

DILIGENCE

SHORE TIES

“District 7 - Windward Pass Patrol”



Edition 08-03
September 2008

DILIGENCE Patrol

August – September 2008

On August 10th the crew of the DILIGENCE departed Wilmington, NC to patrol the Windward Pass, off Haiti's coast, for migrants attempting to gain illegal entrance to the U.S., the Bahamas, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Much of the patrol was spent staying safe from a very busy hurricane season. It appeared everywhere DILIGENCE turned another tropical storm or hurricane was headed in our direction. We kept a watchful eye, and over the course of the patrol successfully navigated through or around Hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike.

Although DILIGENCE was successful in avoiding damage from these storms, the islands in our operational area were not as fortunate. Haiti, the Bahamas, and the Turks and Caicos Islands were especially hard hit by Hurricane's Hanna and Ike.



In the wake of Hurricane Hanna, DILIGENCE coordinated logistics and communications for Coast Guard aircraft assessing the damage to Haitian cities and coastlines. DILIGENCE's crew transmitted images from detailed aerial assessments of the damage to the Coast Guard's 7th District Commander in Miami ensuring that approaching humanitarian relief efforts would be provided. DILIGENCE used its embarked helicopter in the first relief efforts to reach the flood devastated city of Gonaïves.

Following Hurricane Ike, DILIGENCE was directed to the island of Great Inagua, Bahamas, for initial damage survey and recovery efforts. Crewmembers spent three days ashore assisting in the massive clean up of Coast Guard Aviation Facility and local airport facilities.

The crew repaired a generator at the local water plant, reestablishing the water distribution to 1,200 inhabitants on the devastated island. The crew also removed wind torn insulation and other debris in and around the airport. The crew's efforts ensured supplies could continue to flow into the damaged city through local airport facilities.

DILIGENCE crewmembers also worked throughout the local community clearing hurricane debris. The crew cleaned up a local school campus that was significantly damaged due to flooding and fallen trees, and led local workers in clearing destroyed desks and ceiling tiles from classrooms. DILIGENCE's crew also assisted in cleaning up debris at two local churches, a local park and community center.

Approximately 18 hours into our first mid patrol break, DILIGENCE was recalled to assist with 43 Haiti migrants that had been rescued by a cruise ship and transferred to CGC VENTUROUS. In the last week of the patrol, DILIGENCE intercepted a sailing vessel suspected of smuggling migrants illegally to the U.S. This interdiction led to the successful repatriation of 83 Haitian migrants.

The crew enjoyed port calls in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on three separate occasions (more times than anyone expected), and San Juan, Puerto Rico while avoiding Hurricane Gustav, allowing the crew some much needed R&R.

On the home front, DILIGENCE welcomed two new members to its family. BMC Murray and YN3 Suggs both had new babies born during this patrol. Our congratulations go to both them and their families.

Thank you to everyone back home for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers, as well as sending all those emails. We never forget you while we are at sea. We can not wait to see you all soon.

Sincerely,

The crew of DILIGENCE

From the Captain's Chair

Dear family and friends,

This patrol has been an odd one, but a very successful one as well. We actively avoided 4 hurricanes in 4 weeks, provided hurricane relief to Haiti and the Bahamas and interdicted over 100 illegal migrants at sea and returned them to their home country. It has been a busy patrol protecting our homeland and living the Guardian ethos of rescuing others and providing humanitarian relief. It has been very satisfying work.



Your loved ones, my shipmates, performed superbly under some very unpredictable circumstances and managed to enjoy some liberty in San Juan, Puerto Rico and at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station.

We're looking forward to returning home to our families and enjoying some time catching our collective breath before heading back to sea in November. As always, thank you for your support, keeping the home front running smoothly and we'll see you in a few days!

**Very respectfully yours,
Commander Doug Fears**

Life Underway

**A little insight into
what we actually
“do” when we are
gone from home for
so long**



Small Boat Ops



AMIO



GO - Fast

**HS2 Small doing
Doc things for the
migrants**



**Little Haitian
Sail Boats**

**FSC Drayer guarding
the personal property**



Helo Ops



Yes, that's a man hanging from the cable



Good thing he has on a PFD



USCGC Eagle



Pre-Landing Checks

Drills...

