

The Guardian

www.uscg.mil/lantarea/msst91104

Editor: ENS Blanton



Ombudsman's corner



Greetings everyone! It looks as

if fall and winter are upon us, and summer is gone. It was a busy one with the coasties crazy schedule as well as one of our own. We are still amongst the hurricane season, however. In this case, stay up to date with the news and the unit website:

www.uscg.mil/lantarea/msst91104. Any information I get about a hurricane coming this way will be sent to you via email or phone call. I can also do my best to help prepare you for evacuation or find a place for you to go.

On another note, I have some information that was sent to me regarding: financial help; scholarships

for students who are dependents of Coast Guard active duty, reserve and retired members. If anyone is interested in these topics please call or email me. I will be glad to share the information with you and help you out. These are out there for us to use, so lets do it!

On the fun side, thank you everyone for understanding why we had to cancel the family day in September. With the coasties being deployed, we did not have enough response from the spouses to continue with the family day. That is okay though because we have rescheduled it for October 26th from 2-8 pm at Jack Brooks Park. We plan to have some activities that relate to Halloween for the "kids" and "adults" to enjoy.



Please plan to attend and have some fun.

My school schedule has changed once again for this semester (until December). I am in classes Monday – Thursday from 9:25 am to 3:00 pm. In between classes, I do check for messages. If you need to get in touch with me during that time, call and leave a message and I will call you back in between or after classes are over.

Until next time take care and contact me if you have any question or concerns about anything.

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Welcome aboard:

- LTJG Jedediah Raskie
- YN3 Simeon Zuger

Separations:

- BM3 Erik Lowe



FITNESS ENTHUSIAST:

10/18: Marathon training Seminar-avoiding hydration pitfalls-
www.memorialhermann.org

10/20: Breast Cancer Fun Run/Walk www.dfeetbreastcancer.com
27th Annual Combat Medic 10k race, 5k run, 2mi walk.
<http://runawayclub.com>

10/27: League City Rotary 10k/5k. www.therunnerslink.com
Mutt Strutt & Dog Day Afternoon. www.hsmc-tx.org/news.html
Tx Heart Institute Great Pumpkin Fun Run @ Houston Zoo
www.texasheart.org

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A Word from the Command Senior Chief

Recently, MK2 Sam Cuellar was honored as the deserving recipient of MSST Galveston's Enlisted Person of the Quarter Award. While the competition was stiff, the title is given to the person who demonstrates nothing short of exceptional in their performance of duties. In MK2 Cuellar's case, his contagious positive attitude and dedication to the unit and Coast Guard not only improves unit-wide morale, but serves as a role model to be recognized by all. Nice job, Sam!

On October 1st, one of our members hit a milestone in their career. MK1 Wendell Burnette was advanced to Chief Petty Officer, which was earned

through years of hard work and dedicated service. Congratulations, Chief Burnette!

Be on the lookout! A Family day is scheduled for Friday, Oct 26th, from 2PM until 8PM at Jack Brooks Park in Texas City. There will be some Halloween activities for the kids and adults, which ought to be plenty of fun. More details to follow.

Nice job to all, crew and families alike, during our recent preparations for a "false alarm" hurricane scare. We remained ahead of the game throughout, but don't let your guard down just yet. Hurricane season

lasts through the end of November, at which point we can all breathe a sigh of relief. Keep those fingers crossed, but be prepared!

MKCS Michael Krumpe
Command Senior Chief



Congratulations MK2 Cuellar and Chief Burnette!



