

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)

Fall Patrol Newsletter 2010



USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)

100 MacArthur Causeway
Miami Beach, 33139
305-535-4373



Patrol Highlights

- Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations
- Helicopter Operations
- Ports of Call and Canal Transits



Good Bye, Miami!

USCGC VALIANT sailed from beautiful Miami Beach, FL 07 September

A New Command

This would be VALIANT's first patrol with new Commanding Officer, CDR John Dettleff.

CDR Dettleff offers his relief to off-going CO, CDR Vinciguerra.



Salty Old Seadog

GM1 Wolf earned his Permanent Cutterman's Pin. Congratulations!

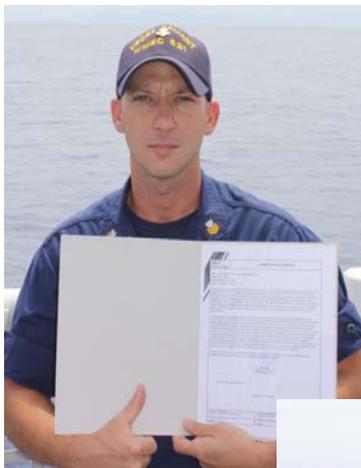
BACK TO MIAMI!

That concludes our patrol! Hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!





Underway Achievements!
PO Elbaz was advanced to OS2 and awarded both a Commandant's Letter of Commendation and Good Conduct Award!



ET Shop
ET1 Willard was recognized as Sailor of the Quarter!

PO Torres, who joined VALIANT for the patrol from ESD NEW YORK, was promoted to ET2!



Action Early On!
On 10 September, just 3 days after taking in lines from the pier, VALIANT received a report of an overloaded sail freighter off of Crooked Island, Bahamas.
Falcon-2309 had made the initial sighting.



Come Together
After the report from the Falcon, a Coast Guard Helicopter was sent to the scene. VALIANT's small boat was soon to join in the action as well.



Debarkation
95 Haitian migrants crowded the 40' Sail Freighter. VALIANT's boarding team met resistance from a group of hostile passengers who didn't want the others to leave. The boarding team was forced to employ pepper spray to gain compliance and safely rescue the others.





Set the AMIO Bill

The VALIANT boarding team makes trips to transfer the 95 migrants to the cutter, which included six children.



Interviews with the Locals

VALIANT launched the cutter's small boats to interview Haitians in an attempt to gather information on some of the push-pull factors effecting the migration patterns.

Checking In

Crewmembers escort the migrants to the fantail where they are searched for weapons and checked in. It is an all-hands evolution, which lasts hours. Everyone has a role to fill.



The Art of Understanding

The CO presents Creole interpreter Bern Jules a VALIANT hat at Quarters. Mr. Jules' assistance was critical in the success of these interviews.



Outbound

The walkthrough was successful and VALIANT returns to sea, escorted by a small Navy motor craft. The cutter passes the GTMO ferry on the way out of the Bay.



Now, Set the Special Sea Detail

VALIANT made 12 Canal Transits through Canal de Tortue on Haiti's north coast between the mainland and Ile de Tortue. Also referred to as "Sail Freighter Regattas," these transits were good practice for new conning officers -there were often 30 contacts in sight at once!

As the crew sharpened their restricted water navigation skills, VALIANT provided an overt presence, hopefully serving as a deterrent to illegal emigration.



Secure on Deck

Here, crewmembers stand a 24-hour security watch over the migrants. GM1 Wolf is maintaining security over one of the non-compliant migrants.

Each of the 95 migrants was eventually safely transferred to VALIANT, with the last transfer completed just before sunset.





R & R

VALIANT pulls into Puerto Rico for its first port call of the patrol. While some of the crew got some much needed rest and relaxation. The Engineering Department had to deal with a generator casualty. For them, R&R meant Repair and Restart...

On the Town

Senor Frog's was a popular destination in Old San Juan.

SN Marthers, SN Puterbaugh, and SN Tharp hang out with the Frog himself.



For the Safety of the Crew and the Migrants

Pat-downs are performed to ensure that the migrants have nothing they can use as weapons on the crew or themselves.



Rice 'n Beans

FS3 Day is ready to serve the "migrants" their rations under the tent set up on the flight deck. All steps were taken to ensure the realism of the walkthrough.

USCGC VALIANT (WHEC-621)

The Full Experience

DC3 Carpenter escorts VALIANT “migrant” EM3 Aguirre. It looks like EM3 would rather be back down in the engine room... or on liberty.



Service with a Smile

ME3 Dings and ENS Fulton man the migrant processing team.



USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)



Underway, Making Way

After the engineers fixed the #2 ship’s service diesel generator, VALIANT was back on patrol.

The crew gathers on the mess deck. BM1 Crews knows that, sometimes,



Fire All of Your Guns at Once...

The crew brushed up on their firing skills as VALIANT conducted a gunnery exercise. YN1 Miller and GM1 Wolf watch as MK3 Davenport blows a weather balloon target out of the water.



We Have Your Guard

VALIANT embarked Dolphin 6599 this patrol.

CDR Dettleff welcomes the five **Aviation Detachment (AVDET)** members aboard. The AVDET really enjoyed **VALIANT's "Burger Day"** and movies.

Moored

VALIANT sits at the pier while her crew visits the gym, goes snorkeling, gets some sun on the beach, shops at the Navy Exchange, or stands inport duty.



GREEN DECK!

With the help of 6599, many of **VALIANT's** crew qualified in helo operations positions including tie-down crew, landing safety officer, and helo control officer. Everyone had the opportunity to hone their skills.



