



Shore Ties



Vol II Ed 2

**MARCH – MAY 2008
TACT / JIATF PATROL
“THE MATERIAL CONDITION TRIP”
OR
“THE I SEE A LOT OF WATER PATROL”**



VENTUROUS moored in Guantanamo Bay, CU After 65 days away from home port, including two and a half weeks of intense Tailored Annual Cutter Training (TACT) and a 45 day patrol deep in the Caribbean Sea– Here we are, Home Again. In the next few pages hopefully you’ll know a little bit more about what we’ve been doing.



The crew enjoyed a swim call south of Jamaica– Clear blue water, a nice breeze, 90°+ air temp

***From the desk of CDR Robert Thompson
Commanding Officer, CGC VENTUROUS***

I would like to offer a heartfelt greeting to our families and friends of CGC VENTUROUS. In addition, I extend a warm welcome to our newest crewmembers and families, and bid farewell and best wishes to those departing.

I have just completed my first year aboard as Commanding Officer and I wish to highlight a few of the more significant events that have occurred during the past twelve dynamic and challenging months:

1. Ongoing efforts in support of the Mission Effectiveness Project
2. Multiple cutter crew swaps
3. Completion of a six month dry-dock period where new systems and equipment were installed
4. Rebuilds of both main diesel engines
5. New flight deck resurfacing
6. Considerable improvements to habitability and living conditions
7. Successful completion of Cutter Annual Readiness Training and Tailored Annual Cutter Training cycles,
8. Helicopter standardization visit,
9. And, interdiction and seizure of the sailing vessel DAZZLER, a case in which our zealous crew nabbed 1,900 pounds of marijuana while ending the careers of two long-time drug smugglers.

Our missions are important, dynamic, and varied. In addition to the steadfast dedication and stellar performance of each member of the crew during the past year, I would like to express my appreciation for the sacrifice and support of spouses, families and friends. It's a difficult thing to be separated from loved ones, particularly during holidays, birthdays, graduations, and life's big events. And yet this fact is a significant driving force that brings us home safely at the end of each patrol.

Thanks for being an integral part of the TEAM!

Sincerely,
Rob Thompson, CDR
Commanding Officer
CGC VENTUROUS (WMEC 625)



TAILORED ANNUAL CUTTER TRAINING

Each year major cutters set sail from homeport enroute Naval Station Mayport, FL or Naval Station Little Creek, VA. They arrive and delve into two and a half solid weeks of training for operations, navigation, engineering, damage control, and seamanship. VENTUROUS prepared hard, worked harder, and you can see the results of our efforts below:

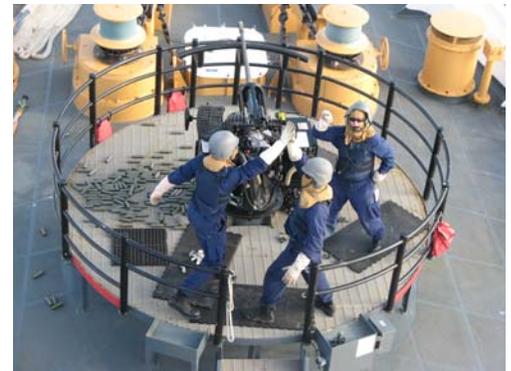
Quoted directly from the VENTUROUS–End of Tact Report:

"15. IAW REF B, THE SHIP IS **ELIGIBLE FOR ALL INDIVIDUAL E AWARDS:**

A. ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE	98.9
B. WEAPONS EXCELLENCE	100
C. DAMAGE CONTROL EXCELLENCE	96.9
D. OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE	96.4
E. SEAMANSHIP EXCELLENCE	98.6

16. IAW REF A, VENTUROUS IS **ELIGIBLE FOR THE OPERATIONAL READINESS AWARD AND BATTLE E RIBBON** DUE TO SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF 112 OF 112 REQUIRED STRS WITH AN **AVERAGE OF 97.4 PERCENT** OF THE BEST STR SCORES. VENTUROUS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED 119 OF 133 STRS CONDUCTED WITH AN OVERALL AVERAGE OF 92.9 PERCENT."