From The Helm



Hello! I'm happy to tell you that the unit is doing great! We've had some real busy short fused operations and I appreciate the support we've received to be able to hit the road and do what's needed of us. We had a schedule change and went to New York City with about 2 weeks lead time. It was a pretty good operation from what I hear and included a brief visit by the President of the United States. Some last minute schedule changes gave the team an extra night or two in NYC before having to begin 24/7 operations. I hope people took advantage to visit the site of the twin towers, essentially the incident that led to the creation of MSSTs. Before that, we recalled several

people from leave and went down to the border to assist with security efforts for over a hundred Mexican flagged fishing boats seeking safe haven from Hurricane DEAN in Brownsville, TX. I do appreciate the great attitudes by all as I spent a lot of time with LT Culver at Station South Padre talking with the Incident Commander and the Station CO. The Station CO was extremely appreciative of us showing up on short notice due to the serious fatigue his crew was up against with the magnitude of the operation. Congratulations to our EPOQ - MK2 Cuellar and to Chief Burnette on his recent ad-

vancement! Great job MK2 Cuellar and Chief! I am honored to have the privilege of serving with fine Coast Guardsmen like MK2 Cuellar and MKC Burnette. I'm happy to report that several of these fine Coasties can be found here. Please join us for the Halloween Family Day, last year the costumes were amazing and maybe a few will show up again this year! Take care and be safe.



XO's Corner



MSST Galveston will once again be sponsoring a Holiday toy and clothing drive for the Beacon House this year. For those of you not familiar with the program, Beacon House is a safe place for women and children to go who are victims of abuse or simply down on their luck. The thoughts and care given to them by the community is always greatly appreciated and at no time more than during the Holiday Season. Fortunately, since the MSST's commissioning in Galveston, we've been a pri-

mary provider for the Women and children staying at this facility during this time. How it works is: the administrators come by with a list of items needed or desired by members of the family and those at the unit wishing to participate choose what they would like to purchase by putting their name on a list next to the items. We generally kick off

this initiative around December 1st, to provide ample time to get the items and have them ready to be given to the family's when the administrators come by to pick them up. Anyone desiring more information about the program can call me (409-941-8102) or e-mail me (Kristopher.s.fegler@uscg.mil) at any time for more information.



Flag Football Tournament Raises \$690 for Mutual Assistance

September 21st MSST Galveston hosted a flag football tournament, held at the League City Sports Plex, which raised \$690 for Mutual Assistance. For those of you who are not familiar with the Mutual Assistance Program, except for restricted members, everyone associated with the Coast Guard is eligible to receive assistance from CGMA. Active Duty and Retired military personnel; Civilian employees; Reservists; Auxiliaries; Commissioned Officers of the Public Health Service serving with the Coast Guard; and their families, are all eligible to receive assistance from CGMA. Additionally, CGMA has reciprocal agreements with the Air Force Aid Society, Army Emergency Relief, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the American Red Cross that allows Coast Guard members to receive emergency assistance from these organizations when CGMA is not available. Assistance is provided to members through six programs. Each program is designed to meet the unique circumstances faced by individuals. These programs are: EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAM (providing financial assistance to members caught in emergency, short-term, financial situations beyond their control), GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (may be provided when

unexpected events or expenses cause a serious financial burden and financial need is demonstrated. General Assistance differs from the Emergency Loan program because the qualifying circumstances do not immediately endanger personal well-being or require urgent help.), EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (provides a variety of education loans and grants which can benefit active duty, dependent sons, daughters and spouses of active duty, title 10 reservists and retired members.), HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (helps career-minded Coast Guard service members and their families obtain housing.), MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Helps with medical expenses beyond TRICARE and supplemental insurance. In most cases medical treatment is of an emergency nature and not normally anticipated in a member's budget.), and the DEBT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (to assist our members in becoming good financial managers of their income.) More information on these programs can be found at <http://www.cgmahq.org/>

Although originally scheduled to take place while the unit was in garrison, Waterside was sent to NYC for a few weeks and our

MLE FP team was engaged in local operations. For those that stayed behind, a special thanks goes to CWO Horan for being the event photographer, LT Culver, BM3 Marshall, SK2 Cartwright, and HS1 Sanchez for refereeing, and GM3 Nikolopoulos for helping with the grill and morale table.

