

# DILIGENCE

## SHORE TIES



Edition 08-01  
March 2008

JIATF-South Patrol

**DILIGENCE PATROL JANUARY 2008 – MARCH 2008**



**After spending the Holiday Season at home in Wilmington, DILIGENCE departed on January 12<sup>th</sup> for a two month Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) – South Patrol. JIATF-South is based in Key West, Florida and acts as the primary organization for the detection and monitoring of illicit drug trafficking in the Caribbean Sea and Eastern Pacific Ocean.**



**En route to the Caribbean, DILIGENCE made a quick stop in Mayport, Florida to complete Airborne Use of Force Training, qualifying DILIGENCE to embark and operate with an armed helicopter. Prior to leaving, DILIGENCE completed Ship-Helo Standardization (STAN) Training, a certification process designed to ensure DILIGENCE is equipped and ready to conduct helicopter operations while underway. DILIGENCE earned full certification during both sessions and after another brief stop in Key West for a mission in-brief, DILIGENCE was off to the Caribbean Sea in search of illicit drug traffickers.**

**Within days of arriving in the patrol area, the crew of DILIGENCE was already conducting boardings of suspect vessels. On the morning of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, DILIGENCE received report of a high-speed vessel traveling west towards Nicaragua. The vessel matched the description of a typical “go-fast” smuggling boat. DILIGENCE launched the Over the Horizon (OTH) small boat and began the chase. A law enforcement team from the USCGC TAMPA also assisted in the pursuit. In addition to US assets, Colombian forces joined in the chase and the combined efforts of the multinational law enforcement teams pushed the suspected smugglers toward waiting Nicaraguan naval forces. After a nearly five hour pursuit at speeds in excess of 35 knots, Nicaraguan maritime forces interdicted the vessel in their territorial seas and seized 4,400 pounds of cocaine and apprehended two narco-traffickers. The DILIGENCE crew was off to a great start!**



**The very next day, a DILIGENCE boarding team conducted a ten hour boarding of a fuel supply vessel, previously known to traffic illicit drugs. The boarding team was able to gain valuable information on the vessel in support of the JIATF-South mission.**



“Old City” Cartagena, Colombia

**On January 30<sup>th</sup>, DILIGENCE arrived in Cartagena, Colombia for the first port call of the patrol. While there, the crew hosted the Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) from the American Embassy in Colombia, Mr. Brian Nichols, and the Coast Guard’s Attaché to Colombia, CDR Joe Hester. After a meeting with the Captain and a tour of the ship, CDR Fears and the DCM advanced EM2 Franguille and BM2 Holston to Second Class Petty Officers.**

**After leaving Cartagena, DILIGENCE continued in her pursuit of narcotics traffickers. On February 9<sup>th</sup>, the DILIGENCE boarding team again conducted an approximately ten hour**

**boarding on a fishing vessel suspected of smuggling drugs. While onboard, the Boarding Team came across a somewhat unexpected obstacle – approximately 70 frozen cow hides! During the boarding, each hide was moved in an effort to check all aspects of the vessel. According to FS2 Frazier, “this is disgusting...”**

**After a thorough search of the vessel, the DILIGENCE Boarding Team disembarked and continued on her voyage. During the course of the patrol, DILIGENCE boarded four vessels suspected of trafficking narcotics.**

**On February 15<sup>th</sup>, DILIGENCE pulled into George Town, Grand Cayman Island for her second port call of the patrol. The crew enjoyed much deserved liberty time on the island with its white sandy beaches and crystal clear water. DILIGENCE was joined by her**



George Town, Grand Cayman Island

**shipmates from the Cutter BEAR, who also stopped**

**in Grand Cayman during the same time period. The chances of a port call on the island for a 210 foot cutter like the DILIGENCE is rare and the crew definitely enjoyed the opportunity.**

