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THE WAYPOINT



Captain's Corner

By Captain Robert Hendrickson
Commanding Officer



The Coast Guard Hymn, “Semper Paratus”, begins with the lines; “From Aztec shore to Arctic Zone, to Europe and Far East. The flag is carried by our ships in time of war and peace.”

Some of you may be wondering how it is that the U.S. Coast Guard – and, in particular, National Security Cutters like WAESCHE – find themselves patrolling off of coasts very far from the U.S. I know my wife, Katie, wrestled with that very same issue when I made two patrols to Africa, as well as the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. She had to deal with it again when I received orders to the Middle East. So, why is WAESCHE “guarding” in places so far away from the U.S. coast? There are those who would ask why we even need big ships like WAESCHE and other major cutters when our job description is to defend the [US] coast.

The answer is simple; “The best defense is a good offense.” Our Western Hemisphere Strategy involves bringing the fight to the enemy. We want to deny transnational organized crime syndicates – which include drug cartels, human traffickers, terrorist organizations, etc. - from operating anywhere near U.S. shores. To do that, we engage them in international waters far from home. As the Coast Guard, we have unique authorities and capabilities that enable us to do this far better than any other agency. Commandant Russell Waesche was very aware of those authorities and capabilities, which is why he fought so hard to keep the Coast Guard from being absorbed by the U.S. Navy following World War II. He recognized that we needed to retain these authorities that would be lost if the Coast Guard were to become part of the Defense Department.

And so we in WAESCHE go far out to sea to meet our adversaries as far from home as we possibly can. We do this to stop drug trafficking networks from getting illegal drugs onto our streets. We do this to safeguard our borders from illegal immigration and human trafficking. We do this to ensure the sustainability of fisheries in the global commons and assure the free flow of commerce across sea lanes of communication. It’s a tough job and one we can’t do by staying at home. It takes a unique sense of patriotism to volunteer to serve in the major cutter fleet – to say “I will go.” It takes a unique sense of family and patriotism to allow the men and women of the cutter fleet – your loved ones – to go do this incredibly important job for their country, far, far from home. Thank you.

A Word from the Command Senior Chief



Hello from points far south of home. Please let me introduce myself. I am Dan Bolen and have been appointed as the new Command Senior Chief for the crew of WAESSCHE. I have been onboard for almost 10 months and have been impressed with the morale and dedication of the crew since reporting. I was fortunate enough to work side by side with the previous Command Senior Chief, OSCS Gary Reed. He provided excellent guidance from years of experience earned while assisting this crew through some very tough times. Gary, I wish you and your family the best in your retirement. From myself and the crew, thank you for your 27+ years of service to our nation, the Coast Guard and a special thanks for the last three years onboard WAESSCHE. You will be missed.

I am originally from Bayside, Queens New York and have been in the Coast Guard for 21 years. My afloat units have been, USCGC NAUSHON, USCGC CONFIDENCE, USCGC RIDLEY, USCGC VENTUROUS, USCGC DECISIVE, and USCGC RAZORBILL. I have served underway at each pay-grade from Fireman up to Engineering Petty Officer. My ashore units include Group Moriches, on Long Island, NY, and later, Trident Technical College in Charleston, SC, where I earned an AAS in Mechanical Engineering and further on to Surface Forces Logistics Center out of New Orleans. I am married to Kerry Bolen, who is also in the USCG, currently stationed at Sector San Francisco as an MST1. We have two boys Shea, 4, and Finn, 1.

I look forward to the years ahead and working with everyone in WAESSCHE. My goal is to work with the crew and all of you at home to try and make this tour as easy and enjoyable as possible. WAESSCHE is a new and demanding cutter, filled with a unique set of rewards and challenges. Due to long deployments that are difficult for the crew we can never forget it is just as hard, if not harder, on the family and friends we leave behind when we sail.

This patrol has been very busy with main diesel engine repairs and several drug interdictions. Having just passed the midway point of the patrol, know that everyone out here is working very hard and looking forward to getting home to spend the summer with family and friends. If anyone needs anything from me please email me Daniel.p.bolen@uscg.mil. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can this summer.

