



*United States Coast Guard / 3052928750*

## INPORT

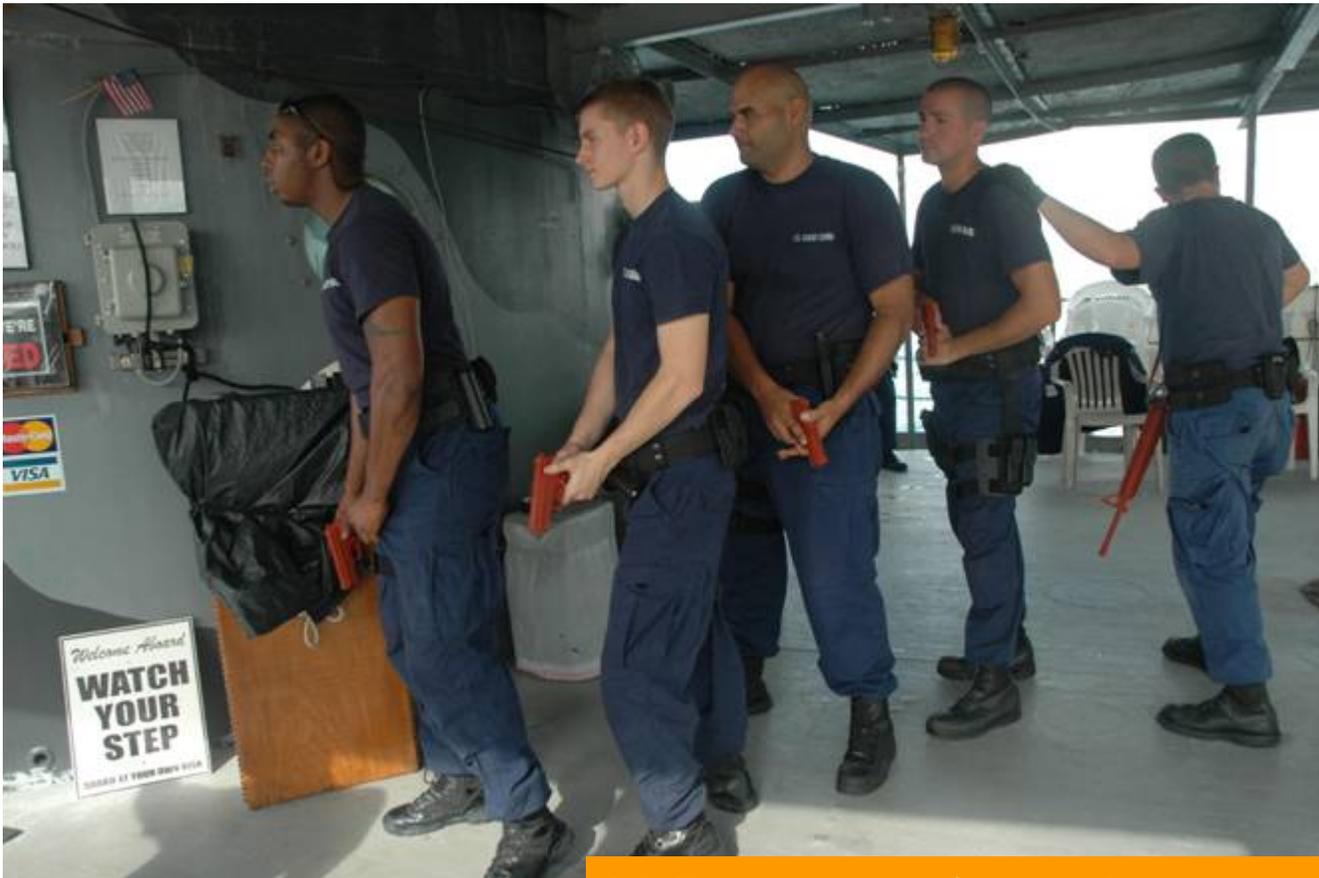
## WORK

Top: EM3 Rodriguez playing with electricity!

Middle: SN Brambley in the bos'n chair working on the anchor pockets.

Bottom: SN Jamison and SN Hartman preparing for Ship Helo Stan by painting the flight cups.





### BO Training onboard USS MOHAWK

Top: SN Diggs, SN Cooper, EM2 Santos, DC3 A, and BM3 Castro

Bottom: MK1 Tolliver, ENS Murray and EM2 Santos



FN Grimes and MK3 Pumo working on the MDE overhaul.