**After departing, DILIGENCE continued her patrol. Just before her transit home, DILIGENCE was diverted to assist a mariner in distress south of Jamaica. After separating his shoulder, the master of the sailing vessel was unable to complete his journey around the world and was drifting at sea. While en route, DILIGENCE was tasked to resume her patrol, as a passing Cruise Ship assisted the master.**

**After a brief stop in Key West, DILIGENCE is on her way back to Wilmington. After a long and successful patrol, the crew looks forward to seeing their families and loved ones again.**

**See You Soon!**

## **From the Captain's Chair**

**After a very exciting and long patrol, we're ready to come home! Working for JIATF-South has been a nice change of pace from our migrant interdiction patrols in the Straits of Florida and the Windward Passage. The crew has performed superbly and we even had a little fun while we were out here. The weather was unusually mild for winter in the Caribbean, and we enjoyed routinely high temperatures and low sea states. We knew we were headed home as we rounded the Western end of Cuba and the seas built and temperature dropped to a frosty 70 degrees.**

**We enjoyed the Lunar Eclipse at sea on February 20, conducted a few gunnery exercises, a skeet shoot, had swim call, several fish calls, hosted a few dignitaries, visited Hell, Grand Cayman, qualified a couple of new Cuttermen, and promoted several shipmates. All in all, it was a very productive patrol and we conducted operations that were essential to thwarting the flow of illegal drugs into the U.S.**

**We truly appreciate your continued support, thoughts and prayers. It has been one of our longer patrols and the last week was, in the XO's words, "like watching the sand slowly trickle through the hour glass." Well said. I'd like to thank our new Ombudsman, Mrs. Jennifer Pullen, for doing a superb job while we have been on patrol. Thank you again for your continued support.**

**Very respectfully yours,  
Commander Doug Fears  
Commanding Officer, DILIGENCE**

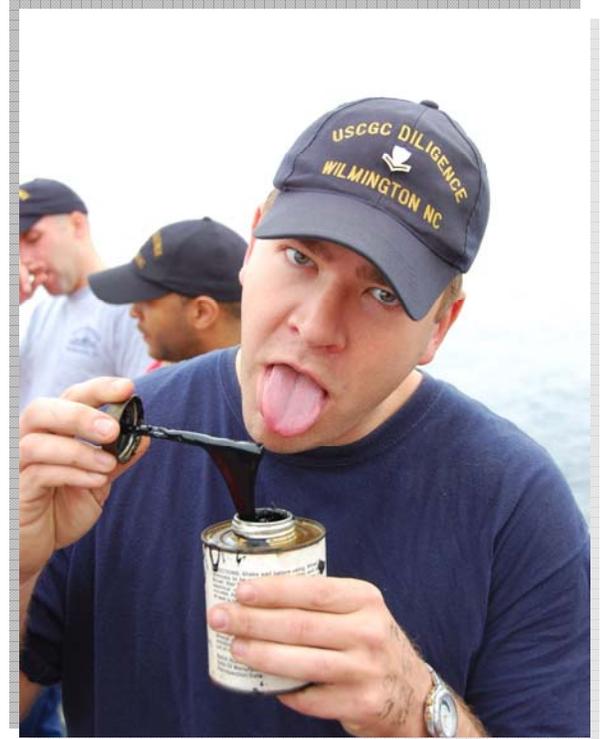


DILIGENCE with ARC GLORIA in Cartagena

# Getting Underway



BM2 Pate shows off his stuff during Special Sea Detail



ET2 Leonard...this explains so much...



