



# Shore Ties



**VOL VI**

**November - December 2009  
Windward Pass  
“The Almost Noah Expedition”**



**Venturous Pulling into Guantanamo Bay Cuba**

Originally MK3 Johnson's idea of the "Noah Expedition" was a great title. We were to be at sea for 40 days and 40 nights, however generator issues shortened that by about a week. There was still plenty of excitement on this patrol, and with a helicopter onboard for most of it we had a lot to do.





While operating in the Windward Pass (WWP) VENTUROUS was able to utilize both Creole interpreters and Royal Bahamian Defense Force (RBDF) shipriders. VENTUROUS would like to thank Mr. Robert and Mr. Jules , as well as L/S Neelythe and L/S Taylor, for their assistance (and pictures) during our patrol.



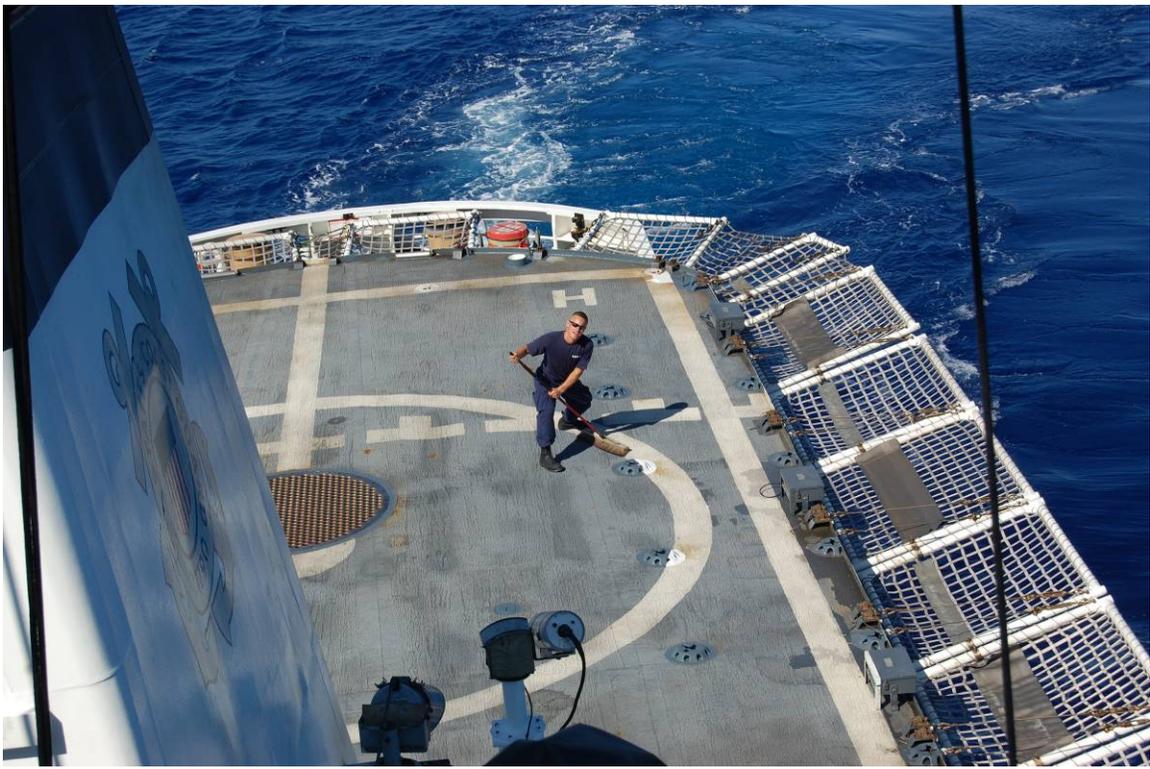
Boarding Officer LTJG Gordon uses the translation skill of both Mr. Robert and BM2 Sorrentini during a boarding





During normal patrol one morning District 7 informed us of a woman who had a possible ruptured peptic ulcer onboard the Cruise Ship Sea Princess. VENTUROUS was at the time only about 30 mins away. Once we arrived on scene we sent HS2 Bryce over to the cruise ship to take a look at the patient.





Meanwhile back on VENTURUOS the crew got prepared to airlift the patient off. The decision was made between the Captain of the Sea Princess and CDR St. Pierre, Captain of the VENTUROUS, that it would be easier to use the trained crew of the cutter do to hoist. Once the patient was safely

off the ship with her husband, they were flown to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Hospital.



# The Official Press Release of the SAR Case

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard**



MIAMI- Crewmembers from the Coast Guard Cutter Venturous and Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Fla., medevaced a 48-year-old woman at about 11:30 a.m., Sunday from the 856-foot cruise ship Sea Princess, home ported in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Search-and-rescue coordinators at the Seventh Coast Guard District command center in Miami received a call at 11 a.m. Sunday from cruise ship officials reporting a passenger was suffering from symptoms associated with a ruptured peptic ulcer.

The cutter Venturous crew was diverted from operations, arrived on scene at approximately 11:15 a.m., and transferred the women, her husband and the doctor from the Sea Princess to the cutter. The aircrew of a Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter lowered a rescue basket to the Venturous, safely hoisted the patient and her husband to the helicopter and transported them to the U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The woman is reported to be in critical condition.



