Volume 1, Issue 3

MARCH 2012 - MAY 2012

COUNT ON US!

THE DEPENDABLE DELIVERY

USCGC DEPENDABLE (WMEC-626)

Inside this issue:

FROM THE CAPTAIN	2
MEET THE CREW	3
ADVANCEMENTS	4
DEPARTURES	5
WELCOME ABOARD	6
AWARDS	7
DIVISIONAL HIGHLIGHTS	8-10
OPERATION STORK	11
MORALE	12
INSANITY	13
PATROL SNAPSHOTS	14
XO's CORNER	15

Greetings DEPENDABLE Family & Friends!

After logging over 7,700 nautical miles while patrolling the waters between Haiti and Cuba, which is known as the Windward Passage, we are glad to return home safe. We are extremely excited to share our experiences from our 44-day deployment. Our effective presence between the greater Caribbean and North Atlantic was critical to the Coast Guard's layered security regime which is designed to deter, detect, and respond to maritime security threats and maritime safety incidents well before they reach U.S. shores. As a key element of this presence, we worked extensively with Coast Guard aviation resources assigned to the theater of operations, embarking deployed helicopters from air stations in Puerto Rico and Michigan, and coordinating flight tasking for fixed wing aircraft as well. To further bolster our operational effectiveness in the area, we sailed with both a Creole interpreter and a member of the Royal Bahamian Defense Force, both of whom provided key competencies and authorities to further mission success.

On May 8th, amidst the busy routine of conducting flight operations, coastal patrols, and numerous day and night time queries of vessels transiting the area, we responded to a maritime patrol aircraft report of a potentially overloaded Haitian sail freighter. We immediately diverted, arriving on scene to find a dangerously overloaded vessel with 37 persons onboard. With a helicopter on scene to provide assistance in the event of a capsizing, a boarding team including the Creole interpreter safely transferred the migrants from their vessel to our cutter, where they were provided with food, water, and medical attention prior to their return to Haiti.

In addition to the Migrant Interdiction mission, we were also active in supporting counter-drug efforts in the region, conducting boardings both at sea and ashore to detect and deter the flow of illegal narcotics toward U.S. shores, and providing support to partner countries and agencies operating in the area. For example, from May 23rd-24th we assisted with the transfer of seized contraband and detained suspects and sister ships operating in the region to U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency officials.

In addition to the aforementioned operations we followed a rigorous training regimen, conducting frequent drills & exercises in areas such as shipboard engineering, gunnery, command & control, firefighting, navigation, and small boat handling. During the patrol the we made periodic stops in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for re-provisioning, refueling, crew rest, and liberty.

FROM THE CAPTAIN

Greetings to DEPENDABLE friends and family – I hope this edition of our newsletter finds all going well with you and yours. The last few months have been quite productive on our end, with the cutter having recently returned from a very challenging, rewarding, and highly successful southern patrol in support of search and rescue, migrant interdiction, and counter-drug missions in the Windward Passage. For our veteran sailors, the trip south was a return to familiar territory, while for others it represented something new and exciting.

As is our norm, we're now amidst another fast-paced in-port period in preparation for our next trip. We've just wrapped up a very successful Cutter Assessment of Readiness for Training (CART) visit, and had the pleasure of hosting approximately 40 members of a Congressional staff delegation for tours of the cutter. In addition, we recently kicked off a pier side maintenance availability that has a host of additional private contractors hard at work improving our material readiness. Add to that the fact the summer transfer season is now upon us, with many of our veteran sailors moving on to their next assignments and new shipmates crossing the brow, and you quickly gain an appreciation for the effort required by the men and women of DEPENDABLE to stay on top of so many moving pieces. But that's exactly what they do!

For those of you who are leaving the DEPENDABLE for new assignments and locations, we thank you for your service and support, and wish you "fair winds, and following seas." For inbound personnel and your families – welcome aboard; we look forward to meeting and sailing with you! Ours is a tradition of excellence...and tradition doesn't transfer.

Count on us!

