

# **DILIGENCE**

## **SHORE TIES**

**Training Availability**

**+**

**Emergency Dry Dock**

**+**

**District 7 – Windward Pass Patrol**



**Edition 10-04**  
**December 2010**

# **DILIGENCE**

**October - December 2010**



**USCGC DILIGENCE Wilmington, NC – On October 4th, 2010 DILIGENCE crew departed the Coast Guard City of Wilmington leaving their families behind bound for Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, VA to conduct two weeks of TRAV (TRaining AVailability) in order to get the crew back up to operational speed prior to deploying in support of Coast Guard District Seven for Counter-Drug and Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations. The trip started with a “bang” thanks to the galley staff and the formidable sushi skills of Chef Lee of Wilmington’s “Bento Box” restaurant. Chef Lee sailed with us to Little Creek providing floating instruction on the art of sushi preparation, rolling, and eating.**

**The TRAV period included various training topics such as damage control, small boat and rescue swimmer, flight deck, law enforcement and weapons qualifications. The obvious highlight of all the training was the OC spray certification (for those watching the patrol DVD!). There were a few long days as well as some short ones. For many new crewmembers this was an intense introduction into what was expected of everyone in the event of an actual emergency, for the Old Salts it was a reminder to stay vigilant and to continue to stand a taunt watch. For everyone, it was a reminder of who your Shipmates were and why we depend deeply upon each other!**

**Once the TRAV period was completed DILIGENCE headed over to the Lyons Shipyard in Norfolk, VA for emergency repairs on her hull. Fortunately, since DILIGENCE had just departed a dry dock period, the crew knew what to expect and there weren't many surprises. There were many fire watches stood as the welders and yard personnel worked literally around the clock to complete the necessary repairs. Once completed and all the "I's" had been dotted and all the "T's" had been crossed, DILIGENCE and her crew were floated and on their way continuing their deployment in and around the Windward Passage.**

**DILIGENCE and her crew settled into the normal routine of standing watch, doing the occasional drill and other necessary training for about a week before she pulled into Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Once there, the crew was able to call home, blow off what little steam had built up, relax and restock any necessary supplies that would get us through the rest of the trip until our return home.**

**Leaving Guantanamo Bay was bittersweet because that is one place that is not at the top of your "places to visit" list, nor is it at the bottom. After a quick transit back to the Windward Passage, the crew once again adjusted and quickly settled back into the daily routine of standing watch, completing reports, doing the weekly field day and eating the yummy food provided by the galley staff.**

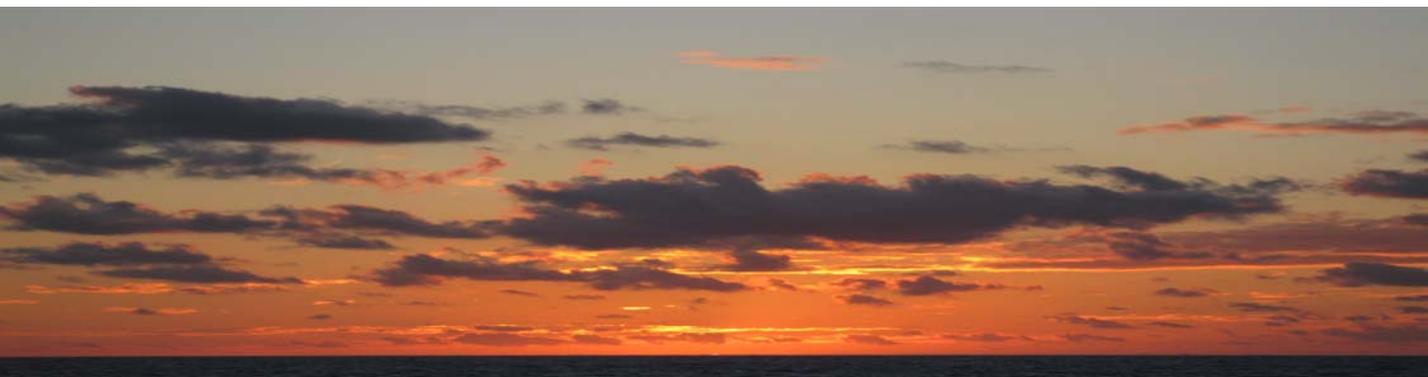
**Again, after what seemed to be a short week, DILIGENCE departed our assigned patrol area and headed east along the island of Hispaniola, mooring in the beautiful port city of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. Once there, some crewmembers enjoyed down time at one of the local resorts, while others took tours of rain forests, waterfalls and the famous Dominican Republic cigar factories. MKI Pablo Perez along with DCI Shane Truelove took a three hour bus ride to visit with family members that MKI Perez hadn't seen in a quite a few years. Needless to say, it was quite a cultural experience for DCI Truelove.**

