

DILIGENCE

SHORE TIES

Blue Rover Patrol



Edition 09-02

July - September 2009

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USCGC DILIGENCE, Wilmington, NC – On September 12th, 2009, USCGC DILIGENCE will return to its homeport of Wilmington, NC after patrolling the Yucatan Basin, Windward Pass and Straits of Florida in support of the Coast Guard's Seventh District's counter maritime smuggling drug and alien migration interdiction operations. Maritime smuggling pertains to all threats and all hazards from the sea. The major threats are from drug trafficking organizations, foreign terrorist organizations, and alien smuggling organizations and they come from four major vectors located in the Yucatan Basin, Windward Passage, the Bahamas and the southern Florida Straits.

On July 24th, DILIGENCE departed Wilmington, NC. During this patrol, DILIGENCE aggressively searched for vessels carrying contraband and illegal migrants attempting to enter the United States. DILIGENCE embarked three different helicopters from Coast Guard air stations in New Orleans, Borinquen, and Miami. DILIGENCE conducted over 200 launches, recoveries, in flight refuelings, and vertical replenishments during the 51 day patrol. DILIGENCE also integrated two Intelligence Specialists from the Atlantic Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center, who were responsible for collecting and interpreting all of the intelligence that lead to DILIGENCE's success this patrol.

Upon arrival in the Yucatan Basin, DILIGENCE rendezvoused with the USS KAUFFMAN, a guided-missile frigate. DILIGENCE and KAUFFMAN participated in a US Navy exercise with an international partner to validate command, control and communication protocols to include on scene hand-offs of suspected targets.

Afterwards, DILIGENCE transited to the Windward passage through the Cayman Trench. Once there, we were designated the Command Tasking Unit and assumed the responsibility of coordinating all of the air and surface assets in the

area to deter illegal migration through the Windward Passage. DILIGENCE returned to the Straits of Florida via the Old Bahama Channel completely circumnavigating Cuba!

One day underway was spent conducting Damage Control Olympics. Five different stations were set up with each one related to a basic DC skill, fire fighting, desmoking, dewatering, first aid, and pipe patching. Everyone learned something new, like that a peri jet pump does a great job at removing water from a flooded compartment. It also doubles as a pretty good fruit cannon.

DILIGENCE transited parts of the Great Bahama Bank. Great Bahama Bank is a shallow area just west of the Bahamas. On this bank, DILIGENCE conducted a bottom survey, taking soundings to verify charted depths and bottom characteristics. The fact that Great Bahama Bank receives a great deal of hurricane activity makes it imperative that regular inspections of the area are taken to obtain accurate depths. The data from DILIGENCE's survey will enhance the Coast Guard's ability to operate effectively in this area.

Soon after the survey, DILIGENCE organized and conducted a go-fast response drill with Coast Guard Station Islamorada, Sector Key West and District Seven Command Center. In this drill DILIGENCE received high recognition from Sector Key West for quick response and achievement.

Only a week later, the DILIGENCE crew was able to put their go-fast skills to the test. The lookout at the time, Seaman Apprentice Troyton Loggins, reported the presence of two go-fast boats. "After I spotted them, the adrenaline started moving right away and it didn't settle down for hours," said Loggins. The crew responded quickly to deploy the small boat and launch the embarked helicopter, in pursuit of the go-fasts. The boarding team consisted of Ensign James Toomey, Boatswain's Mate First Class Bryan Pate, Machinery Technician Second Class Andrew Dettmer, Machinery Technician Third Class James Elliot and Electrician's Mate Third Class Michael Griffin.

Thanks to expert driving by Petty Officer Pate, the boarding team closed the three mile gap to 1 mile over the next 2 hours. “We were so close that I could see the yellow and red stripes on one of the boats. I knew we had them!” said Petty Officer Dettmer. Some boat malfunctions slowed the pursuit, but thanks to Petty Officer Elliot’s ingenuity, the boat was running again with little time wasted. “I knew the problem had to be with the fuel, so I just went through the system and found clogged filters,” explained Petty Officer Elliot.

After a chase that lasted more than four hours and covered over 100 nautical miles, one of the go-fasts made it into Mexican territorial seas, and the boarding team’s pursuit had to stop. Aviation Maintenance Technician Third Class Michael Singer recorded the chase from the helicopter said, “It was frustrating watching the go-fast get away from us, however, the video evidence should help to identify the operators and that will hopefully lead to an arrest.” The crew’s quick response and hard work interrupted an illegal maritime smuggling event and led to the capture of the one go-fast vessel.