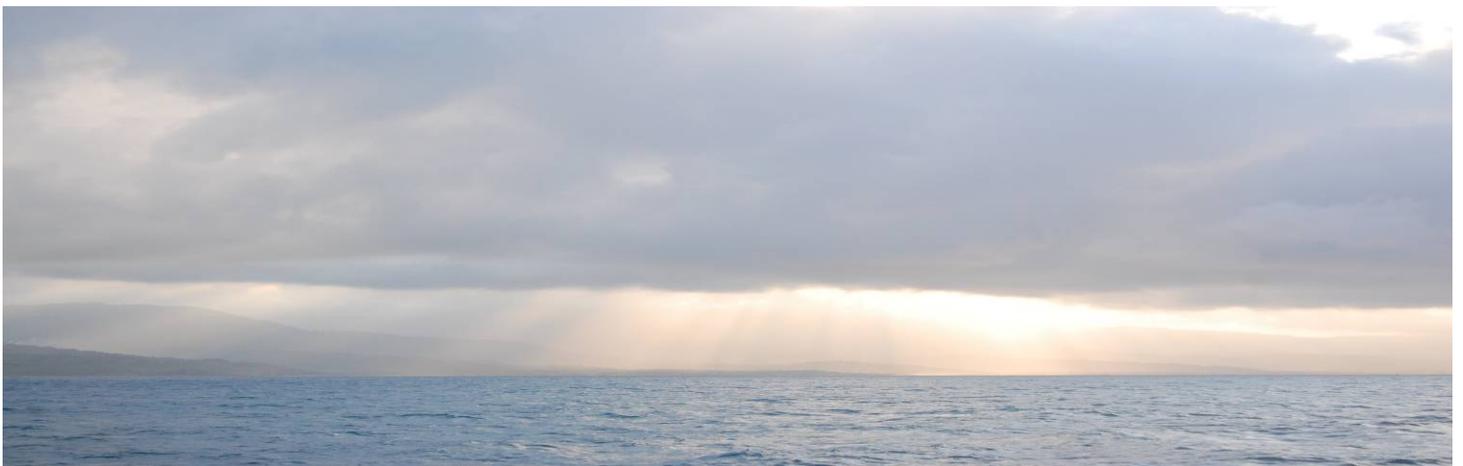


During our second port visit to GTMO, **VENTUROUS** suffered a generator casualty. This event lead to only being able to run one generator and an early return to homeport to conduct repairs.

We will be home for the Christmas holidays and the crew is happy about that.

Shorter or longer, **VENTUROUS** and her crew are glad to be home, able to spend another holiday with friends and family.

From the crew of the **VENTUROUS**, Happy Holidays!



# Get to Know a Shipmate

## FSCS Frederick Wilson



**Where are you originally from Senior Chief?** Winston Salem, NC

**When did you join the Coast Guard?** June 1992

**Why did you decide to join the Coast Guard?** I wanted to do something different from the rest of my family. They all went in the Army. I also thought the Coast Guard would be exciting and fun, which it is.

**Why did you decide to become an FS?** I struck Yeoman and was a YN3. I felt that being a Yeoman was not the job for me, so I went to FS school. Being an FS has been great, I have always liked to cook so I decided to do something I love doing.

**If you had to choose another rate besides FS, what would it be and why?** 1st choice would have been an Electrician Mate, but since I am color blind I had a zero chance in going that rate. 2nd choice a Damage Controlman because of the skills and the "C" school can help you in the civilian sector as a fireman, plumber, etc.

**What was one of your most memorable times in the Coast Guard?** I would say volunteering to go to Iraq and Kuwait with PSU 311 in 2003. Being in Iraq was very difficult, but I would not trade that experience for anything that I've done in the Coast Guard.

**How many Cutters have you been on?** This is my third cutter and I will be going to another cutter this summer.

**Enough of the Coast Guard questions, we all know you love sports, what is your favorite sport, and your favorite team?** Basketball, DUKE BLUE DEVILS

**We all have those wacky sports we like watching (like curling or ping pong) what wacky sport do you enjoy either watching or playing?** I just learned how to play Corn Hole. That is my new wacky game.

**Lastly, can you tell us something about yourself that no one knows?** I grew up in the housing projects and helped my mother who was a single parent raise my two brothers and me. So everything that I've done I owe it to my mom. I am a mama's boy or old man.

'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS  
VENTUROUS STYLE

*By: CDR St. Pierre*

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through our ship  
Not a crewmember was stirring; the radar didn't even have a blip

Mid-rats were prepped in the galley by the cooks  
In hope that a go-fast would show up laden with crooks

The JOs were nestled all snug in their beds  
While delusions of grandeur danced about in their heads

And FS1 who's good natured; in fact a bit smiley  
Had just serenaded the 1<sup>st</sup> Class with a lullaby from Miley

When out off the bow there arose such a clatter  
XO sprang from his rack to see what was the matter

Away to the bridge OPS flew in a hurry  
Got CIC going and made the boarding team scurry

The light from the moon made the sea look like snow  
And gave the luster of mid-day to objects below

When what to my wondering eyes should appear  
But our OTH boat and 8 deckies dressed like reindeer

With a little old driver who's skills were innate  
I knew in a moment it must be Chief Toungate

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back  
And he looked a bit like Santa as he held on to the sack

More rapid than eagles his courses they came  
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name

Now Cramer, now Mackey, now Larsen and Lee  
On Dippery, on Lopez, on Palmer and BM3

XO on the bridge; being there is his knack  
Screamed at the top of his lungs, "1LT-EO I want that boat back"

So up to the boat deck the department heads flew  
With engineers, deckies and for some reason the interpreter too

EO quickly declared, "The CBL is too slow  
But give the engineers some time then watch that thing go."

As I drew in my hand and was turning around  
Down the port side the OTH came with a bound

Surveying the scene with the Command Chief of the boat  
I realized a few things that needed to be wrote

While we weren't quite as busy this patrol as the last  
We did a lot of good things and welcomed new crew who learned  
fast

The morale events in GTMO were fun, but I'll have to be curt  
We've got to figure out how to have one where no one gets hurt

Thanksgiving was nice; celebrating at sea  
But I think y' all deserve a holiday with someone other than me

Now back to Chief Toungate with his bag full of stuff  
Picturing him as Santa; I know you've all had enough

But I heard him exclaim as Haiti faded out of sight  
"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night

Thank you for sharing the company of your friends  
and loved ones with the rest of us on the Cutter  
VENTUROUS. We've got an outstanding crew!

