

DILIGENCE

SHORE TIES

JIATFS Deployment
+
TRADEWINDS



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DILIGENCE

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USCGC DILIGENCE Wilmington, NC – On January 25th, 2011 DILIGENCE’s crew departed the Coast Guard City of Wilmington leaving their friends and families behind bound for the Caribbean Sea to conduct several weeks of Counter-Drug Operations. After conducting airborne use of force workups and a day-long in-brief with the Joint Interagency Task Force South, out of Key West, FL, the ship made best speed to start the high-paced and action-packed mission of actively searching for and chasing down vessels hauling drugs and other contraband.

Shortly after reaching the operating area, DILIGENCE put herself in prime position to intercept and board a 180’ Honduran motor vessel suspected of carrying contraband. The boarding lasted for sixteen days and nights and was a true testament to the resolve, work ethic, devotion to duty, and teamwork that makes DILIGENCE one of the premiere cutters in the Fleet. DILIGENCE escorted the vessel into Honduras, transferred responsibility to Honduras, and acted as technical assistants to the Honduran government as they completed the boarding. Although no contraband was found, DILIGENCE was credited with disrupting flow in the region. Once the boarding was completed, DILIGENCE departed to continue the counter-drug mission in the Caribbean.

Only two days after leaving Honduras, DILIGENCE was tasked to locate and investigate the source of a 406 MHz emergency signal coming from the vicinity of Seranna Bank in the Western Caribbean Sea. Working in close coordination with the Colombian Coast Guard, DILIGENCE quickly discovered the source to be the sailing vessel Pulchras III hard aground and half underwater on the bank. DILIGENCE was able to make radio contact with the captain, who told us all six of the people onboard were injury-free and has abandoned ship to a dinghy. Because of the reefs along the bank, the Cutter was unable to maneuver close enough to get the survivors onboard, so DILIGENCE launched her small boat. Using his superior small boat skills and professionalism, coxswain BMI Andrew Kulig was able to safely maneuver within the numerous reefs around the bank to reach the survivors, safely embarking all of the survivors for further transfer to the safety and security of DILIGENCE without incident. We then worked with the Columbian Coast Guard to transfer the rescued six to San Andreas Island.

A few days later, DILIGENCE moored in Curacao. The brief three-night stay was the first time off the crew had since leaving Wilmington, NC a full month prior. Once there, most of the crew found the island quaint and full of beaches to kick back, relax, and take a well-deserved rest for a few days. Several of the Crew conducted a community relations project for a youth hospice on the island. Members of the Crew helped to remove debris around the hospice and constructed irrigation trenches so that the hospice could use their grounds to grow plants and vegetables. After which, several members of the Crew competed in a couple friendly softball games with our Dutch Coast Guard counterparts.

After our short stay in Curacao, we headed west to the islands of Antigua and Barbuda for the three-week long Operation Tradewinds. During Tradewinds, we worked with several Partner Nations' Coast Guards, Navies, and other government agencies that include Canada, Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and the Dominican Republic. DILIGENCE's crew put their expert seamanship, operations, and engineering skills to work and provided subject matter exchanges with the Partner Nations' crews.

During Tradewinds, DILIGENCE utilized its messdeck, wardroom, flight deck, and several other parts of the ship for review and collaboration on several shipboard topics. These included radio propagation, radar fundamentals, navigation, formation steaming, search and rescue, gunnery maintenance, damage control, first aid, and law enforcement to name a few. During our time at Tradewinds, we made countless friends with the rest of the nations' crews and the intermingling, teamwork, and mutual learning experiences were all evident on a daily basis. At one point, there was a massive get-together on our shared pier that only further strengthened the international ties between the Partner Nations. After several days of subject matter expert exchanges, all nations participated in collaborated underway drills. All of these exchanges and drills culminated in three days worth of different underway scenario-based exercises.

After three weeks, we left our new friends behind and have started our long anticipated transit back home to Wilmington, NC. As we sail back after a long but successful patrol, our thoughts turn to the eagerness of seeing our families and friends once more. We cannot thank our families and friends enough for their unwavering love and support. You are all just as important to DILIGENCE as the men who call her home for so many months out of the year. We're counting the minutes as we head northward and can't wait to embrace you all once again!

