

DILIGENCE

SHORE TIES

District 8 Patrol...or so we thought...



Edition 10-01
January - March 2010



DILIGENCE Patrol on **VENTUROUS** **January – March 2010**

***USCGC DILIGENCE, Wilmington, NC* – On March 7th, 2010, the USCGC DILIGENCE crew currently operating onboard USCGC VENTUROUS in support of the Atlantic Area Mission Effectiveness Project, will return to St. Petersburg, FL after a 56 day patrol. VENTUROUS departed St. Petersburg on January 11th to conduct fisheries law enforcement and border security operations in and around the Gulf of Mexico.**

Before beginning patrol VENTUROUS spent 3 days testing and drilling off the west coast of Florida conducting a helicopter standardization inspection. The crew earned high marks and were excited to begin a new patrol in the Gulf of Mexico, an area few had sailed before. Seaman Giacomo Terrizzi said, “Helicopter training provided me with the opportunity to learn new skills and become qualified as a tie down crewmember, it was a great experience and I look forward to completing our mission.” In the wake of the tragic earthquake that struck Haiti, VENTUROUS was quickly reassigned to Operation Southeast Watch, a massive effort to ensure safety of life at sea by deterring, detecting, and interdicting Haitian migrants.

Enroute to the Windward Passage VENTUROUS was diverted to respond to a distress call from an overdue fishing vessel taking on water that had lost propulsion and steering. Once arriving on scene VENTUROUS crew stabilized the flooding and attempted to fix the steering and propulsion.

The repairs could not be made at sea and the fishing vessel was taken in tow to Key West, FL. While in the vicinity of Key West, VENTUROUS conducted a Non Compliant Vessel Use of Force Certification with Coast Guard District 7 Tactical Law Enforcement Detachment and staff. This exercise provided the crew the ability to practice high speed chase maneuvers as well as fine tune coordination between different assets and agencies.

After certifying her boat crew and operations watch standers with high marks, VENTUROUS was tasked to Command a Surface Action Group of 3 cutters responsible for the waters bounded by Cuba and the Bahamas from the Windward Pass to the Straits of Florida.

After only a week, VENTUROUS was diverted into Miami, FL due to a hydraulic oil leak on one of the controllable pitch propeller blades. Divers attempted to fix the blade at the pier, but were unsuccessful requiring VENTUROUS to enter emergency dry dock in Jacksonville, FL. During the three weeks spent waiting for the award of the emergency dry dock contract the crew performed much needed repairs and upgrades on VENTUROUS. Many elected to also assist the local community by seeking volunteer opportunities. A group of crewmembers spent a week volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. Chief Javier Viera said, "It was my first time volunteering for Habitat and having the ability to help those in need as well as represent our service was an uplifting experience."

The crew also made the most of Miami by enjoying the zoo, Pro Bowl, Super Bowl, and Daytona 500. All photographic evidence is included in the following pages...well most of it is anyway.

Thank you to everyone back home for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers, as well as sending all those emails. We can't wait to see you all soon.

Sincerely,

The crew of DILIGENCE

From the Helm



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

It's been an interesting deployment filled with tradition, operational twists and maintenance realities. It was great to reconstitute the crew, return to sea and hone our skills after leaving DILIGENCE high and dry in the CG Yard. As I have said before to lead such a consummate group of professionals is "Living the Dream". They continue to impress overcoming adversity with a great sense of humor and drives that I have grown accustomed to and appreciate.

With laser focus on mission accomplishment and an eye on new fishing grounds to conquer, we departed Saint Petersburg, FL after conducting a crew-swap on VENTUROUS. Fulfilling this part of the Atlantic Area's Mission Effectiveness Project was a shift in perspective from what Cutter crews deal with during a normal tour but nonetheless it was a welcome shift in focus to experience first hand what others are facing and overcoming in the Fleet. This opportunity also served to prepare us to operate the "new and improved DILIGENCE" after she completes her extended dry docking to upgrade critical shipboard systems, add greater capabilities and standardize configuration.

I talk a lot about setting the PACE to ensure we are successful meeting the demands of round the clock multi-faceted operations. After a few days aboard VENTUROUS with the sailors and airmen that day in and day out secure our Nations Borders my Shipmates and I learned what it means to be "Always Ready".

With the tragic events on the island of Hispaniola, we got the call to shift gears from our District Eight Fishery and Border Security patrol and precede at best speed to the effected area under tactical control of District Seven. Along the way, we made an impact on the lives of some distressed fisherman. Quick to jump into action, your loved ones using their engineering, damage control and deck seamanship skills assessed the situation and effected temporary repairs to ensure lives were saved and their boat could be towed to a safe haven in the Florida Keys.

After a sip of fuel, we assumed Command of a layer of defense to deter the possibility of a mass migration. As we provided feedback to the Commodore in charge of the Coast Guard response, we found a problem that would lay us up for a month. Holding the dubious honor of Commanding two Cutters in dry dock is not something I'd like to repeat but with everything fixed, I write proud of the resiliency of the crew and the work they accomplished to ensure that we are giving VENTUROUS back to her crew in better shape than we received her.

