

Greetings from

MILLON



Wish You Were Here!

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POST CARD



Dear Mellon Family and Friends,

During our first month of patrol, Mellon sailed more than 6,000 miles across the high seas. We started with an ammunition onload on Indian Island before making our journey toward our first port call in Hawaii. From the beaches of Waikiki to the shops, luaus, surf and sunshine, the crew enjoyed all O'ahu had to offer. There we met four new shipmates—two members from the China Coast Guard and two U.S. Marine interpreters who will be helping us communicate with vessels during our fisheries patrol.

Since then, Mellon has kept busy with drills, training, professional development, and flight operations. The Damage Control (DC) Olympics tested our ability to respond to a variety of possible shipboard emergencies. Many of our shipmates have received or are pursuing qualifications in boat crew, law enforcement, boarding team, officer of the deck, engineering, and helm and lookout. More than 30 petty officers took the Servicewide Exam to advance to the next rank. Almost daily, Mellon deploys the helicopter to search our area of responsibility. Flight operations involve the whole crew, and our fire teams and tie down crew work with the helicopter team to ensure each evolution is completed safely and efficiently.

Between all the hard work, we find plenty of time to have fun. After crossing 180 degrees longitude in early May, nearly 70 members of our crew participated in the Golden Dragon line crossing ceremony. Over the course of two days, "Pollywogs" complete a variety of challenges before

answering to King Neptune himself to be called Golden Dragons. The morale committee also hosts weekly events like pizza night, bingo, and trivia games to keep a healthy work-life balance while we are underway.

Of course, we have missed you and we count down the days until we are homeward bound once again. Until then, keep us all in your warmest thoughts and know that you are loved.

Fair winds and following seas,
Coast Guard Cutter Mellon

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