The crew also earned 5–days liberty over the Easter Weekend and completed Helicopter Standardization Training while in Mayport.



Gunnery teams (above and below) scored 100% on all drills– Effectively clean sweeping the weapons training.



Did you know...
VENTUROUS' motto is Nemo Supra– translated that means "None Better" and the Winter/Spring 2008 crew did everything they possibly could to hold fast to it!!



THE SCOOP- OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

PREPARED BY ENS M. BENSON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

CUTTER VENTUROUS RETURNS HOME FROM 65 DAY DEPLOYMENT

ST PETERSBURG- Coast Guard Cutter *Venturous* (WMEC-625) returned home today following a highly successful 65 day deployment that included two-and-a-half weeks of dedicated seamanship, navigation, damage control, combat systems and engineering casualty training at Naval Station Mayport, Florida. The remaining month and a half was spent conducting counter-drug operations off the coasts of South and Central Americas.

The training that *Venturous* underwent at Naval Station Mayport tested the crew's knowledge, teamwork, and technical skills in all mission areas. It also enhanced the crew's professional knowledge in many different shipboard qualifications while improving their ability to respond to shipboard damage. Following training, the cutter steamed south, and although not directly involved in a "drug bust", *Venturous'* embarked helicopter from Traverse City Michigan did successfully locate a vessel in support of Coast Guard Cutter *Legare*. The positive identification of the vessel resulted in the seizure of nearly 500 gallons of "liquid cocaine" approximately 100 miles to the south of *Venturous*. Due to excellent coordination among Coast Guard assets, the suspect vessel was stopped before it was able to offload the illicit cargo.

The commanding officer of *Venturous*, Commander Robert K Thompson, stated - "It was an extremely successful two and a half months. The training evolution at the start of the patrol enhanced our readiness to perform our missions and fully prepared us for all possible scenarios. It was an extreme pleasure to work off the coasts of South and Central Americas with our partner agencies in the war on drugs and to have representatives from Belize and Honduras aboard for the duration of the patrol."

Coast Guard Cutter *Venturous* is a 210' Reliance class cutter, home ported in St. Petersburg, Florida. She has a crew of 77 officers and enlisted personnel. Typical missions include counter-drug operations, alien migrant interdiction, and fisheries enforcement. Although the crew thoroughly enjoyed visits to Cartagena, Guantanamo Bay, and Cozumel, each member is glad to be home today.



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- REPORTING

SA Andrew Turner OS3 Scott Ferguson
SNFS Timothy Gilkerson SNFS Jacob Zuniga
FA Edward Kozlowski MK3 Joel Gyomory
MK3 Brent Johnson

PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION- DEPARTING

BM1 Timothy Carlson: Cutter TERN, San Francisco, CA
OS1 Dan Schlangen: District 13 Incident Management Branch
OS2 Shaun Morris: CG Maritime Force Protection Unit Bangor, WA
OS2 Andrew Sanchez: Sector Miami CMD Center
ET1 Jose Guzman: Electronic Support Detachment, Elizabeth City, NC
ET1 Alan Hazelwood: Electronic Support Detachment, Moriches, NY
MK3 Don Sprick: Cutter VASHON, Key West, FL
MK2 Joseph Langdale: River Tender Support Greenville, SC
DC2 Michael Kennison: Training Center Yorktown, VA
DC1 John Travis: Maintenance Assist Team, Key West, FL
EM2 Stan Armand-Charles: OCS (Official Civilian Status)
FSC Dave Darling: Air Station Humboldt Bay, CA
LTJG Mark Bruno: Top Gun (Flight Training, Pensacola)
LTJG Matt Carlton: Top Gun (Flight Training, Pensacola)
LTJG Mike Jarbeau: Executive Officer, Cutter SANIBEL, Woods Hole, MA
LTJG Dan Sheppard: Naval Engineering Support Unit, Honolulu, HI



TEMPORARY ASSIGNED DUTY-

Ice and Snow Aircrew- LT Anderson, LT Klatt, LTJG Kirk, AMT1 Scarborough, AET2 Teal, AMT2 Jopp and AMT3 Wolf. They came to us from Traverse City, Michigan- and who can blame them- There was no snow (or temps below 55) where we went!!