**Leaving Puerto Plata on November 24th meant that DILIGENCE was getting closer to home! With Thanksgiving the next day, the crew anxiously awaited their turkey dinner prepared by FSC Drayer and served by the CO and XO with the junior officers doing dishes in the scullery. And, for those wondering, it is true that if you eat too much turkey and pie you will contract the “itis” and have to unbutton the top button and take a nap. Well, ITIS; but fortunately, if you eat early enough in the day and the cook is generous, you can come back for more!**

**Once again the DILIGENCE and her crew settled into the daily routine of a Windward Passage deployment. Midway through the final week a helicopter and crew from Air Station Savannah, GA was brought onboard to extend our horizon and complete needed qualifications and re-qualifications. This made for a few long days but once all qualifications were attained the helicopter and her crew departed allowing the crew to really begin to make plans for returning home. This meant it was time to spruce up the ship and make her pretty for all to see when she returned home, but not too pretty, this is a working ship not a cruise liner!**

**As we edge ever closer to home along the south eastern coast of our great country our thoughts turn more acutely towards you, our families and friends. Without the support we receive from you at home our profession would be a lot harder to undertake. For that support we say thank you! We are all anxious to be home.**

**Sincerely,  
The crew of the DILIGENCE**



# From the Helm



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

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Commandant and Ancient Mariner of the Coast Guard spoke at the Cutterman's Memorial Dedication and reminded us that we have a solemn duty, "To Honor our Profession and Respect those Shipmates who have gone before us. All of us share in the obligation to observe and practice the manners of our profession. You won't find these manners written up in any book, any document, or any publication. These manners are observed, taught and experienced. They are felt in the heart."

Well, it is from the heart in this Holiday Season that I wish all our fans good health and prosperity in the coming year; and, although spending Thanksgiving away from loved ones is hard on all, I could not ask for a better or tighter group of dedicated professionals to spend it with. I am honored for the privilege to serve with those who sail in Team DILIGENCE executing the Coast Guard Missions that keep our Nation's borders safe and secure.

Since our return to the very proud Coast Guard City of Wilmington, North Carolina it's been a TRAIL BY FIRE to ready CGC DILIGENCE for her 1st operational deployment in a year. When you think you have seen it all and adapted to the myriad of twists and turns, one realizes that if we remain true to our profession, to our core values and live our Ship's Motto, which many of you know to be as, COURAGE - HONOR - TENACITY at the end of the day it all comes together.

The hard work, dedication and commitment to service displayed around the clock makes me extremely proud of your loved ones, my Shipmates. They have truly overcome the challenges left over from our 9-month dry docking and at every turn responded with a can-do attitude and enthusiasm in the face of adversity.

Although we successfully completed sea trails, the Afloat Training Group's ready for sea evaluation, an intense in-port gauntlet of inspections and corrected numerous deficiencies left over from our Mission Effectiveness Project, we found ourselves where we were almost one year to the day - back on blocks in an emergency dry dock.

Through unity of effort, flexibility and laser focus on Mission Execution, the Crew didn't miss a beat. To return to sea leading a consummate group of professionals is, as I have said before, "Living the Dream". They continue to impress, incorporating a great sense of humor while setting the standard for multi-faceted operations.

With our long awaited deployment complete, the Crew looks forward to decompressing with family and friends, having demonstrated the resiliency required to secure our Nations Borders and be "Always Ready".

