



SUMMER OPS 2009

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!

~Newsletter! Friends and family, VIGILANT is pleased to bring you the inaugural issue of its newsletter. Inside you will find information about awards, advancements, liberty and port calls. Many have contributed to this issue in the hopes that it will entertain and inform, YOU!

~Congratulations to the Pedano Family! ET1 Chris Pedano and his wife Shannon R Pedano gave birth to a healthy baby girl: Zoey R Pedano August 10th. Congratulations Mom and Dad!

FROM THE CAPTAIN'S CHAIR



Greetings to all of the spouses, family members, parents and significant others that make up VIGILANT's family. As many of you are aware, I relieved CAPT Caleb Corson as the Commanding Officer on the 14th of July. From the start it has been a great experience and I wish Caleb and family the best in their next adventure in Washington, DC.

I want to start by letting you know a

little bit about myself. I grew up in Long Island, New York and graduated from the USCGC Academy in 1992. For the most part my subsequent tours of duty have been at sea or closely related to the Operation Afloat Mission. I have served aboard three separate 210' cutters (CGC ALERT, CGC VIGOROUS and CGC RELIANCE), a 110' WPB (CGC MONOMOY) and a 270' WMEC (CGC BEAR). In between my tours afloat I have been assigned to the Northeast Regional Fisheries Training Center, attended graduate studies at the University of Rhode Island and served as a USCG Liaison Officer to the NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement in Silver Spring, Maryland. My most recent assignment was serving as the USCG Liaison Officer to the USN's Afloat Training Group in San Diego, CA.

~Cont p.3

SALTY CUTTERMAN'S PIZZERIA



Led under the supervision of BMC Parenti and the direct instruction of multiple members from CGA class of 2008, several new chefs have been introduced into the pizza galley, namely ENS Lee and Prouhet. The SCP is renowned for consistently producing assorted pizzas of the highest caliber. Both meat lovers and vegetarians alike drool in line as the pizzeria opens waiting for that little slice of heaven on the sea. The pizzeria has three simple rules; SOS! (Sound Off Sailor), Order per the menu items. If you ask for "a slice of pepperoni"...no soup for you! and lastly, Standard Phraseology Applies. One can choose from any of the following menu* items: 1. SK1's Cheese Delight, 2. Ancient Mariner, 3. Court's Special, 4. Man Lovers, 5. 2 Meat Treat, 6. The Slice, 7. XO's Special, 8. Cowboy up, 9. Machinery Space Fire, 10. Magicator BBQ and 11. The Ida Lewis. The Pizzeria has been going strong on board VIGILANT since 2008 and shows no signs of stopping having proudly served over 800 since the beginning.

*Menu Legend: 1.Cheese Pizza, 2.Supreme Pizza, 3.Margarita Pizza, 4.Sausage Pizza, 5.Sausage and Roni, 6.Roni Pizza, 7. Meat lovers, 8.Chicken Bacon Ranch, 9.buffalo Chicken, 10.BBQ Chicken, 11.Veggie

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Aerial photo of the Finest Cutter in the Fleet!

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THE LIFE AQUATIC



As much as the crew was itching to get out into the small boat for training, these Dolphins were even more eager for a new friend to race with. Our friends seemed content enough bow-jumping off VIGILANT, but the real fun was in chasing after the small boat. While not a daily sight, Dolphins are incredibly social and will follow along the cutter

jumping over and the through the wake created by the bow of the ship as it cuts through the water. On this particular day a pod of 15 or 20 "Bottled Nose Dolphins" swam and played with the ship and our boat for several hours, affording the crew a chance to watch and take some really amazing photographs.

ANGLERS



Beware, There are MONSTERS out there

While in Key West four of our own departed on a 6 hour tour...destined for a big catch. MK2 Rielly Longtin, MK2 Sal Lamantia, MK2 Karl Mulleady and SN Jason Pope chartered a fishing trip with Wild Bills Charter. The trip was quite the success for all, MK2 Longtin landed the beautiful sailfish which measured in at 7 feet in the picture below. MK2 Lamantia also landed this amazing Wahoo below. Altogether the crew brought in several Mahi Mahi and a Barra-cuda.

