

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)

20 January–15 March 2013

**USCGC VALIANT
(WMEC 621)**

Winter Patrol/TSTA Newsletter



**The Adventures of the
most VALIANT crew in
the fleet!**

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Underway

On January 20th VALIANT departed on what was to be a five week long Joint Inter-Agency Task Force South (JIATF-S) Patrol in the Caribbean.



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Damage Control

In preparation for Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) VALIANT conducted weekly drills to evaluate how the crew responds to fire, flooding, and other damage.

Above: Crew members dress out in Fire Fighting Ensemble (FFE)

Right: Seaman Thomas passes information on the progress of repairs from Damage Control Central to other stations on the ship through a sound powered phone



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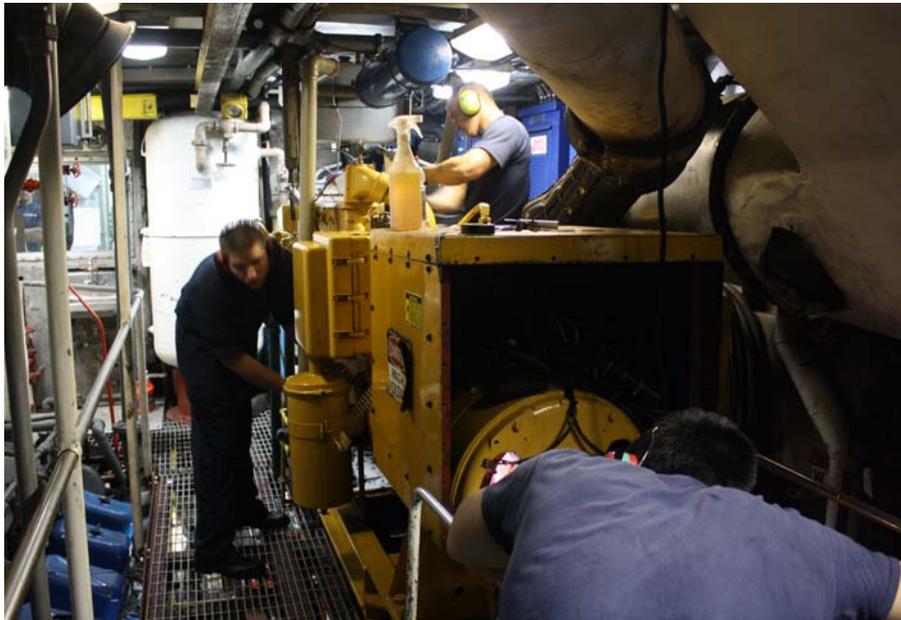


Repairs

The engineering department works around the clock to keep VALIANT operational.

Left: Damage Controlman First Class Rodriguez welds a cleat to the bulkhead.

Below: Ensign Lee, Electrician's Mate Third Class Coludrovich, and Machinery Technician Third Class Glenn investigate a serious casualty on the generator. VALIANT affected repairs in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba before returning to the operations area.



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Feeding VALIANT

The Food Service Specialists (FS) work from early in the morning until late at night preparing three meals a day for 80 hungry crew members.

Left: Food Service Specialist Third Class Stevenson grills chicken on the fantail.

Don't forget the dessert!

At least one dessert is prepared each day.

Right: Food Service Specialist Third Class Balzac ices chocolate cupcakes.



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Small Boat Operations

Right: “Oscar” bobs in the water waiting to be picked up by Valiant during man overboard drills



Boat Deck Ready

Left: Lieutenant Junior Grade Shveda, First Lieutenant, and Seaman Welker stand by the davit on the boat deck, ready to safely recover one of the cutter’s small boats.

Making Training Fun

Right: Boatswain’s Mate Second Class Gomez coaches break-in coxswain Boatswain’s Mate First Class Goodwin



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Non-Compliant Vessel

Valiant conducted high speed non-compliant vessel pursuit training for all coxswains and boat crew members. This is utilized in chasing and stopping go-fast vessels to be boarded. Here the Over the Horizon (OTH) small boat hovers over the surface of the water while pursuing the Cutter Boat Large (CBL) alongside the cutter.



