

**USCGC VENTUROUS (WMEC 625)**  
**November 2007–January 2008**  
**"The First Patrol after the Yard"**



Despite spending the holidays at sea, the crew did not stop working hard to prepare for upcoming inspections, responding to operational needs, and completing required training- The cutter received compliments on material condition and operational execution from all quarters while working throughout the District Seven AOR.



## Operational Highlights

VENTUROUS proved truly SEMPER PARATUS this patrol, as evidenced by this highlight list of accomplishments, both ship-wide and individual for this patrol.

### Cutter missions successes:

- Professionally conducted 7 boardings, including a Cold hit drug bust of nearly 2,000 lbs of marijuana, arrest of 2 long term drug smugglers; thorough case package and turnover to Customs Boarder Patrol, Drug Enforcement Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation; and 3 day tow of seized S/V in up to 15 ft seas.
- 2.5 hr recall from the beaches of Puerto Plata relieve VIGILANT of 202 Haitian migrants to enable their timely arrival home on Christmas Eve.
- Sighting and thorough joint Royal Bahamian Defense Force, Drug Enforcement Unit, and Drug Enforcement Agency dockside boarding in Great Inagua of a high interested freighter.
- Superb detection and execution of Mayday case involving the Canadian Vessel LA MARIE AMIEE, resulting in the location and safe tow of vessel to Matthew Town, GI.
- Outstanding care and repatriation of 234 Haitian migrants from two separate cases.
- Outstanding transport, custody, and care for 40 Cuban migrants and 6 smugglers.
- 109 Safe and professional Helicopter Evolutions
- Completed numerous shipboard drills
- Completed professional alongside fueling of a 110ft WPB
- Safely transited over 7900 miles.
- Superb response to and recovery from main diesel engine crankcase explosion

### Individual Claims to Fame:

02 Underway Officers of the Deck  
04 Underway Security Watchstanders  
05 Underway Throttleman  
01 Flight Deck Landing Signals Officer  
01 Underway Engineer of the Watch  
01 Inport Engineer of the Watch  
01 Helicopter Control Officer  
07 Basic Damage Control Qualifications  
01 Advanced Damage Control Qualifications  
01 Small Boat Coxswain  
01 Boat Crewman  
02 Navigation Petty Officers of the Watch  
02 Boatswains Mates of the Watch  
08 Helm and Lookout Watchstanders  
01 Boat Crewman  
11 Gun Operators  
02 Gun Mount Captains  
01 Helicopter Tie Down Crew



## Lore of the Sea

Nautical tradition dictates that sailors on the seas for the midwatch of the New Year ring in the coming year on the ships bell. The oldest, GM1 Digennaro, and youngest, SA Brooks, crew members stood tall on the bridge of VENTUROUS (after waking the GM1 up) and sounded the bell. The midwatch deck logs are copied below- as nautical tradition also requires that the log be written in verse. Kudos to LTJG Jarbeau and ENS Benson, and the mids watch section, for the VENTUROUS log entry for the first watch of 2008.

0000-0400

UPON THE BRIDGE OF VENTUROUS WE RING IN THE NEW YEAR,  
THE FORTIETH YEAR SINCE HER COMMISSIONING IS FINALLY HERE.  
UNDERWAY IN THE WINDWARD SITS THE OLD SHIP AND HER CREW,  
DREAMING OF A RETURN TO HOMEPORT THAT IS LONG OVERDUE.

NAVIGATION LIGHTS BURN BRIGHTLY AS WE SEARCH IN THE NIGHT,  
FOR MIGRANTS WE HOPE NOT TO FIND BUT KNOW THAT WE MIGHT.  
THE NUMBER TWO GENERATOR AND ENGINE SUPPLY POWER AND THRUST,  
VEN 1 SITS AT THE READY BUT BOTH CAN BE LAUNCHED IF WE MUST.

AS THE PREVIOUS YEAR ENDS WITH THE CLOCK'S FINAL STROKE,  
WE NOTE THAT THIS WARSHIP'S MATERIAL CONDITION IS YOKE.  
ALTHOUGH NORMALLY A HELO IS ON DECK AND TIED DOWN,  
TONIGHT THEY'RE ON LAND AND LIKELY OUT ON THE TOWN.

DISTRICT SEVEN HAS OUR OPCON AND TACON WHILE WE'RE OUT ON PATROL,  
AND COMLANTAREA HANDLES OUR ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL.  
LTJG JARBEAU HAS THE DECK AND THE CONN, AND ENS MURPHY IS HIS  
STUDENT,  
WITH MACKEY, MURRAY, AMAYA, AND SCHAMP THE BRIDGE WATCH IS  
PRUDENT.