Sincerely,

Lee Petty
Commanding Officer

MEET THE CREW

Robert Pagano

Rate/Rank: Maritime Enforcement Specialist Third Class

Age: 24

Department: Operations

A little bit about me: I'm from Long Island, NY & I enjoy surfing, biking, mixed martial arts, being physical fit & nutritionally sound, long walks on the beach, & Wildwood sunsets.

If I were CO for the day I would… "Convert the Ship's Store into a GNC."

Lucas Heckler

Rate/Rank: Fireman

Age: 24

Department: Engineering

Last Station: Boot Camp, Company Foxtrot 185.

A little bit about me: I'm from Lake Wales, FL & I love to play/watch sports, preferably baseball & football.

If I were CO for the day I would… "Arrange for my own photoshoot with the cutter as my backdrop."

Shawn Russell

Rate/Rank: Electronics Technician First Class

Age: 38

Department: Support

Last Station: TRACEN Petaluma, California.

A little bit about me: I'm from Clarksburg, WV & my favorite sports team is the Pittsburg Steelers. "I bleed black and gold."

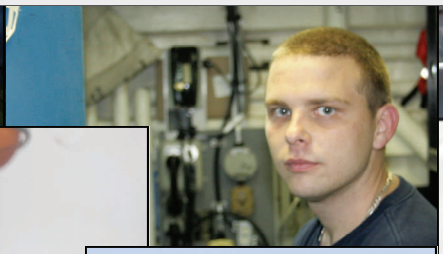
If I were CO for the day I would… "Pay myself accordingly."

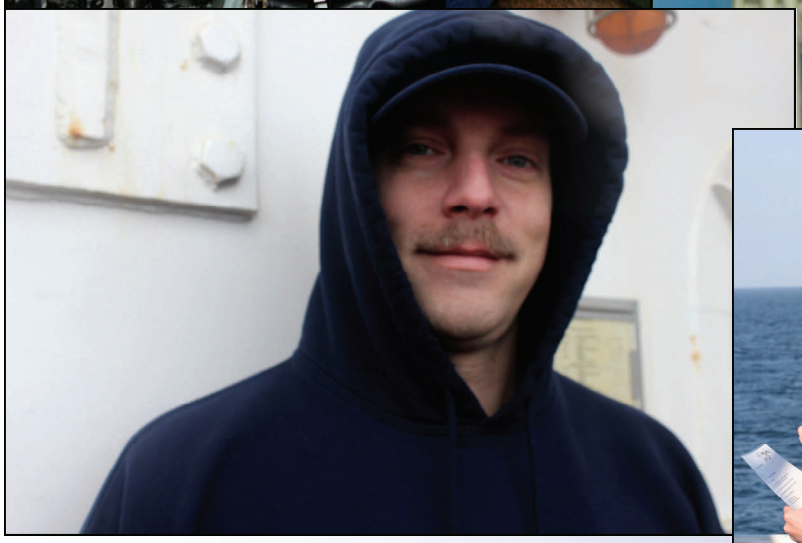
ADVANCEMENTS!

GOOD LUCK TO OUR DEPARTING SHIPMATES!

LCDR FELGER, SARAH K.
YN1 HAYWORTH, BRYAN
ET3 CAMBRIDGE, MASON E.
BMC SEEBECK, KENNETH A.
BMC SATTLER, MICHAEL J.
FSC ROMICH, SCOTT I.
DC2 PIETRASZKIEWICZ, MATTHEW J.
GMI FICKES, JAMES D.
MK3 JOHNSON, GARY

DC3 LEWIS, CONRAD M.
F&S2 HUGHES, THOMAS E.
LTJG KRAEMER, THOMAS J.
LTJG ROBISON, TROY L.
LTJG ENGLAND, SAMUEL H.
SN STREYLE, TIMOTHY E.
SN KEMMLEIN, CHARLES P.
FN BUFKIN, BYRON L.
EMCS BELMAS, BYRON





WELCOME ABOARD!