I would like to join my wife Jenise and daughters,  
Ella and Brynn in wishing you and your families a  
happy and safe holiday season!

V/R,  
Ted St. Pierre



**VENTUROUS** received a few new faces this patrol.  
**WELCOME ABOARD!**

MK1 Hayes  
DC3 Maxwell  
SN Brown

SN Palmer  
SN Lee  
FN Penney

VENTUROUS Also Embarked several TAD members including a  
Helo Crew from Air Station Traverse City

LT McMillan  
LTJG Swenson  
LTJG Couture (CGC Reliance)  
AMT1 Petre  
AET2 Twombly  
AMT3 Mace



**Observations on Yet Another Windward Passage Patrol  
(That weird bit of water between Cuba and Haiti)  
by LCDR Curtiss C. Potter**

1. What passes for winter in Tampa Bay sure is cold when standing on the bridge wing in 18 knot winds after five years of tropical living.
2. Helicopters work best while flying from land. It's almost as if they are allergic to ships. Although I suppose the same could be said of most pilots.....with the notable exception of our AvDet from Traverse City.
3. The Corpsman and the duty injury mishap report drafter should always be present at every command-sponsored sporting event.
4. Could we run the Canal de Tortue one more time? Please?!
5. Anybody know how you can start out on EMC Cream's good side very first thing in the a.m.? If not, just ask LT(jg) Couture.
6. Holidays underway kind of stink, but in some ways it's a great experience to share with your "cutter family" – those people with whom you actually spend more time than your blood family for the two or three years you are assigned to a ship.
7. Coast Guard Base Guantanamo Bay was a sight to behold with a 270 WMEC, two 210 WMECs, a 110 WPB, a C-130, two HH-65s, an HU-25, a brand new HC-144, and a handful of RB-Ss. All these assets within two miles of each other. Sign me up for a PCS move! I'll take any billet!
8. Apparently Senior Chief Wilson doesn't like fully body massages. Who knew?
9. We like helicopter pilots who play poker – especially those who don't really know how.
10. It's a travesty of justice that we were only able to put up three flight observers from the crew in our "embarked" helo – especially since the XO was #4 on the randomly drawn list of 33 volunteers.
11. Personally, I like heavy seas on holiday routine. Nobody is about the decks, no one is putting more work in my in-box, and people leave me alone.
12. Just remember, there are only two kinds of people in the world – those who HAVE BEEN sea sick and those who WILL BE sea sick. There's something a little poetic about watching Doc put an IV in to re-hydrate somebody who has previously made a joke or two at the expense of a sea sick shipmate.
13. It's always weird when the Detailer calls and gives you your #1 or #2 pick. There's that moment of panicky buyer's remorse, "Did I really want to go to Germany?!" Then you settle down and realize that is exactly where you want to go.

# Cover Recovery

## By: Anonymous Sailor

A good story should always start with some background information. So, here goes... Since I've reported to VENTUROUS (I'll leave the date a mystery in an effort to remain anonymous), I've "lost" a handful of perfectly good, barely worn ball caps. What is a handful you ask? Try approximately eight to ten of those bad boys! Now, when I say "lost" – I might mean "taken" from a strategically placed position that I happened to forget about ten minutes later. You see, I might have walked away from the messdeck one too many times while my cover remained put, or left the bridge after flight quarters without my cover in tow only to come back later and find it missing. Since day one, the game of "find me if you can" left covers flapping away in the breeze on the halyards, frozen rock solid after spending a few days where popsicles live, completely wrapped in blue painter's tape, or hidden in the maze of pipes and wires through the ship's overheads. All in good fun mind you. Though I can remember countless times when Quarters would be piped or I was notified of next watch and I had to scurry all over the ship in search of a little head-shaped, dark blue object with a curved bill to no avail. After many times of having to borrow covers on these occasions, I succumbed to it all and learned to always have two readily available. Lost one? No big deal – snatch the spare and replace it with another! Needless to say, this has been going on for quite some time now and never once have I had to worry about my cover becoming faded! I never have held onto one for long enough.....

Now that the background information is out of the way – let the story begin! This patrol has been full of excitement, I mean – who doesn't like transiting through the Canal de Tortue every day while fifty Haitian sail freighters packed with commuters who could care less about rules of the road transit back and forth right in front of the ship?! I digress. It was a beautiful morning, the sun was shining, there was a nice breeze from a westerly wind and I was coming onto watch. As we begin our transit through the Canal, the westerly wind at about 10kts RIPPED my cover from my head and tossed it into the deep blue. Great. No rest for the coverless! I had to continue the watch with my hair all crazy-like and getting tangled in knots, binoculars wrapped around my neck to ensure I saw every little sail freighter ahead, while carrying the top of the alidade (one was broken) back and forth from either bridge wing to get accurate bearings – all the while feeling like Dora the Explorer. Did I mention that I had only had this cover since the start of the patrol?! I tell you what though – when a USCGC VENTUROUS ball cap drifts up on shore – they'll know we are here. Talk about a deterrent! Or maybe it will become a sun-shade for a migrant who sets sail on the next freighter attempting to flee Haiti.....

Fast forward two days. Yes – only two days. I'm wearing a brand new cover and on watch once more. This time though, VENTUROUS is conducting man overboard drills. POOF!! There it goes again. This time I scream out "NOO!" and make a feeble attempt to reach for it. Another cover donated to the deep blue. OPS is on the bridge and when he is able to stop laughing says, "Do you want to try and recover it?" I look out at my ball cap with its bill bobbing up and down in our wake as it drifts away from us and say, "SURE DO!" So for the next thirty minutes, VENTUROUS had a very important mission – Cover Recovery. It took several approaches, many people scanning the waters, and sheer luck to finally get us close enough for SN Brooks (yes – that's a shout out) to hook it and reel her in. He comes up to the bridge with the prize and says, "Do you want me to get you a chin-strap?" Ha – Ha! I just slapped it on my head and finished watch with sea water dripping down my face. Now, a few days from pulling in – I have four covers as two of those that were 'mysteriously' lost just showed up on my rack one day!

