

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD CUTTER

THETIS

D I G E S T

Advancements:

*Electronics Technician Second Class Belanger
Gunner's Mate Second Class Frazier*

Congratulations to all THETIS crew members

THETIS had a great patrol with not only advancements by some of our crew members but also with numerous crew members becoming qualified in many billets across the entire cutter.

GET THE INSIDE SCOOP!

Welcome to the first "THETIS DIGEST." This newsletter is put together by members of the crew so that we can tell you, our families and friends, about what it is we actually do while we are underway! We hope that these articles and pictures help you understand what we have been up to these past couple of weeks during our patrol.



During the Hurricane IKE evasion in September, THETIS had four patrol boats under her command. Here THETIS is rigging up a tow line with a patrol boat to prepare to them for an astern refueling.

THETIS DIGEST

Underway Again...

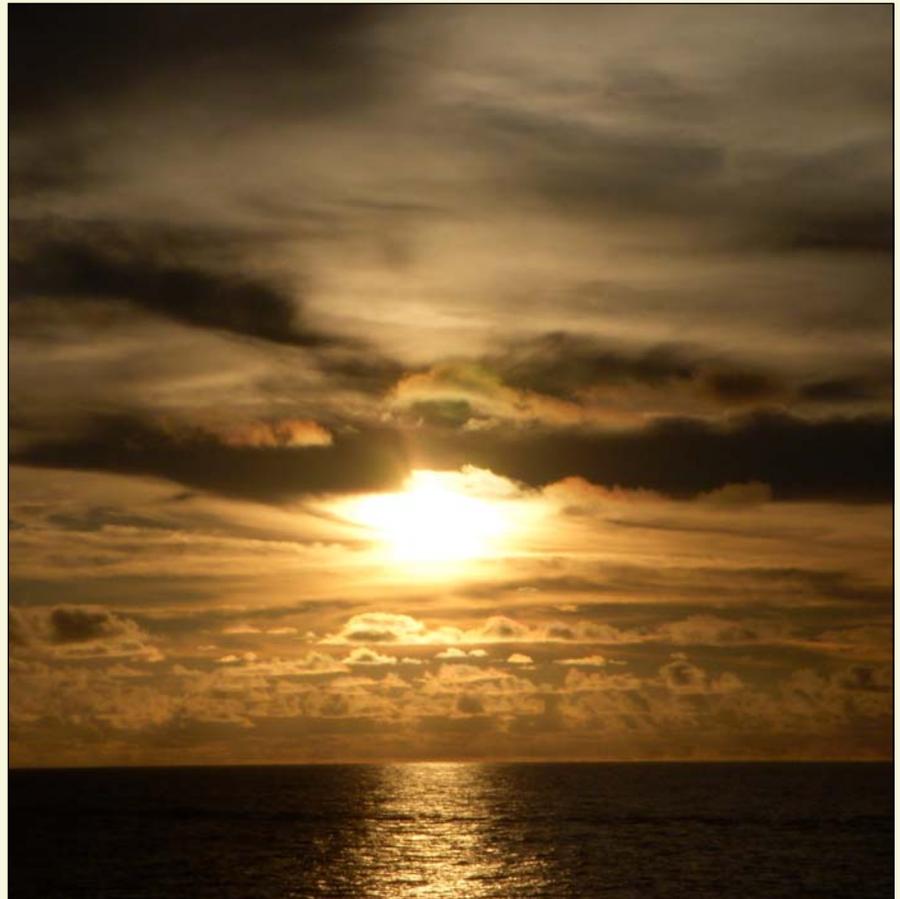
September 22, 2008 - Only a week after getting underway for Hurricane Ike avoidance, THETIS was making preps to get underway again, this time for a JIATF-S (Joint Inter-Agency Task Force South) patrol. The crew worked long, hard hours to make the ship ready to cross the Panama Canal and into the Pacific



where each day brings a new level of excitement. With this excitement in mind and the anticipation of the possibilities of catching drugs and initiating new Shellbacks, THETIS set sail to begin another action packed patrol.



A THETIS crew member on the small boat getting ready to intercept a suspect vessel during a drill. Crew members regularly train for every event possible, including stopping fleeing vessels.

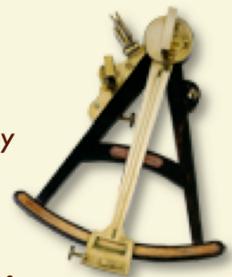


Sun setting over the Atlantic Ocean

While en route to the Panama Canal, we were able to enjoy many beautiful sunsets over the Atlantic Ocean.



Here you see one of our younger navigators standing by an alidade to take bearings of a vessel crossing a path



THETIS DIGEST



Command Chief's Corner: Transforming the "Wogs" to Shellbacks

Hello I am EMC Brown, the Command Chief onboard the USCGC Thetis. During our recent East Pac patrol we crossed the equator and held a line crossing ceremony for the first time crossing personnel (Wogs). A person who has crossed into the realm is a shellback. The shellbacks had two days of fun welcoming the newest members. They were greeted by



Davy Jones and had to appear before the royal court of Neptuneus Rex.

