



# USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL 750)

Volume 2, Issue 2      April - June 2010

## BERTHOLF Heads to Portland

After a three month underway period, we made our way to Portland, OR! During our travels, we completed BERTHOLF's first Tailored Ships Training Assessment (TSTA), Combat Ships Systems Qualification Training (CSSQT), SCIF testing, and a week of Acoustic testing. Our preparation and focus over the last year paid off in spades during TSTA as we completed all events with an average score of 95%, earning the "E" Excellence award in all mission areas! After TSTA, we steamed up the coast, with a pit stop in San Pedro, CA to perform the ship's first helicopter offload by crane due to a fuel issue. BERTHOLF took on the Columbia River in a 12 hour Navigation and Sea Detail, and safely moored at Vigor Marine on May 17. Two days later, we safely completed our first dry docking procedure, signaling the start of BERTHOLF's availability. Since then, the crew has been busy working closely with Vigor contractors as inspectors for various projects occurring on the ship, while also completing our own work projects. We are enjoying the Portland area but are also anxious to return home. We wish good luck to all departing shipmates this transfer season!

- LTJG Jessica Hull

## Quote of the Month

*"The art of the sailor is to leave nothing to chance."*

- Annie Van De Wiele

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# MEET THE CREW

## Jonathan Hsieh

**Nickname:** Norva ibob, Iceman, Asian Jon

**Age:** 22

**Hometown:** Cerritos, California

**Rate/Rank:** ENS/O-1

**Department:** Operations and Weapons

**Hobbies:** Eating, traveling, biking and celestial navigation

**Goals/Aspirations:** I see law school in my future.

**If I were Captain for the day I would...** serve sushi grade ahi on the mess deck.



## Andrew Goldsmith

**Nicknames:** Andy

**Age:** 30+

**Hometown:** Phoenix, AZ

**Goals and Aspirations:**

To have fun and inspire those around me to do the same.

**If I were Captain for the day I would...** probably go crazy trying to figure out how to deal with everybody and just give up and go play golf.

**Department:** Operations

**Hobbies:** Eating, sailing, & skiing

# MEET THE CREW



## Elizabeth Meister

**Nicknames:** Beth

**Age:** 25

**Hometown:** Chicago, IL

**Rate/Rank:** FS/E-4

**Department:**

Support/Food

Service Division

**Hobbies:** Swimming, Reading, Movies, Music, Shopping, Hanging out with my husband

**Goals & Aspirations:** Make E-5 by fall and qualify as Bertholf Rescue Swimmer. Serve my crew to the best of my abilities. Expand my cooking abilities. Long term goals get a dog and buy a house in the Bay Area. Finally have the white dress wedding I have been planning for the last two years.

**If I were Captain for the day I would...** have ACAJUTLA Day and give all the FS division the day off to actually be able to attend a Steel Beach.

## Kevin Maloney

**Nicknames:** Mahoney, Weatherman

**Age:** 26

**Hometown:** Point Pleasant, NJ

**Rate/Rank:** Fireman, E-3

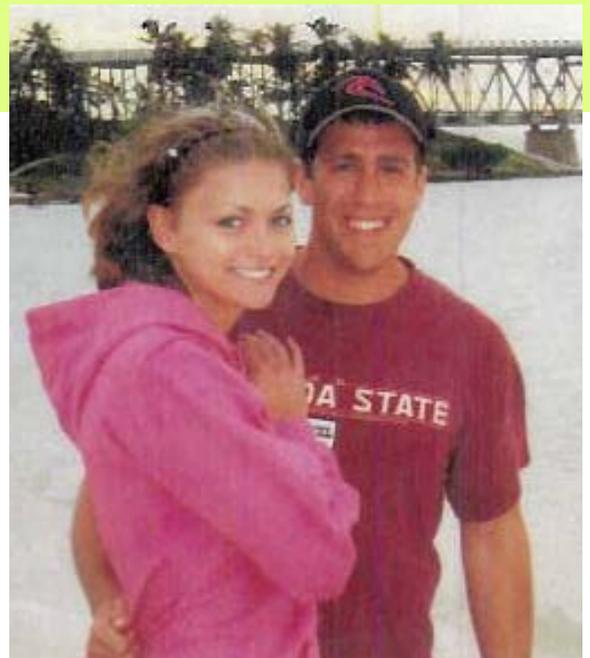
**Department:** Auxiliary

**Hobbies:** Brazilian Jui Jitsu, Surfing, Playing Sports and basically anything active, hanging out

with my wife.

**Goals and Aspirations:** Go to AET "A" school. Get into OCS and eventually flight School.

**If I were Captain for the day I would...** fly my wife in and spend the day with her.



## Mini Combat Ship System Qualification Training

During the month of April, the crew wrapped up Combat System Ship Qualification Trials (CSSQT) that began in the Summer of 2009. The purpose of CSSQT is to ensure an operational shipboard weapons system prior to the ship undergoing deployment. BERTHOLF was also the first Coast Guard cutter to un-

der go these types of rigorous combat systems qualifications in over 20 years. During the inport CSSQT period, crewmembers worked countless hours to ready combat systems and communications equipment for qualification trials. During the underway period, BERTHOLF crewmembers conducted live fire exercises, acoustic signature trials involving cavitation,

radar, infra-red trials and antenna radar pattern exercises. On 19 April, BERTHOLF shot down a Vindicator unmanned aerial vehicle with one salvo from the 57mm weapons system. By BERTHOLF's successful completion of CSSQT, one more stepping stone in BERTHOLF's Ready For Operations certification was fulfilled.