## Sailor of the Quarter



## The One the Only MK1 Tolliver

MK1 Tolliver is commended for his outstanding performance of duty from April 01 to June 30, 2009 while serving on USCGC MOHAWK (WMEC-913). MK1 Tolliver raised the bar for professionalism, leadership, readiness, and mission accomplishment. By demonstrating exceptional technical competency, MK1 voluntarily assisted the Main Propulsion Division with replacing all 18 fuel doors on the #2 Main Diesel Engine, and aided the Auxiliary Division with cleaning and rebuilding the reverse osmosis unit. His efforts resulted in a significant improvement in plant reliability and maintained the ship's ability to produce fresh water. As MOHAWK's Law Enforcement Officer, MK1 Tolliver dramatically improved the ship's Law Enforcement Training program, sparking the interests of many new Boarding Team Member candidates. MK1 developed a comprehensive daily training plan underway and sought opportunities for conducting tactical procedure training aboard other vessels in Key West. As lead Boarding Officer during MOHAWK's May - June 2009 counter drug patrol, he was directly responsible for the interdiction of three drug-smuggling go fast vessels. Working with an Aviation Use of Force helicopter and a United States Navy RHIB with Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment, he interdicted two go fast vessels, six smugglers, and 65 bales of cocaine. He enabled a quick transfer of detainees and contraband to Drug Enforcement Administration Agents for prosecution. During MOHAWK's port visit in Panama City, Panama, MK1 Tolliver graciously volunteered his free time to assist in cleaning and refurbishing lodging space for Casita de Mausí, a local organization that provides shelter for cancer patients from the Panamanian countryside. His professionalism, leadership, tactical prowess, and compassion have set an ideal example for your shipmates to emulate. MK1 is authorized to wear the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon Bar (gold star in lieu of a third). The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

"A ship in port is safe, but that is not what ships are made for." - Commodore Grace Murray



Semper Spongebob

## CO's Corner



The month of July has been a busy month for the MOHAWK crew, as many of you know. We returned from our last patrol at the beginning of July and have been spending our time for the last 30 days getting ready to go back out and do it all over again. As you know, our last patrol was very productive. We worked in the Eastern Pacific and nabbed two "go-fast" vessels along with over two tons of cocaine. In addition, we worked with local authorities to nab another boatload of coke as well as a go-fast carrying knock-off Prada bags and shoes and fake Nikes. Look for a couple more snowflakes on the ship soon!

We have done a lot of work on board the ship this month; engineers have completely overhauled the number one main diesel engine, contract welders have worked with the ship's crew to replace a number of fitting on the flight deck, we had an inspection of our small boat and rescue equipment systems, and we are gearing-up for a helicopter standardization visit during our last couple days in port. Wedged in and around these major projects were myriad smaller maintenance and repair projects and, of course, training and even a little time off for the crew to enjoy some family moments.

Off the ship, Key West enjoyed lobster "Mini Season" on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July and I know a number of the crew caught some "bugs". We also enjoyed a few days of dedicated stand-down. Next month (August) we will celebrate Coast Guard Day, and have a family shrimp boil. I really encourage everyone to make it out to these events. Not only is it an opportunity to get our families together for some socializing, it's also an excellent venue to pass along important information.

Speaking of important information, be sure to check out the Ombudsman Corner this month. Jessica Horine has provided us with an excellent break-down of the new Post 9-11 GI Education Bill. The benefits are outstanding and much more comprehensive than any previous GI Bill.

Thanks again for all you do to support the MOHAWK crew!

## From the Command Chief



Hello again to the family and friends of Coast Guard Cutter MOHAWK. I hope this month's edition of the newsletter finds everybody doing well and enjoying the summer. Welcome to all of the new shipmates and their families. I think we are coming to the end of our 2009 transfer season. To all of the new families out there, I hope you are finding your way around Key West and getting settled.

We made it back to Key West in late June after a very successful patrol, a patrol that took MOHAWK and your loved ones through the Panama Canal. It was a first time trip through "The Ditch" into the Pacific Ocean for many of the crewmembers on board. I hope you all got to see some pictures of the transit; it was definitely a unique experience. We had an extended port call in Panama City, Panama. It provided the crew with some much needed rest after the long hours your loved ones put into protecting our country and keeping 160 bales of illegal narcotics from hitting our streets. They did their jobs just as they had been trained to do and made MOHAWK, the Coast Guard, and most of all our families and friends proud.