Long story, no point – but fun while it lasted!

-Anonymous Sailor

## What Did you Learn on this Patrol!

“I learned that  
1.15077945MPH = 1KT” –  
LTJG Gordon

“I learned what flotsam and  
jetsam are” –BM3 Kerrigan

“I learned what it is like to sail with  
a different crew” – LTJG Couture

“I learned the true meaning of a wetting  
down...I think” –LTJG - Sprenger

“I learned how easy it is  
to beat men at spades  
(With the help of BMC  
Toungate) – LT Grant

“I learned that playing flag  
football can cause you to  
maintain your middle  
finger/the bird, for the rest of  
the patrol” –OS1 Burgos

“I learned that noting  
that is suppose to happen,  
happens, and everything  
changes” – SN Brown

“I learned that paying  
attention to detail is  
key” – MK1 Hoffer

“I learned no one wants to go  
to Baltimore” –ENS Bruns

“I have learned  
there is a sheep  
onboard, and that he  
has his own  
store....possibly  
even his own mess”  
–Anonymous Sailor

“I learned not to eat a big meal,  
prior to big waves” – ET2 Orr

“I learned to believe nothing  
that you hear, and half of  
what you see” – OS3 Retamar

“I learned quals don't come  
easy” –SN Vick

“I learned teamwork”- SN Palmer

“I learned all you need is a  
competitive crew, a few bean  
bags, and JO bought alcohol, and  
you have yourself a memorable  
GTMO port call” – LT Gunagan

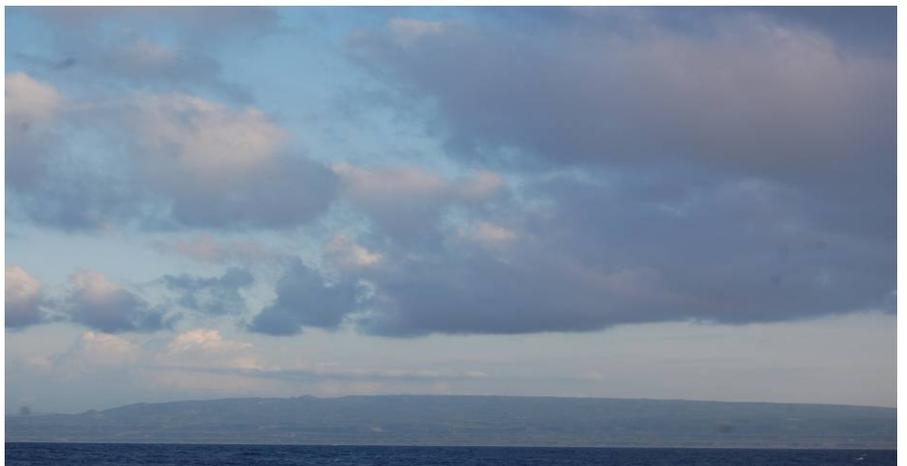
“I learned that calling every  
number on the boat, asking  
whoever answered what they have  
learned this patrol is not as easy  
as it sounds” – OS2 DeVore

*And now for the Patrol Pictures!*

ENS Bredariol enjoys being BO (or at least the boat ride)

