

Coast Guard Helicopter MEDEVAC's Victim from Cruise Ship

05 October 2010

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA – The Coast Guard MEDEVAC'ed a man suffering from a heart condition from a cruise ship, Monday, October 4th, 2010.

Last night at approximately 6:00 PM, Coast Guard Cutter VALIANT received a request for a MEDEVAC from the cruise ship, CORAL PRINCESS. The patient, 68 year-old James Pittam, was suffering from a heart block and required immediate transfer to an emergency care facility.

Cutter VALIANT established communications with the captain of the CORAL PRINCESS and acquired the cruise ship's location and patient status. VALIANT also discussed the cruise ship's configuration with her captain and coordinated the best approach for VALIANT's Coast Guard Rescue Helicopter CG6599.

Within the hour, Cutter VALIANT launched Rescue Helicopter CG6599. Once on scene with the CORAL PRINCESS, CG6599 hoisted Pittam and a doctor from the cruise ship. The patient and doctor were transported to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where they were transferred to a Life Flight jet bound for the United States for treatment.

Onboard CG6599, the doctor from the CORAL PRINCESS told the air crew –pilots LT Nicholas Leiter, LT Brendan Evans, and Aviation Maintenance Technician First Class Tory Shepard- that: "The patient's heart could have stopped at any time. It was critical that we got him to a hospital in the States as soon as possible. You saved this man's life tonight." Pittam's condition is unknown at this time.

Coast Guard Cutter VALIANT is a 210-foot Medium Endurance Cutter homeported in Miami Beach, FL. Its primary missions include Search and Rescue, Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations and Drug Law Enforcement. Coast Guard Helicopter CG6599's aircrew is based out of Corpus Christi, TX.

#