The work didn't stop upon our return home. We had to keep rolling to prepare MOHAWK for two major inspections as

well as preparing for another patrol. Without skipping a beat, the crew continued on with the it's high tempo work schedule to prepare MOHAWK for an inspection on the Over the Horizon boat, a major asset in our war on drugs as well as a helicopter inspection, yet another resource the crew uses to complete their jobs successfully.

I know it seems like we just got back and I hate to say it but we have to get ready to go again to protect our nation. By the time we return, the kids will be back in school and fall will be here (although I am not sure if Key West really has a fall) and football season will be in full swing. Please enjoy the remaining time left in the in port before making the sacrifice of letting your friends and family go to keep America safe. We will all be home before you know. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions [anthony.j.edwards@uscg.mil](mailto:anthony.j.edwards@uscg.mil). Thanks again for all of your support and sacrifices, talk to you again next month!

MKC Anthony Edwards  
Command Chief  
CGC MOHAWK

# The History Behind Coast Guard Day

The United States Coast Guard, one of the country's five armed services, is a unique agency of the federal government. We trace our history back to 4 August 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress when the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the Life-Saving Service. The nation then had a single maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.



## Coast Guard Knowledge

MCPOCG Calhoun became the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard on the 27th of August 1969 at the age of 45. This Vietnam Veteran joined the Coast Guard right after World War II. He began his military career, however, in the Navy. He served in the U.S. Navy for three years during World War II and was honorably discharged on February 21, 1946 as a Torpedoman Second Class.

He enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard seven months later. In Vietnam, he served on the Coast Guard Cutter POINT ORIENT and later with the Staff of the Commander of Division 12. He went on to assignments at recruiting offices in Salisbury, Maryland and Columbia, SC, as well as the Coast Guard Training Center in Groton, Connecticut. He had a total of 170 months of Coast Guard sea duty serving on Coast Guard Cutters MCCULLOCH, CHINCOTEAGUE, WHITE SUMAC, NARCISSUS and the Lightship RELIEF. He served as both executive and commanding officer while assigned to the RELIEF Lightship and buoy tenders NARCISSUS and WHITE SUMAC. Master Chief passed away in 2002.



From Your Ombudsman Team!

This month, our Ombudsman Team has graciously researched the GI Bill for us to better understand how we can benefit from it! Thank you Ombudsmen!

[New Post 9/11 Montgomery GI Bill Information](#)

The following is information on the New GI Bill which will take effect **August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**. Read the information below to find out if you qualify, the new benefits, and how your dependents might be eligible for your GI Bill.

[Who qualifies?](#)

- Members who have served or are currently serving on Active Duty on or after September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.
- \*NOTE: Service can begin at anytime however, only the period after 9/11/01 can be used to establish eligibility
- Serving at least 90 total days on active duty or serving a period of at least 30 days and receiving a disability discharge
- Reserve members called to Active Duty on Title 10 orders
- Those receiving an Honorable Discharge
- Those members retired on or after 9/11/01

Whether or not you participated in the old GI Bill, if you meet any of the above qualifications you are entitled to elect the new GI Bill.....So everyone Keep Reading!

\*NOTE: You maybe entitled to some benefits from the New GI Bill even if you have used some benefits from the Old GI Bill

From Your Ombudsman Team!

**Service which is not counted for Eligibility:**

- AGR under Title 12 orders
- Service Academy contract periods
- ROTC contract periods under Title 10 orders
- Service used under the Loan Repayment Program

**How to Maintain your Eligibility:**

In order to maintain your eligibility a member must:

- Continue on active duty
- Be Honorably Discharged
- Be Honorably Discharged and placed on a retired list, transfer to Fleet Reserve, or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve
- Be Honorably Discharged for further service in a reserve component
- Be Discharged or Released for:
  1. Injury Existing Prior to Service
  2. Hardship
  3. Condition Interfered with Service

**Benefit Level:**

The amount of active duty time you have completed after 9/11/01 determines the percentage of benefits you will receive. Refer to the chart below to see where you're at:

At least 36 months active duty	100%
Min 30 continuous days AD and discharged due to service connected disability	100%
30-36 months	90%
24-30 months	80%
18-24 months	70%
12-18 months	60%
6-12 months	50%
90 days to 6 months	40%

\*Benefits are payable up to 15 years following release from active duty.