A Working Port of Call

On October 14th, while inport GTMO, **VALIANT** hosted 60 senior DHS/DOD/DOS planning staff. Also on hand was Mr. Richard Burke, the DHS Director of Plans. We exercised each phase of our AMIO Bill providing planners an intimate view of migrant processing, care and repatriation.

Whoaa-oh Guan-tan-amo Bay!

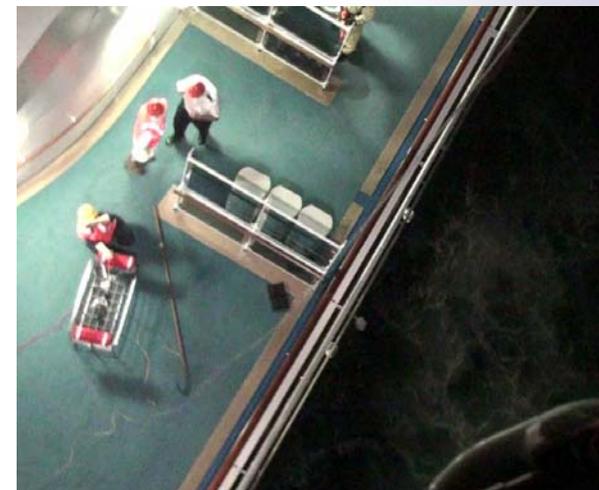
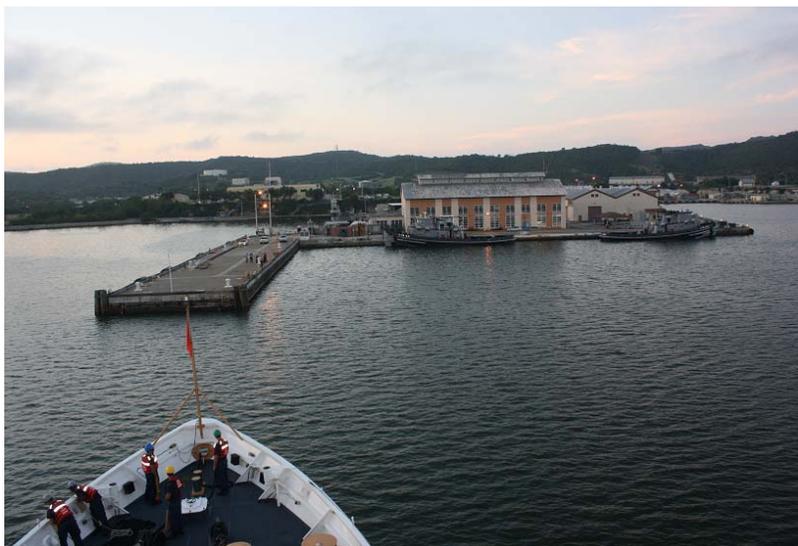
This patrol, VALIANT's crew got to pull into their favorite port of call not once, but two times!

BM2 Dinu, besides being a real American hero, served as primary plotter through the bay transits.



LAND-HO

Deck force is ready to put over lines as the cutter nears the pier. Land, Exchange, Banana Rats—Watch out, here comes VALIANT!



Saving Lives

Hours after Helo 6599 landed on deck, VALIANT received an urgent request for a MEDEVAC from a cruise ship. A man onboard was suffering a heart block and needed medical assistance. VALIANT launched 6599, which was on-scene soon thereafter and hoisted the patient and a doctor from the deck of the cruise ship.



Mission Success

The helo took the man to GTMO for transfer to a Life Flight headed for the States. On board, the doctor told the aircrew the man would have died had he not received a MEDEVAC.

Morale from the Sky

Not only did having a helo onboard serve training and operational purposes—IT WAS FUN! VALIANT crewmembers interested in aviation, like SN Walkup, embarked the helo to serve as an added lookout.



Up, up, and AWAY- but seriously... really now...

Everything was set for 6599 to leave when a part broke. Some onboard thought the helo just wanted an excuse to enjoy one last Burger Day. Luckily, the helo could be fixed and, after one last VALIANT burger, the AVDET departed.

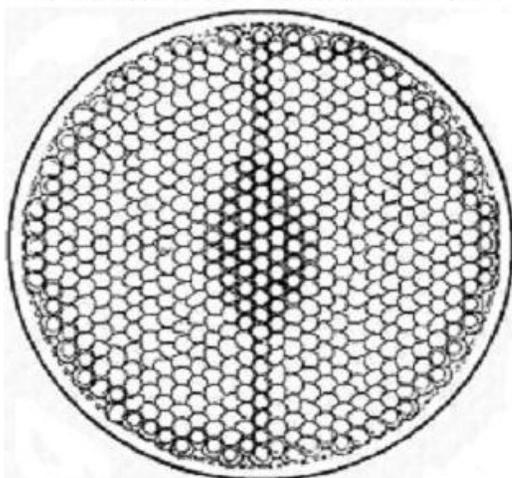


Talon Engaged!

Another morale opportunity provided by the helo was the Talon of Fortune! A hook called the "Talon" locks into a circle on a grid every time the helo lands. If the Talon hooked into the hole on the grid your number was in, you won! CDR Dettleff sweetened the pot and gave every crewmember a shot.

EM2 Brown won \$101!

Valiant's
TALON OF FORTUNE



**So Long and Farewell
Dolphin 6599...**

**MK1 Schreck enjoys
an empty flight deck**