Amongst all the hard work that the crew did, there was still some time to relax and enjoy some fishing, swimming, and port calls. DILIGENCE made stops in Cozumel, Mexico, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Key West and Miami. Cozumel was a new port call for most of the crew and while we were there, we were able to go on trips to Mayan ruins and see some of the world’s best scuba diving and snorkeling. In Key West, the crew enjoyed another snorkeling trip and a ship’s party. A good time was had by all.

We would like to say thank you to everyone back home for keeping us in your thoughts and for sending all of your e-mails. We look forward to seeing you in just a few days.

**Sincerely,
The crew of DILIGENCE**



From the Helm

Greetings all Families, Friends, Mermaids, Sailors and Land Lubbers,

This has been a great deployment filled with tradition and operational firsts. For me to return to sea and lead such a consummate group of professionals is "Living the Dream". Although it has been a shift in PACE from the round the clock multi-faceted operations I dealt with at District Seven, it has been a welcome shift in focus. To again be reconnected first hand with the sailors and airmen that day in and day out protect our Nations Borders combating the very real trans-national threats that affect us all is an honor.



Knowing CAPT (select) Doug Fears (Congratulations - Sir) for over two decades, there was no doubt in my mind that I was inheriting a top-notch collection of skilled sailors. Having completed my first deployment in DILIGENCE, I know that I have been truly blessed and given the opportunity with the right crew at the right time to carry forward the DILIGENCE tradition and proudly represent "The Coast Guard City of Wilmington, North Carolina".

I am so very proud as I know you all are of the sailors in DILIGENCE. Together as a team they answered all bells, overcoming adversity with enthusiasm and professionalism. They represented not only the U.S. Coast Guard but the Whole of Government in operational discussions with one of our Partner Nation Maritime Service's. They blazed the path reaffirming charted depths in a well traveled smuggling corridor and validated the concept of a new Maritime Interdiction Force Package that resulted in the successful interdiction of a go-fast.

Their commitment to duty in service of our country is commendable and their personal sacrifice noteworthy. Your loved ones, my Shipmates performed superbly and we all owe a debt of gratitude to them. May God bless the families and friends of this fine group of sailors who serve to protect our great nation with Courage, Honor and Tenacity.

*Very respectfully yours,
Commander Harry M. Schmidt*

Special Sea Detail



**BMC Moore and BMI Pate
checking COMDAC**



**YNI Viera talking on the sound
powered phone**



**CDR Schmidt explaining mooring
with his carbon fiber cigar case.**



**ET I Nahikian taking a
break from shooting
bearings**

Underway Life



SN Terrizzi, SN Burns, SN Young, SN Ettinger, SN Boyer and SA Barnickle after rigging the KODIAK ISLAND in tow.



DC2 Pigeon, EM3 Griffin and BM3 Cronin hanging out after a long day.



SKI Minnifield being...SKI Minnifield



ENS Toomey and his stash are back!

Helo Ops



MK3 Elliot Fueling the helo



FN Perrier and SN Cantrell show how we are always waiting on the aviators



OS2 Amaral, SN Mills, SN Cantrell tying down the helo



Vertical Replenishment

DC Olympics



MKC Pullen and DCI Truelove show how to launching fruit with the peri jet.



SN Ettinger and FN Scarlett soft patching a ruptured pipe.



EM3 Griffin directs ITI Pierce (blindfolded) and SN Ditullio reenacting a smoke filled compartment.



HS2 Small demonstrates a tourniquet on SN Mills.

Swim Call



EO is ready to go snorkeling.



What's wrong ENS Miller?



SNSK Fonrose trying to fly.



FSC Drayer running the show.

Port Calls

Cozumel, Key West and Miami



FSC Drayer, MK1 Perez, MK2 Detmer, MK3 Elliot and MK3 Cox hanging at the beach.



MKC King and EMC Soto "helping."



BMI Pate, BM3 Clark and BM3 Grim in Key West.



MK1 Perez at the ship's party

Port Calls (cont.)

Cozumel, Key West and Miami



“Hola” from SKI Minnifield, YNI Viera, HS2 Small, EM2 Smith, MK2 Ricciardi, and EM3 Griffin



Snorkeling trip in Key West, FL



ET2 Torbett, SN Terrizzi, SN Green, SN Zienkiewicz, SA Loggins after some surfing.



CO, XO, ENS Borger, BMC Moore, ITI and the world traveling cow with their new cigar connection.

See You Soon!!



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Pictures: ENS Dan Miller

SKI Tyrone Minnifield

BMC Brian Moore

BM3 Michael Clark

SNYN Calvin Castle

Questions or comments please email

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