



1st PATROL 2010



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!

~Early Congratulations to the Kovatch Family! CDR George Kovatch and his wife Kristy are anxiously awaiting the arrival of a baby boy, Chase Kovatch. Congratulations Mom and Dad!

~Welcome Aboard to our Prospective Executive Officer! LCDR Tim Cronin was able to sail with VIGILANT for the last two weeks of patrol and will be joining the crew in May.

~Congratulations to ENS(s) Timothy Williams! VIGILANT's former OS Chief Tim Williams was accepted to Officer Candidate School and will be graduating as a Commissioned Officer on May 8.

FROM THE CAPTAIN'S CHAIR



Greetings to all family members, spouses, parents, and loved ones that make up VIGILANT's family! We are nearing the end of another very successful patrol and are looking forward to our return home. I am hoping the weather will be warmer and more welcoming than it was last time we returned to Canaveral.

I am glad to report that we are all doing well and the seas have been treating us kindly. This patrol was slightly different from what our unit is normally accustomed to when we deploy. As you know, the devastating earthquake in Port au Prince, Haiti significantly influenced the Coast Guard's mission and response. While our primary objective was to show a presence off the Coast of Haiti to deter mass migrations, we still played a large role in the counter-drug mission that is at the heart of our service.

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VIGILANT & sister ship
CONFIDENCE in action

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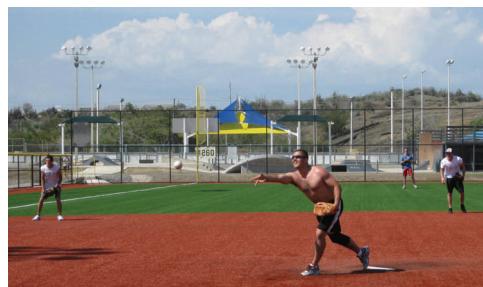
GUANTANAMO BAY- HOME AWAY FROM HOME



Welcome to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba- Five times! While U.S. Naval Station GTMO may not have a large variety of entertainment, the crew certainly made the most of it!



Members of the crew were able to take advantage of local snorkeling, a pick-up softball game, as well as a morale pool party and barbecue! For those up for a challenge, some even participated in a 6K run to the top of JPJ Hill for a great view of the island.



Please email us at Brittany.P.Lee@uscg.mil if you have any questions or comments about this issue.

FROM THE CAPTAIN'S CHAIR

A couple of weeks into our patrol off the northern tip of Haiti, our bridge watch detected the Miss Kristy, a 115-foot Haitian vessel headed toward Turks and Caicos. Through an excellent partnership with Caribbean counter-narcotics officials, our crew assisted in the initial search of the vessel leading to a successful marijuana seizure. Great job again to the crew for another drug bust!

During this patrol, we were given the opportunity to work closely with a couple aviation detachments who provided great training and experience for our crew. Having them on board VIGILANT also allowed us to enhance the display of Coast Guard force in this critical operating area. Just seeing the Coast Guard presence has not only prevented illegal and unsafe migrations, but it has also provided a sense of hope for a country in desperate need of comfort and compassion. It was a pleasure to welcome them as a part of our crew.

We were also fortunate enough to get in a couple great port calls including Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, and our second home - Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO). The weather in Puerto Plata was dreary and less tropical than we would have liked, but we sure made up for the sun and heat during our

visits to GTMO. We were grateful to be able to kick back and recharge while enjoying a few morale events during our brief stops.

As always, I am proud of the dedication and tireless efforts our crew consistently displays; this patrol was no different, and our hard work has paid off again! I am, however, saddened to say farewell to a number of our shipmates. This transfer season, we are undergoing a large turnover of personnel, and while we are excited to welcome all of our new shipmates, it is a bittersweet last patrol on VIGILANT for many. To all of those departing - it has been a pleasure sailing with you! Your enthusiasm and commitment to the unit and the Coast Guard's mission are evident each day and have helped VIGILANT remain "The best cutter in the fleet." I want to especially thank their families and loved ones for their unyielding support over the last few years. They have truly kept us afloat. Best of luck in all of your future endeavors!

May you all enjoy the Florida sun...signing off until next patrol.

With great appreciation,
CDR Brian Fiedler
Commanding Officer

ALL HANDS WASHDOWN

As always, "A clean ship, is a happy place to live and work!" It is always evident that the crew of VIGILANT takes pride in their ship and works hard to keep her clean. All hands wash downs are essential in containing and preventing the corrosive and weathering effects that a ship endures while out to sea. Of course, these evolutions are never all work and no play, the crew takes advantage of putting on their swim suits and having a few hose fights in the Caribbean sun.

HELICOPTER OPERATIONS

VIGILANT was fortunate enough to have two Aviation Detachments this patrol and was able to conduct numerous helicopter operations. A special thanks to the Dolphin Helicopter crew from Air Station Detroit who joined us for the first part of our patrol, as well as the Dolphin crew from Air Station Borinquen. Both crews contributed exceptional air assets which significantly aided in the Coast Guard's strength off the coast of Haiti. Their integration within the crew proved very enjoyable and truly enhanced the unit's morale.



A NEW COMMAND CHIEF STEPS UP

A time honored and highly respected position within the Coast Guard is that of a Command Chief. VIGILANT is excited to welcome BMC Frank Parmenti as the unit's new Command Chief, as MKC Joseph Moskal is transferring to Station Miami Beach.

