

DILIGENCE

SHORE TIES



Edition 07-04
November 2007

TACT/District 7 Windward Passage Patrol

DILIGENCE PATROL SEPTEMBER 2007 – NOVEMBER 2007



On September 29, 2007, DILIGENCE departed Wilmington for Tailored Annual Cutter Training (TACT) and a one month patrol in the Windward Passage. Shortly after leaving, DILIGENCE conducted a Burial at Sea Ceremony for Mr. James Fulton Bloomer of Wilmington. Mr. Bloomer was a member of the US Marine Corps during World War II and served the Wilmington Police Department for 27 years. He was a great supporter of DILIGENCE and used to park his squad car on the pier when the ship would leave or come home to Wilmington. Thanks to the hard work of many crew members, including MK1 Corey Maples, FN Jose Varela, SN Tyler Mace, and FN Tyler Quigley, the event was conducted in a way that was both honoring to Mr. Fulton and pleasing to his wife and daughter, who were embarked onboard for the ceremony.



The trip from Wilmington to Little Creek proved a rough one, as many of DILIGENCE's crew were sea sick for most of the ride. TACT was in Little Creek, Virginia and is designed to evaluate DILIGENCE on her training, mission readiness, and capabilities. Despite the transit, however, the crew put forth a lot of hard work and dedication, completing 151 drills with an overall average of 98.3%,



while qualifying for the “Operational E” award for operational excellence. After a “Post TACT Cook Out,” it was off to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Part of the Coast Guard’s mission is to promote international relations and cooperation. DILIGENCE did her fair share while working with the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) Marine Police during Operation BLUE MARLIN. With an embarked TCI shiprider from the Police, DILIGENCE acted as the on-scene coordinator for four days of patrolling in search of illegal trafficking of drugs, migrants, and other contraband. While the



weather did not allow for significant Law Enforcement actions, the trip provided DILIGENCE, the TCI Marine Police, and the US Coast Guard valuable insight and relationships that are necessary for future operations.



After the completion of Operation BLUE MARLIN, DILIGENCE headed to Great Inagua Island to embark a Royal Bahamian Defense Force (RBDF) Shiprider as well as a Creole interpreter. Tropical Storm NOEL raised it’s foul head on the way and forced DILIGENCE to depart with only our interpreter onboard, since the RBDF Shiprider’s flight to Great Inagua was cancelled due to weather.

NOEL proved to be an interesting ride for the crew of DILIGENCE. Experiencing ten to twelve foot seas during the transit east, DILIGENCE’s foc’sle definitely saw plenty of seawater. Fortunately, with her weatherdecks secured and steaming ahead, DILIGENCE was able to avoid the harshest effects of the

intensifying storm.



While transiting eastward to avoid NOEL, DILIGENCE experienced a catastrophic casualty to the #1 Ships Service Diesel Generator. During the early morning hours of October 30th, General Emergency was set due to a crankcase explosion. After a brief stop in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, DILIGENCE is following Tropical Storm NOEL back up the eastern seaboard on her way to Wilmington.

The crew looks forward to coming home after weeks of hard work to see their families in time for the Holiday Season. We will be home soon!

From the Captain's Chair

Greetings Family and Friends. This patrol has been another interesting one, starting with three weeks in Little Creek, Virginia for Tailored Annual Cutter Training. The crew did quite well at the training before heading off to the Caribbean for patrol. Once in the Caribbean, we watched the early formation of what would later become Hurricane NOEL. In fact, we sailed through the eye of it, as it came off the North coast of Haiti. Unfortunately we suffered a catastrophic crankcase explosion on the Number One Ship's Service Diesel Generator. Fortunately no one was hurt. After sailing through the Central and Eastern Bahamas to provide post storm Search and Rescue presence, we're on our way home. We are grateful for your continued support while we have been on this patrol and doing the hard work of running the home-front while we're at sea.