WHETHER OVERSEAS, UNDERWAY, OR DEFENDING THE HOMELAND,  
WE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WATCHES WE STAND.  
ALTHOUGH OUR MISSION IS CRUCIAL IT COMES TIME FOR BED.  
AT 0318 BM1 CARLSON AND BMC DRACOS TOOK THE WATCH IN OUR STEAD.  
BM3 MACKEY  
LTJG JARBEAU / ENS MURPHY



A picture is worth a 1,000 words- so here is about 18,000 words on what we did



Given the chance, VENTUROUS engineers tore into a boat suspected of smuggling illicit narcotics while it was moored up in Great Inagua, Bahamas



Above: Petty Officers Kiel Johanson and John Sise, with assistance from sailor of the Quarter John Dippery, remove contraband seized from an American sailing vessel just south west of the Bahamas



Even after tearing the boat in the above picture apart as far as we could without risking sinking it- VENTUROUS boarding team members still have time to look good for the camera-Even the cutter got in on this act.

Below: Executive Officer Cary Dixon pauses for a GQ cover shot while observing the onload and securing of contraband delivered to the cutter



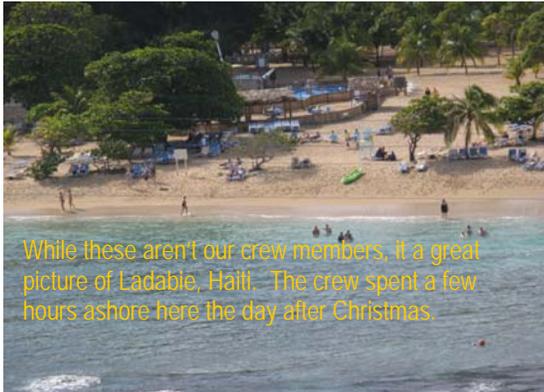
Crew member of the Flight Deck crew and the Navigation Team played a vital role in each flight evolution. Take a look at everyone in action



←↑All working hard for helo ops↓↑



It's not all work - all the time.



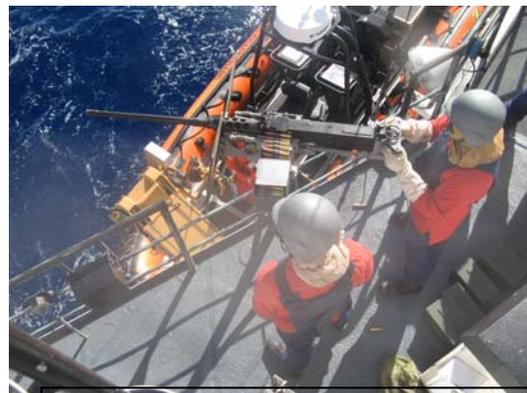
While these aren't our crew members, it's a great picture of Ladable, Haiti. The crew spent a few hours ashore here the day after Christmas.



A few of the more experienced anglers landed some fine fish during the numerous fish calls we had throughout the patrol. From shallow bank to steep ledges to trolling the Deep Seas-We tried everything we could to get the fish onboard.



LT Lalicata and LT Gillham and the crew of 6560 took LE Observers/Morale riders along for many of their patrols. We appreciate the operational assistance and morale boost!!



This gun shoot was billed as training, but anything that can make bullets go AND improve gun crew proficiency is good clean fun!!



Yes- This is a picture of the DCA on the bridge- Just to show off his awesome mustache with Petty Officer Mackey. The mustache growing contest was going strong until the crew had to be seen in an American port- Then it was back to baby faces for most.



Patrol Press Release- All the excitement you can handle-  
in newspaper form!!

## **Cutter Returns From Holiday-Season Patrol Highlighted by Migrant Operations**

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. - The crew of Coast Guard Cutter *VENTUROUS*, homeported in St. Petersburg, is scheduled to return Jan. 17 at 9 a.m. after a busy 55-day patrol in the Windward Pass and Florida Straits.

*VENTUROUS* patrolled aggressively between Cuba, Haiti, and the Bahamas in support of Alien Migrant Interdiction and Counter-Drug operations. The ship's capabilities were enhanced by its embarked HH-65 helicopter aviation detachment from Coast Guard Air Station Miami, which flew routine reconnaissance missions and assisted with the identification of vessels.

*VENTUROUS* saw more than 270 Haitian and Cuban migrants cross its decks and processed six suspected migrant smugglers during the patrol. Many of the migrants were detected on grossly overloaded sailing vessels and were transferred to the safety of *VENTUROUS*' flight deck where they were provided food, water, shelter, and medical care. They were later repatriated to Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Although *VENTUROUS* was underway for the majority of the holiday season, the crew did enjoy several port calls, including stops in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, as well as Miami and Key West, Fla. During the last week at sea, the crew patrolled the waters between Key West and Cuba searching for vessels attempting to illegally enter the United States.

*VENTUROUS* is a 210-foot Medium Endurance Cutter under the command of Cmdr. Robert K. Thompson. The cutter has a crew of 12 officers and 68 enlisted personnel.



Special Thanks to LTJG Brian Naughton of VALIANT for the cover photo and  
ETI Derrick Johnson for taking and organizing many of the other pictures  
from this patrol.