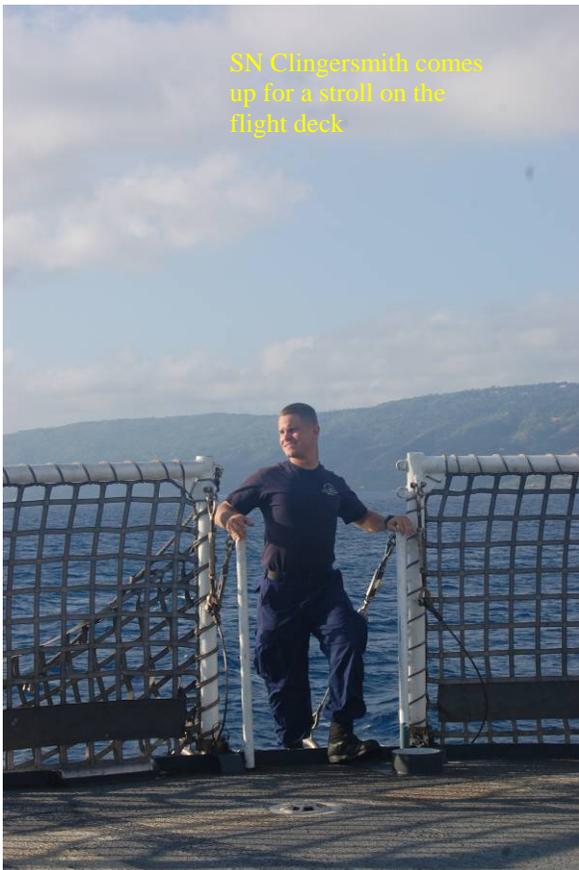


The crew breaks into departments after Quarters





ET2 Maharaj fixes the alarm panel down on the main deck



SN Clingersmith comes up for a stroll on the flight deck



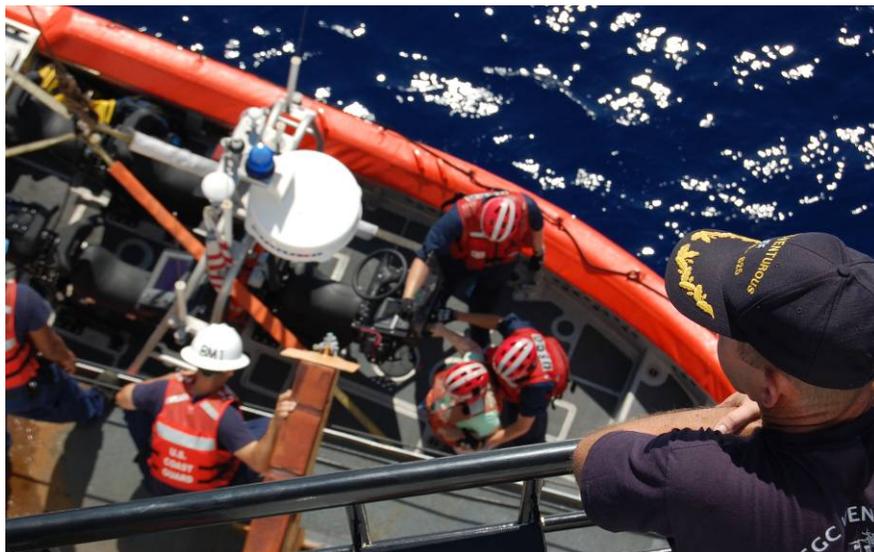
ET2 Orr learns how to use PKP

# Thanksgiving VENTUROUS SYTLE

OS1 Burgos and FN Blue were not able to attend this fine meal due to injuries, but our thoughts and prayers were with them

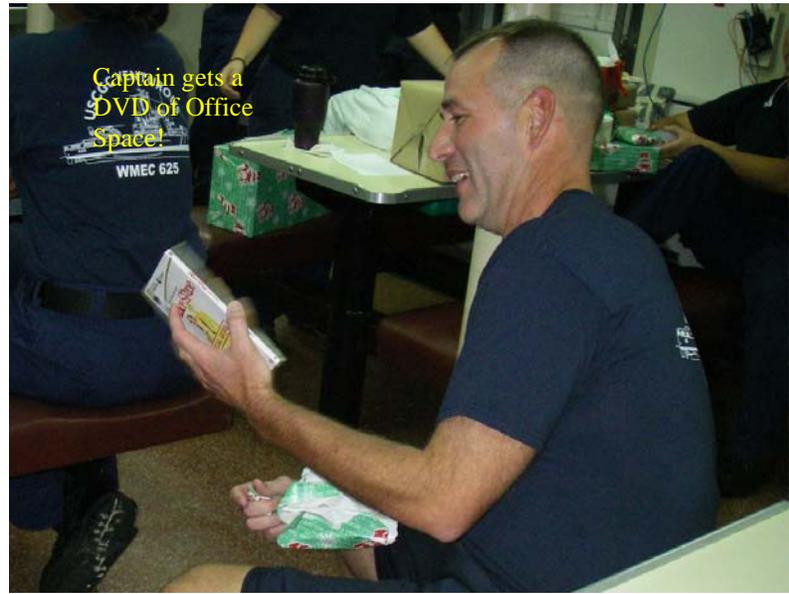


# SAR Case with the Cruise Ship Sea Princess





# Secret Santa Gift Exchange



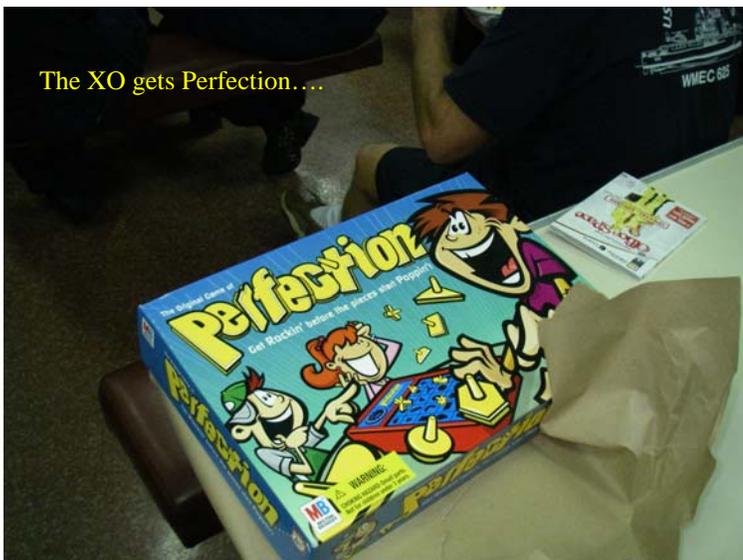
Captain gets a DVD of Office Space!



Someone got OSG DeVore a weapon? (Ok so it's a NERF weapon) Commence NVG Bridge OPS



We had to make sure ENS Bruns had to work to get his gift. He cheated though and cut through the duct tape layers with a knife!



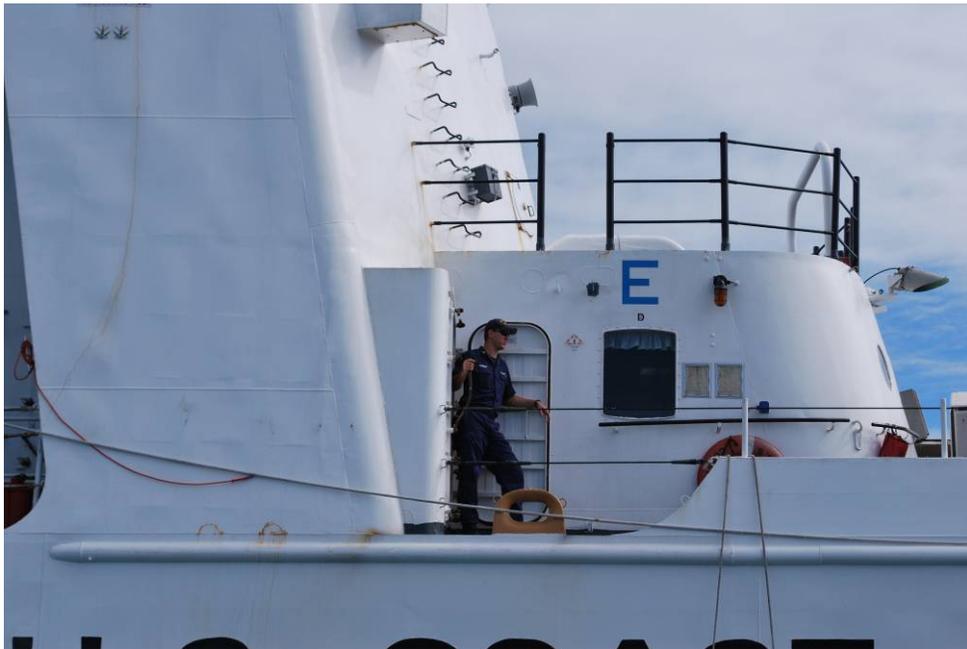
The XO gets Perfection....

