my sincere gratitude to you and the Crew of USCG Confidence for your hospitality, warmth and partnership extended to me during my tenure as Ship Rider.

Special thanks to ENS Gonzalez, MEI Dixon, MEI Pumo, and YNI Robinson for their extended friendship, in making my days at sea much easier. Special thanks, to the Food Specialist Crew, FSI Perez and SNFS Bourdeau for the delicious meals and homemade breads.

Special thanks to EM3 Whitlock and the Engineering Crew who offered me dorm and a comfortable 'rack'. Special thanks to FN Testa, FN Howells, SN Goldberg and SM Lovold for making my stay enjoyable, by their extraordinary service.

Lastly, my new found friend, translator Michee Louis, who conversed with me daily about life, in English and Creole, thank you for memories I will never forget. Once again, 'Thank You' and may God continue to bless USCGC Confidence.

Yours sincerely,
Roscoe E. Greene
Leading Seaman, RBDF



Papi Umpires a Blowout!

By: MKI Joe Boraski

The E-6 and above All-Stars met the E-5 and below Little Leaguers for an exciting injury prone matchup. The crack of the bat could be heard throughout the island of Cuba. 7 fans were in attendance as these two teams faced each other for bragging rights and mess cook duties in Guantanamo Bay. All —Star Pitcher Raul Jimenez pitched all 8 innings. He gave up 13 hits and 7 runs. The All-Stars took advantage of the Little Leaguers lack of practice and skill. All — Star Out Fielder Joe Boraski showed his bat swinging skills in the second inning when he sent a line drive out to left field ending the day for Out Fielder Jay “Deebo” Wedner. He was unable to return to the game and was added to the 15 day DL.

Tensions were running high and the Little Leaguers started to collapse as the All — Stars continued to tally up runs inning after inning. Little Leaguer Second Baseman Bryce Shipley attempted to provide some motivation to the team when he smoked a ground ball down the first base line taking out All-Star Outfielder Joe Boraski who was switched to first base in the sixth inning to help secure the win. A softball to the shin put him out. He was also added to the 15 day DL. Catcher and team Captain Jim Passarelli pulled out all the stops with his swinging sacrifice bunt in the sixth inning that moved the runners into scoring position.

By the time the top of the seventh inning came around the Little Leaguers had slim hopes of being able to take the lead. Little Leaguer Out Fielder Sean “Five Star” Dixon was headed for home. Trying to avoid being hit by a throw home he slid into home giving the Little Leaguers their 7th and final run of the evening. The Little Leaguer’s team trainer scrubbed some of the field out of his hip and sent him back into the game. As the matchup came to an end the All — Stars had 32 hits, 24 runs, 1 error and bragging rights. The Little Leaguers had 13 hits, 7 runs, 6 errors and two players were assigned mess cook duties on our last night of the patrol.



CONFIDENCE SPORTS ASSOCIATION
MKI BORASKI

Kay-det Corner

By: CDT Tyler Wright, CDT Jacob Hellar, & CDT Steve Kidwell

Entering their final year at the United States Coast Guard Academy, cadets I/c Tyler Wright, Jacob Hellar, and Steve Kidwell joined the crew of CGC CONFIDENCE for the entire 60 day patrol of the Windward Passage. The cadets have had three years experience at the USCGA and put their knowledge to the test throughout the patrol. This summer was a great learning opportunity not only about the Coast Guard and its missions, but also how to perform as future junior officers upon graduation from the Academy. Here are some insights from each cadet about the patrol.



Jacob Hellar: “This summer aboard CGC CONFIDENCE was a great learning experience, and was more than I could have asked for. We had the opportunity to experience many exciting evolutions such as AMIO phases, LE bills, small boat ops and flight ops, all while traveling to great places such as: Grand Turk, Guantanamo Bay and Puerto Plata. The crew onboard CONFIDENCE was great, and were willing to help cadets learn the ropes of underway life. One vivid example of this is when ME2 Dixon was courteous enough to take a few minutes out of his day to OC pepper spray me. I learned many lessons from various members of the crew, some of the best advice I received was from the Executive Officer, LCDR Hill. LCDR Hill gave great insight into future junior officer life, and advice on how to make the best out of our first few years, giving warnings about getting married before the age of 30 and avoiding shots of liquor. I thoroughly enjoyed my time aboard CGC CONFIDENCE, and wish her crew the very best. Fair winds and following seas!”

