

The Guardian

Editor: LTJG Andy Hobbs



U S C O A S T G U A R D M S S T G A L V E S T O N

Special Points of Interest:



Welcome! BMC Pelland
How about a cover.



Watch out criminals! LTJG
Whiteside receives her
BO Ashore letter.



FROM THE HELM

Commanding Officer
LCDR Leuenberger

Its 2007! Hope everyone had a great holiday with family and friends. It's always tough to be on call while attempting to get a few days off here and there! One thing I did notice is we've had quite a few junior additions to the ranks of many of the families here. Congratulations to all with new babies! I'd also like to thank the morale committee and our ombudsman, Elaine Lee,

for the very successful holiday party and kids Christmas party. It was a blast and I hope everyone who attended had fun!

The team continues to enjoy many successes from their hard work; thank you for the support! We've begun a pretty busy cycle that will have a major inspection inserted during February. Preparation began a ways back and I'm told we'll be busy but it will be manageable because all the hard to

get parts were ordered well in advance. After the inspection, we'll get a short break and then go right into another operational cycle. Honestly, I want the families to know the next 5 months look very busy so I can manage your expectations. If anything comes up, please let us know as soon as possible and we will do our best to support the home front.

Semper Paratus!

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FROM THE NEXT GUY IN LINE

Executive Officer
LT Garcia

You've all made New Year's resolutions, right? How's that working out for you, or have you already blown it? Me? Well, I'm still on track as of today, but it's only January 8th! In theory, my resolution is quite simple...I want to complain less and appreciate more. Piece of cake, wouldn't you say? Not really...there will be times when this becomes a rather tall order for me—stressful situations, time away from my family, red tape, pay and personnel problems, etc.—but I'm going to give it my best shot.

My plan? That's even simpler in theory. I'm just going to

keep telling myself that, regardless of how tough things seem, I've got a job that... outsiders would consider "really cool" and wish they had, paid for virtually every dime of my education, supports my family, allowed me to go from Seaman Recruit to as far up in rank as I wanted (or ever thought I could), took me to places I would not have otherwise gotten to see, gives me more vacation time than I can usually take, made me extremely marketable in the outside world, and will provide me with a retirement pension after only 20 years—or 30 years if I feel like going more! That being said, why on earth

would I ever have complained about anything I've experienced in the Coast Guard? To tell you the truth, I don't know why, but I have. So this season I tried to put it into perspective. And guess what I learned...that all the whining I've done over the years has been pretty silly! Maybe if I'd spent a little less time moaning and groaning, and a little more time looking for ways to make this organization better, then I—and others around me—would have been a lot happier. So for 2007, I'm going to try my hardest to complain less, and appreciate more. Wanna join me? Take care and Happy New Year.



MSST GALVESTON RISES TO A TALL CHALLENGE

BY: MSTC S. LOOTENS

For the second time in twice as many years, MSST Galveston was asked to protect assets at Cincinnati's premier riverfront event. The Tall Stacks Music, Arts & Heritage Festival is a significant maritime event that places Cincinnati in the national spotlight. Last held in October 2003, Tall Stacks returned in 2006 a year earlier than the traditional four year cycle. This year, the Festival featured not only exciting cruises on 16 of the country's most revered riverboats, but a top-notch musical lineup with more than 40 of the most influential roots-music artists in the country. There were also interactive educational areas that brought to life how the steam boating era shaped the region and the people who lived there. Marine Safety Detachment Cincinnati requested that MSST Galveston provide boats to assist local assets with security on the Ohio River and two Canine Detection Teams to assist in sweeping areas for explosives both before the public arrived and while they embarked on the vessels.

MSST crews conducted numerous escorts of passenger ships and vessels carrying hazardous cargos through the dense population area near Cincinnati. The team also performed numerous patrols that prevented unauthorized entry into the zone where private vessels were not allowed. Due to heavy rains earlier in the week, the Ohio River experienced a 4-6' rise and a swifter than normal current within the Port of Cincinnati and kept the Tall Stacks from getting underway on Friday, October 6th. The rise in the river necessitated a complicated shifting of mooring barges and the subsequent moving of Tall Stacks participants in order to maintain public access. MSST crews and partner law enforcement vessels enforced a safety zone during the shift and ensured the safety and success of the event. During the peak of festivities, river traffic was extremely congested with vessels of all types and sizes navigating the area. At one point a large paddle wheeler turned and placed itself on a collision course with a tow vessel pushing

hazardous chemicals in bulk along the river. Only through swift and decisive action from a MSST Galveston patrol boat crew, was the collision prevented. The RB-HS boat under the command of BM1 David Hild, who through the brave assistance of his crew, intervened by using the boat to assist the Tall Stack ship in completing its turn thereby avoiding a collision by a mere three feet. This action prevented a significant maritime casualty.