Unit command chiefs work outside the chain of command to advise and consult with their Commanding Officer. They have the responsibility for assisting their command in the training, evaluation, physical fitness and development of the Coast Guard work force. Unit Command Chiefs promote balance between work force needs, command goals, and Coast Guard requirements. Accessible to all crewmembers, Unit Command Chiefs encourage communications affecting personnel and mission accomplishment. In addition, Unit Command Chiefs network with other Coast Guard and Department of Defense resources to resolve unit level problems and concerns.

Departing words from VIGILANT's off-going Command Chief:

Life at sea is both challenging and rewarding. Guardians answer the call of others in distress, protect our ports from illegal drug smuggling, quell the entry of illegal migrants and enforce maritime law. There is no question, we do our job well and expect very little in return.

As former Command Chief aboard CGC VIGILANT, I have been proud to be a part of that challenge and most of all camaraderie. My challenge was all the aforementioned but most importantly the needs of the crew. I found that it is crucial to listen to their concerns regardless of the circumstance. Although listening is important, hearing what they say is critical. Their well being focuses them on doing their job safely and effectively. This allows the command to carry out the mission knowing their crew is centered.

My parting thoughts were to always be available and fair to each shipmate. Making time for another's concerns and assisting them through that time, whether good or bad, has been my reward.

Semper Paratus VIGILANT; it's time for me to change course.

- MKC Joseph S. Moskal III

ANOTHER DRUG BUST FOR VIGILANT!

The crew of VIGILANT is commended for their successful efforts aiding in the marijuana bust of the Haitian freighter Miss Kristy. The crew worked closely with DEA agents and Turks and Caicos officials to board the vessel and search for smuggled drugs. Again the crew of VIGILANT displayed their commitment to our service's counter drug mission by diligently stopping the transport of illegal contraband.



The full article can be found at The Florida Today: <http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20100319/BREAKINGNEWS/10031905/1006/NEWS01/Canaveral-based+Coast+Guard+cutter+aids+in+pot+bust>

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS!

We'd like to say job well done to a number of shipmates as a number of people will be transferring following this patrol and throughout the next import. Their efforts and accomplishments have been second to none and VIGILANT is certainly a better cutter because of their outstanding contributions!

Fair Winds and Following Seas to our departing shipmates:

SN March- OS "A" School
FN Pope- Air Station Clearwater
BM3 Loy- STA Fort Lauderdale FL
OS3 Diaz- Sector St. Pete CMD Center
OS2 Montgomery- Reserves
FS2 Demieville- CGC SHRIKE
FS2 Diem-CGC SAGINAW
MK2 Mulleady- NESU Miami
BM2 Griswold- Station Ponce De Leon
DC1 Frazee- Sector Delaware Bay
BM1 Riccardi- CGC Staten Island
EMC Scott- Retiring
MKC Moskal- Station Miami Beach
OSC/ENS(s) Williams- Sector Mobile
CWO3 Chiaino- Sector St. Pete Eng/Sup
LTJG Litts- CGC HAMILTON
LTJG Stepler- CGC DRUMMOND
LTJG Douglas- University of Michigan
LTJG Fellers- CGC SENTINEL
LT Boyt- NESU Miami
CDR Kovatch- Senate Approp. Committee

**AWARDS****Temporary Cutterman's Pin**

ENS Lee
ET2 Tortora
SN Mason
SN Cunningham
SN March
SN Tuck
SN Presley
SN Heavilin
SN Geiser
SN Grundler

Sea Service Ribbon

BMC Parenti- 14 Years!
SN March

Sailor of the Year
MK2 Lamantia**Sailor of the Quarter**
ET1 Pedano
MK1 Mitchell**Sailor of the Quarter**
Nominees

SN Rivera
ET2 Tortora
FS3 Thompson
YN1 Falor
EM3 Nicholl

QUALIFICATIONS

Life at sea is demanding and full of numerous responsibilities for each member of the crew. Qualifying in watchstations is not only a personal achievement, but a contribution to the unit's overall success and mission capability. We would like to recognize the hard work of our shipmates in achieving the following milestones.

Underway Officer of the Deck
LTJG Douglas**In Port Officer of the Day**
OS1 Cruz**Junior Officer of the Deck**
BM3 Miron
GM3 Sickman**Helicopter Control Officer**
ENS Lee**Boatswains Mate of the Watch**
SN Mason
SN Rivera
SN Presley**Helicopter Tie Down**
ET2 Tortora**Flight Deck Rescueman**
MK2 Lamantia
EM3 Beachler**Landing Signals Officer**
BM1 Hoschak**Boarding Team Member**
ENS Lee**Flight Deck Firefighting**
FN Fatone**Flight Deck On Scene Leader**
DC1 Frazee**Auxiliary Watchstander**
FN Fatone**Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch**

SA Walpole
SA Saladin
SN Gruendler
SN Geiser
SN Saladin

Helm/Lookout

SA Kearney
SA Walpole
SA Saladin
SN Clark

Master Helmsman
SN Cunningham**ADVANCEMENTS****Congratulations to the following members for the following advancements!**

BM1 Riccardi
BM2 Smith
BM3 Loy
IT1 Thoele
OS1 Montgomery

WELCOME ABOARD**Operations Dept**
BM3 Miron
ET3/ME3 Atteberry**Engineering Dept**
FN Rose**Deck Dept**
SA Walpole
SA Kearney
SN Clark