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Beautiful Sunsets

**Ensign Copening
observes sunset
from the bridge one
evening underway.**

Bridge Watch

**Seaman Cisneros
supervises break-in
helmsman Seaman
Rankin.**



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Above Left: Lieutenant Junior Grade Neuhardt checks for narcotics on a fishing vessel suspected of smuggling drugs while Lieutenant Junior Grade Shveda looks on.



Below Left: Fireman Litton inspects fishing gear on one of his first boardings as a qualified boarding team member.

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Go Fish!

The Morale Committee invested in quality fishing gear...and the fishermen of the crew made every opportunity to put their “skills” to good use. MK1 Wolf proudly holds one of the most significant catches during the patrol, a large Wahoo.

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And some fish were harder to catch than others!

Above: Boatswain's Mate Second Class Sigle and Food Service Specialist Third Class Woitt provide some assistance to Operations Specialist First Class Hendricks

Left: First Class Hendricks proudly displays the rewards of his efforts, a skipjack tuna.



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Flying High

Helicopter Operations play a significant role in this patrol as VALIANT prepares for Aviation Standardization, an inspection of all training, equipment, and methods. VALIANT impresses the inspectors with our proficiency and earns re-qualification to conduct flight operations.



Above: The flight mechanic stands in the door of the helicopter as it hovers over the flight deck in preparation for Helicopter In-Flight Refueling (HIFR).

Left: Crew members handle the fuel hose that is connected to the helicopter. This is a dangerous evolution in that both the aircraft and the ship are in constant motion.

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Above: Landing Signals Officer and Tie Down crew conduct a foreign object damage (FOD) walk-down. This ensures that there is nothing present on the flight deck that could be hazardous to the helicopter landing.

Right: The Tie Down crew runs underneath the rotating blades to secure the helicopter to the flight deck.



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**Maintenance
&
Training**



Above: The P-100 team, consisting of Maritime Enforcement Specialist Second Class Stieren, Seaman Welker, Storekeeper Third Class Van Valkenburg, and Gunner's Mate First Class Pulk



Above: Seaman Dodd and Seaman Lambert paint the door of the repair locker.

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Trick or Treat

In between operations the crew makes time to celebrate Halloween with candy and costumes.

Above: Impersonators! Operations Officer Lieutenant Bixler and Operations Specialist Second Class Pacheco create masks to represent Gunner's Mate First Class Pulk.

Right: Using only cardboard and duct tape, Fireman Jenkins creates an extensive costume to represent "Master Chief" from the videogame Halo. This get-up undoubtedly won the costume contest.



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Astern Refueling

CGC VALIANT conducts astern refueling training with the 87-foot patrol Coast Guard Cutter BRANT. The patrol boat is taken in a stern tow and a fuel line is floated back for retrieval by the other crew.

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Damage Control Olympics

To maintain competency in combating emergencies, VALIANT runs through a series of damage control practice stations.



Above: Under the supervision of Machinery Technician First Class Wolf, Machinery Technician Third Class Rise energizes a fire hose in a straight stream pattern with support from Fireman Litton.

Left: Commanding Officer Commander Burdian and Food Service Specialist Third Class Balzac apply a jubilee patch to a 'damaged' pipe.

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Engine Room Watch

Left: Machinery Technician Third Class Petty Officers Brucki and Rise take their watch very seriously.

Below: Damage Controlman Second Class Spelz makes a round of the engine room. This patrol he qualified as Engineer of the Watch (EOW), the only Second Class Petty Officer on VALIANT to fill this role.



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Awards & Advancements

Two crewmembers join VALIANT's growing line of Cuttermen, members who have served five years at sea.

Right: Electrician's Mate Chief Petty Officer Jones receives his Cutterman's certificate from Commanding Officer, Commander Burdian

Below: Boatswain's Mate Third Class Daniels shakes Lieutenant Bixler's hand as he receives his Cutterman's pin.