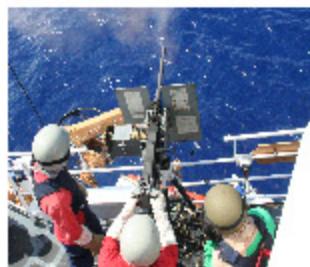
After a triumphant return to the VIGILANT a great feast ensued. The MK2s fired up VIGILANT's newest equipment upgrade, a 5 foot gas grill, and seasoned the day's catch to perfection. The fish was served to all hands as a special treat!



GUNNEX

Practice makes perfect! In the picture to the right 3 of VIGILANT's gun crewman are getting back into the saddle after an 8 month break for MEP. GUNNEXs, or Gunnery Exercises, are important for ensuring that new and old crew members remain in practice. The exercise is conducted well out of shipping lanes and all shipping Traffic is notified prior to and

throughout the exercise to stay well clear. The weapon being fired in this picture is the 50 Caliber Machine Gun, one of two fired during the exercise. For those new to fire-arms...50 caliber refers to the bullet's size, meaning the projectile is 1/2 in diameter and it is propelled by a casing nearly 4 inches long.



GENERATIONS

Mooring the cutter and maneuver in close proximity to objects and other ships is one of the more challenging disciplines of ship handling. In this photo BMC Frank Parenti (right) is coaching ENS Brittany Lee (left) during "rubber docking drills." These drills are designed to provide practice for bringing the ship into the pier. The cutter deploys two rafts to simulate the desired length of pier and the Conning Officer, or ship driver, gives rudder and engine commands to maneuver the ship in order to ease the cutter through the rafts or alongside them. The benefit of conducting these drills is to give conning officers more experience and practice as VIGILANT only pulls into and out of port a handful of times in a given patrol. The practice is in-valuable, if you hit



-Photograph taken by OS3 Mooney

the raft at 2 knots (roughly 2.2 mph) it slides out of the way. If VIGILANT hit the pier at 2 knots she would impart the same force that a Mac Truck would at nearly 250 mph.

DOWN TIME



It's not ALL work and no play while underway. In the picture to the left members of the VIGILANT crew are afforded the opportunity for a swim call. Diving from the cutter's main deck and flight deck provide the crew a chance at a little aquatic exercise. For others it's just nice to relax, lay out on the raft and enjoy a little time in the sun. Swim call is just one of the past times crew members can enjoy on slow day. "Steel Beach" authorizes members to sun bath on the cutter's decks and escape from the all too common farmer's tan. The unit also encourages crew mem-



bers to partake in Fish Call when the conditions warrant it. Lower left is a photograph of a school of Mahi-Mahi, or Dorado, that are commonly found along weed lines or other floating debris. Other members take advantage of a little down time to hit the flight deck in full stride. On the right, DC1 Casey Spencer is in the middle of 100 laps around the flight deck, which roughly shakes out to a mile. All in all VIGILANT members are quite creative in spending down time and floating around in the Straits of Florida can certainly provide some unique opportunities.



FROM THE CAPTAIN'S CHAIR

(cont from p.1) On the home front, I am married to Melissa who is not only my best friend but also a native of Long Island, New York. Melissa has been busy managing our home life as we have been on a 1-2 year move frequency for some time now. In between jobs in the field of Human Resource Management she enjoys spending time with and training our two Labrador Retrievers in obedience. We are both excited to finally have a tour in beautiful sunny Florida. We currently reside in Merritt Island.

Since taking command I have had the pleasure of meeting with our departing Ombudsman, Stephanie Williams and our newest CO-Ombudsmen Heidi Brostowicz and Amy Spencer and discussing a wide variety of issues of concern to VIGILANT families. I thank Stephanie again for all her hard work while in office and appreciate Heidi and Amy volunteering to help us in the days ahead. We are all in good hands with the support and resources that these ladies provide.