**Sincerely,
The crew of the DILIGENCE**



From the Helm

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



What an amazing deployment! When you go to sea for a career, you leave a piece of you behind with family and loved ones in exchange for the honor and privilege to serve. It is like paying it forward. The sacrifice made ensures that the very the foundation of our Country and its safety and security remain intact. And I humbly and sincerely THANK all those we leave behind who support us so that we may protect our way of life ,, The Coast Guard – Our Nation is greatly indebt to you for the sacrifice you make for keeping the home front on track while we are deployed.

As you have read, probably in amazement, from the Crew – your Guardians, this was one heck of an action packed, non-stop, diverse deployment. There is not a day that goes by in which I am not completely impressed with what my Shipmates, your Loved Ones, accomplish in the most efficient and professional manner.

The Crew has once again set a high bar for performance in the Caribbean receiving praise from Panama Express North for the 16-day boarding conducted under the auspicious of the Honduran bilateral agreement. It is a story that I look forward to tell those on the pier a little about, as I recognize the efforts of the Crew highlighting the boarding and access teams.

What really sets your Loved ones apart is their ability to adapted on a moments notice and shifts gears in mid-stream as evidence by their response to the SAR case describe by the Crew. What wasn't said is that we were in the middle of a handoff of a target vessel of interest to our Nicaraguan Partners when the call came in to make best speed to the distressed vessel. It is these fast paced multi-faceted operations that are ever present in District Seven waters that the Crew thrives on. With six lives saved, the story with a different twist continued in Antigua-Barbuda, as we were tasked to promote regional security and cooperation thru enhancing interoperability – my objective through all that was to take it to the next level and continue to build the foundation by which Partner Nations beyond TRADEWINDS continue to work together with U.S. Maritime Forces and execute real world operations thereby extending our 3rd Border, adding another layer of defense against illicit trafficking and trans-national threats.

To this end, the Crew did a fantastic job beyond which words can adequately describe – they received accolades from our Atlantic Area and District Seven Commanders living our Core Values of Honor - Respect - Devotion to Duty

It has been a long road putting DILIGENCE back together after our dry docking but we have Steadied this part of the Service and returned to a high level of readiness. Through deeds not words the Crew has Honored Our Profession and Strengthened Our Partnerships all while Respecting Our Shipmates, proudly serving as a distinguished representative of “The Coast Guard City of Wilmington, North Carolina”.

I like you are very proud of the sailors in DILIGENCE. Together Team DILIGENCE answered all bells and set their mark for operational excellence with enthusiasm and professionalism. They represented not only you, the U.S. Coast Guard but the Department of Defense and Whole of Government in a critical role, enhancing Partner Nation capabilities that are so very vital to our National Security.

Their commitment to duty in service of our country is commendable and their personal sacrifice noteworthy. Your loved ones, my Shipmates performed superbly. 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

UNDERWAY

EO Celebrates a Successful Full Power Engine Trial



ME3 Behind the Chart Table

IT2 Diaz Prepares to Shoot Bearings



UNDERWAY



**ETI Says Hello to
DILIGENCE's Stow Away**



**Engineers Hard at
Work**



**Deck Department
launches the Small Boat
in the Pouring Rain**



**We thank the Crew of a
Honduran Naval Vessel for
their contribution in a joint
Rescue and Assistance Case**

UNDERWAY



**New Members of
DILIGENCE Don
Survival Suits**



**SN Rodriguez mans
the Scullery**



**The Engineers
Audition for Deck
Department**

**ETI Catches the Only
Fish of the Patrol**



UNDERWAY

Quarters



**Crew Members Show Off the Generous Donation
From Flotilla 054-26-01**



**Crew Members are Presented Their Temporary
Cutterman's Pins**

Underway Helo Operations



**Refueling Team Hard
at Work**



**The Tie Down Crew
Moves in to Secure the
Helo**



Underway

FS Department



FS2 Renner Discusses Food Preparation with Partner Nations

FS2 Renner and FN King Prepare the Galley to Cook for the Crew



FS3 Ladd takes a Break from the Galley to participate in DC training



SAR

PULCHRAS III



PULCHRAS III Hard Aground at Seranna Bank



SN Loggins and BM2 Clark Take Command of the Dingy



Transporting the Crew Members of PULCHRAS III

SAR PULCHRAS III



**Carefully Handling the
PULCHRAS III Small
Boat**

**Columbian CG Arrives to
Transport the Crew
Members**



**The Crew Members of PULCHRAS III Wave
Goodbye After Departing DILIGENCE**

PORT CALL!