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Promotions

After 18 months of drills, break-in watches, and many study sessions, Ensigns Canvin, Mueller, Neuhardt, and Shveda earn their stripes as Lieutenant Junior Grade. The young officers chose mentors to put on their new shoulder boards in a promotion ceremony on the flight deck.

Credits

BALZAC, FRANCISCO J.	FS3	LEE, DAVID J.	ENS
BASSHAM, MATTHEW B.	SN	LEE, JAMEL D.	EM2
BIXLER, ROBERT A.	LT	LINSTEDT, MICHAEL L.	FN
BRADLEY, RICHARD W.	FS3	LYONS, STEPHEN W.	FSC
BRUCKI, JODY L.	MK3	MAMARIAN, JACOB C.	FN
BRUMMER, JUSTIN W.	OS3	MERCADO, LUIS M.	IT2
BURDIAN, STEPHEN V.	CDR	MILLS, MARY K.	ENS
CANVIN, CHRISTINA G.	LTJG	MONREAL-BERNER, J.P.	ENS
CARNEY, RICHARD V.	MKC	MUELLER, TIMOTHY E.	LTJG
CASTIBLANCO, JONATHAN S.	SN	NEUHARDT, NATHAN D.	LTJG
CHAPMAN, DEMIKO A.	SK1	NORTON, CHRISTOPHER J.	SN
COLUDROVICH, SHOWN A.	EM3	PADILLA, GABRIEL E.	ME3
COLVIN, MATTHEW C.	FN	PACHECO, MAXIMILIAN M.	OS2
COPENING, MEGAN D.	ENS	POTRATZ, BRANDON T.	HS2
CISNEROS, JORGE L.	SN	POWELL, JOSHUA K.	MK3
CRAWFORD, DANIEL S.	SN	PULK, KYLE R.	GM1
DANIELS, CHRIS M.	BM3	RANKIN, SAMUEL R.	SN
DIAZ, JOSE R.	YN3	RATTERMAN, DAVID A.	ET1
DODD, NATHAN R.	SN	RISE, LELAND L.	MK3
DRISCOLL, BRIAN C.	BMC	RIVERA, JAVIER R.	MK2
EVERETT, SAMUEL C.	SN	RODRIGUEZ, CARLOS H.	DC1
GAUDIOSO, DIEGO A.	MK2	ROMERO, ALEJANDRO J.	SN
GLENN, JOSHUA M.	MK3	ROSTECK, TANNER L.	YN1
GOAD, ADAM C.	MK1	RYAN, MARK S.	BMC
GOMEZ, JORGE A.	BM2	SAATHOFF, MARK A.	FN
GOODWIN, SEAN C.	BM1	SCOTT, STEVEN J.	OS3
HAGUE, JAMES L.	FS1	SEDBERRY, NICHOLAS F.	SN
HANSON, RYAN H.	ET2	SHVEDA, SARAH K.	LTJG
HEATH, FORREST J.	CWO	SIGLE, JAMES L.	BM2
HENDRICKS, SCOTTY L.	OS1	SMITH, BRENDAN L.	SN
JONES, EDWARD H.	EMC	SMITH, JUSTIN C.	LT
JONES, MALIK K.	EM3	SOMMELLA, TIMOTHY C.	LCDR
LAMBERT, JOSEPH M.	SN	SPELZ, JACKIE G.	DC2

Credits (cont.)

STALNAKER, TAYLOR J.	SN
STEVENSON, CHRISTIAN A.	FS3
STIEREN, GRADY C.	ME2
THOMAS, DYLAN R.	SN
TORRES, EDWIN A.	SN
URRUTIA, JACOB D.	FN
VAN VALKENBURG, C.	SK3
VILLANUEVA, JORGE A.	ET3
WAGUESPACK, TROY E.	MKC
WARD, EVAN M.	BM3
WELKER, THOMAS J.	SN
WERNER, BLAKE A.	SN
WOITT, STEVEN G.	FS3
WOLF, CHRISTOPHER N.	MKC

The VALIANT crew extends their gratitude and appreciation to all the friends and family members that provide encouragement and support while we are many miles away!



Photos Courtesy of
CGC VALIANT OS Team



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