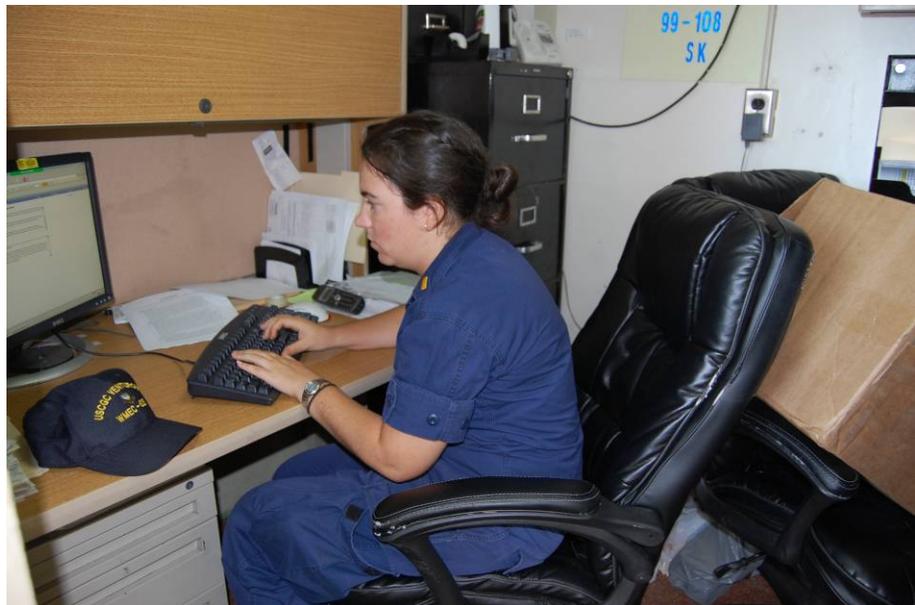
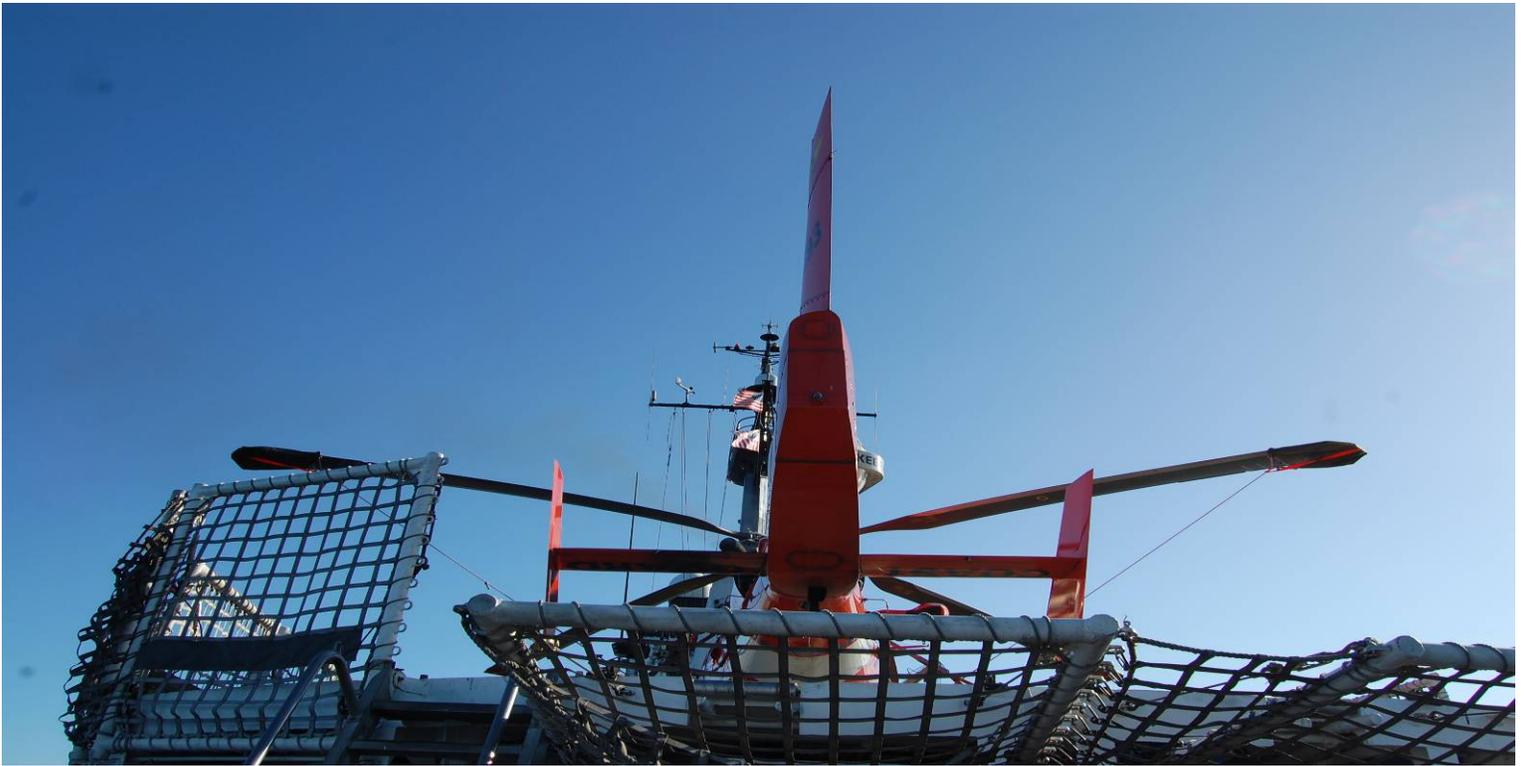


Only an Engineer could wrap a gift like this



MK1 Hayes gets a Batmobile!