It is that very mindset those that sail in DILIGENCE hold that I believe set her apart from the fleet and makes her a proud symbol serving as a distinguished representative of "The Coast Guard City of Wilmington, North Carolina".

Like you, I am very proud of the sailors in DILIGENCE. Together as a team DILIGENCE crew answered all bells and overcame great adversity with enthusiasm and professionalism. They represented not only you, the U.S. Coast Guard but the Whole of Government in a critical response to the tragic events in Haiti 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,

Harry M. Schmidt
Commander Harry M. Schmidt

The Patrol Leaving St. Petersburg



**CGC JOSHUA
APPLEBY**



**Sister Ship
CGC RESOLUTE**



Sector St. Pete



**Deck Department...who
thought FL was going to
be cold??**

The Patrol

Helicopter Standardization Training



**Vertical
Replenishment**



**In-flight refueling
(HIFR)**



**In-flight refueling
(HIFR)**

“Cold” Refueling



The Patrol

Search and Rescue



Agape IV



In tow



Deck Force at work!!



Sector Key West



On Scene



New CB-L

The Patrol Gun Shoot



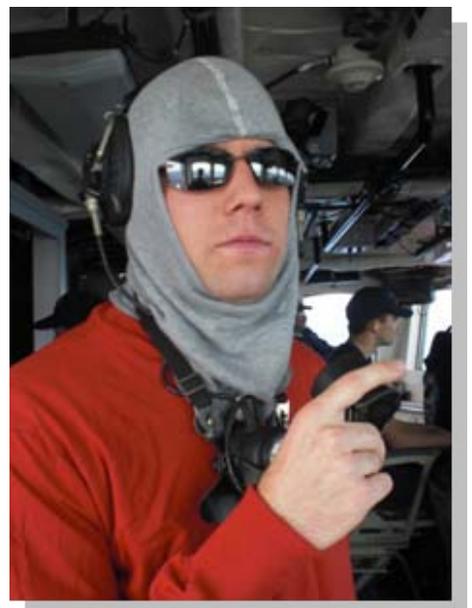
GMI Keane



BM2 Clark at the ready

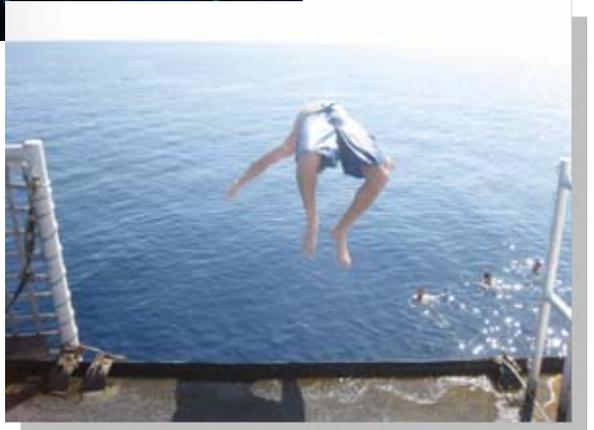


Better Watch Out !!!



WEPS

The Patrol Swim Call !!!



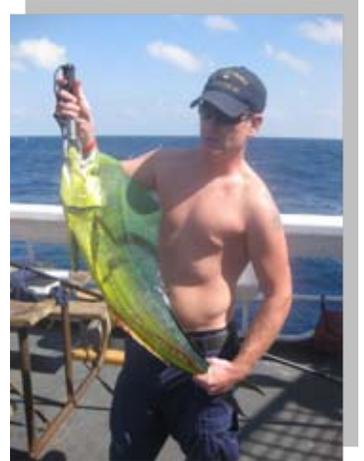
The Patrol

Down, Down All Lines....



SN Fell

BM3 Grim



The Catch!



ITI Pierce



Up, Up All Fish!

The Patrol “Wildlife”



Miami Zoo

**The Pigeon that set sail
with us from St. Pete**



LTJG Toomey's pet

Miami Zoo



Miami “Pro Bowl”



SN Ettinger



ENS Persun
(one with scary stash)

+

BM2 Clark



Miami

“Wetting Down”



The New JG's:
LTJG Toomey
LTJG Borger
LTJG Miller
LTJG Weibel



Cleaning up.....

Miami

“Habitat for Humanity”



**ENS Olson and
MKI Perez**



**Watch Out!
FN Porras**



All the volunteers



DC3 Sawyer



EMC Soto



**ENS Olson with local
volunteer**

Miami “DAYTONA 500”



Dry Dock Atlantic Marine Jacksonville, FL



**The Ship
Looks
Much
Bigger
In
Person**



XO



**The reason we were
there....**



Leaving !!!!

We will be Home Soon!!!!

We Promise



Editor: **LTJG Matt Borger**

Picture Credits: **LTJG Matt Borger**
 LTJG James Toomey
 CWO Mike Hernandez
 SKI Tyrone Minnifield

**If you have questions or comments please contact ENS Mike Persun at
Michael.M.Persun@uscg.mil**