# CMWDS Testing

Between Operational testing, BERTHOLF performed a test of the Counter Measure Washdown System (CMWDS). CMWDS is designed to protect the ship from Chemical and Biological attacks on the ship by spraying a fine mist of water continuously over the ship to create a barrier from the agents. Members of

BERTHOLF's Damage Control division went topside during this event, while the rest of the crew ironically tended to some minor Damage Control issues inside the ship!



# Small Boat Operations



BERTHOLF continues to conduct operations on her three small boats, ensuring the crew is ready for upcoming inspections and operations.

# DC Olympics

On April 15, 2010 BERTHOLF hosted our inaugural Damage Control Olympics. Eight teams competed in events that tested their Damage Control skills and preparedness. The events included Fire Fighting Hose Handling, Pipe Patching and Plugging, Shoring, Emergency EGRESS, P-100 Pump Knowledge and Use, Gear Dress Out, Medical, and Installed fire suppression system quizzes. Congratulations to Team 2 on earning the highest score!





## BERTHOLF Completes first TSTA!!

On May 7th, 2010, the crew of BERTHOLF cheered cries of victory as ATG applauded their enthusiasm during Tailored Ship's Training Assessment (TSTA). TSTA is an arduous all hands training evolution spanning three weeks, encompassing over a year of preparations. During these three weeks, BERTHOLF sailors enthusiastically completed over 100 drills, earning a 95% average across all facets

of TSTA, earning the excellence award for all categories completed thus far. During these drills, crewmembers identified WMSL specific limitations regarding man overboard, fueling-at-sea, and visual communications and combat scenario evolutions and provided recommendations to Afloat Training Group(ATG) that will enhance all future WMSLs.



## BERTHOLF Arrives Safely in Portland, OR

BERTHOLF again made history, being the first WMSL class cutter to transit the mighty Columbia River bar and Columbia River. Crewmembers found out the location of drydock approximately three weeks before BERTHOLF was set to transit the river. Segments of the river were broken down into four and spilt among all the conning and deck officers with additional crewmembers acting as augmented anchor, fantail and bridge details. On May 16th at 10:59 in the morning, BERTHOLF crossed the Demarcation Line, becoming the first WMSL to transit the Columbia River bar. During the transit, crewmembers stood on the flight deck, using the off watch

time to call family members, wave at passing small boats and residences and admire the beautiful scenery of the Cascade Plains.

Eight and a half hours later, BERTHOLF safely moored at

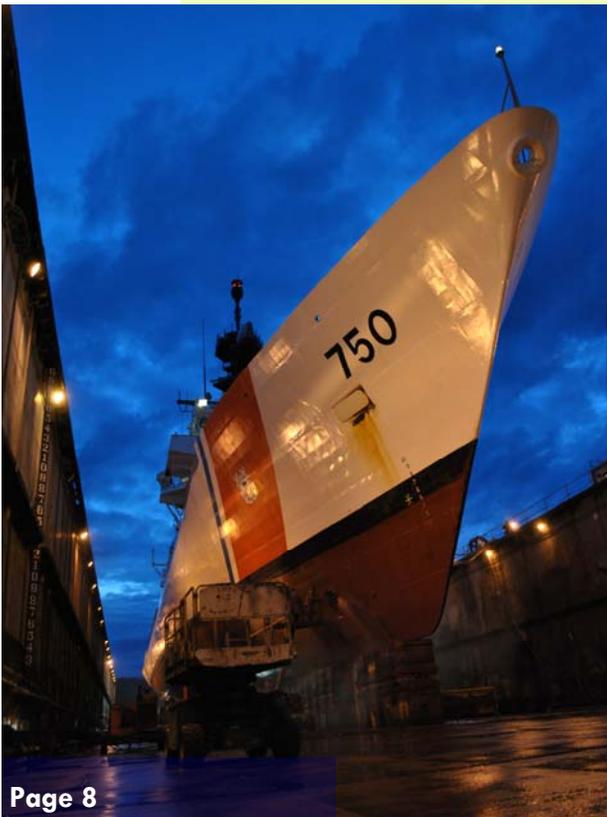
Vigor Marine on Swan Island.

