

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)

17 December 2013—16 January 2014

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Fall Patrol Newsletter 2013



**The Adventures of the
most VALIANT crew in the
fleet!**

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Prior to Sailing....

VALIANT's crew created a Cake Walk for the Jeepers Creepers Halloween event held at Sector Jacksonville. Crew members and their families created beautiful, creative cakes which were enjoyed by many trick-or-treaters and their families.

Right: Ensign Hernandez's daughters enjoy their winnings.



Jeepers Creepers!

Above: Seaman Cisneros arrives with his wife, daughter and the newest addition to their family.

Center Right: Seaman Large brings his cake-a cemetery complete with cookie headstones, Oreo dirt and marshmallow ghosts.

Bottom Right: Chief Boatswain's Mate Driscoll proudly poses with his cake-winning sons.



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Competition

Ever the competitors and supporters of the St. Augustine Navy League, Executive Officer Lieutenant Commander Sommella, Commanding Officer Commander Burdian, and Chief Boatswain's Mate Ryan participated in the annual Golf Tournament sponsored by the St. Augustine Navy League.

Chili Cookoff!

The Food Service Division onboard participated in the Navy Exchange Chili Cookoff. Food Service Specialist Third Class Leyba-Brown took Third Place for his chili. Pictured From Left to Right: Chief Food Service Specialist Lyons, Seaman Rankin, Food Service Specialist Third Class Leyba-Brown, Food Service Specialist First Class Mogan and Food Service Specialist Third Class Stevenson.



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Reynolds Park Beach Cleanup

A dozen of Valiant's crew members volunteered to spend part of their Friday cleanup up Reynolds Park Beach at Naval Station Mayport, removing pounds of trash and debris from the shoreline.



**Top: Valiant's volunteers pose in front of the beach with the trash they removed.
Center Left: Fireman Urrutia and Machinery Technician Third Class Powell exuberantly remove trash from the sand.
Center Right: Seaman Romero sorts through the trash he has collected.
Bottom: The trash Valiant removed from Reynolds Park overflowed the local dumpster.**

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CHAMPIONS!

MWR Fall Sports Challenge
Competing against 12 other commands from Naval Station Mayport and the Coast Guard over four days in November, Valiant came out on top, winning the Captain's Cup and first place overall.



Top: Valiant's crew poses with the Captain's Cup Trophy after the event announcing their victory.

Center Right: Commanding Officer Commander Burdian receives the trophy from the Commanding Officer of Naval Station Mayport, Captain McCall.

Center Left: Valiant's tug-of-war team, including Operations Specialist Second Class Washington and Operations Specialist First Class Hendricks, battles to the end.

Bottom Right: Commanding Officer Commander Burdian presents Seaman Romero with the Most Valuable Player Award, designated by Naval Station Mayport, for his contributions to Valiant's success.

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**Fast Cruise Pre-Patrol Training:
Taking the CGC Kingfisher under Tow**
As a part of Valiant's training cruise, the CGC Kingfisher (Pictured Top Left), homeported at Sector Jacksonville, agreed to help Valiant's crew conduct towing training.

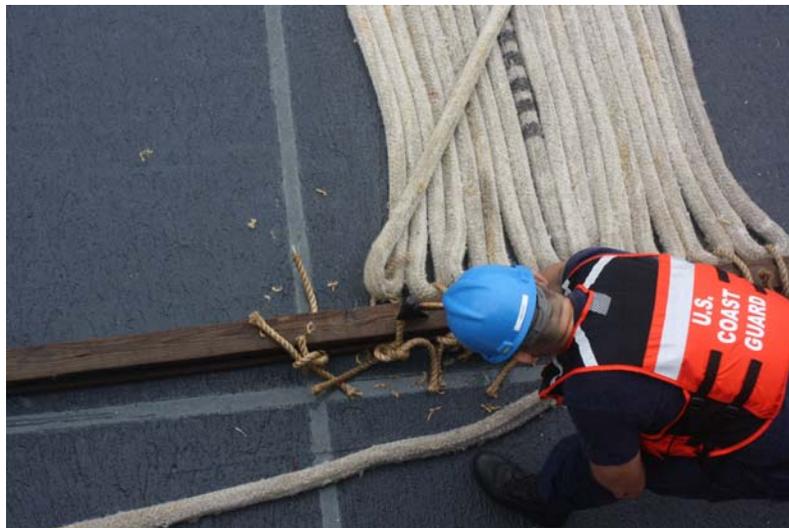
Center Right: Boatswain's Mate First Class Goodwin discusses the tow plan with members of Deck Force prior to passing the tow line to the Kingfisher.



Center Left: Safety Observers Chief Boatswains Mate Driscoll and Executive Officer Lieutenant Commander Sommella look on as Valiant uses a shoulder-throwing linegun to pass the tow line.



Bottom Right: Seaman Rankin cuts the tow line loose as it is ready to be taken by the Kingfisher.



