Happy New Year from CGC SPENCER! CGC SPENCER has returned from its first District Seven patrol since 2011. For many crewmembers, it was their first patrol in District Seven, and was definitely one to be remembered!

The patrol began with a post-mission effectiveness project training availability (TRAV) with ATG Norfolk. ATG Norfolk was able to provide on board training teams and the ship's crew with in-depth training. After departing TRAV and during the transit to the patrol area, SPENCER was able to conduct day and night helicopter landings with an HH65 out of Air Station Elizabeth City. This training was not only valuable for the aircrew but for many SPENCER flight deck personnel as well.

Once in the assigned patrol area, CGC SPENCER patrolled the windward pass, conducted Canal De La Tortue transits, and conducted multiple near-shore transits of the North Haiti Coast. CGC SPENCER was not alone, as it regularly worked with CGC RICHARD ETHERIDGE and the CGC THETIS to complete Coast Guard missions. CGC SPENCER also had daily helicopter support via CG Helicopters 6527 and 6533, which helped increase Coast Guard presence in the region.

CGC SPENCER also received some well-deserved time off. During the patrol, CGC SPENCER stopped in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Many crewmembers took advantage of the beaches and the Navy Exchange. The Morale Committee also organized some fantastic events including a football game and a beach BBQ.

After missing the holiday season, CGC SPENCER is excited to be home. As CGC SPENCER prepares for its upcoming April patrol, the crew is now enjoying well-deserved time with friends and families.

Quick Facts About the Latest Patrol…

Departed Homeport: December 1st, 2013
Arrived Homeport: January 12th, 2014

5,423 nautical miles steamed

Port Calls:
- Little Creek, VA
- Portsmouth, VA
- Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Fuel Consumed:
- 65,649 Gallons of Diesel
- 615 Gallons of JP-5
- 23 Gallons of Gasoline

Search and Rescue
- 6 Lives Saved

Patrol Highlights

December 24th 2013 – CGC SPENCER responded to a request for help on Channel 16 from the Haitian fishing vessel KAPLUN. After determining that the vessel was in Cuban territorial seas, CGC SPENCER monitored the situation, maintained communications with the vessel, and coordinated the rescue of the vessel with Cuban Authorities

December 25th 2013 – While patrolling the operational area, CGC SPENCER disrupted an overloaded Haitian migrant sail freighter. When the boarding team approached, the observed approximately 80 people on board the 40 foot vessel. After providing life jackets, CGC SPENCER returned the sail freighter back to Haiti, where all individuals disembarked.

December 28th 2013 – While patrolling the operational area, CGC SPENCER heard a request for help on Channel 16 from the vessel IMAGINATION EXPRESS. The vessel was en route to Nassau, Bahamas, when their fuel line ruptured and disabled their engine. CGC SPENCER set the Rescue and Assistance Bill, boarded the vessel, and attempted to repair the damaged fuel line. After determining the vessel was not repairable and unsafe, the crew of IMAGINATION EXPRESS disembarked the vessel and were brought aboard CGC SPENCER and later transferred to the Royal Bahamian Defense Force in Matthew Town, GI.

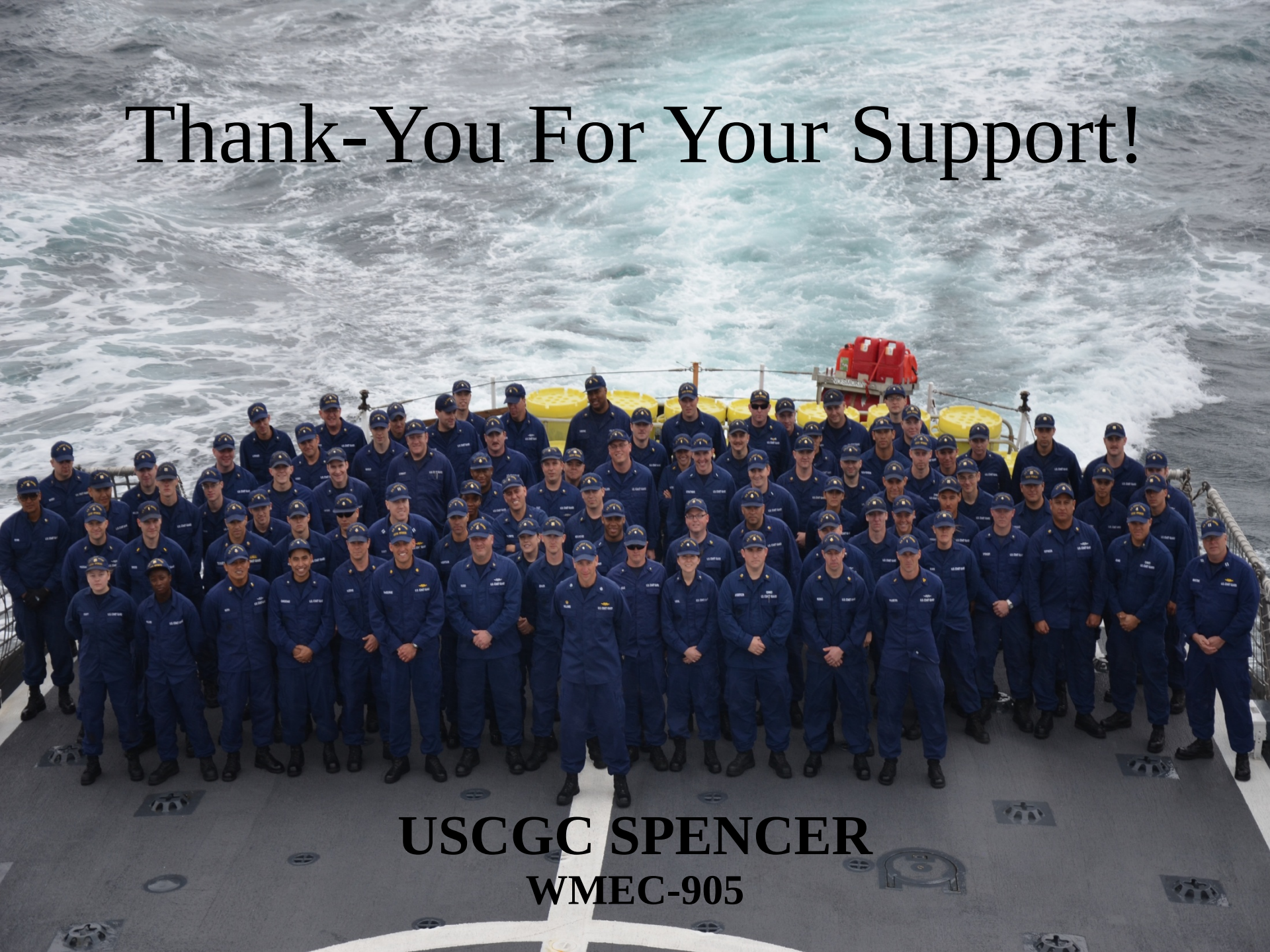
Helicopter Operations

USCGC SPENCER executed Deck Landing Qualifications (DLQ's) with CG HELO 6015 from Air Station Elizabeth City.

As a result, USCGC SPENCER successfully recertified 2 Landing Signal Officers (LSO's) and 8 tie down crewmembers prior to entering its operational area.

By the end of the patrol, USCGC SPENCER had conducted 39 flight operations including 23 day landings, 7 night landings, 7 Night Vision Goggle (NVG) landings, and 3 hot refuels.

Thank-You For Your Support!



USCGC SPENCER

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