OS2	ANDERSON, IAN C.
GM1	JOHNSON, KILEY H.
SK1	MCCABE, ANTHONY J.
DC2	DEAN, ANDREW P.
FS1	GRIM, JACOB P.
BMC	INGERSOLL, NICHOLAS F.
BMC	MEGAHEY, JOSEPH J.
MKC	PROVOYEUR, ARTHUR E.
LCDR	LESHNOVER, JUNE E.
ET3	REVELL, MATTHEW T.
BM2	WALTERS, JAMES E.
MK2	ZOGRAFOS, DWAYNE A.
MK2	DUCTAN, CEDESTINSON
EM1	BUSH, WAYNE C.
ENS	ANDREWS, BRYAN J.
ENS	WILLIAMS, JENILEE
ENS	STOVER, KYLE B.
ENS	COONAN, SAMANTHA A.
SR	GONZALEZ, MATHEW
SR	GANT, ERIC M.

DEPENDABLE is a tenant command of Training Center Cape May, and as such enjoys a number of amenities that go along with the TRACEN. The following is a list of some things available for your use, and your dependent's use onboard the TRACEN:

- Child Care Development Center
- Coast Guard Exchange
- Barber Shop/Beauty Salon
- World Class Gym with indoor heated pool
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Racquetball Courts
- TRACEN Medical Clinic/Dental Clinic
- MWR Program

To access the TRACEN's website and get more information on any of the above, click here.

Information for Members *without Dependents*

Personnel in paygrades E-1 to E-4 are required to live in the TRACEN barracks. Personnel E-5 and above may elect to live on the economy right away if they choose, or live onboard.

Information for Members *with Dependents*

TRACEN Cape May has approximately 177 housing unit located right outside the front gate. They have 2, 3, and 4 bedroom units available. There may be a short waiting list during transfer season. For more information on CG Housing, visit TRACEN's website.

The following are some links that may be helpful to you in your move....

TRACEN Cape May Housing Office Links Cape May Internet Magazine The School Report

Fort Dix Army Base McGuire Air Force Base Cape May Chamber of Commerce

DEPENDABLE looks forward to you joining our crew and wishes you a safe and smooth transfer.

Awards

NON-RATE SAILOR OF THE PATROL
FN MITCHELL IAVARONE

SAILOR OF THE QUARTER
SN JUSTIN HOCHBERGER

Operations

The Operations Department jumped right back into action upon leaving the pier in April. The mission shifted from fisheries enforcement to a focus on migrant interdiction and counter-drug.

The CIC side of AOPS division played a vital role this patrol managing the communication for all operations. They impressively balanced communications with CG aircraft conducting up to 10 flights per day in coordination with missions conducted by CGC DEPENDABLE. The Navigation side of the AOPS division spent countless hours of work prepping charts for the safe navigation of the cutter in and out of Guantanamo Bay, Cap Haitien, Cape May, and everywhere in between.

This patrol witnessed the Law Enforcement/Weapons Division quite busy as well, supporting several offshore and pier-side boardings, coordinating security measures for migrant, contraband, and detainee evolutions, and integrating our Royal Bahamian Defense Force shiprider and Creole Interpreter into daily operations. The Gunner's Mates were fully engaged as well, supporting gunnery exercises, small arms issuances and management as part of our boarding operations, and employing flares and .50 caliber machine guns to assist in the destruction of a migrant yola that had been deemed a hazard to navigation.

Deck division continued their outstanding support of the operational mission. In addition to ongoing preservation of the ship, Deck remained flexible when DEPENDABLE embarked 37 Haitian migrants sending several deckies to stand Migrant Security watch. Deck qualified BM1 Fager as Landing Signal Officer (LSO) and BM3 Levy, SN Haggadone, and SN Hogan as helicopter tie-down members in their support of over 135 Helicopter Evolutions. Deck division as a whole contributed over 1000 hours in helm/lookout and small boat hours.

