Its been a long seven months since SPENCER has docked here in Boston, but we are back and better than ever!

USCGC SPENCER returned from the Coast Guard Yard and has been outfitted with some much needed upgrades. Tanks, piping, and electrical wiring have been replaced. Decks have been renewed, living quarters refurbished, and engineering systems upgraded!

During our time at the Coast Guard Yard in Curtis Bay, MD, the engineers have been hard at work ensuring that USCGC SPENCER's engineering plant is ready for sea. In addition to the great work by the engineers, the OPS department has been hard at work prepping charts, working on our communications systems, and servicing our weapons systems.

On the supply side of the house, our Storekeepers (SK's) have been executing procurement requests & purchase orders (totaling thousands of dollars) to get the ship back in order. Our Yeomen (YN's) have processed numerous travel claims, processed 24 newly reported members, and fixed various pay issues. Our Food Service Specialist (FS) team stood up the galley ahead of schedule and has delivered delicious meals since opening for business. Lastly, our deck department made great strides prepping our small boats for sea, ensuring that our davits were ready to safely launch the small boats, and that our life rafts, as well as rescue and survival gear, were serviced and in place.

All this work did not come without some well-deserved time off! The Arundel Mills outlet mall was a frequent stop for SPENCER's crew. Many took the opportunity to travel back in time to the dark ages at Medieval Times, scaled the rock wall at Bass Pro Shop, indulged on some duck fries at Duclaws, or just relaxed at the Cineplex movie theater. In downtown Baltimore, many of Spencer's crew got the chance to catch an Orioles game, visited the famous aquarium, or just enjoyed the waterfront. Some even experienced Washington D.C. for the first time. Others enjoyed the local atmosphere as they frequented Glenn Bernie's Panera, Starbucks, and Mission BBQ.

Phase One Completed…

Images: SPENCER saying goodbye to Coast Guard's MEP project managers before returning to Boston. (photos by LTJG McCrohan)

What is MEP?

The Mission Effectiveness Project (MEP) is a cost-effective way to provide equipment upgrades and structural repairs that maintain the core mission Effectiveness of selected in-service vessels.

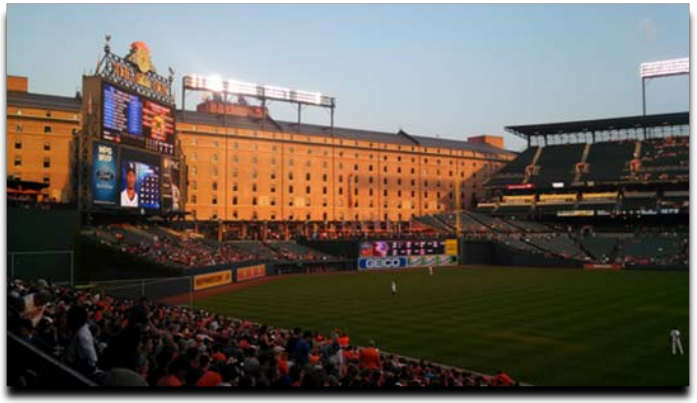
Why is MEP important?

The 270-foot Famous-class cutters are now over 20 years old and have seen little modernization since their construction. Replacing obsolete and increasingly unsupportable systems will improve reliability and reduce future maintenance costs until additional Fast Response Cutters and Offshore Patrol Cutters are brought into service.

Where is MEP completed?

Phase one of MEP work is completed by the Coast Guard at the Coast Guard Yard, Curtis Bay, MD. Each cutter leaves the Yard with new equipment and improved logistical support systems. SPENCER completed phase one of MEP on 07SEP13 and is now beginning phase two. Phase two consists of a two-month dockside maintenance project, which will be completed while shore side in homeport.

Memories Made…



Top Left: USCGC SPENCER's *Battle for Boston* softball team.

Top Right: Oriole Park at Camden Yards as the sun sets.

Bottom Right: SN Soule and crew renders honors to USCGC DEPENDABLE on the transit home to Boston.

USCGC SPENCER is excited to be home, but we still have a lot of work to do as we prepare for our upcoming patrols! We are excited to continue with the progress we made in the Yard, and hopefully improve our softball skills as we get ready for the next Battle for Boston softball game against USCGC ESCANABA!