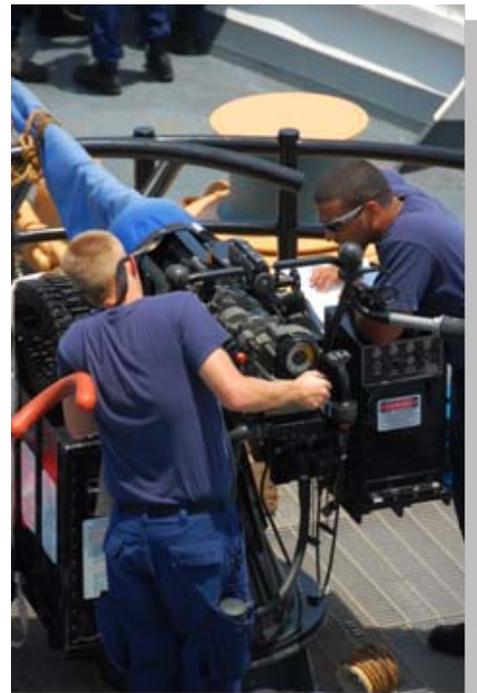


DC Olympics

Looking Good



Fire hose training



Gun shoot

And we can't forget to Navigate



BM2 Holston taking a bearing



OPS, always at the chart



**Watch Out!
XO on the lookout**



ENS Drysdale at the helm

The odds and ends



IT2 Pierce pumping some iron



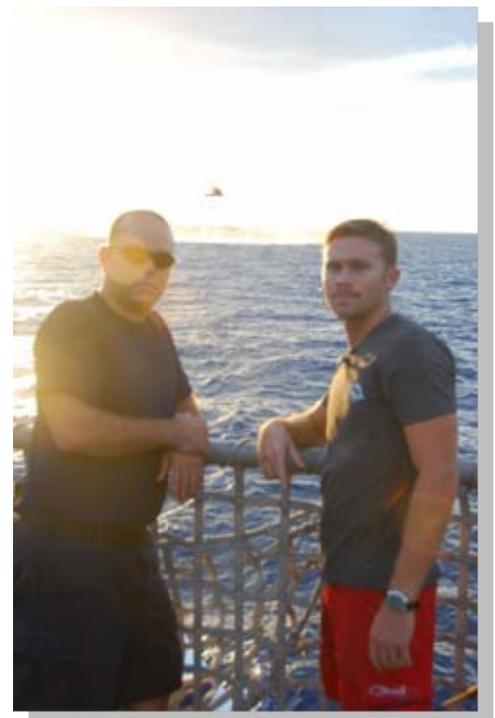
GTMO Security



OPS...



Deck Force at the ready



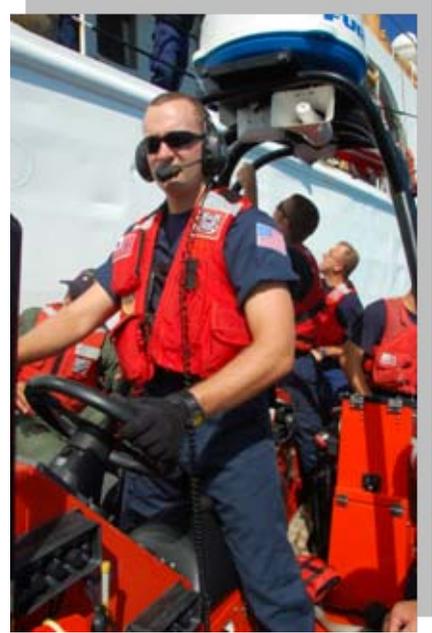
Relaxing



Debrief

Hurricane Relief Efforts on Great Inagua, Bahamas

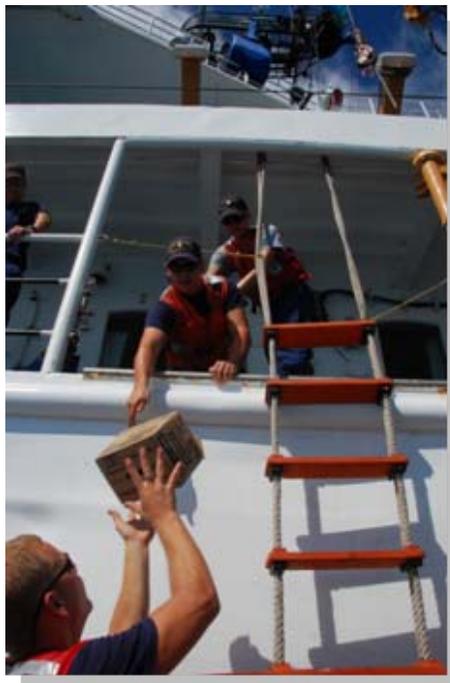
Day 1, Clean up at the Air Station



BM2 Pate at the helm



Crew departing for Great Inagua, Bahamas



BM2 Anthony Loading supplies

First "Wave" Ashore



BMC Johnson
Trying not to get
wet



The Storms Aftermath



Continued...



CG Air Facility Great Inagua



Clean Up Efforts



A little break from all the hard work





MKC King and others taking a “much needed” water break...

... MKC King moments before having too much fun doing work

Reconnecting the water supply



One of many loads to the dump



More Clean up at the air station



HS2 Small taking his turn with the fancy equipment



ENS Miller doing his share



ENS Drysdale I think you can fit more in the bag



MK2 Timmerman Dancing?

Day 2 and 3 , Back to assist around town



Work inside the school



ENS Gonzalez, CWO Cotton and others cleaning up a local school

Helping to patch a roof



**Crew helps remove a fallen tree
from a local church**



**Fixing the chain saw after
hours of cutting**



**DC2 Hunt flexing
his muscles**



**CDR Fears
surveying the
great work of
his crew**



And finally some Liberty! “A little fun in the sun!”

San Juan



GTMO

We Will Be Home Soon!!



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**Questions or comments please email
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