In addition to meeting the operational goals for the patrol, all divisions conducted preparations for the Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) inspection. The Operations Department had an impressive outcome for the CART inspection receiving only 6 discrepancies out of over 2000 check items. The visual communications (AOPS/Navigation Division), anti terrorism and force protection (LE division), weapons system (LE Division), and Combat Systems (Communications Division) checklists all had an impressive zero discrepancies. Between supporting the operational missions and preparing for inspections, over half of the Operations department found time to participate in the rigorous INSANITY workouts, maintaining a high fitness level to meet the demands of the patrol. Great Job all around to the hard work put forth by the Operations Department personnel!

Engineering

The BIG D is back from one awesome patrol, where the Engineering Department played a critical role in the consistent operational and mission readiness of DEPENDABLE! Between Migrant Operations, Drug Interdiction, Flight Operations, and the other various aspects of a District 7 patrol, our Engineers worked long and strenuous hours to keep DEPENDABLE sailing. Read below for some patrol highlights!

District 7 patrols are often filled with unexpected surprises and delays, due to the nature of the region we operate in. The Main Prop Division did an excellent job ensuring that all propulsion machinery and equipment was brought immediately online during various boardings, including DEPENDABLE's two major operational achievements: interdicting 37 illegal Haitian Migrants and safely transporting over 250 pounds of illicit drugs. The continuous maintenance and constant attention to detail by Main Prop personnel allowed every evolution to be carried through successfully, and most importantly, safely. In addition, within 2 weeks of departing Cape May, one of DEPENDABLE's generators which supply the ship with electrical power, became inoperable after the failure of a raw water pump. Between the hard work of MKC Verch, MK1 Andreasen, MK3 Kasheta, MK3 Farber, MK3 Chester, FN Iavarone, FN Davies, and FN Bufkin, DEPENDABLE was fully operational within days of the casualty and ready for all missions.

DEPENDABLE's Auxiliary Division had one of it's busiest patrols! Shorted handed an MKC and MK2, DEPENDABLE's AUX Division worked around the clock to maintain and fix air conditioning and refrigeration equipment, as well as spending over 150 hours to fix both cutter small boats, often inoperable due to wear and tear caused by excessive use. MK1 Hamilton, MK3 Johnson, FN Thomas, FN Costick, and FN Heckler should be commended for a job well done, and no doubt deserve some respite before DEPENDABLE's next patrol!

The Electrician's Mates did an excellent job in the repairs of DEPENDABLE's single point davit, used to lift the small boat out of the water, after it suffered damage in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The professional knowledge of our EM's allowed our davit to be fully operational, just in time for our interdiction of 37 Haitian Migrants on board a 30 ft sailing vessel. Whether it was partaking in daily maintenance, chasing grounds, or fixing critical machinery for DEPENDABLE's operational readiness, EM1 Olivarez, EM3 Rendon, EM3 Young, and EM3 Murphy did a job well done!

As DEPENDABLE prepared for the CART (Cutter Assessment of Readiness and Training) Inspection, our Damage Control Division trained our crew and ensured that all criteria were met, allowing DEPENDABLE to pass CART with flying colors! Our Damage Controlmen outfitted hundreds of items in our repair lockers, which house equipment used to combat damage, including fire hoses, wooden plugs and various patches, and Damage Control Publications.

Bravo Zulu to all of DEPENDABLE's engineers on a job well done!

Support

The Support department took care of the crew with supplies, food, and medical care along with keeping the electronics and computer systems up and running.

CWO (formerly SK1) Tommy Hughes & SK3 Daniel Kobs' inventory and procurement efforts led to eight emergency procurements with unique transportation needs along with 87 routine procurements, & the precise management of all port call expenses. Hughes' and SK3 Kobs' logistics efforts ensured that the packages from family and friends met us in Guantanamo Bay. Congratulations to newly promoted CWO Hughes who found out (three days before pulling into Cape May) that he is going to be the new Support Department Head on CGC TAHOMA.

ET1 Shawn Russell, ET2 Michael Scott, & ET3 Mason Cambridge were steadfast in their commitment to fixing all electronic equipment that everyone seems to break so easily! The ET shop corrected three small boat electronic equipment casualty repairs ensuring safe small boat operations. Unfortunately we were unable to receive satellite signal for our DirecTV due to our operating area; however, special thanks to ET3 Cambridge on maintaining a morale movie network consisting of over 500 selections – not a bad alternative!