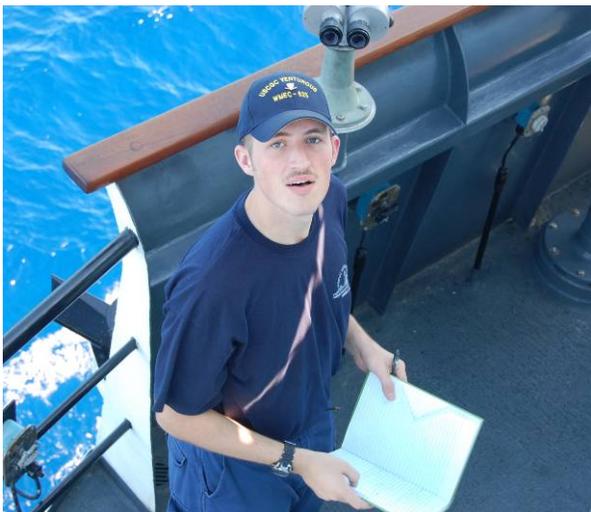


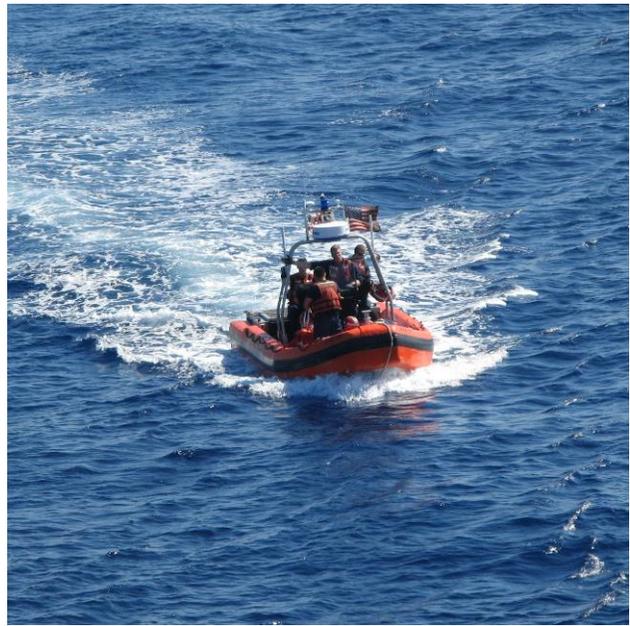


The XO checks with the LSO's before the Helo comes in



OS2 DeVore checks with district during the SAR case





Looks like  
LTJG Hoffus  
knows how to  
use the deep  
fryer during  
Nacho Nights!



Promotion ceremony for FSCS  
Wilson

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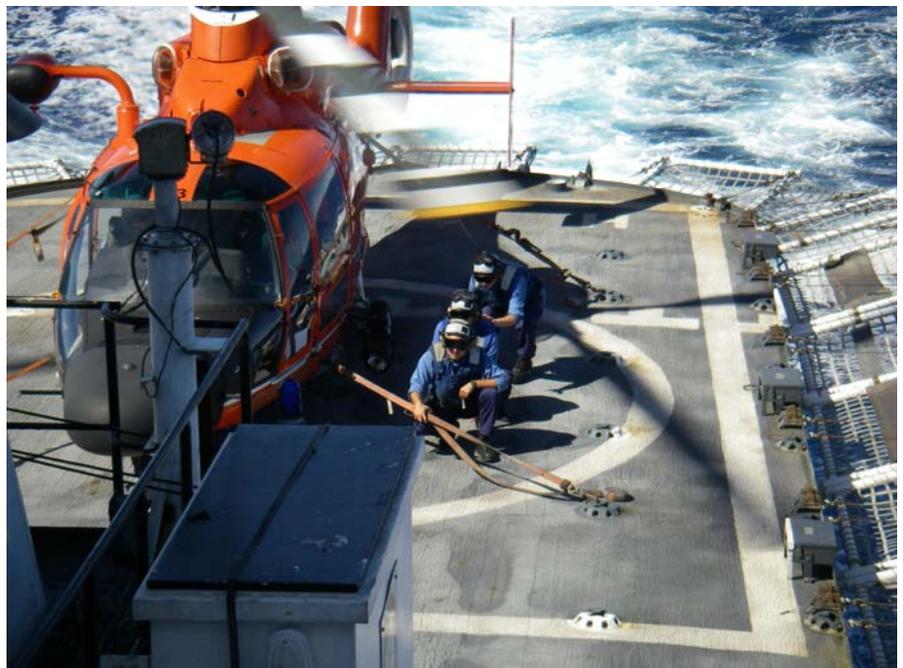


Even the Pilots get  
involved with  
nacho Night!  
Thanks LTJG  
Swenson!









# The Wetting Down Party!



This must be where Senior Chief learns Cornhole!



Its not a party without a bonfire!