"The efforts of MSST Galveston crews and the assisting law enforcement resources ensured that Tall Stacks 2006 was a safe, secure and successful event."

-MSTC Lootens



MSST Patrol Boats responding to a request for a vessel escort. (Photo by: MSTC Donald Laisure, USCG)

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



US Coast Guard members are known for giving their time to help others during the work day, but you should also know MSST Galveston members do a great deal after hours.

Over the past few months, the MSST collected close to \$3,000 for the Combined Federal Campaign and gave Christmas gifts to 10 families, including 32 children. Thank you to all who gave.



HOW OLD ARE YOU OPS?

BY: LT JG HART

A few months ago, an email floated around the unit showing LT Culver's name on a rack in the now floating museum called the USCG TANEY, which is in Baltimore, Maryland. So why is OPS' name in a museum? The USCGC TANEY has a long and distinguished history that dates back to WWII. She was commissioned 24 October 1936 in honor of Secretary of the Treasury, Roger B. Taney. She was a 327 foot Secretary Class that was designed originally to act as a convoy escort. Some of her accolades range from protecting Pearl Harbor by being the first to return fire on the day of the attack protecting the Honolulu power plant. She had two confirmed enemy kills that day. She was involved in three of the biggest conflicts in US history to include WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

LT Culver arrived on the second oldest cutter in the Coast Guard fleet in May '85 as a QM3. When asked

what it was like to be on a 49 year old cutter, he said, "We were literally working on a museum. The TANEY was a diesel powered, steam turbine vessel. The boilers for the vessel were two decks tall...anytime her guns were fired, there had to be an inspection done on the pipes were busted due to the vibrations, and we literally had to swab the bridge because the decks were wood...but in the worst storm she rode like a Cadillac." While on the TANEY, LT Culver did two 40-day cadet cruises going from St. Johns Canada to Jamaica, and Portsmouth, VA. In OCT '86, as part of the Boarding Team and translator, LT Culver was part of a 90 ton marijuana bust off the coast of North Carolina. The bust ended up being the 3rd largest in Coast Guard history at the time.

USCG TANEY was decommissioned 7 DEC 1986. So how did LT Culver and some of

the crew of the TANEY honor her decommissioning? "I shared a bottle of Wild Turkey with about 10 other crew members in the berthing area." LT Culver is for now, and always will be, a part of history. His, as well as the rest of the crews' names appear on their racks, as well as on a plaque on the bridge. LT Culver said that it was an incredible experience. Over the past 25 years, he counts his friends he made on the USCG TANEY among his closest.



LT Culver's name, still on the rack!



LT Culver does his best Goose from 'Topgun' impression.



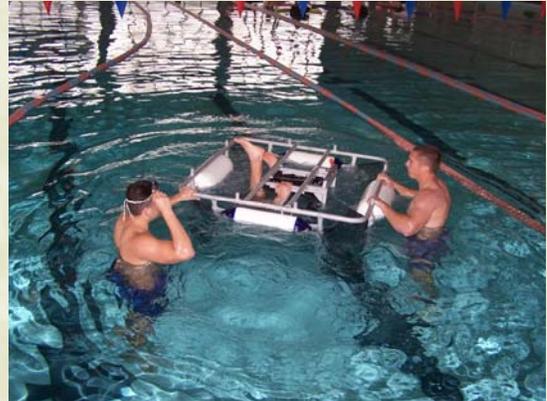
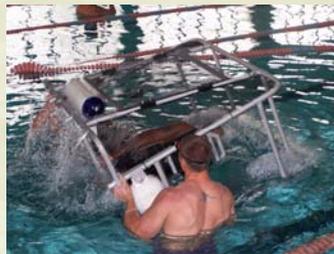
To learn more about the incredible history of the USCG TANEY go to <http://www.baltomaritimemuseum.org/taney/taneyframe.html>.

HOW ABOUT A DIP IN THE POOL?

BY: BOSN3 HORAN

Hello from the training division. We have been fairly busy working to provide the best training possible to this fantastic MSST Crew! One can only work with the level of personnel they have assigned and this crew keeps the training division hopping.

