



# Shore Ties



**VOL IV Ed 1**

**January – February 2009  
JIATF-S Patrol  
“The GITMO and Grand Cayman Patrol”**



50 days at sea, 31 right of approach inspections, 14 boardings, 3 port calls, 2 helo evolutions, 1 tow, and countless drills later CGC VENTUROUS returns home from another patrol!



## From the Commanding Officer

VENTUROUS Family,

Greetings! We are returning from another very busy Caribbean Counter Drug patrol, after conducting operations in the vicinity of Honduras with the help of 2 shipriders from the Honduran Navy and Police force. Of particular note we helped the Govt of Honduras seize one of their fishing vessels which had 1000 lbs of illegal catch of Conch onboard. We also capped off the patrol with a 650 mile tow and 3 day dockside boarding in Guantanamo Bay Naval base of a vessel suspected of smuggling illegal drugs. The dockside inspection involved the removal of all fuel and other equipment onboard as well as searches with drug dogs and a thorough underwater hull inspection. Unfortunately no drugs were found, but the crew did an exceptional job with their search.

We overcame significant equipment casualties this patrol, including our Over The Horizon (OTH) small boat and 2 of our generators. We were able to work through these problems with some well timed parts deliveries from our shore side support and at sea repair by our engineers.

Thanks for the exceptional support from our home front this patrol led by our Ombudsman, Felina Mincey. The crew enjoyed Valentines Day Gifts sent to us during our Grand Cayman port call. As most of you know, Felina and her husband, OS1 John Mincey, will be transferring this summer to Key West and we are in need of a new Ombudsman. Let your husbands know if you are interested in the job. We will arrange interviews later in the inport for those interested.

The next 60 days will be a busier than normal inport for the crew as the ship goes through its triennial Dockside Maintenance Availability led a contractor. \$500,000 worth of work will be completed, including repair/replacement of piping and insulation, overhaul and replacement of fire main valves, replacement of air conditioning Fan Coil Units (FCUs), cleaning of generators, calibration of tank level indicators, and cleaning and inspection of exhaust and ventilation systems. The crew will be required to stand some extra duty to support contractor work after normal work hours.

We are glad to be back home to enjoy a longer than usual 60 day inport period our families. Get out together and take advantage of this great Florida winter and spring weather over the next couple of months.

Sincerely,

Commander Robert Thompson  
Commanding Officer



VENTUROUS' first port call of the patrol was the familiar port of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The ship received much needed supplies, a replacement OTH, and the crew enjoyed taking a break.



A pizza and bowling night was held at Gitmo's bowling alley. During the pizza and bowling night, the cutter received word of a possible recall to help with migrant operations,

however, CGC SPENCER and CGC SENECA were able to handle it, allowing us the full 3 days of rest. The First Class Petty Officers also held a BBQ for the crew at Windmill beach.



# Observations on a JIATF-South Patrol

## By LCDR Curtiss C. Potter

1. Watching dolphins play in the bow wave never becomes old ... nor does watching sunsets or storms at sea.
2. Five seconds of inattention can cost the government \$50,000.
3. When conducting a formal risk assessment, always add at least two points to the Complexity score if another cutter is involved.
4. Five minutes of humility on the Mess Deck adds significantly to crew morale ... and \$50 to the Morale Fund.
5. You will always have to fire up the engines and take off at ludicrous speed in pursuit of "hot intel" just when you hook into a school of mahi-mahi.
6. Fire drills can be fun, but they are never as much fun as the XO tries to make them out to be.
7. The long, drawn-out law enforcement cases only happen when it's time for a port call or to start heading home.
8. If Einstein had traveled with us, he would have developed whole new theories of relativity because rumors actually travel faster than the speed of light onboard a 210-foot cutter.
9. Grand Cayman is nice, but when you've seen it twice for a total of eight days – some other "island paradise" would certainly be a nice change.
10. Just the right amount of alcohol can add to the fun of a port call. A bit too much takes all the fun right out.
11. When considering just how inept the U.S. Navy can be, it's both comforting and disconcerting to know that they are the world's best.
12. Good PCS orders to a new unit make even the crustiest, 20-year veteran giddy as a school girl. Problem is, like a school girl, all they can focus on is that new crush once it's in front of them.
13. The Caribbean sun is always stronger than you think it is.
14. A quartering sea in a 210-foot cutter is exceedingly annoying when you are a paper-pusher shackled to your desk most of the day.
15. Washing your sheets and laundry once a week is a good thing ... trust me on this one.
16. Working 14 hours a day, 7 days a week accelerates hair loss.
17. Underway connectivity and e-mail with the beach is the most wonderful and dangerous two-edged sword in today's Coast Guard.
18. Sacrifice is something all Cuttermen understand. Being at sea conducting the Nation's business when children are born, birthdays come and go, on holidays, and during family tragedies is a thousand-year nautical tradition that will likely last another thousand years.
19. Channel fever, fish call, bingo, raffles, karaoke, Sunday holiday routine, and the occasional well-planned practical joke are all very good things.
20. A cutter's crew will always impress you with their ingenuity, energy, and effectiveness when you most need them to do so.



