

DILIGENCE

SHORE TIES

Tailored Annual Cutter Training
+
District 7 – Florida Straits Patrol



Edition 08-04
December 2008

DILIGENCE Patrol **November - December 2008**



On November 9th USCGC DILIGENCE departed Wilmington, NC for Tailored Annual Cutter Training (TACT), as well as a patrol in the Florida Straits in support of Coast Guard Alien Migration Interdiction Operations (AMIO).

TACT is an annual multi-week training program where the crew is evaluated on their performance of 109 shipboard exercises from seamanship to damage control. Crew members train how to combat real shipboard emergencies in DILIGENCE as well as in specially designed simulators at the Navy Afloat Training Group in Mayport, FL. Two simulators provide the crew a chance to combat the most dangerous of shipboard casualties, fire and flooding. In the wet trainer the crew combated numerous flooding scenarios, including cracks in the hull, holes in bulkhead, ruptured pipes, and even a flooded compartment in which they had to egress to safety. This is the first time many crewmembers have fought a “real” flooding casualty with water rising all the way to the overhead of the compartment.

The fire trainer allowed crewmembers to practice fighting fires in real life conditions. The fires were real, the heat intense, and the smoke blinding. These two simulators help ensure that if an actually emergency occurs while at sea the crew will know how to respond saving lives and minimize damage to the ship. Throughout all evolutions the crew of DILIGENCE performed superbly and will carry what they learned throughout their careers at sea.

Thanksgiving was spent at sea, and though we missed our loved ones at home the cooks provided a wonderful feast. Many crew members enjoyed the holiday by fishing and playing games on the flight deck. The relaxation only lasted for a day, for the next few weeks were spent completing our AMIO mission in the Florida Straits.

While on patrol DILIGENCE successfully interdicted and held 74 Cuban migrants trying to enter the United States illegally. In addition, her crew assisted in the interdiction of two suspected migrant smugglers. While on patrol the crew also enjoyed liberty in Key West, FL on two separate occasions.

Thank you to everyone back home for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers, as well as sending all those emails, even though our e-mail connectivity was somewhat spotty this time around. We can't wait to see you all soon and be home for the remainder of the holidays.

Sincerely,

The crew of DILIGENCE

From the Captain's Chair

Greetings family and friends of DILIGENCE!

We've had another interesting and diverse patrol. We started with Tailored Annual Cutter Training (TACT) in Mayport, Florida. For you old-schoolers, this is the present-day version of our old Refresher Training (REFTRA). As with many things these days, the current version is more pleasant than the old. Nevertheless the training remains very productive.



During our first week of TACT we split our time between training and repairs. An underwater hull assessment had been conducted on DILIGENCE before we left home port and we discovered some pitted underwater hull areas that needed reinforcement. So our first week of TACT we had Navy divers working to weld a reinforcement plate in place to hold us over for dry dock repairs next year. Once our repairs were completed we hit the training hard; many days we were up at 0530 and finishing the training day 12-14 hours later. We powered through the remaining training requirements--from navigation, damage control, combat systems to deck evolutions. The crew performed superbly under our compressed training schedule. We satisfied all of the training thresholds to meet the requirements for the Coast Guard's Operational Readiness Award.

Once we had Mayport in our rear-view mirror, we made best speed to the Straits of Florida (so we could warm up)! As the newsletter points out, we had a number of Cuban migrants embarked.

Of particular interest, we were in the Straits of Florida when the Russian warships were coming to Havana, Cuba for a port visit. It's quite an historic event.

As always, we sure do appreciate all of your support and prayers while we've been at sea. We'll be home for Christmas!

**Very respectfully yours,
CDR Doug Fears
CO, USCGC DILIGENCE**

TACT



Mess Deck Training



ENS Miller

Deck Force



The Bridge Team

**YNI
Cuomo**



Pipe Patching

Crew members rig a P-100 pump during dewatering training



The ever leaking pipe



Shoring



Measure twice cut once!



Some handy work with a good old fashion hand saw

Putting the final product in place



The Wet Trainer



Plugging and patching during TACT drills



**Need to work quickly,
the water is rising fast**



Gun Shoot ... Watch Out!



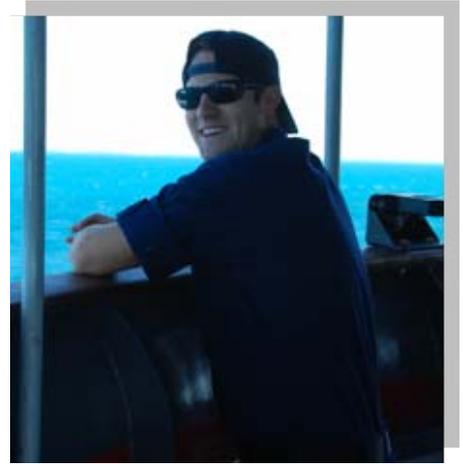
BM2 Holston and GM2 Prosser showing off the new weapon



Special Sea Detail



LTJG Drysdale



ENS Borger



Deck Force



The Bridge Team

Fish Call!!!



DILIGENCE “Fishing Team”

**CWO Cotton, ET1 Leonard,
IT2 Pierce, and ET2 Torbett**



Around the Ship



Promotion! LTJG Bonner, Drysdale, and Gonzalez, Congrats!



Gumby Training



OS3 Bukowski



The "Big Eyes"



LE Training

The odds and ends...



BM2 Anthony

**The 1st Class, ETI Leonard
and SKI Minnifield**



LE Training??? Or XBOX???



Nice pose EM3 Griffin

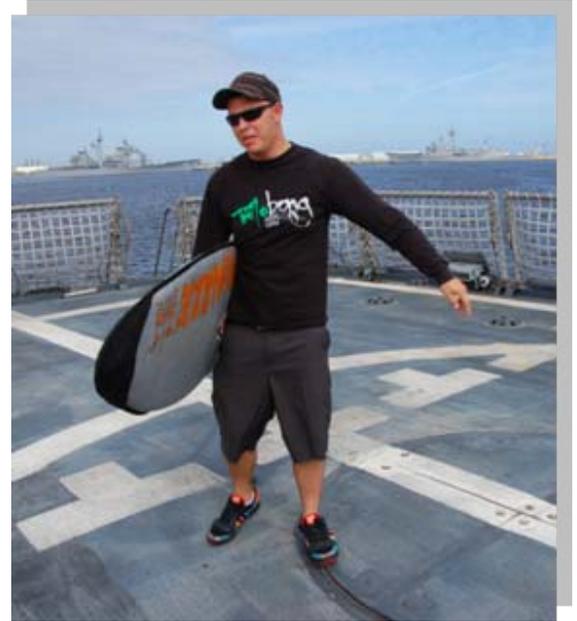


DILIGENCE Surf Club

“A little fun in the sun!”



ET2 Torbett



BM2 Anthony



We Will Be Home Soon!!



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Questions or comments please email
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