I, like you, are very proud of the sailors in DILIGENCE. Together Team DILIGENCE answered all bells and represented not only you, the U.S. Coast Guard, but the Whole of Government in a critical primary border security role to deter and dissuade illegal migration that is so 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

# Departing Wilmington

**Saying Goodbye to  
Loved Ones**



**Chef Lee Instructs in the Proper Sushi  
Rolling Technique**

**Passenger Transport  
with the Assistance of  
Station Oak Island**



# TRAV

## Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, VA



**Towing Practice**



**Damage Control**



# Emergency Dry Dock Norfolk, VA



**Setting Up for DILI**



**Going on the Blocks**



**DILIGENCE Lit Up at Night**

**Cutting a Hole**



**All Fixed!**

# EDD

## EDD Training



**Flight Training:  
SN Cantrell  
makes a fine Helo**

**Law Enforcement  
Training**



**BM3 Grim conducts  
VERTREP training**

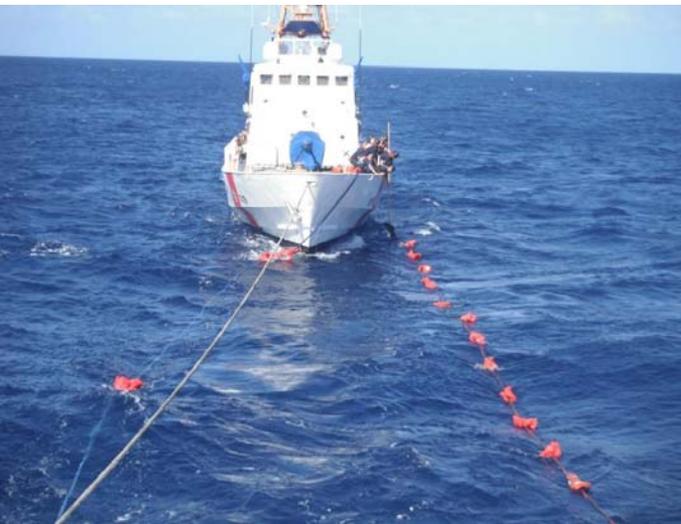
# Astern Refueling CGC CHANDELEUR

**Preparing the  
Fuel Hose** →



**GMI Stands Ready  
With the Line  
Throwing Gun** ←

**Putting in Tow** →



**Refueling** ←

# Underway Awards



**DILIGENCE's Ancient Mariner, BMC Johnson, pins on DCI Truelove's permanent Cutterman's Pin**



**All of DILIGENCE's Permanent Cuttermen Congratulate DCI**



**Time for promotion!**



**Three proud, new LTJG's**

# **Underway**

## **Gun Ex**



**Manning the .50  
Cal**

**Preparing to Take  
out the Smoke  
Float**



**25 mm Practice**

# **Port Call**

## **Guantanamo Bay**

**ETI Nahikian and SN  
O'Brien After a Successful  
Day of Spear Fishing**



**Relaxing on the  
Bottom of the Sea**