Overall, 7 units within Sector Houston-Galveston participated: Sector, MSU Port Arthur, MSU Galveston, Station Freeport, Man-O-War, ESD Galveston, and SFO Galveston. Taking First Place was Sector, followed by MSU Port Arthur, and third place was Station Freeport. The turnout was great, and there is a demand to do this again. So, hopefully when the unit is in garrison next, we can host another successful tournament.

LT Whiteside



MILITARY & FEDERAL EMPLOYEES COMPUTER DISCOUNTS

Did you know that many of the Army Small Computer Program contractors offer Government Employees Purchase Programs?

Well they do! If you are a government employee or a military service member, you can buy from the vendors listed at a special discounted rate:

- Apple Computers
- Dell Computers
- Military Computer Savings
- Military Computers
- Military Notebooks



The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. Max DePree

Leadership Skills:

1. **Know what you want to do.** It is awfully hard to get others to do what you want if you don't know what you want.
2. **Tell people what to do, not how to do it.** Encouraged people to think, to innovate, to be creative.
3. **Do your homework.** Before starting a new challenge, always try to find out what others had tried that had succeeded or failed.
4. **Lead by example.** Pushed your people hard.
5. **Demand excellence,** not perfection.
6. **Take care of your people.** Know their strengths and weaknesses, their aspirations, their fears.
7. **Be humble**
8. **Have Character**



Your future is looking bright



Have you been thinking about obtaining a degree? Did you think that it was too difficult with our schedule? Not sure what you want to do if you are getting out of the CG?

Here's something to think about. With our background and training, a degree in public service fits in very well with us. We bring to the table a wide range of skills and experience that possible future employers may wish to use.

I would recommend Charter Oak State College as a path to completing your degree. They have an excellent public safety department and they work very well with us. They have been very easy and accommodating to work with. When I first started with them I was very apprehensive about taking online courses. So far it has been much easier than I thought. Check out their website and see if they have a degree program for you.

Of course there are other schools that you can earn your degree from. We have some of our crew taking courses from American Military University and they have had success. The bottom line is that you need to do the research and find one that will work for you and with you. It all starts with the CG Institute and having your credits evaluated.

Also of note, Frederick Community College is offering credit for the FEMA classes that we take. It costs \$60 per credit. I am working to see if a CG

Grant or institute will pay for it so that you don't have any out of pocket expenses. The community college will transfer these credits to the college of your choice. I recommend that you take all of the classes that you can (they are free) from the FEMA website and then go to the Frederick Community College site when you are ready and get the credits at one time.

If anyone has any questions, please ask me or ENS Blanton. The CG is willing to pay for ALL of your college! Take advantage of it!

The links are below to follow. The last one is to Frederick Community College. Best of luck!

With respects to all.

BMC Ty Farrell



<http://www.charteroak.edu/>

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

<http://www.emergencymanagementstudy.com/content/files/downloads/PDFonlineJuly%2007.pdf>

ESO UPDATE:

CGES SCHOLARSHIP: For dependents in their last year of high school or home schooling, to attend an accredited college/university next fall

NAIMES Student Spotlight Award: A \$1,200.00 cash prize will be awarded. Open to Active Duty & Selected Reservist. Please see ENS Blanton for details.

\$500 Grants for Enlisted College Students: 50 grants up to \$500 for enlisted personnel who have received the maximum (\$350) available from the CG Foundation as reimbursement for college cost not covered by TA.

\$160 SEG Mutual Assistance: Dependents and Active Duty members are eligible for this grant. Please see ENS Blanton for details.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY



Halloween is almost here. Time to get ready for pumpkin carvings, gross but fun party foods, creating costumes, making fun and festive crafts, and of course trick or treating.

But before you set out on your Halloween adventures please check out a few of these websites for

some **HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS.**

- www.familycorner.com
- www.halloween-safety.com
- www.redcross.org
- www.family.com



COAST GUARD ASSISTS MEXICAN FISHING



SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas - The Coast Guard and Customs and Border Patrol are providing a safe haven and security today for more than 120 Mexican fishing vessels due to the expected impact of Hurricane Dean on the Mexican coastline.