Sailor of the Quarter



Congratulations to ET1 Cordell Benner for being selected as the Sailor of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2016. Demonstrating an unparalleled work ethic and incredible leadership, ET1 Benner dramatically increased the readiness of WAESCHE's Ordnance and Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) maintenance programs. Between the months of January and March he meticulously inspected 567 line items across 11 Navy-Type Navy-Owned electronic and weapons systems. The time he dedicated to vital maintenance, training, and records management resulted in the cutter receiving zero discrepancies during the Electronics Technical Inspection and Ordnance Technical Inspection, resulting in high praise from the inspectors and an impressive overall score of 96 percent. Prior to the Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN) approach portion of WAESCHE's U.S. Navy H-60 helicopter proof of concept trials, ET1 Benner selflessly worked late into the night and early morning to diagnose faulty components and repair a mission debilitating casualty to the TACAN system. His technical prowess was vital to ensuring this system was operational during the TACAN exercises, and building WAESCHE's proficiency in inter-service aviation and airborne use of force operations. While deployed to the Eastern Pacific he provided vital support during the interdiction of over 1400 lbs of cocaine and demonstrated superior technical ability by engineering a "tin can radio kit," consisting of a VHF radio embedded in an ammunition canister. This forward thinking enabled effective and secure communications between the prize crew a derelict suspect narco-trafficking vessel and WAESCHE, ensuring the safety of the vessel and crew.

Junior Sailor of the Month



Congratulations to MK3 Robert Scales on being selected as the Junior Sailor of the Month for the month of March! During the month of March, MK3 Scales demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to the success of the Auxiliary Division and CGC WAESCHE. During fueling evolutions in San Diego and Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala MK3 Scales acted as the Fuel, Oil, and Water King (FOWK) and ensured the safe onload of over 187,000 gallons of fuel despite challenges imposed by language barriers, high temperatures, and lengthy fueling times. During the high-speed pursuit of numerous suspected narcotics traffickers, MK3 Scales logged more than 25 hours transferring fuel to mission critical equipment, like the cutter's gas turbine. At the conclusion of a nearly 12 hour fuel transfer evolution, MK3 Scales responded to a casualty to the cutter's reverse osmosis water making plant and drew upon his experience and knowledge of the system to complete repairs in only two hours. In addition, Mk3 Scales was critical in locating and repairing a leak on a condensation pipe in the fan space of the Combat Information Center and dewatering nearly 100 gallons of water that had collected in the space. Petty Officer Scale's work ethic and dedication to the cutter distinguished him as a leader within his peer group and his can-do attitude and willingness to put in the extra effort directly contributed to CGC WAESCHE's overall success while conducting counter drug operations in the East Pacific.

Operations Department



BM3 Jorge Rivera attaching the quick release hook for the centerline winch on the over-the-horizon cutter boat during an at-sea transfer. During the month of March BM3 Rivera qualified as a Boarding Team Member and Spanish Translator and was able to take part in several counter drug boardings.



Congratulations to SA Daniel Velez on being advanced to SN!



WAESCHE worked with a Coast Guard C-130 to coordinate an air drop of mission critical parts for the ship's H-65 helicopter.



CAPT Hendrickson administering the re-enlistment oath for Marine Corps Sergeant Michael Odom who is temporarily attached to WAESCHE.

Engineering Department



EM1 Miguel Espinosa and MK1 Steven Ingram pinning on EM2 Van Evans' First-Class "Crowns."
Congratulations to Petty Officer Evans on being advanced to EM1!



Congrats to FA John Fuerstenau on being advanced to FN!

Damage Control Olympics

On April 29th, the Engineering Department sponsored "Damage Control (DC) Olympics" a friendly competition where crewmembers formed teams and tested their knowledge and skill in DC communications, plugging and patching holes, fighting simulated fires, using a thermal imager to find fires, and dewatering. The event was a great learning experience for all members!



MK2 TJ Nettles, MK3 Steven Ruggirello, and SN Nicole Clausius working together to plug a hole and stop simulated flooding.



ENS Ellie Wu, FN Jennifer Robinson, and BM3 Jorge Rivera learning how to use a Peri-Jet Eductor to dewater a space.



MK3 Brian Comandini prepping his moustache for the DC Olympics!

Combat Systems Department



ME2 Jeremy Lopez preparing supplies for a boarding. The Law Enforcement Division had their hands full during the month of April with numerous boardings, required training, and equipment maintenance. Well done!



IT2 Ryan Wheeler and ET3 Evan Talbot in the ET/IT Shop. The ETs and ITs worked hard during the month of April performing maintenance on mission critical electronics systems and troubleshooting internet connectivity issues. Thanks for your hard work!

Support Department



MKCS Dan Bolen pinning anchors and stars on SKC Clay Clark. Congratulations to Chief Petty Officer Clark on being advanced to SKCS!



Welcome aboard to FS3 Scott Geyer who is reporting to WAESCHE from FS A School in Petaluma, California. FS3 Geyer is originally from Jacksonville, Florida. Prior to joining the Coast Guard FS3 Geyer earned a culinary degree from Johnson and Wales University in Miami, Florida.

Look Who We Found!



CGC WAESCHE (WMSL 751) rendezvoused with CGC VIGILANT (WMEC 617) and CGC STEADFAST (WMEC 623) to complete several at sea transfers during the month of April.



Golfito, Costa Rica



Golfito is located on the Southern Pacific Coast of Costa Rica near the border of Panama. In the mid-twentieth century Golfito was a major banana growing port and today it is known for eco-tourism, surfing, and is a premier deep sea fishing location.