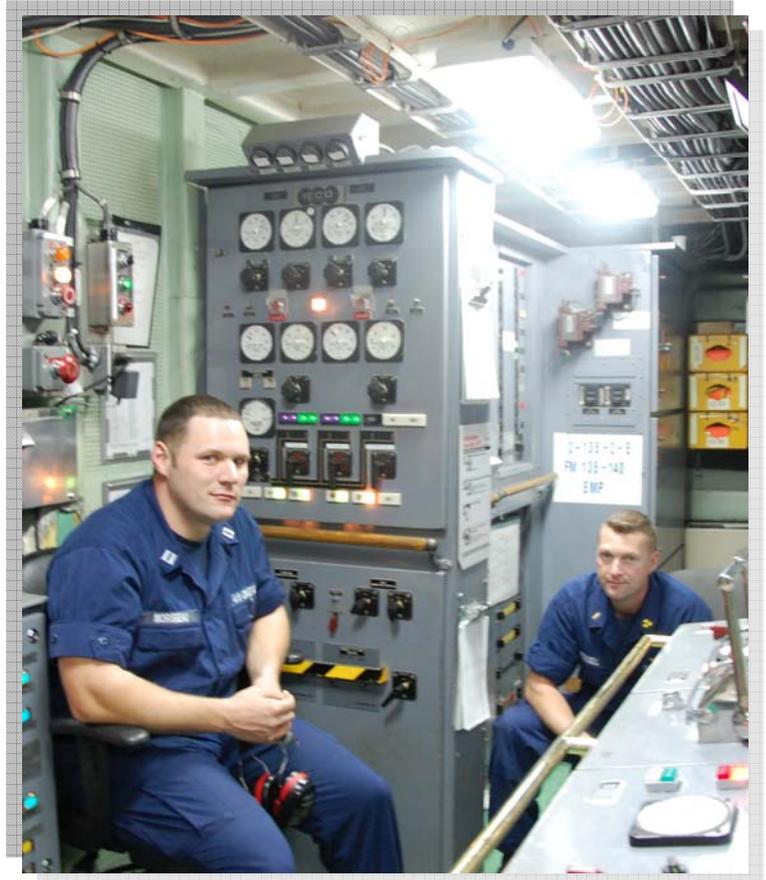
FN Sabo assists SA Moreira with his "gumby suit"



SN Alldredge, SN Castle, and SA Moreira standin' the look-out



GM1 Dendy and YN1 Cuomo talk it out



The view from "the hole" with LT Morisseau and CWO2 Russell

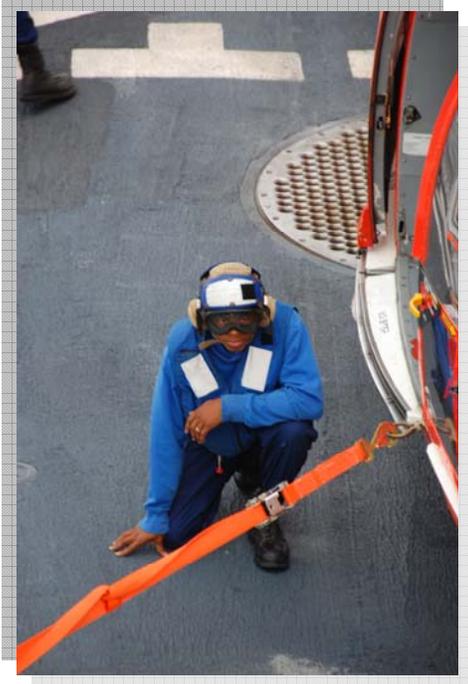


BM2 Holston during Special Sea Detail



SA O'Leary from the flying bridge

# Airborne Use of Force Certification



SN Suggs ties down the  
helo



Fueling Team prepares for in-flight refuel



The bird



YN1 gets LSO instruction from  
BMC Brown

# Life Underway...



DILIGENCE's Barber, YN1 Cuomo, gives GM1 Dendy a trim



FS2 Frazier ensures his gear is ready to rock



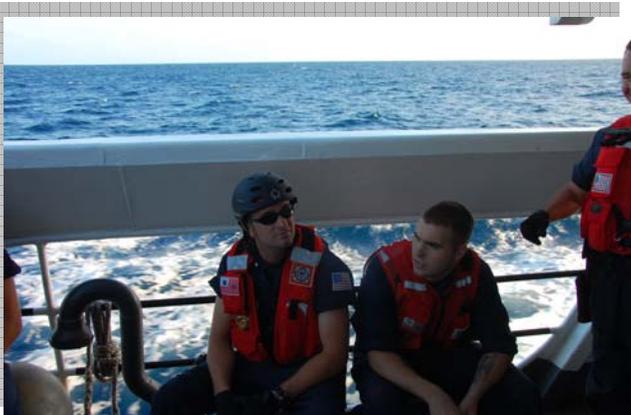
BM3 Uscanga records the events of the day