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Bravo Zulu
Prior to departing for Officer Candidate School, Fireman Urrutia bid farewell to his shipmates and received a Letter of Commendation for his hard work and contributions while onboard Valiant.

Advancement
Boatswain's Mate Second Class Torrey advanced to Boatswain's Mate First Class, with his wife and daughter present and his new rate insignia pinned by Boatswain's Mate First Class Goodwin and Ensign Mills.



Advancing to Lieutenant Junior Grade
After 18 months onboard Valiant, Ensign Lee and Ensign Mills advanced to Lieutenant Junior Grade.



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Re-enlistment

Prior to sailing, two of Valiant's crew members chose to extend their enlistment for three years, renewing their commitment to the Coast Guard.

Top Left: Boatswain's Mate First Class Goodwin is administered the oath to extend his enlistment by Lieutenant Junior Grade Mills on the bridge, where he serves as an Underway Officer of the Deck.



Center Left: Ensign Bonner administers the oath to Food Services Specialist Second Class Balzac in the galley.

Good Conduct

Seaman Joseph Lambert and Food Services Specialist Third Class Stevenson received Good Conduct Awards for their exceptional military service over three years onboard Valiant (Pictured Bottom Left and Right with Commanding Officer Commander Burdian)



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Underway

On the morning of January 17, Valiant departed Naval Station Mayport, bound for the Caribbean Sea.

Search and Rescue

Valiant responded to a search and rescue case for a disabled recreational passenger ferry adrift and in need of a tow to a safe harbor.



Valiant came to the aid of the ferry's passengers, and towed the vessel 150 nautical miles to Montego Bay, Jamaica, where her crew members transferred the tow to a Jamaican Defense Force (JDF) patrol vessel which safely brought the ferry into port.

Top Right: On the fantail, members of Deck Force haul around on the tow line at the direction of Tow Captain Seaman Dodd.

Center Left: Deck Force prepares to transfer the tow to the JDF patrol vessel.

Bottom Left: Safety observers Chief Boatswains Mate Driscoll and Executive Officer Lieutenant Commander Sommella observe the retrieval of the tow line from the flight deck.



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Christmas in GTMO (Guantanamo Bay, Cuba)

Valiant arrived in Guantanamo Bay on Christmas Eve. On Christmas, a party to celebrate the holiday on the pier was complete with cornhole, music, phone card giveaways, a White Elephant gift exchange, and heart-warming care packages from home. The time that Valiant's family and friends, and Ombudswoman, Mrs. Lyons, took to create the care packages and Santa stockings was greatly appreciated by the crew, will always be remembered, and brought some home to GTMO.



Top Left: Storekeeper Second Class Van Valkenburg and Machinery Technician Second Class Rivera enjoy a soda on the fantail.

Bottom Left: Commanding Officer Commander Burdian and Health Services Technician Second Class Potratz enjoy a game of cornhole.

Bottom Right: Crew members relax on the pier



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Gift Raffles

During the Christmas Pier Party, a drawing for International Phone Cards provided several shipmates the opportunity to call home to speak with their families.

Right: Seaman Everett, Storekeeper First Class Chapman and Lieutenant Junior Grade Mills were a few of the lucky recipients.



Chief's Dinner

Valiant's Chiefs volunteered their culinary talents to cook dinner on Christmas Day. Their turducken, prime rib, sweet potato casserole, stuffing and rolls were delicious.

Left: Crew members enjoy dinner on the fantail.

Right: Chief Machinery Technician Waguespack, Chief Food Service Specialist Lyons, Chief Boatswain's Mate Ryan, Chief Electrician's Mate Jones and Chief Boatswain's Mate Driscoll work hard to make a wonderful dinner the crew greatly enjoyed. Everyone looks forward to the next time the Chiefs volunteer to cook!



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Gingerbread House Competition

Competition for the Gingerbread House build and decoration was fierce. Deck Department took the win, gathering points for the Battle of the Departments. Their Gingerbread cutter was complete with mooring lines, ballards, and line handlers with covers! (pictured top right and center left)



Center Right : The Operations Department added the Coast Guard racing stripe to their gingerbread cutter, with a following wake. Pictured are Boatswain's Mate Second Class Hotchkiss, Ensign Russo, Boatswain's Mate Third Class Ward and Gunner's Mate First Class Pulk.

Bottom Left: Lieutenant Junior Grade Lee and Fireman Lindstedt of the Engineering Department shows their prowess in engineering a sturdy gingerbread construction.

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Conducting Operations

Top: Valiant's small boat crews spend many hours braving the rough seas of the Caribbean to carry out the Coast Guard's search and rescue and law enforcement missions.

Bottom: Lieutenant Junior Grade Mills adjust the throttles to bring Valiant to her desired speed while Seaman Smith serves as helmsman to ensure the cutter remains on track.

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Heading Home

VALIANT returned to homeport at Naval Station Mayport on the morning of Thursday, January 6, into the welcoming arms of their loved ones.

Fair Winds and Following Seas to all departing crewmembers who served their last patrol aboard the mighty VALIANT.