Tyler Wright: “This 60 day patrol aboard the CGC CONFIDENCE was one of the most exciting and memorable experiences that I have had since starting the Coast Guard Academy. We had an amazing opportunity not only to travel to foreign ports such as Grand Turk, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the always sunny and beautiful Guantanamo Bay, but also to actually get qualified and help the crew out with various jobs throughout the patrol. I learned so much practical knowledge throughout all of the training and missions on this patrol that will stick with me throughout my career. All of these experiences would not have been possible if it were not for the crew of the CONFIDENCE. There is a reason this cutter has one of the best reputations in the Coast Guard, and it is apparent throughout the crew. I showed up to the boat with little knowledge of underway life, but I am leaving with valuable skills that will make me not only a better future officer, but a better person. I owe that all to you all, and wish you the very best throughout your careers!”

Steve Kidwell: "The man who said "Ignorance is bliss" is an idiot. Despite all the training over the past 3 years in beautiful New London, Connecticut at the Academy, I would venture to say that I had been living in ignorance with regards to the Coast Guard. And though you would think that the glorious winters of Connecticut had been providing me the bliss so spoken of, the sunny beaches of central Florida and breezy sunsets of the Windward Pass have proven to me quite the opposite. Entering this summer aboard CONFIDENCE, I had a tourist's view of the Coast Guard. I was sure that we would chase migrants and go-fasts, stand late and unfavorable watches, and turn wrenches in the engine room. What I did not expect to do was carry a 4-year-old girl to repatriation in Haiti and visit the tropical paradises of Grand Turk, Puerto Plata, and Guantanamo Bay (just kidding) on the government's dollar. Before this patrol, my only underway experience was aboard the mighty warship Eagle (a sail training ship). Needless to say, it was somewhat daunting to hear that our patrol was 62 days away from the beautiful, free American soil that I had never left before. This experience, however, has opened my eyes to a Coast Guard, a mission, and a lifestyle that I cannot wait to pursue."



New Confidence Crew and Families:

LT Jason Hayes
LT Lee Jones
ENS Chelsea Sheehy
ENS Jack Hamel
ENS Carlos Gonzalez
ENG3 Richard Watkins
ME1 Alex Pumo
DCI Anthony Thayer

ET1 Wesley Glaeser
OS2 Justin Newman
BM2 Anthony Del Conte
ET2 Andy Traynor
DC3 Zaarvoni Simanu
GM3 Kar Arrington
EM3 Carl Lampman
SN Zachary Gaunt

FN Jose Cespedes
SN Bryan Bowers
SN Conner Morgan
SN Peter Lovold
SN Hunter Goldberg
SN Tobias Hyman
SN Korey Daley

Fair winds and following seas:

CAPT Jim Passarelli - CG Headquarters
LT Justin Strock - SFO Eastern Shore
LTJG Creighton Chong - Sector Sault Saint Marie
LTJG Brett Godiksen - Graduate School at Cornell University
LTJG Heather Imbriale - Sector San Juan
LTJG Orlando Morel - CG Headquarters
MKC Karl Meilander - MLE Academy
DCI Jonathan Ruffner - ATG Mayport
MK2 Randy Brandon - Station Port Canaveral
EM2 Fredy Hernandez - Sector Mobile
OS2 Jordan Turner - AVDET GTMO
ET2 Mike McClain - ESD Chincoteague
BM2 Nick Shepardson - CGC Pompano
BM2 Chris Phillips - Station Ponce de Leon

SN Grant Cuervo - GM "A" School

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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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Patrol Snaps & Smiles

Courtesy of: IT2 Travis Long











Thank You For Your Continued Love & Support!