We also had 4 Officer Candidates, Andrew Perodeau, Amalec Perez, Mark Magrino, and Rafael Battle, join us for the first two weeks of the patrol. We wish them luck as they graduate and head off to their assigned duty stations.



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 OR ADVANCED IN RANK.

UNDERWAY OFFICER OF THE DECK

ENS K Murphy
BMC B Dracos

INPORT OFFICER OF THE DECK

ENS K Murphy
BMC B Dracos
SK1 B Schorden
FS1 M Simolon
OS1 J Mincey

INPORT ENGINEER OF THE WATCH

ENS T Lundin
MK2 D Wilson

GANGWAY PETTY OFFICER OF THE WATCH

GM3 J Redwine
SNOS B Devore
FN A Conlon
SN C Brooks

NAVIGATION PETTY OFFICER OF THE WATCH

GM3 J Redwine
SN R Murray

AUXILIARY ENGINEER WATCHSTANDER

EM3 S Armstrong
MK3 B Johnson
FN A Conlon

HELICOPTER LANDING SIGNALS OFFICER

GM1 M Digennaro



**AND THE PICTURES- FROM RELAXATION TO OPERATIONS TO HYJINX
CHANCES ARE THERE WAS A CAMERA NEARBY EVERY TIME!!**

ENJOY =)



XO decided to enjoy the sun during swim call



SN Ryan Murray having fun by working hard



Above: MK3 Japeth Nease practices his lifesaving techniques during



Left: After operational needs dictated VENTUROUS forego a Panama port call- VENTUROUS stopped while on the way to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for a quick swim call.



Above: "All you need is creatine and coco butter to survive...as well as get huge"
~ENS Marc Benson



SN Kristopher Colvin, resident acrobat, displays his skills.



BM2 John Sise needed some encouragement to make the leap.



Above: Look at that form- YN1 Don Primmer rolls



Above: Pizza Hut pies and free bowling brought the crew out to the GTMO lanes. The left over pizza fed the crew for days.



During the Cozumel Mexico port call many crew opted to rent an available condo and relax in the sun for two days straight... others sat on the pier and watched over 7,000 people pour out of 4 different cruise ships to visit the town. A brave few got in on the tourist action- Taking tours of "local" ruins and seeing the sights.

Below are some of the pictures from SNOS Brandon Devore and ET1 Alan Hazelwood at Chichan Itza- Mayan Ruins on the mainland.



VENTUROUS conducted an afternoon full of helicopter operations training on the way to homeport. Thanks again to the Traverse City Flight crew.



SN Kyle Wolowice enjoyed a second "private" swim call courtesy of the aircrew.



FROM THE EDITOR-

I know only a couple of these made it out to general consumption, but if you liked what you saw- KEEP IT GOING!! It takes a few people taking pictures and toying with ideas to make the newsletter exciting for families and friends.

Have a good patrol in June/July and enjoy your time off.

See you around the Coast Guard!!

**RESPECTFULLY,
LTJG MARK BRUNO
THE SHIPS NEWSLETTER GUY.**

SPECIAL THANKS:

~to ET1 Derrick Johnson for all the photos he and the snoopy team offered.

~To YN1 Don Primmer for PCS Reporting and Departing statistics.

~To Departmental Training officers/Petty officers for qualification information.

~To the CO and XO for supporting the newsletter.