We just finished three days of dunker training which will help the crews handle a capsizing (Very unlikely this will happen to this crew but better safe than sorry.) in the slight chance it happens. This was one of the repeating themes that came from the investigation to the capsizing in Alaska earlier this year. The crew stated that this training very much helped them all egress from the vessel. So here are a couple of pictures of the training days.



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MORE TRAINING FROM BOSN3 HORAN

Some of the other items we are working on are another full capabilities exercise that appears to be timed for early March, another visit to the Salt River range at Fort Knox in April, refresher hook & climb training.

Some first aid/CPR recertification training and of course all the preparations for our standardization visit from the boat forces center that is

scheduled for February. Hope all have a fantastic Holiday Season! We are wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Years from your training division.

BOSN Tom Horan, BMC Jeff Pelland, GM1 Rich Willette, BM1 Clint Seawright, BM1 Chris Fingleman, and GM2 Hank Potvin.





HALLOWEEN BARBECUE

31 OCT 2006

Back in October, Halloween fell on a work day. So MSST Galveston took advantage of the holiday and wore costumes into work. See if you can pick out the real monster from the imposter.



BM3 Rivas as the Ghost Rider



MK3 Mascitelli as Reno 911's LT Dangle



BM2 Lovell tries out for Grey's Anatomy



BM2 North rocks Joe Dirt



LTJG Hobbs on the dark side



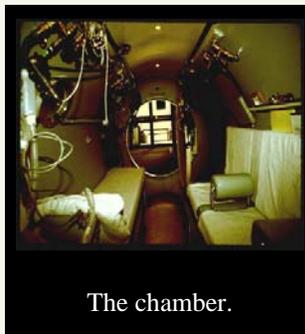
MEMORIAL HERMANN HYPERBARIC MEDICINE PROUD SPONSOR OF YOUR DIVERS

BY: LTJG HOBBS

Memorial Hermann Hospital's Hyperbaric Facilities are first responders to MSST Galveston's dive team if there happens to be a diving casualty in the Houston / Galveston area. Members of MSST Galveston's dive team and MLE/FP members re-

cently visited the facility in early October.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy or HBOT was once used primarily to treat diver's decompression sickness ("The Bends"). Today, HBOT is also used to treat other conditions



The chamber.

such as carbon monoxide poisoning, and a variety of other medical conditions. It can play a significant role in promoting healing as part of a wound care plan that may include surgery, antibiotic therapy, physical rehabilitation and more.

LIGHTSHIP SERVICE

BY: ENS BLANTON



"All aboard!" These could have been the words of our very own BOSN Horan while stationed upon what was known as the floating lighthouse. This legendary vessel, the NANTUCKET Lightship (WLV-612), was stationed forty-five miles off Nantucket Island to protect cross Atlantic and coastal shipping from defrauding the infamous Nantucket South Shoals from 1971-75. This vessel wasn't always an Atlantic resident. It was serviced in San Francisco for 18 years before it made its way through the Panama Canal and up the east coast.



Assignment duty aboard a lightship wasn't always looked upon with great enthusiasm! However, there were always a few hardy souls who wouldn't have life any other way. One attraction was the "compensatory leave program". For every two days you were aboard the ship you earned a credit of one-day compensatory leave. This was in addition to the 30 days you received

from regular leave. --Now can't you see BOSN Horan interested in this kind of arrangement! Routine was much like any other CG ship—bridge and engine room watches, day work form 0800-1600; and then enjoyed time off for personal interests.

Since decommissioned, the notorious "lightship" has been converted into what is now a luxury 128ft private yacht. Including five-guest bedrooms with private baths, a grand salon, and formal dining for 12. But wait guys; there is also something for you! Not only is there a prime entertainment room with card tables and regulated size foosball tables; there is also a big-screened plasma TV/DVD and a galley that will cook whatever you want! Whether docked with other mega yachts or sailing on the high seas, the Nantucket is the ultimate summer vacation retreat.