Midway through the patrol, VENTUROUS had a port call in Georgetown, Grand Cayman. A port visit that was supposed to last 2 days turned into a 4 day stop while we waited on parts. The crew enjoyed the break, as well as the beaches, night life, diving, and wildlife (i.e. chickens).



# Official Press Release

ENS Emily Hartmann

## **CUTTER VENTUROUS RETURNS HOME FROM 50 DAY DEPLOYMENT**

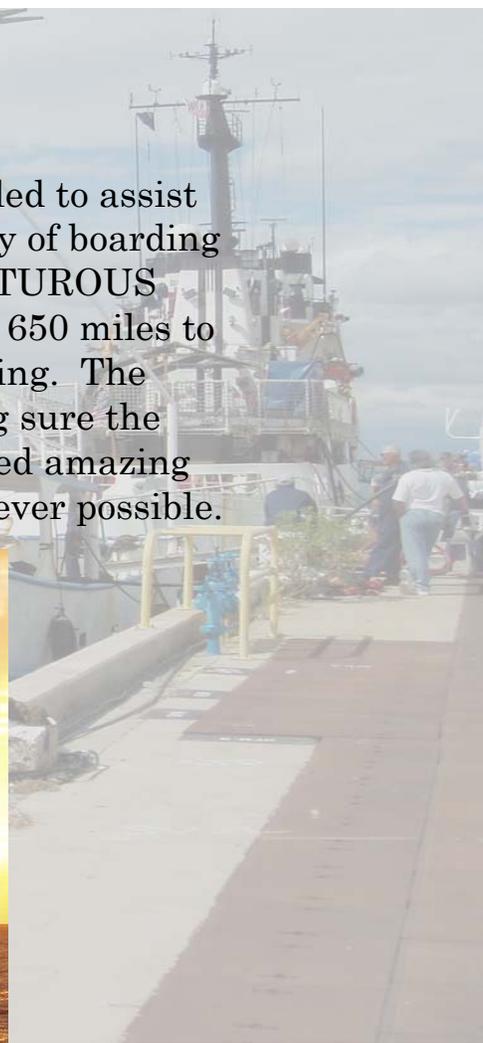
ST. PETERSBURG - Coast Guard Cutter *Venturous* (WMEC-625) returned home today following a successful 50 day deployment that included conducting counter-drug operations off the coast of Central America. *Venturous* and her crew were deployed to the area under the direction of the Joint Interagency Task Force South, the government organization that drives the nation's maritime counter drug program. *Venturous* conducted numerous counter-narcotics boardings in the Caribbean Sea to ensure illicit narcotics did not reach the streets of the United States. This particular patrol, *Venturous'* capabilities were enhanced by the presence of two shipriders of the Honduran Navy and Police Force, allowing *Venturous* to board Honduran vessels and enhance relations between the two countries.

While on patrol, *Venturous* supported the Honduran Navy in a fisheries seizure aboard the Honduran-flagged fishing vessel *Miss Norvelina*, which had over 1000 lbs of illegal catch. The Honduran Navy seized the vessel and the catch, while a boarding team from *Venturous* provided security.

The commanding officer of *Venturous*, Commander Robert K Thompson, stated - "It was a successful patrol for us and it was exciting to work off the coasts of Central America with our partner agencies and Honduran representatives in the war on drugs." Coast Guard Cutter *Venturous* is a 210-foot Reliance class cutter, homeported in St. Petersburg, Florida. She has a crew of 85 officers and enlisted personnel. Typical missions include counter-drug operations, alien migrant interdiction, and fisheries enforcement. Although the crew thoroughly enjoyed visits to Grand Cayman and Guantanamo Bay, each member is glad to be home today.



Toward the end of the patrol, VENTUROUS was called to assist CGC NORTHLAND, who was already in their 7<sup>th</sup> day of boarding a fishing vessel suspected of smuggling drugs. VENTUROUS hooked a tow line to the vessel and towed her nearly 650 miles to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to conduct a pier side boarding. The boarding teams worked 15+ hours every day, making sure the boat had 100% space accountability. The crew showed amazing team work as they assisted the boarding team whenever possible.