## From Your Ombudsman Team!

### What do you get?

- Tuition and Fees
- Monthly Housing Allowance
- Books and Supplies
- Yellow Ribbon
- Rural Schools
- College Fund "Kickers" and Buy-ups
- Licensing and Certification Tests
- Other Benefits
- Still don't think its worth something to get.....?

### Tuition and Fees:

- Not to exceed the maximum in-state tuition and fees at a public institution of higher learning
- Fees are defined as mandatory charges that are applied by the institute of higher learning. For example: graduate fees, freshmen fees, lab fees, etc
- This does NOT include study abroad courses UNLESS the course is a mandatory requirement for completing your program, so if it was required you could be studying in Paris, France for free! Now isn't that cool.
- Tuition will be issued to the school on behalf of the student by Electronic Funds Transfer

### Monthly Housing Allowance:

- Equivalent to the basic housing allowance rate (BAH) for E-5 with dependents.
- The rate of the BAH will be based on the zip code of the school you are attending
- The following website:  
<http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html> will help you to determine the housing allowance for your area.
- Payment will be on a monthly basis and will be prorated based on your benefit level
- Individuals are NOT eligible for monthly housing if:
  1. They are on active duty ( you are already receiving housing)
  2. Going to school part time (less than 12 credit hours)
  3. Going to school online

\*NOTE: Exception to the housing rule: if you are married member to member (both active duty) you are entitled to the housing allowance if your spouse is still on active duty. You are not dependents of each other and you have two separate GI Bills.

## GI Bill Continued

### From Your Ombudsman Team!

#### Books and Supplies:

- Up to \$1,000 per academic year as follows:
  1. \$41.67 per credit hour up to 24 credit hours
  2. Prorated based on percentage of your benefits
  3. Payments issued in a lump sum for each quarter, semester or term
  4. Active Duty not eligible

#### Yellow Ribbon:

- Private schools that have agreed to fund the VA tuition and fee costs at the highest public in-state costs.
- Only eligible for entitled to 100% of the benefits
- This is on a first come first service basis-and participating schools, many only accept either undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral students.
- VA will match each additional dollar that an institution contributes, up to 50% of the difference between the student's tuition benefit and the total cost of tuition and fees
- The combined amounts may not exceed the full cost of the school's established charges
- On the VA website is the list of yellow ribbon schools

The following chart is an example of how the yellow ribbon program works:

<b>Scenario #5: Private University / Tuition &amp; Fees Higher than State Tuition Cap</b>		
<b>School participates in Yellow Ribbon Program</b>		
<b>Program</b>	<b>Post-9/11 GI Bill</b>	<b>MGIB</b>
Highest in-state tuition	\$5,800	N/A
Tuition & Fees Charged by University	\$10,000	\$10,000
VA pays on Veteran's Behalf	\$5,800	\$0
Yellow Ribbon – School Contributes 50% of Remainder	\$2,100	\$0
Yellow Ribbon - VA pays 50% on Veteran's Behalf	\$2,100	\$0
Housing allowance (\$1000/month for 4 months)	\$4,000	N/A
MGIB monthly rate (\$1321/month for 4 months)	N/A	\$5,284
Books & supplies	\$500	N/A
MGIB \$600 buy-in (\$150/month for 4 months)	N/A	\$600
Benefit paid Directly to Veteran	\$4,500	\$5,884
Tuition & Fees paid by Veteran	\$0	\$10,000
<b>Net to Veteran</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>	<b>-\$ 4,116</b>

## GI Bill Continued

### From Your Ombudsman Team!

#### Rural Benefits:

- One time payment of \$500 dollars for anyone living in a county with six persons or fewer per square mile
- Has to physically relocate more than 500 miles
- Travels by air to attend school if no other means exists
- Key West is considered a rural area!
- Payment issued in a lump sum

#### College Fund "Kicker" and Buy-up:

- If you were eligible for a kicker under another bill may receive one under the new bill, amount will be prorated based on individual's rate of pursuit
- Payment in lump sum
- Only paid if you are entitled to monthly housing allowance
- \$600 buy-up is not payable under the Post 9/11 GI Bill