IT2 Joshua Craig was critical in preserving our cutter computers, telephone lines, & internet connectivity throughout the patrol which ultimately allowed crewmembers to stay current on all the happenings back home.

HS1 Rorai "Doc" Greenan handled all medical issues ultimately resulting in the treatment of 78 crew members, 38 migrants and 9 detainees

FSC Scott Romich, FS3's Jacob Doss, Jeffrey Ladjack, Alexander Donnell, & Kyle Velasquez kept crew morale high, serving over 13,912 delicious meals to the crew and our guests. FS3 Ladjack utilized the new skills he acquired while at baking school to fix the crew some tasty desserts! FSC Romich is headed down the road to Sector Delaware Bay - we wish him and his family the best in their transition.

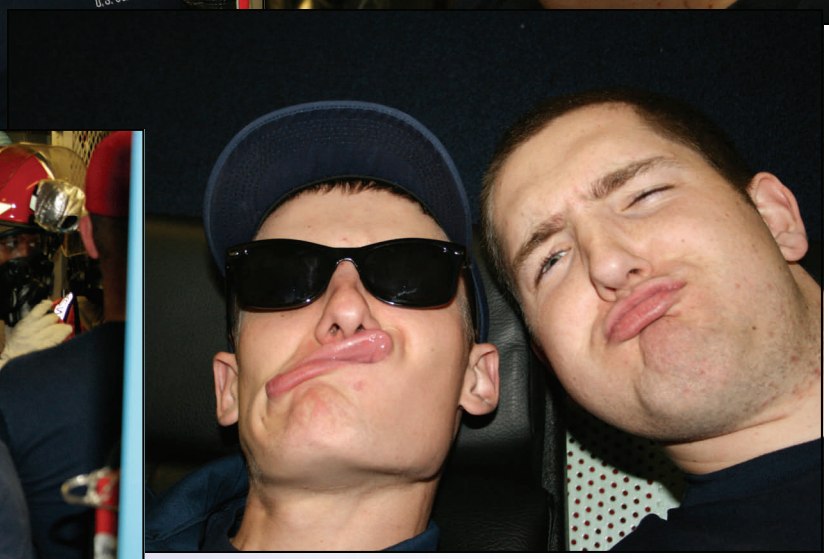
YN1 Bryan "BrYN1" Hayworth has been extremely busy, balancing his admin duties with his boat davit operator duties - he does it all & he does it well! We wish him and his family they best as they relocate down south, to the Sunshine State!

It's not easy supporting ship's operations and ensuring our next patrol (and subsequent patrols afterward) will be successful, but someone's got to do it!

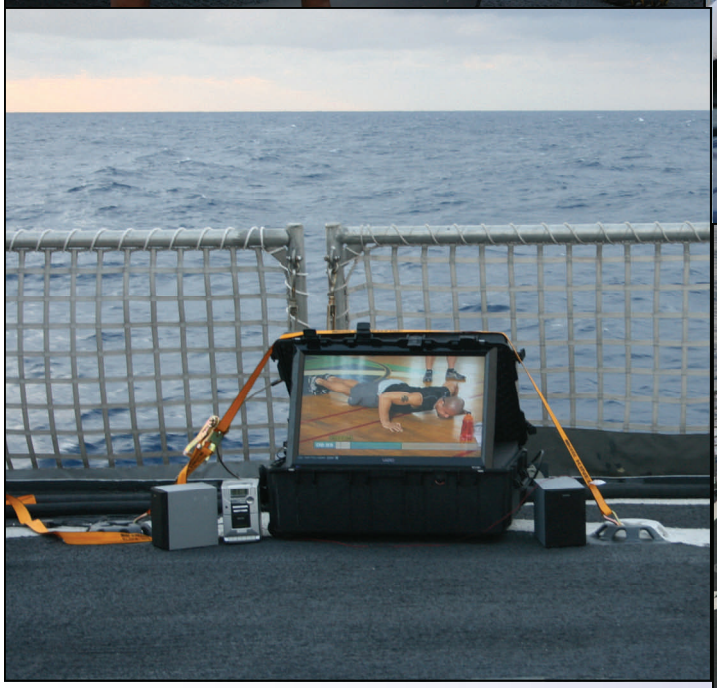
WE HAVE NEW BABIES
REPORTING TO
DEPENDABLE SOON…