BERTHOLF and her crew accomplished another impressive feat on 19 May by successfully grounding BERTHOLF's keel on top of the dry dock blocks at Vigor Marine in Portland, OR. The preparation by the crew started even before Vigor Marine was awarded the dry dock contract in Portland, OR by calculating and correcting list and trim, and shifting liquids within the ship to dock as required. Prior to BERTHOLF's docking, Vigor Marine's dock master led engineers in calculating the proper height and placement of the blocks so that they could support BERTHOLF in situations where hurricane force winds of 140 kts

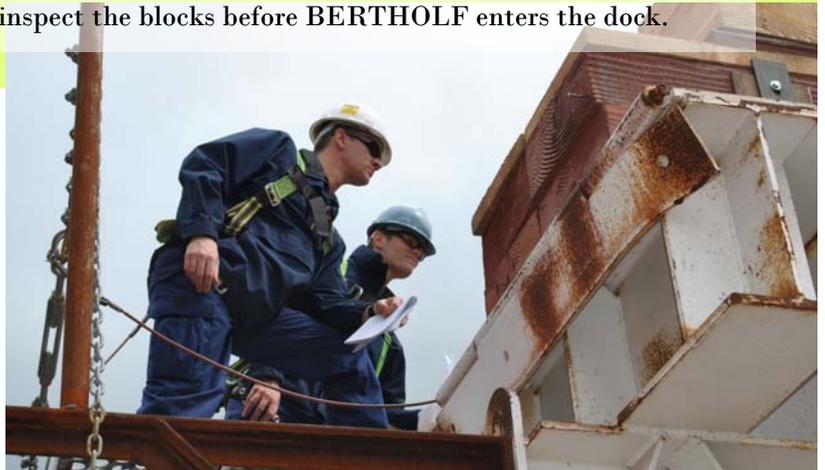
were present. On the morning of 19 May, BERTHOLF crewmembers manned their general emergency billets while BERTHOLF was being towed into the dry dock berth by two tugboats. During the evolution, Vigor Marine and BERTHOLF crewmembers overcame obstacles such as losses of power, hydra communications, and reliability of clinometers. At 1248 the BERTHOLF was successfully grounded and commenced her six week dry dock.

The crew has been working hard with contractors to complete all the projects scheduled during this short time period.

- ENS Matt Dyr Dahl  
& ENS Jon Hsieh



Student Engineers ENS Matt Poore and ENS Matt Dyr Dahl inspect the blocks before BERTHOLF enters the dock.



# From the Captain's Desk

Ahoy BERTHOLF Families and Friends.

Greetings from Portland, OR where we have experienced record rainfall for both May and June! Our drydock is progressing well and we hope to depart enroute homeport on time.

The crew performed superbly during our TSTA evaluation; the culminating event of our almost two year journey to Ready For Operations certification. Their efforts have established a baseline of equipment, doctrine, tactics and procedures, training and excellence that will be the foundation for the WMSL fleet to continue building upon moving forward.

Speaking of moving forward, we will begin to execute a "normal" patrol schedule, similar to that of other major cutters, from this point forward. We will conduct 90 or so day patrols, followed by an inport maintenance period of varying lengths, dependent upon the type and quantity of work to be done. Our patrols will take us to the Eastern Pacific for counter-drug and AMIO operations, the Bering Sea for Alaska Fisheries patrols, the Western Pacific for events such as RIMPAC and joint ops with partner nations, or wherever duty calls world-wide. I am very excited to begin using the great capabilities of our ship and crew to deliver mission impact to the nation.

We will have lots of new faces when we return to homeport, as the transfer season is in full swing. Welcome Aboard to all our new families, and fair winds and following seas to those crewmembers who departed this summer after helping us achieve RFO certification.

Thank you for your support of BERTHOLF and our crew. We will see you soon!



*CAPT John F. Prince  
Commanding Officer*

**USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL-750)**  
**Public Affairs Officer**

LTJG Jessica Hull  
c/o Commanding Officer  
USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL 750)

Phone: 510.437.3452  
Fax: 510.437.3843



Tricare West  
www.triwest.com  
1-888-874-9378

Tricare Dental  
www.tricaredentalprogram.com  
1-888-622-2256

### Important Numbers:

Bertholf: 510-437-3452  
Bertholf2: 510-437-3451  
OOD Cell: 510-719-1854  
XO Extension: 2222  
American Red Cross: (202)  
303 5000

### Contact Our Ombudsman

Melissa Proctor  
bertholfombud@gmail.com  
(510) 995-8910

### Overseas Information

www.tricare.osd.mil/overseas

### Bertholf Contact Information

#### Shipping Address:

Commanding Officer  
USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL-750)  
Coast Guard Island  
Alameda, CA 94501  
Attn: (Member's Name)

#### Underway Mailing Address:

Commanding Officer  
USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL-750)  
FPO-AP 96681-3904

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[http://www.uscg.mil/pacarea/  
bertholf/](http://www.uscg.mil/pacarea/bertholf/)



## In Case of Emergency...

### In Case of Emergency

In the event of a serious injury/death in  
the family...

Call the American Red Cross with the  
following information :

- Name / Rank / Division
- Social Security Number
- Name of Command / Hull Number
- Command Address



**American  
Red Cross**

The Relocation Assistance  
Manager is CJ Johnson.  
Her office can provide you  
assistance with relocating,  
transition, and spousal  
employment. Please take  
the time to visit  
[www.uscgcaworklife.com](http://www.uscgcaworklife.com)  
for online relocation infor-  
mation about schools,  
transportation, apart-  
ments, and much more.