FS2 Frazier gets a spot from AMT3 Thacker



The DIL Boarding Team after hot pursuit of go-fast vessel



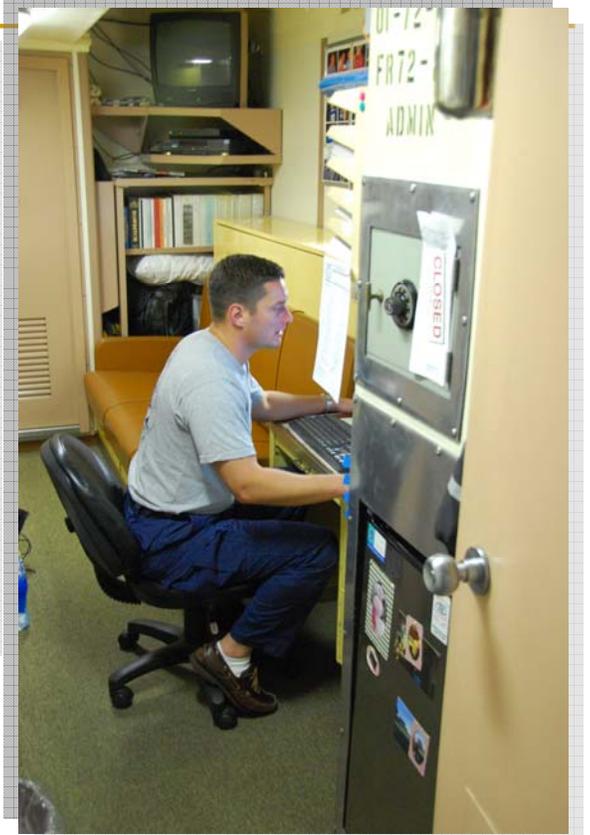
BM2 Pate and FN Elliot prepare for a boarding



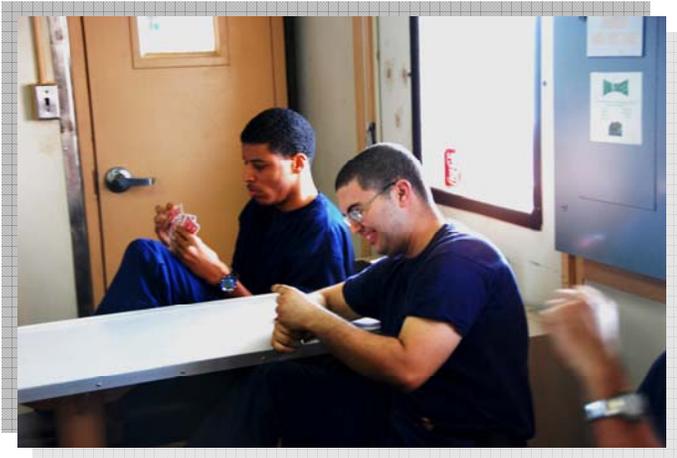
EM3 Fernandes changes some bulbs throughout the ship