**The VENTUROUS helped turn GTMO into Coast Guard Base Guantanamo Bay Cuba, Pictured are 3 of the 4 cutters, Venturous, Harriet Lane, and Resolute. However the Drummond was moored in front of the Venturous while at the air station there was a slew of CG aircraft including a C-130(Hercules), two HH-65 (Dolphin), an HU-25 (Falcon), a brand new HC-144 (Ocean Sentry).**







The sign says  
it all

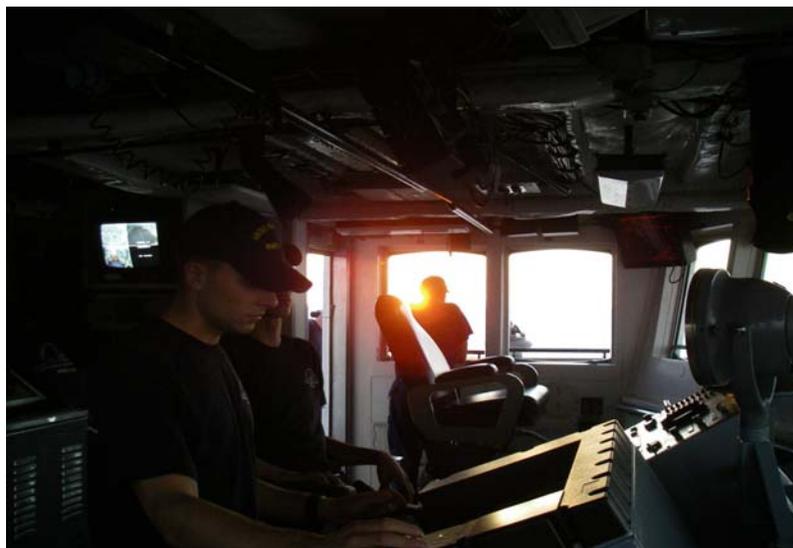


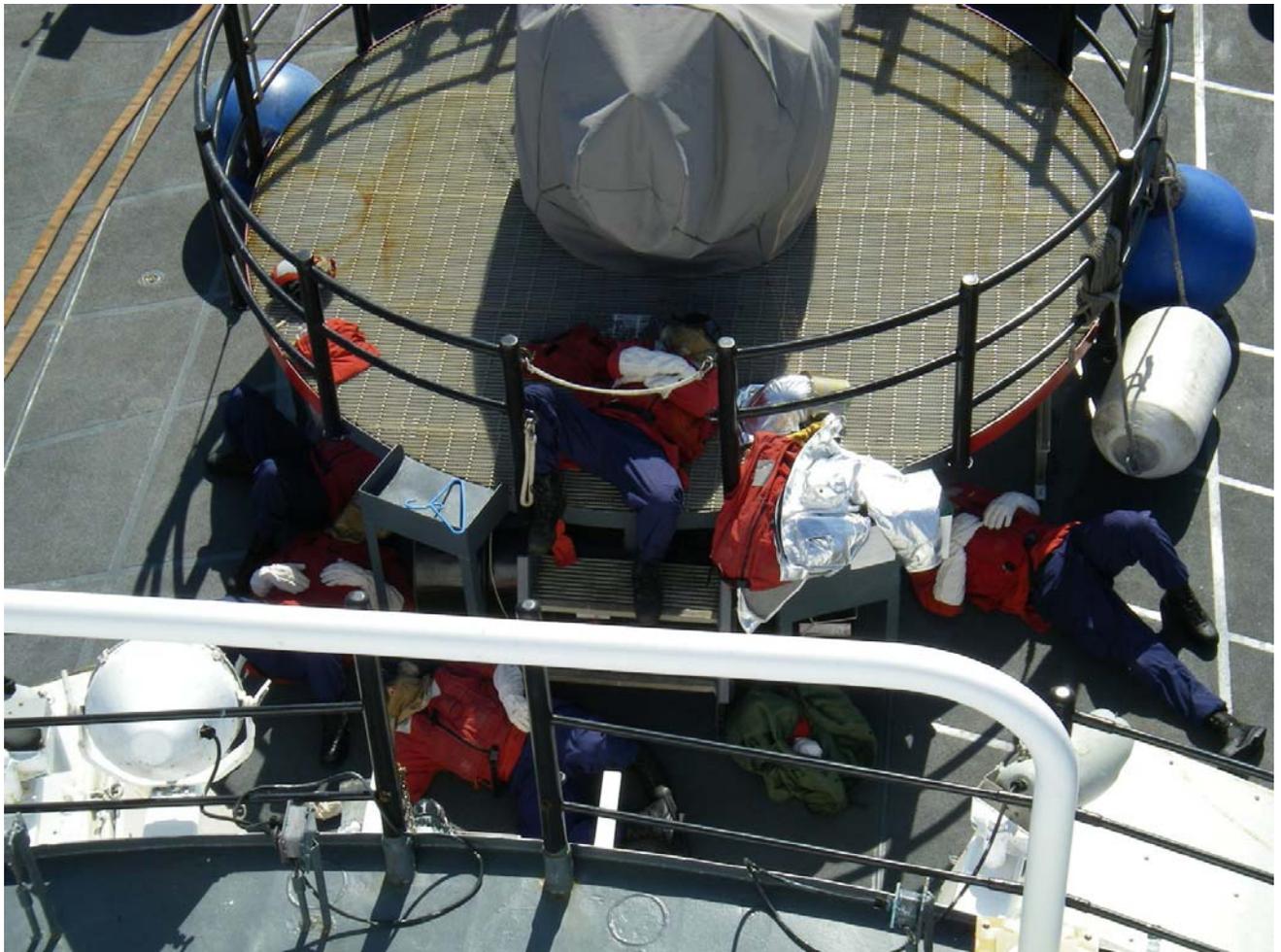
DC1Prior goes over basic  
shipboard damage control with  
newly reported personnel





The Crew Practices  
Helo crash on  
deck drills







From the Editor

I would like to thank everyone who helped in this Newsletter. Many ideas were given to me, and many articles and pictures donated. Thank you very much for making this a success!

- OS2 DeVore