Curacao



**A View of Willemstad,
Curacao From the Air**

**The Engineers Prepare
for the Port Call**



**DCI Enjoys a Relaxing
Round of Golf**

PORT CALL

Curacao: Community Relations

Prepping a Field for Farming at a Local Orphanage



A Group Picture After a Successful Day of Community Service

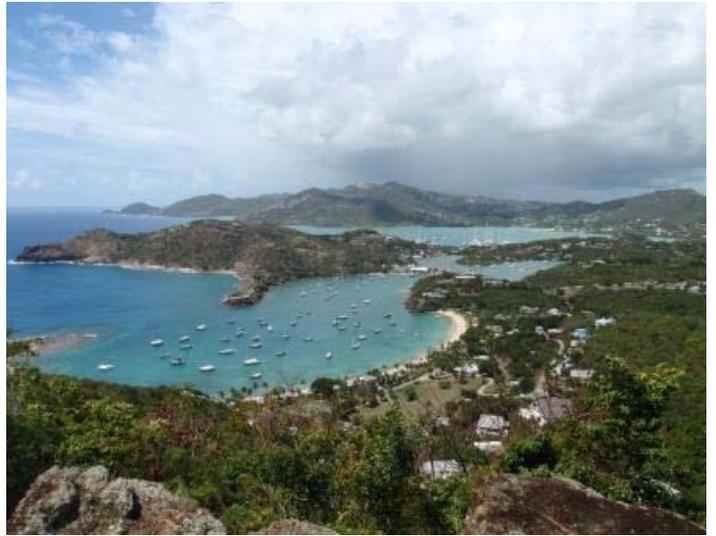


Playing Softball With the Dutch Coast Guard

Trade Winds

Antigua and Barbuda

**The Beautiful
Island of Antigua**



**MPA Immediately
Makes a New
Friend**

**Hosting Good Morning
Antigua onboard
DILIGENCE**



Trade Winds Ceremony



**Partner Nations Form Up
For the Opening Ceremony**

**CO Delivers Opening
Remarks**

**The Wardroom and Chiefs Mess Hosts
Members of Partner Nations For Lunch**



Trade Winds Ceremony



**DILIGENCE Opens its
Brow for Public Tours**

**Members of
DILIGENCE and the
U.S. Marine Corps
observe Evening Colors
Together**



**Members of DILIGENCE work with members of the
Partner Nations as Side Boys During a Distinguished
Visitors Event onboard DILIGENCE**

Trade Winds

Class Room



**Practicing Mo-Boards
with Trinidad and
Tobago**

**Participating in
Stretcher Bearer
Training with
Canada**



**Going Over First Aid with
the Dominican Republic**

**Practicing 50 Caliber
Machine Gun
Procedures with the
Dominican Republic**



Trade Winds

Damage Control



**Members of DILIGENCE
Practice their DC Skills in
the Wet Trainer**

**Practicing Fire
Hose Handling
Skills with
Barbados**



**FNMK Hurley and
Widney Demonstrate
BECCEs to Partner
Nations**



Trade Winds

Damage Control



Practicing Shoring Techniques with the Canadians

Taking a Break from DC Training



Pipe Patching Practice with Trinidad and Tobago

Trade Winds Law Enforcement



**DILIGENCE Members
Role Play during a
Mock Boarding with
Partner Nations**



**FNMK Hurley
Demonstrates Hand
Cuffing Techniques to the
Dominican Republic**

Trade Winds Gun Shoot



Ready to Open Fire

**On the Bridge
During the Shoot**



Nice Shot!

Trade Winds

Underway Exercises



**Rescue Swimmer
Training**

**A View of Barbados's
Small Boat and
Cutter**



**Responding to a
mock Go-Fast For
the Distinguished
Visitors**

Trade Winds

Underway Exercises



SN Serrano and OSI Clark Get Underway on the Dominican Republic Boat for Training

The Trade Winds Fleet Anchors for a Night of BBQing, movies, and socializing onboard DILIGENCE.



Hoisting the National Ensign For Formation Steaming

Trade Winds

Underway Exercises



**The Multi-national Trade Winds Fleet
Practices Formation Steaming
“One Fleet, Many Faces, United by the Sea”**



We will see you soon!

**If you have any questions or comments please contact ENS James Heuser
at**

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