FA Velez doing a round of the ship



LCDR Dettleff hard at work



OS1 Clay and MK2 Ricciardi



The Engineer Pow-Wow



LTJG Kilcullen "works" as ENS Drysdale scrubs the flight deck



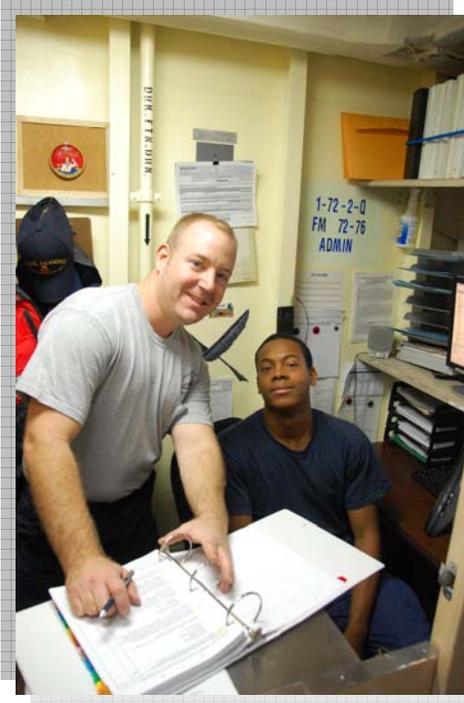
Lunar Eclipse (won't happen again until 2010)



ET2 Torbett thinks he got something...



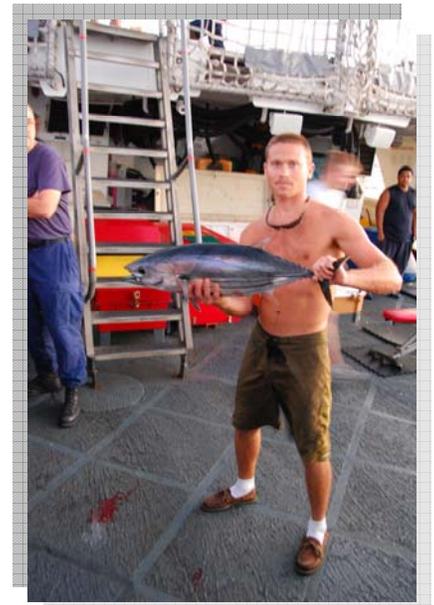
...so does everyone else...



SN Suggs begins "striking" YN



SN Leon "captures his thoughts" while studying



...well...it's something...



SA Lewis...taking all the sun for himself



MK1 Maples "hard at work..."



New additions to the DIL floating aids...

**SWIM CALL!**



CDR Fears enjoys some time on the fantail



SA LaGreca finally found the microwave!



BM2 Anthony is...well...bored?



SN Parshook and SN Alldredge on the helm



DC1 Bluthenthal and EM3 Fernandes show off the foil pants



More helo ops



Engineering Department meeting after quarters



Fueling team working their magic



How many "Deckies" does it take to paint a bulkhead?