#### Licensing and Certificate Tests:

- Reimbursement for one licensing or certification test, not to exceed \$2,000
- Taken after August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009
- Test must be approved by VA

#### Other Benefits:

- Interval Payments- monthly housing may be authorized during intervals
- Work-study-training at a rate of pursuit of at least 75% may receive work-study
- Tutorial Assistance(TA)- Training at a rate of at least 50% (part time student) amount payable cannot exceed \$100 per month, total payable cannot exceed \$1,200
- Individuals who relinquish MGIB-AD benefits to receive Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are entitled to a proportional amount of the basic \$1200 contribution if they exhaust their entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill

\*Note if you are one active duty try to use TA first before using your GI Bill

#### Dependent's Section: Transferring GI Bill Entitlements

- Those who are entitled to 100% of the benefits may elect to transfer to a dependent
- Those in PHS or NOAA are not allowed to transfer benefits
- Member must be in the armed forces on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.
- Have completed at least 6 years of active duty and agreed to serve 4 more years
- Or have at least 10 years of active duty
- The member must transfer benefits to a dependent prior to leaving the service. Family members not elected to receive benefits prior to member leaving the service will be denied transfer of benefits.
- The member always has the right to revoke benefits from a dependent
- Members with 20 years or more require no additional service for transfer

## From Your Ombudsman Team!

### GI Bill Continued

- Benefits may also be divided between two or more dependents
- Veterans who marry, remarry, or have more children after leaving the service are not eligible to transfer benefits to their new family members
- Members with at least 10 years of active service and are prevented from committing 4 additional years are authorized transfer of benefits if they commit for the maximum time allowed by policy or statute.

#### Spouse:

- May use benefits once spouse has reached 6 years of active duty service (but member must have a commitment of 4 years)
- Can use benefits up to spouse's 15 year eligibility period
- If divorced can continue to use benefits unless member revokes benefits
- Receive benefits in the same manner at the member would
- Only entitled to tuition and fees if spouse on active duty

#### Children:

- Eligible to use benefits once members completes 10 years with an additional commitment of 4 years, if they are at least 18 years old or have completed secondary/high school or equivalent
- Eligible until child reaches age 26
- Benefit continues if child marries
- Entitled to monthly housing, books and supplies

#### Now What?

Its time to decide what you should do.....

Keep your current benefits ( MGIB, MGIB-RES, REAP, VEAP) or transfer to the new Post 9/11 Bill.

Remember once you make a choice to change benefit plans you cannot change back, so think long and hard if this is the right choice for you. The VA is now accepting applications for the Post 9/11 Bill at their website [www.GIBILL.va.gov](http://www.GIBILL.va.gov). This is also a good resource if you have more questions; they are the experts so they would know!

\*NOTE: As of right now the Department of Homeland Security(DHS) does not have the authority to pay the VA for transfer of benefits to dependents. However, they are expecting the authority to come soon, so if you are still interested in transferring benefits to your dependents the VA is taking applications to transfer. All applications can be found on the VA website.

#### Resources:

VA Website- [www.GIBILL.va.gov](http://www.GIBILL.va.gov)

Mr. Dan Rogers ESO, Coast Guard Sector Key West

Mr. Bud Schneeweis

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.)

Director, Benefits Information & Financial Education Department

Military Officers Association of America

# Happy Birthday to you...

## Happy July Birthdays!

MK3 CabreraMatos- July 1

MK1 Caropepe- July 30

BM3 Castro- July 2

ENS Fogarty- July 29

Chief Halliday- July 25

SN Laster- July 3

ET2 Mikelaitis- July 22

ENS Murray- July 7

SK3 Shelton- July 23

SN Zavala- July 4



## Upcoming August Birthdays:

ET3 Akers- August 21

SN Alejandro- August 13

ENS Baffer- August 14

MK2 Berard- August 10

DC2 Bodie- August 30

OS1 Carroll- August 6

SK2 Charles- August 19

FN Cooper- August 4

ENS Flores- August 10

ET2 Harling- August 25

MK1 Huber- August 15

SN Jordan- August 5

SN Latimer- August 1

ET3 Liedke- August 11

ENS Ohle- August 17

ET1 Parlett- August 22

SN Reid- August 27

MK1 Tolliver- August 27

---

*Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that  
the people who have the most live the longest.*

*~Father Larry Lorenzoni*

---