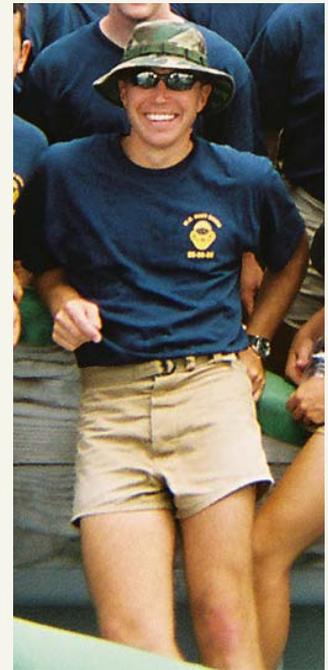


A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE EDITOR

By: LTJG Hobbs

In March 2007, when I finish a brief three year stint in the US Coast Guard, I will work, continue research, and travel abroad for several months before returning to graduate school to pursue a career in international affairs. As I am currently applying to a number of universities around the US, it was brought to my attention that I might have a tough decision to make in UT's LBJ school of Public Affairs and Texas A&M's George Bush school of Government and Public Affairs. Having been born in Greenville, Mississippi, and attending college in North Carolina, I am no stranger to rivalries in Ole Miss and Mississippi State and UNC, Duke, and NC State. Yet, after moving to Texas, I quickly realized that there is more pride in this state of its residents and natives than any other in the US, and in that pride a line is drawn between the University of Texas and Texas A&M. I will not make a decision on which graduate school I will attend until mid or late March, but I will certainly contact the unit and let you know when I do make a decision. In the mean time, I am accepting bribes from both camps, Longhorns and Aggies.

In three short years in the USCG, I have worked in the Office of International Affairs in Washington, DC, where I sat in on countless meetings with and knew the former Commandant. I had the opportunity to individually brief the current Commandant on two separate occasions and attend US Navy Dive School. I was involved in a foot chase of two men involved with drug traffic. I jumped out of a helicopter and wielded a machine gun.



MLE/FP, you may have a new JO to take the reigns, but will their shorts be as short? I don't think so.

Most notably, I had the opportunity to edit this newsletter. I send out a heart felt "Thank You" to everyone that has contributed to this small newsletter. I have received positive feedback from those who read it and please continue to submit articles and photos so that family, friends, and other CG members have a chance to view the great work you produce day in and day out.

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
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JIBBER JABBER
From: Senior Chief Krumpe



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**Detect, Intercept,
Interdict!**

Greetings, I'm MKCS Mike Krumpe, MSST Galveston's Command Senior Chief. Serving in this capacity, I act as the Senior Enlisted Advisor, promoting balance and alignment between the needs of the enlisted workforce and command goals. By maintaining an open line of communication between the Commanding Officer, the Command Master Chief at Atlantic Area, and enlisted personnel, I do my best to inform all hands of pertinent issues, including command policies, pay and allowances, morale, and incentive programs. It's one of those jobs that can be both demanding and rewarding at the same time.

Recently, ET1 Brent Taylor was honored as the deserving recipient of MSST Galveston's Enlisted Person of the Quarter. While the competition was stiff, the title is given to the person who demonstrates nothing short of exceptional in their performance of duties. In ET1 Taylor's case, he faced and conquered

many challenges in his duties as a lead Support Team member. Nice job, Brent!

Well, 2006 has come and gone. It's been quite a busy and productive year. It's interesting to see the unit evolve as the demands placed upon it change. Evolution, in this case, does not take a natural course. Successful change is the result of painstaking efforts given by each and every member. If not for the inner drive of the team, we would stagnate. We adapt, we thrive, we move forward.

The annual Christmas Party at the Seabrook Beach Club was a success, once again. For all those who contributed in making this happen, thanks. Judging from the ear-to-ear smiles on the kids, their Christmas party at Mr. Gattis was a hit, as well. I'd like to thank Mrs. Elaine Lee, the unit's Ombudsman, for coordinating this successful event.



Did you enjoy our film strip?

Submit your unit pictures to:
Loraleigh.A.White@uscg.mil

O M B U D S M A N ' S B A C K P A G E
BY: E L A I N E L E E

Hello everyone! Well, the kids Christmas party at Mr. Gatti's Pizza went off with a jingle. We had 11 children there that had a great time filling up on pizza and playing games. They also had a visit from Santa Clause. During his visit, each child received a gift. He was a big hit to all! I would like to give a great big thank you to Chief Lootens for playing Santa Clause. He did a great job! I also would like to thank all the parents who brought their children and gifts for Santa out to the party. Maybe next year we can have another big turn out.

As a note to all, my school schedule will be changing slightly. Classes will be on Tuesday and Thursday as before, but from 10:50 am to 1:30 pm. If you need to call me during that time and I do not answer, please leave a message and I will call you back.

I am looking forward to planning a family gathering sometime in the spring. If anyone has any ideas, feel free to call or email me with them.

Elaine Lee
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