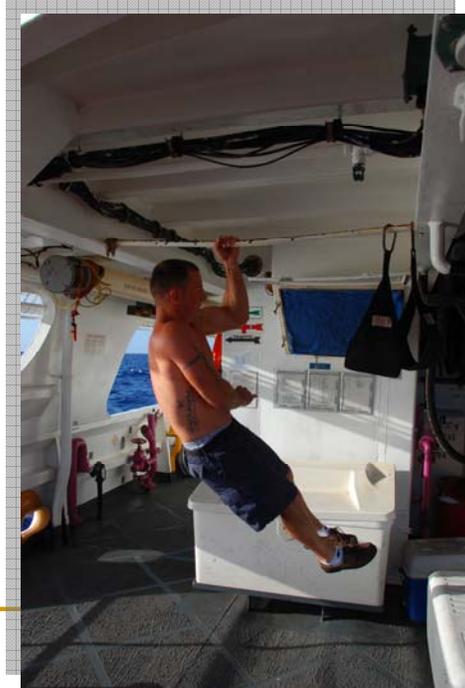
SA Cruz stands by in aft steering



SK1 Minnifield posing for his new record label



YN1 Cuomo showing off his new attire

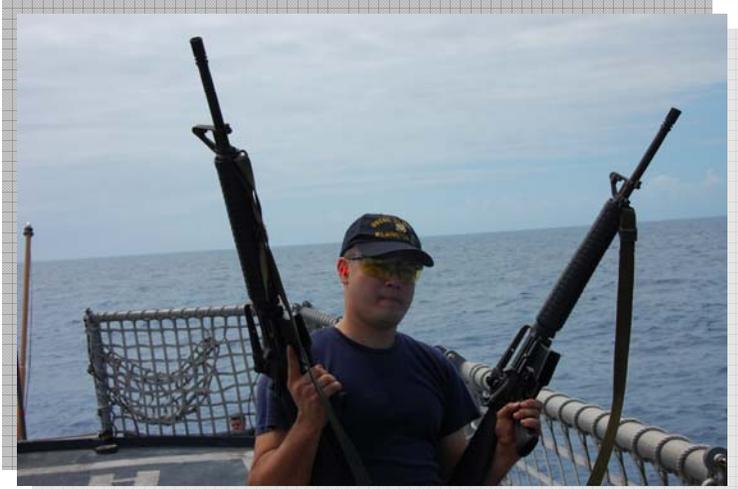


BM1 Holmes showing off again...

# GUNS!



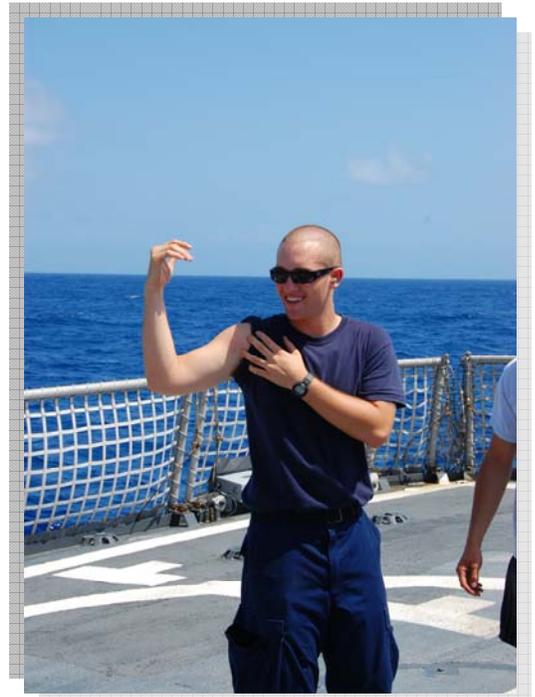
LCDR Dettleff tries his luck at the M16



FN Varela shows off his stuff



ENS Gonzalez goes skeet shooting on the flight deck



SA Shaffer marvels at his "battle wounds" after the skeet shoot



SA Shaffer...well...he tried...



It's reload time!



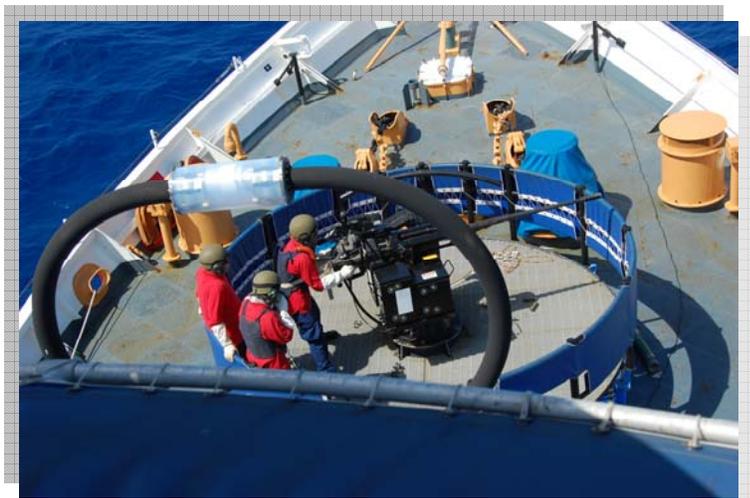
ENS Bonner prepares to lead DILIGENCE through a gunnery exercise



The result...



"Batteries Released!"



DIL unloads the 25MM!



GM3 "Little Guns" Prosser draws down



What precision...