CONGRATULATIONS TO
BILL & DAWNELLE RAYNE,
JIMMY & LIZ FICKES,
BYRON & BRANDY BELMAS
OUR FUTURE PROUD NEW PARENTS!

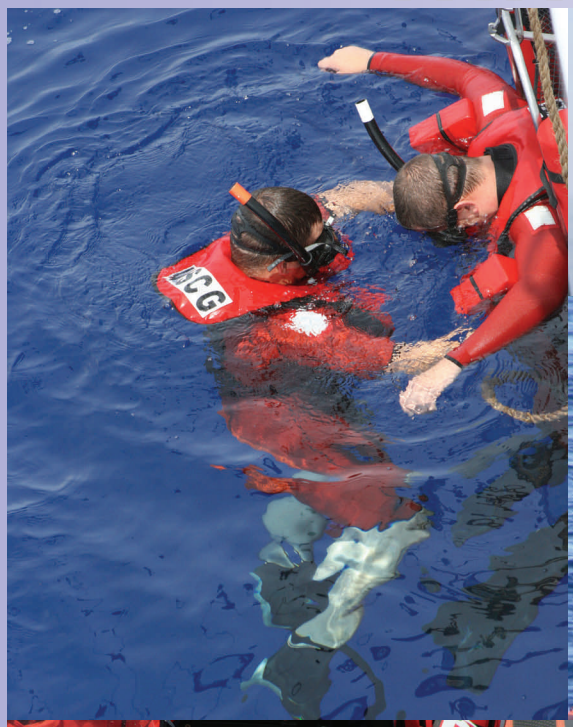
MORALE!



INSANITY™



PATROL SNAPSHOTS



DEPENDABLE IN THE NEWS

"...37 Haitian migrants were interdicted at sea on Monday and returned to Cap Haitien."

The Miami Herald

Cuban and Haitian migrants repatriated by Coast Guard

Nearly 100 Cubans and Haitians were repatriated Thursday to their respective countries by the Coast Guard.

Five separate groups of Cuban migrants were intercepted at sea on Saturday. The 55 were returned to Bahia de Cabanãs, Cuba, according to the Coast Guard. A group of 37 Haitian migrants were interdicted at sea on Monday and returned to Cap Haitien.

The Coast Guard Cutter Pea Island, based in Key West., repatriated the Cuban migrants and the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Dependable, based in New Jersey, N.J., repatriated the Haitian migrants.

To view the article, CLICK HERE

~XO's Corner~

DEPENDABLE Families !

As you can see we had a very busy and exciting patrol. We are also very busy with transfer season, as we are saying Good-bye and Hello to 20+ shipmates. It's time for me to move on as well. LCDR June Leshnover will be reporting June 25th as the new Executive Officer. I will be moving to Washington, DC to start work on Capitol Hill in July.

I would like to thank Lara Hayworth for filling in as Ombudsman over the last few months. She has done a great job with keeping us and you informed. For the rest of the summer, Laura Buckley will resume Ombudsman duties, until August. If you are interested in volunteering as the new Ombudsman please contact Laura (609-408-0824) or the XO (609-408-0842).

Please join us on July 18th at 6pm at the Harborview for Family Night. We will welcome new shipmates and families, enjoy food, and have raffle prizes, as well as some disaster preparedness information. More details as the date gets closer.

Thank you for all of your support over the last two years!

-LCDR Felger

Thank you all for your continuous support!

The Officers, Chiefs, & Crew of
USCGC DEPENDABLE (WMEC 626)
COUNT ON US!

Find us on the web!

www.uscg.mil/lantarea/cgcdependable/

www.facebook.com/USCGCutterDependable/