The shellback ceremony is a time honored naval tradition that dates back to the days of square rigged sailing ships. The ceremony of crossing the Line is an initiation rite in the Royal Navy, U.S. Navy, and other navies which commemorates a sailor's first crossing of the equator. Originally the tradition was created as a test for seasoned sailors to ensure their new shipmates were capable of handling long rough times at sea. After the ceremony we all celebrated with a bar-b-que on the flight deck.



Even though I have done numerous crossings, I was truly honored to organize the ceremony for our crew members. I have to admit it was the best I have done so far. I would like to say thank you to the other shellbacks that helped and put in numerous hours to help with the ceremony.



Entrance into the Miraflores Locks Building in the Panama Canal

Crossing the Panama Canal

An experience that not many sailors can say they have done, the THETIS entered the first set of Locks on the 27th day of September 2008, thus starting her journey towards the Pacific Ocean. The Panama Canal was constructed in the early 1900s and officially opening in 1914.

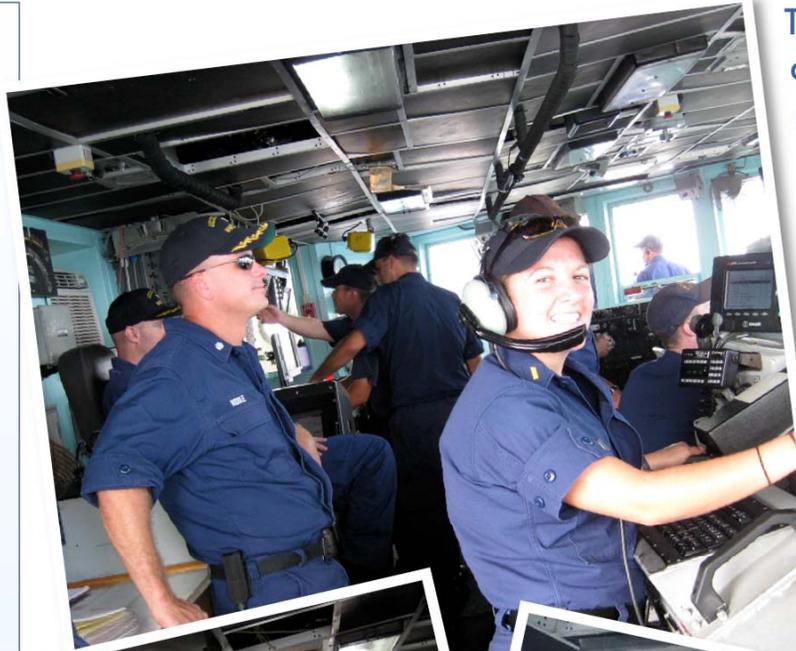


THETIS DIGEST



(above) Messages home Lt Brown sends a message home as we approach the Canal's web camera. DC3 Stevenson offers a little competition with his letter.

(below) Long night FNMK Szoke takes a brief nap during some downtime of the 12 hours canal crossing evolution.



Transiting amongst giants

ENS Hutchinson keeps a sharp eye out on our radars for numerous large commercial vessels surrounding THETIS.



ALL IN A DAYS WORK

Time spent on Patrol	840 hours
Time spent on a Boarding	over 50 hours
Contraband seized	102 Bales of Cocaine
Street value	\$62 million
Knowing we made a difference	Priceless

THETIS DIGEST



THETIS

Crew Members perform a live gun fire exercise in the Pacific Ocean to keep their skills sharp and always ready to defend the ship, the Citizens of the United States of America, and anyone we may find in distress. During this gun fire exercise crew members fired at a dye marker. These are used to mark positions usually of a victim in the water. The marker leaves behind the bright green dye you see in the pictures.

THETIS DIGEST



(above) Getting ready to moor up after crossing the Panama Canal.

SN Flores, BM2 Jackson, SN Knight, SN Black and SN McDonald line handling

(left) Conning Officer giving instructions to the bridge during anchor detail.

ENS Ustler standing on the bridge wing while guiding the THETIS into port.



ET2 Ford hanging out on the mast while doing repairs.



THETIS bridge and Foc'sle while getting ready to transit the Panama Canal on our return trip to homeport.

THETIS DIGEST



THETIS is the 10th ship of the Famous Class cutters designed and built for the U.S. Coast Guard and the 3rd vessel to bear the name. Constructed from 1984 to 1986, she was commissioned in 1986 and immediately began service in the Caribbean basin, based out of Key West, Florida, where she is still homeported. At 270 feet long, and weighing in at 1,646 Long tons, she is equipped with everything necessary to ply the oceans, support her crew, and perform her primary missions of law enforcement, search and rescue, homeland security, and national defense.

Prepared by:

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IT3 Guimaraes

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