# DC Olympics



HS2 Small describes immediate medical care



BM1 Holmes instructs the crew on the P-100 pump



The crew takes aim with the fire hoses



DC1 Bluthenthal is in his glory on DC Olympics Day!



Pipe patching on the foc'sle

# LIBERTY!

## Cartagena, Colombia and Grand Cayman Island



BM2 Anthony, ET2 Torbett,  
and FS2 Mazzuca battle the  
rocks in Cartagena



LTJG Sauerbrunn, LTJG Starr, ENS Bonner, and  
ENS Drysdale enjoy the sun



BM1 Holmes stands a taught  
watch in Cartagena



BM2 Harris, OS3 Bukowski, and SN Parshook  
chillin' in Colombia



ET2 Torbett and his newly acquired wardrobe



OS3 Amaral on the quarterdeck



LTJG Sauerbrunn and ENS Drysdale shopping in Colombia



DILIGENCE was joined by the CGC BEAR in Grand Cayman



On their way back from liberty in Grand Cayman



FSC Burgener rejoins the crew!



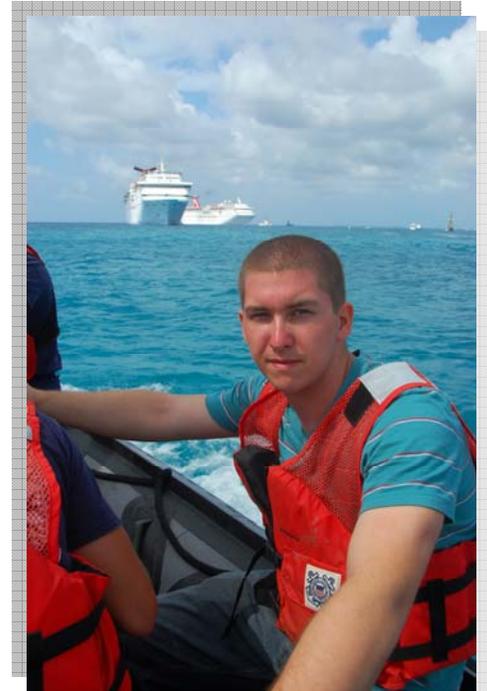
BM2 Pate, BM2 Anthony, ET2 Torbett, and BM3 Uscanga enjoy the Cayman Beaches



"Say hello to my little friend..."



This is definitely a tough job...but somebody has to do it!



SN Matthews heads back to the ship

# Mr. Brian Nichols' Visit to the DIL



BM2 Holston gains a set of crows



EM2 Franguille gets promoted in Cartagena



Mr. Nichols poses with a few members of DIL wardroom and newly promoted Petty Officers (in their red "American Embassy Bogotá, Colombia" hats)

# Promotions, Qualifications, and Everything in Between



BM2 Anthony and OS3 Amaral are advanced



BM2 Harris joins Deck Force, while BM2 Holston lays to the Bridge



SN Leon receives recognition for his outstanding efforts during STAN



LTJG Sauerbrunn is now a qualified underway OOD...Great Success!



MK2 Graco is DIL's newest Sailor of the Quarter



MK2 Ricciardi receives recognition for his outstanding and dedicated work in the Engine Room



ENS Drysdale and ENS Bonner receive their underway OOD qualifications



MKC Pullen receives his underway EOW qualification



MKC Pullen is now a permanent Cutterman...Argh!



SN Cronin receives a Good Conduct Award



ENS Bonner receives his temporary Cutterman's Pin



ENS Drysdale is also designated a temporary Cutterman



"Galley of the Year 2008"

CONGRATS!

FSC Burgener, FS1 Dorreman, FS2 Mazzuca, FS2 Frazier, FS3 Rich



**We'll be home soon!**

**Editor - ENS Josh Drysdale**

**Photographers - SK1 Tyrone Minnifield, IT2 Gabriel Pierce, ET2 Ryan Torbett**

**Questions or comments? Please email  
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