**Very respectfully yours,
CDR Doug Fears**



Getting Underway



OS2 Saltz overlooks Wilmington as DILIGENCE leaves homeport



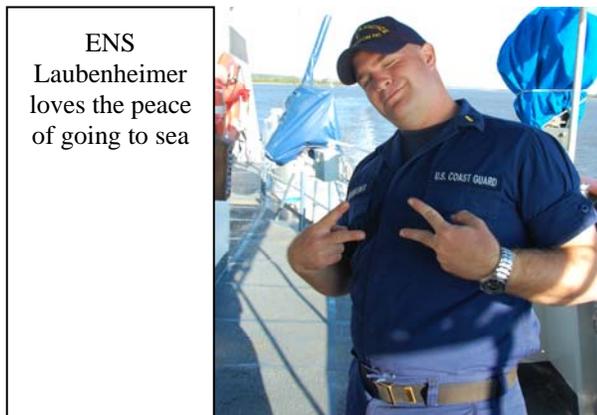
The Navigation Team hard at work during the transit



MK1 Corey Maples commits the ashes of Mr. James Bloomer during the Burial at Sea Ceremony



The observers muster for last minute instructions before the Burial at Sea Ceremony



ENS Laubenheimer loves the peace of going to sea

TACT



BM3
Uscanga
takes a
bearing as
DILIGENCE
is towed
during a drill



SN Mace stands a diligent
lookout watch



The DCA
begins
breaking-
in OOD on
the bridge
while SN
Yahya
looks on



GM1
Dendy
stands by
with the
line-
throwing
gun during
the towing
drill



DC2 Hunt makes it out of the "hole" to watch the tow



DILIGENCE moored next to USCGC CAMPBELL at TACT in Little Creek, VA



SA LaGreca demonstrates the *improper* wear of the flash gear hood



EM1 Luckey and ET2 Leonard discuss the wonders of mustache growing



SN Alldredge attempts to decide what to eat at the Post TACT Cook Out



FN Varela triumphs in his victory



OS1 Clay goes in for the kill



DC1 Bluthenthal and SN Mace watch the game during the Cook Out

Apparently the game got a little boring for SN Yates...he decided to check his cell phone messages while also playing shortstop



Patrolling...



Turks and
Caicos
Marine Police
meet up with
DILIGENCE
for inbrief to
Operation
BLUE
MARLIN



SN Leon ponders the
meaning of life...



The Captain poses with the Turks and Caicos Marine
Police Crew for a picture on the bridge wing at the
start of Operation BLUE MARLIN

FSC Burgener and FS1 Dorreman prepare
dessert



BMC Brown
smells the fresh
salt from the
ocean air



The Captain and our Shiprider from the Turks
and Caicos Marine Police, Profi, look on as
DILIGENCE launches her helo



DILIGENCE's First Class...enough said



Tropical Storm Noel rears her ugly head



EM2 Braun attempts to block the rain during Noel



SN Gregory stands lookout during Tropical Storm Noel



Noel is no match for YN1 Cuomo...



...but OS2 Mobley isn't looking so hot...

GTMO Port Call



ET2 Torbett and BM3 Anthony enjoy the “surfing” opportunities



MK2 Ricciardi, EM3 Frangullie, and FN Byrne enjoy some time at the phone booths



SA Shaffer, SN Mills, SA Lewis, and SR Bruno hanging out at the GTMO Subway



The man behind the camera, IT2 Pierce, celebrates his bowling success

ENS Starr gets pummeled by a wave while ENS Drysdale stays dry (for that wave anyway)



AWARDS AND "WELCOME ABOARDS"



MK2 Timmerman is named Sailor of the Quarter



DILIGENCE welcomes aboard SA Lewis and SN Mills



HS2 Small receives the Coast Guard's Good Conduct Award



Welcome aboard EM3 Fernandes



MK3 Scheid receives the Coast Guard Achievement Medal on his final day aboard DILIGENCE

SA Shaffer reports aboard



OS1 Clay receives his second Good Conduct Award

SK3 Mitchell receives his crowns



MK2 Timmerman re-enlists in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba



We'll be home soon!

Editor- ENS Josh Drysdale

Photographers- IT2 Gabriel Pierce

Questions or comments? Please email
Joshua.k.drysdale@uscg.mil with any suggestions!