Crewmembers from Coast Guard Station South Padre Island, Coast Guard Marine Safety

and Security Team Galveston, Texas, and CBP officers are patrolling the Brownsville, Texas inner harbor to help control the unusual amount of Mexican fishing boats in U.S. waters and protect the area.

Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi crewmembers are conducting over flights to aid the operation by providing aerial support.

"Anytime you have a large group of vessels together in an unfamiliar area you run the risk for an accident," said Lt. Charles Hawkins, the commanding officer of Station South Padre Island.

PA3 David Schuhlein



Sea change in Coast Guard's duty

By [Mimi Hall](#), USA TODAY

ON THE EAST RIVER, New York — For more than 200 years, the U.S. Coast Guard has been a force in high-seas rescue missions. Now, the service branch is aiming to be a greater force in the war on terrorism. A new group of more than two dozen Coast Guard teams is being given broader responsibilities to travel anywhere in the world to deal with maritime threats and emergencies. The teams have 3,000 members that can raid and search cargo ships, drop onto threatening boats from helicopters, search for underwater bombs and use bomb-sniffing dogs to help them look for explosives. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff says he considers the specialized group a model for his vast agency. The new Deployable Operations Group (DOG) represents "the tip of the spear in responding to natural disasters or terrorist incidents," Chertoff says. The new role for the agency is being closely watched. Stephen Flynn, a national security expert at the Council on Foreign Relations and a retired Coast Guard officer, says the DOG is a good idea — as long as it's not used as a substitute for good training and equipment at the local level.

The DOG allows the Homeland Security Department to call in reinforcements to handle a threat, Flynn says. But in an emergency, local responders will still have to "manage the event until the cavalry comes in," he says.

Rear Adm. Tom Atkin, commander of the teams, says the Coast Guard is "doing more and at a faster pace" than ever before. This month, several teams are rotating in and out of New York City, where they're working with the Secret Service to provide 24-hour security on the East River and in the city's busy commercial harbor for the annual meetings of the United Nations General Assembly. When President Bush arrived on Monday, gunners wearing helmets and flak jackets stood tethered to the deck, gripping mounted M-240 machine guns as their small orange boat bobbed in the choppy waters off the Wall Street-area heliport where he would land. Upriver, an identical boat zipped back and forth in front of the marble-and-glass U.N. buildings, keeping a secure zone around the Midtown Manhattan complex where dignitaries were gathering.

The Coast Guard operation will run 24/7 through the end of September. It involves escorting ferries and commercial ships through secure zones, checking passengers before they board ferries headed for Lower Manhattan, making sure bridges and piers are bomb-free and keeping boat traffic away from the president and other world leaders. Petty Officer Rick Hodges' day began at 6 a.m. That's when he and his Belgian Malinois, Mynx, arrived at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal. The pair worked the rush-hour crowd, with Mynx sniffing for explosives and Hodges scanning commuters' faces.

At the same time, heavily-armed teams on super-fast 25-foot security boats escorted the ferries — enormous vessels that carry 3,000 people at a time — back-and-forth. Since the group was created in July, members have responded to threats and requests for tighter security in cities from Seattle and Chicago to Miami and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Before the 9/11 attacks and the creation of the Homeland Security Department, the Coast Guard was best known for its work on water safety, search-and-rescue missions and stopping drug runners and illegal immigrants.

"The world has changed so much," Atkin says. "It's hard to compare the Coast Guard of 2007 to the Coast Guard of 1982," the year he graduated from the Coast Guard Academy.



A Coast Guard speedboat patrols the East River this week near the U.N. while the General Assembly meets.

U.S. Coast Guard K-9 handler Rick Hodges and his Belgian Malinois named "Mynx" search for explosives at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal in New York Sept. 24. Hodges and Mynx are members of the Deployable Operations Group, a new Coast Guard unit designed to supplement regular Coast Guard commands as the need arises -- in this case, during the U.N. summit.