**Enjoying the Beach**



# Port Call Puerto Plata



↑  
**Waterfall Tour**



**STUENG Takes in  
the Scenery**

**Touring  
the Cigar  
Factory**

**Learning about  
Chocolate and Coffee**



# **Puerto Plata**

## **Official Events**

### **DILIGENCE Arrives in the Dominican Republic**



### **A Band Awaits DILIGENCE's Arrival**



### **Thanking Maria for a Fantastic Dinner**

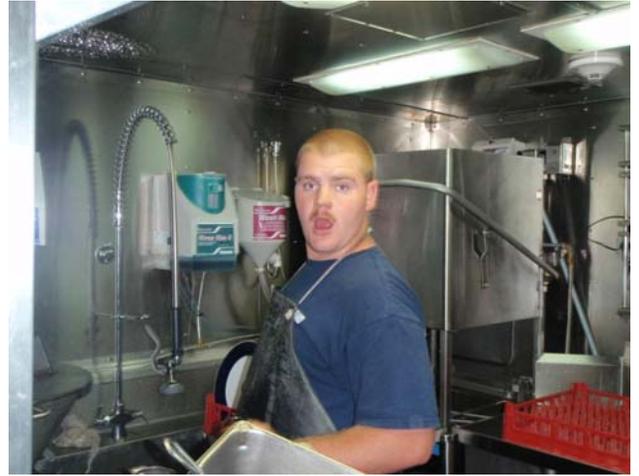


### **Observing the Drill Ceremony**

# Underway Thanksgiving



**FN Castro Prepares for  
the Clay Turkey Shoot**



**Weps Works the Scullery at  
the Conclusion of the Meal**



**FSC Works Hard as he Cooks the Meal in  
his “Festive Attire”**



**Time to Chow  
Down**

# Underway Boat Ops



**Working the Davit** →



**The Boat Crew Preps**

**Boat in the Water** ↗



# **Underway**

## **The Fishing Pier is Now Open**

**Enjoying a Sunrise**



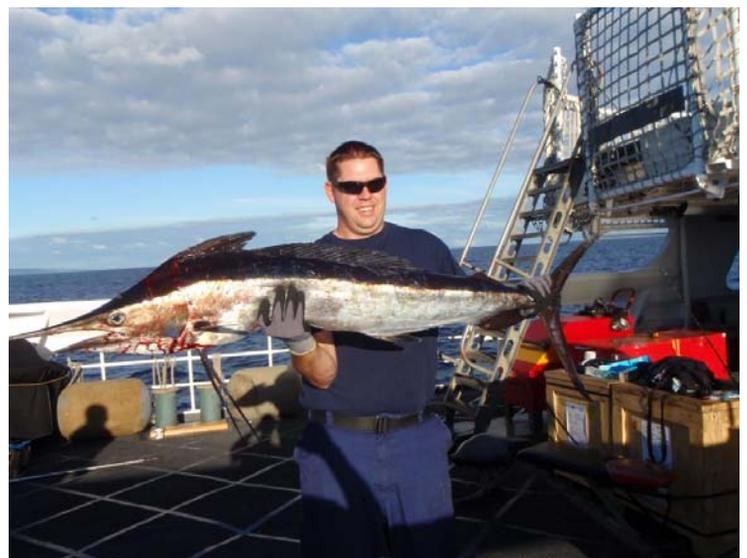
**MEI and his catch**



**SN Fell Tries to Catch an Actual Fish**



**DCI Earns Bragging Rights**



# Underway Helo Operations



**Underway Training in preparation for the Helo**

**First Landing**



**Tie Down Crew Moves in to secure the helo**

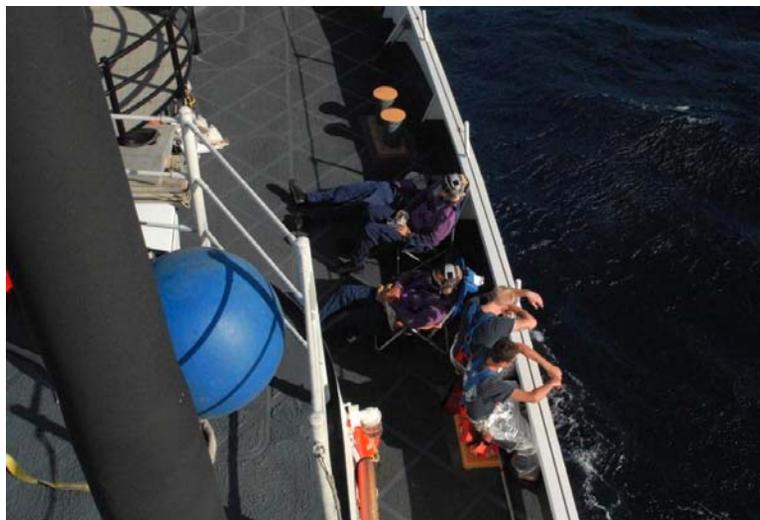
# Underway Helo Operations



**HIFR**



**VERT REP**



**A Much Needed Break**

A silhouette of a ship's mast and rigging against a sunset sky. The mast is the central vertical element, with various antennas and equipment attached. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and grey, with some clouds. The ocean is visible in the lower part of the frame.

**We will see you soon!**

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

**James.L.Heuser1@uscg.mil**