



Press Release

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Seneca crewmembers along with members of BASH. (U.S. Coast Guard photo)

Coast Guard Cutter *SENECA* crew helps clear the path to recovery

Sunday, July 23rd - During a recent port call the crew of Coast Guard Cutter *Seneca* chose to spend some of their hard earned time off giving back to the community of Nassau. Using machetes, rakes, and muscle-power, *Seneca*'s crew helped clear more than a mile of nature trails for the Bahamas Association for Social Health (BASH), a non-profit substance abuse and rehabilitation facility. BASH houses approximately thirty recovering drug users and will utilize the new nature trail as means of exercise and meditation for the residents.

"This type of work is why I enjoy the Coast Guard," said *Seneca* crewmember Petty Officer Jonathan Javier, "I like helping those who need our help."

BASH also hopes to draw tourists to the trail for guided bird watching tours and horseback riding. Income generated from these activities will help BASH pay for its therapy and job training programs. BASH residents learn skills such as farming and animal care as they progress through their rehabilitation. In keeping with the program's philosophy that interaction with nature helps the recovery process; residents will maintain the trail, a small stable, and horses with help and guidance from professional staff. The formula has worked for many since BASH opened its Nassau facility in 1991.

Seneca's visit to Nassau gave the ship a brief rest before continuing a busy patrol. Nassau is the capital of the Bahamas and a frequent port of call for cruise ships. The Bahamas might be a vacation destination to many, but to the United States Coast Guard and the crew of *Seneca*, it is a friend and critical ally in the effort to interdict illegal drugs and migrants and preserve life at sea.