ET2 Jerome Kennedy, ENS Anthony Orr, ELC2 Jake Lachowsky, and ETC Erik Petersen swimming in one of Golfito's many waterfalls .



ENS Anthony Orr, LTJG Josh Gerry, ET2 Jerome Kennedy, ELC2 Jake Lachowsky, ETC Erik Petersen, and GMC Seth Tucker enjoying a scenic vista.



MK2 Jason Shelton, ENS Ellie Wu, MK3 Elizabeth Coenen, and IT1 Jeremy Ringpis on a canyoneering tour.

Puerto Chiapas Mexico



Puerto Chiapas is located on the Southwest Coast of Mexico near the Guatamala border. It is known for the 3,700 year old Izapa Mayan Ruins and its proximity to numerous coffee and chocolate "fincas" or plantations.



ENS Sjolin getting the best bang for her pesos with a souvenir pineapple plant.



Members of the WAESCHE crew enjoying a local football (soccer) game. The Cafetaleros vs the Mineros!
Ole!



ENS Kotchman at the Izapa Mayan Ruins.

From Our Ombudsman

Greetings from your Ombudsman Team! We hope that everyone has been enjoying the spring weather. As everyone may be aware, April was the Month of the Military Child. Being separated from parents and loved ones can be particularly stressful on children, especially if you are new to the area and they have not connected with their peers yet. Often times, children struggle to find peers that they can connect and build relationships with, as being a child of a deployable parent is a unique situation.

For those of you with children in Alameda or the surrounding areas, we wanted to share information on two programs that are offered to your child, free of cost. The ASYMCA offers Operation Hero and Teen Club. First, Operation Hero, meets on Tuesdays, and is open to elementary school aged children (kindergarten through fifth grade). This program allows them to meet with peers who are in similar situations, and build a support network and friendships. Operation Hero also helps children learn coping skills for when a parent is deployed, and teaches them how to appropriately handle a variety of situations they may encounter in a school or community setting. Additionally, during the first 30 minutes of each meeting, the teachers and staff from the Y are available to help with homework.

Teen Club meets on Wednesdays and is open to sixth through twelfth graders. This program focuses on community service, and also provides mentoring and homework assistance, while connecting your teen with peers. Issues that teens face while parents are deployed and in peer situations are also addressed. Members of Teen Club also volunteer for various events hosted at the ASYMCA such as the Halloween Party. If you are interested in learning more about either of these programs, please contact the ASYMCA at (510) 769-0660, or through their website, www.asymca.org.

For our families who aren't local to Alameda, there are resources available to you and your children to help you address various issues that may arise, and through the transitions of parents deploying. The Military Child Education Center is one such website which contains wonderful articles and tools for parents and children (<http://www.militarychild.org/>).

As always, please reach out to the ombudsman team if you have any questions, concerns, or needs. We can be reached at 510-847-1506, ombwaesche@gmail.com, or our Facebook Page, USCGC WAESCHE Families.

Best wishes,

Nadja Espinosa, Laura Phillips & Treneka Ingram



Nadja Espinosa



Laura-Ann Phillips



Treneka Ingram

Helpful Links from Our Ombudsman

CG Support:

(855) CG SUPRT (247-8778)

<https://www.achievesolutions.net/achievesolutions/en/cgsuprt/Home.do>

PCS:

<http://www.military.com/money/pcs-dity-move/pcs-checklists.html> PCS Checklist

<http://www.move.mil/>

Great spots for sun lovers:

<http://www.7x7.com/oakland/where-go-swimming-east-bay>

<http://www.ebparcs.org/activities/swimming> East Bay Parks for trails and swimming

<http://redtri.com/san-francisco/78-things-to-do-with-kids-in-san-francisco-this-summer/>

USCGC WAESCHE Ombudsman Team:

Ombudsman email: ombwaesche@gmail.com

Ombudsman phone (available 24/7): 510-847-1506

WAESCHE Families Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/USCGCWAESCHEFamilies>

From the Home Front



SN Lewis' grandparents, Jack and Martha, celebrated Easter with their Coastie.

BM2 Sam Kelton's wife Mallory and daughter Isla



DC1 Witkowski's son, Oliver, having some fun in the mud.



Happy "23rd" Birthday to OS1 Castonguay!



ET1 Ortiz's dog, Storm, posing for the camera.



BM1 Phillips' daughter, Emily, playing in boats like her daddy!



OSC Pierce's wife, Nyla, and daughter, Ellee.



DC1 Witkowski's son, Oliver, rocking a static hairstyle on the slide.



OS2 DuVall's son Paxton.



LCDR Corey Kerns' family celebrating the sale of their home.



OSC Pierce's daughter, Ellee.