**Busy with patrolling the high seas- VENTUROUS experienced a significant crew turn-over as new shipmates arrived, salty old hands left for new waters, and TAD folks came and went.**

Permanent Change of Station Arriving

BM3 Kerrigan	MK3 Collins
SN Vick	SA Gray
SA Rodriguez	FA D'Amore
SA Miller	

Permanent Change of Station Departing

LTJG Benson – USGC ADAK  
FSC Dickey – OCS (Official Civilian Status)  
FS2 Newnam – USCGC ADAK  
YN3 Bronner – District 13 staff  
SN Lorenzo – OS 'A' school

Temporarily Assigned

HS1 Pierce of the CG Academy  
MK1 Calhoun of CGC NORTHLAND  
MK3 Booth of CGC NORTHLAND

**With a large portion of the patrol dedicated to training and professional development, here is a list of those crew members who qualified in a new watch position**

Underway Officer of the Deck

ENS Gordon	ENS Rhodes
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Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch

ET2 Crisafulli	EM3 Miller	FN Hemmingway
ET2 Maharaj	EM3 Justice	FN Payne
OS3 Underwood	SN McCall	SN Turner

Throttleman

DC2 Parham	MK3 Gymory	EM3 Justice
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Auxiliary

EM3 Miller	FN Kilpatrick	FN Boyle	FN Payne
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Helm and Lookout

SN Vick	SN Gray	SA Cortez	SA Rodriguez
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Navigation Petty Officer of the Watch

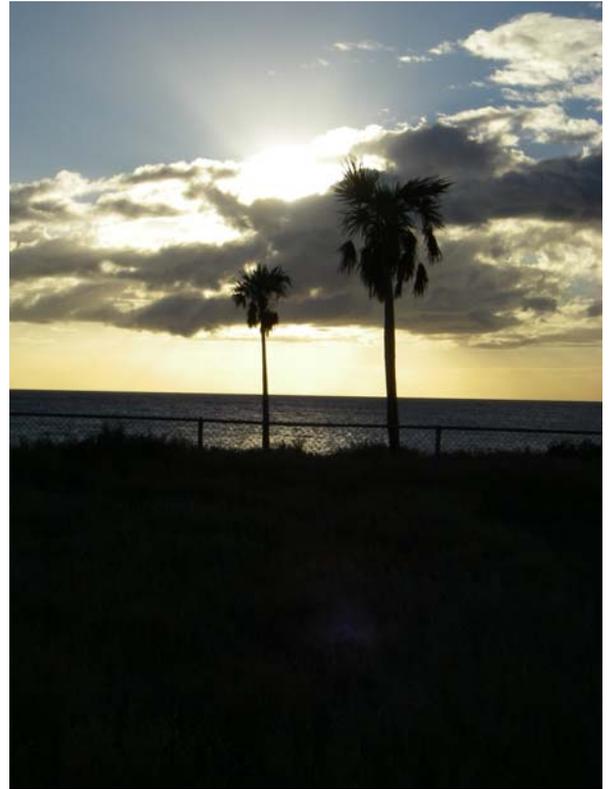
BM3 Kerrigan	SN Pena
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And now various Pictures Taken by the Crew



Above: On Pizza night, the Engineers take a turn at trying to make the best pizza and wings.



boarding team returns after boarding



Above: A Helo from the CGC NORTHLAN lands to pick up a portable generator.





Left: MK1 Hoffer, ET2 Maharaj, SA Gray, and SN Rodriguez study DC material on the Messdeck.

Right: Riding the liberty bus in Gitmo.





Above: OPS gets prepared to be lowered into the small boat.



Left: CGC OCRACOKE home ported in St. Petersburg sitting at the pier in Guantanamo Bay

Right: The Captain overlooks the small boat lowering operations before heading over the CGC NORTHLAND.





Above: The OSs make sure ops does not enjoy his liberty by informing him of a possible recall while in GTMO.

Left: OPS takes a large cheesecake with sprinkles, chocolate syrup, and whip cream to the face for morale.



Right: XO must have walked a long way to get this picture. I don't know why he was there...



Above: Never seen a banana rat before? XO managed to get a close up of this cat sized rat.

Right: BM1 Johanson catches a barrel while the crew forms a bucket brigade to offload concrete onboard a fishing vessel during a pier side boarding.



Bottom: After quickly offloading the concrete the crew celebrates the evolution and does a "liberty" cheer.