As for my first patrol in VIGILANT and for the crews' first post Mission Effectiveness Project (MEP) patrol I will start by saying it has been very enjoyable and busy. The crew has performed unbelievably well as they worked through several casualties brought upon by the introduction of new equipment and the fact that its been some time

since the old equipment had been cycled as VIGILANT was dry-docked for an extended period. We have been fortunate that the tropics have been kind to us and the weather could not have been nicer all patrol. My hope is that this trend continues for the remainder of the 2009 hurricane season. Additionally we have enjoyed some decent Maritime Law Enforcement boarding opportunities and have been responsible for the care and feeding for over 50 Cuban Migrants as well as the interdiction of an unseaworthy Cuban Rustica that had 17 migrants onboard including two young children. Although these interdictions mean long days for the crew it comes with the satisfaction of knowing that we have truly lived up to our motto of being Life Savers at Sea.

I look forward to meeting you all over the coming months and know that without the steady support you give our sailors VIGILANT would not enjoy the success that it does.

With great appreciation,

CDR Brian Biedler
Commanding Officer

CONGRATS OSC!



-Photograph taken by OS3 A. Diaz

Operations Specialist Chief Timothy Williams was recognized at an all hands meeting for his accomplishment in advancing to Chief Petty Officer. This is a major career milestone, the Unit's Command Chief, MKC Joe Moskal, had this to say about his accomplishment, "OSC has become a member of dedicated professionals who serve as leaders, mentors, and technical experts in their field. The Chief Petty Officer status is one in which he places the needs of his subordinates first and foremost. His can do attitude will resound positively throughout the ship providing necessary support during difficult times. As a member of the Chiefs' Mess, he has an unlimited network of resources available at all times throughout the Coast Guard." Congratulations once again Chief!

ADVANCEMENTS

Congratulations to the following members for advancing in Rank!

OSC Williams
SN Dumey

WELCOME ABOARD

Operations Dept

LT Webb
ENS Lee
GM1 Stilwell
ET1 Pedano
ET2 Tortora
ET3 Cimbak
OS3 Mooney
BM3 Burr
GM3 Sickman

Engineering Dept

ENS Prouhet
MKC Craig
MK3 Hanaburgh
MK3 Heiserman
MK3 Calhoon
EM3 Nicholl
EM3 Beachler
FN Goncalves
FA Torres

Deck Dept

BM1 Hoschak
SN Cunningham
SN Mason
SA March
SA Tuck

Supply Dept

FS1 Johnson
SK3 Nunez

AWARDS

Good Conduct Award

EMC Scott
OSC Williams
OS2 Montgomery

Sailor of the Quarter
MK2 Muleady

Spirit of VIGILANT
SK1 Brostowicz
SN Dumey
SN Fatone

QUALIFICATIONS

An important part of our job is getting qualified to stand the posts we are responsible for as well as those special mission sets that distinguish the Coast Guard not only from other sea going services but from virtually all other career disciplines. In this section we'd like to recognize the hard work of our shipmates in achieving the following mile-stones.

In Port Officer of the Day

SK1 Brostowicz

FN Goncalves

FA Torres

MK3 Hanaburgh

MK3 Heiserman

Junior Officer of the Deck

ENS Lee BM1 Hoschak
BM3 Burr

Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch

SN Presley
SN Dumey

Helo Fire Fighting Team

EM3 Beachler
EM3 Nicholl
MK3 Calhoon
MK3 Hanaburgh

Combat Watch Officer

ET1 Pedano GM1 Stilwell
ET2 Tortora OS3 Mooney

Helm Lookout

SN Cunningham
SN Mason
SA March
SA Tuck

IMPORT DCTT

DC1 Spencer
DC2 Frazee

Auxiliary Watch Stander

ENS Prouhet
MKC Craig
MK3 Hanaburgh
MK3 Heiserman
MK3 Calhoon
EM3 Nicholl
EM3 Beachler

Throttle Watch Stander

ENS Prouhet
MKC Craig

Boarding Officer

ENS Litts
ENS Fellers
ENS Stepler
ENS Gregg