

# USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL-750)



LEGENDS BEGIN HERE

10 September 2010

Volume 2, Issue 3

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## Outbound for Sea

After a much-too-brief (or so it felt) import, mighty BERTHOLF is again outbound for sea. Though the import was brief, a lot was accomplished to prepare the ship for her upcoming 90 day deployment. We said goodbye to many of our shipmates, and welcomed aboard a host of both permanently and temporarily assigned crew-members. We also completed many projects, including additional equipment installations, equipment surveys, and renovation/painting for several crew spaces and decks throughout the ship. The focus of this patrol, law enforcement, is sure to make for an exciting three months! The crew is glad to again be at sea performing the Coast Guard mission. But of course, following this patrol, we are greatly looking forward to returning home to our friends and families.

This newsletter highlights BERTHOLF's accomplishments during this past import, as well as our plans for the upcoming patrol. Enjoy!

-ENS Beth Denicola  
Public Affairs Officer

## Excerpt from "Commodore Ellsworth P. Bertholf" Book

Speaking of Bertholf's Leadership Style a Press article stated,

Physically he is as well equipped as any Bucko-Mate who ever depended upon the brawn and strength of his hard-hitting fists to hold a crew of "scattermouche" bullies to heel.

His mouth and eyes, too, are those of a man who commands, while his voice holds strong timbre which can carry a hail, above the shriek of wind and crash of water, clear to the fore-top-gallant yard.

One of Bertholf's first challenges as Commandant of the Coast Guard was to overcome the doubts of those who questioned the wisdom of merging a military service (Coast Guard) with a civilian one (The Life-Saving Service) and those who feared that the proud traditions of the two services would be lost in the merger.

"Strong in the Resolve to be worthy of the traditions of commissioned officers in the United States Coast Guard in the service of their Country and Humanity." Ellsworth Bertholf was the embodiment of the best of that tradition, worthy to be remembered and honored.

-C. Douglas Kroll

# WELCOME ABOARD!



## NEW SHIPMATES

As transfer season came and went, **BERTHOLF** said goodbye to many of her shipmates. The sadness of farewell, however, was abated by the welcoming aboard of a host of new shipmates. Wel-

come aboard, and we hope that your time on **BERTHOLF** is a great experience!



## Welcome to BERTHOLF!!

-OS3 Linberg	-BM2 Gonzales	-ENS Telesco	-ENS Sillman	-DC1 Jones
-OS3 Drewelow	-ET2 Weary	-ENS Merritt	-MK2 Daniels	-MK2 Toler
-OS3 Grindale	-IS1 Olczak	-LCDR Adler	-BM2 Lee	-FS1 James
-IT3 Stradford	-CWO Rutledge	-LT Doherty	-FNEM Ocampo	-MK2 Spaulding
-ET3 Okeson	-ENS Newton	-LTJG Lisko	-FN Velez	-DC3 Hedden
-BMC Bell	-ENS Ledbetter	-LTJG Reilly	-DC3 Bramwell	-ME1 Wilson
-BM1 Humphrey	-ENS McHenry	-LTJG Battie	-DC3 Rendon	-SNYN Jefferies
-BM2 Claude	-CWO Langeslay	-OSCS Roman	-CWO Golub	
-FS3 Meyers	-ME3 Ansari	-MKC Jose	-EM2 Sotelo	

## Are you sure you're on the right WMSL...?

A special welcome aboard to our shipmates riding with us from our sister ship **WAESCHE** (WMSL 751)! We are glad to have you aboard!

-CAPT Hatfield  
-LCDR Anderson  
-ENS Foote  
-ENS Martinelli  
-ENS Kinsella  
-GMC Wackford  
-FS2 Bovell



# QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS

## Sailor of the Quarter

MK2 Joseph

## “A” School

Congratulations to **SN Gough**, who will be departing for Storekeeper (SK) “A” School!

## “C” School Graduates

**ENS Denicola** - Boarding Officer School  
**SK1 Bautista** - Centralized Supply  
**CWO Faivre** - Centralized Supply  
**ET2 Grant** - MK53 Decoy Launching System  
**BM2 Claude** - Bridge Operator C41SR  
**LT Doherty** - Bridge Operator C41SR  
**ENS Sillman** - Bridge Operator C41SR  
**DC1 Jones** - DC Repair Party Leader

**CWO Golub** - Unit Safety Coordinator  
**BMC Bell** - Advanced Shipboard Firefighting  
**EM2 Sotelo** - MK27 Fiber Optic Gyro School  
**FNEM Ocampo** - MK27 Fiber Optic Gyro School  
**ENS McHenry** - Victim Advocacy Training  
**ENS Ledbetter** - Victim Advocacy Training

## 1 year of Sea Service

**ENS Dyrdahl**  
**FN Fry**  
**ME3 Ansari**  
**OS3 Luker**  
**ENS Poore**  
**ENS Denicola**  
**OS1 Gardner**

**ENS Hsieh**  
**MK2 Souder**  
**OS3 Morgan**  
**GM2 Dimeglio**  
**MK3 Davis**  
**ET2 Goulart**

## Advancements

**SK2 Bautista** advanced to **SK1**  
**EM3 Teal** advanced to **EM2**  
**MK3 Perez-Flores** advanced to **MK2**  
**FS3 Pearl** advanced to **FS2**  
**BM3 Neal** advanced to **BM2**

## Good Conduct Award

**ME3 Ansari**  
**MK1 Oksendahl**  
**MK1 Fischer**  
**YN1 Capehart**

## 4 years of Sea Service

**BM2 Neal**  
**ME1 Bomentre**  
**SKC Ortiz**  
**ETC Courtway**  
**MK2 Joseph**

## Qualifications

**OS3 Luker:** Attack Team Leader  
**ENS Newton:** Import Officer of the Deck, Boarding Team Member  
**ETC Courtway:** Helicopter Control Officer  
**LTJG Lisko:** Underway Officer of the Deck, Helicopter Control Officer  
**ENS McHenry:** Import Watchstander  
**MK3 Perkins:** Machinery Watchstander  
**MK1 Rothdeutsch:** Smallboat Engineer  
**ENS Poore:** Damage Control Training Team (DCTT) Member  
**ENS Dyrdahl:** Damage Control Training Team (DCTT) Member  
**EM1 Urena:** Flight Deck Fire Team member  
**EM3 Vasquez:** Flight Deck Fire Team member  
**ENS Denicola:** Boarding Team Member

# MEET THE CREW

## Richard Rendon

**Age:** 25

**Hometown:** Virginia Beach, VA

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

**Department:** Engineering

**Hobbies:** DCPO, VCHT, Surfing, Hanging out with the other DC's at chow.

### Favorite thing about being on-board BERTHOLF:

My favorite part of being onboard HOTEL BERTHOLF, OOPS I mean CGC BERTHOLF is the food! The cooks are good, the last Hotel, I mean cutter I was on, their food was subpar. One more thing I like about being onboard is working for an awesome DC shop.



## Joseph Gonzalez

**Age:** 24

**Hometown:** Newark, CA

**Rate/Rank:** BM/E-5

**Department:** Weapons

**Hobbies:** Pinball, sports, outdoorsy stuff

### Favorite thing about being on-board BERTHOLF:

My favorite part about being on the Bertholf is that I got the Rolling Stones picture on my berthing door, and there's a ping pong table.

## Daniel Reilly

**Age:** 24

**Hometown:** Staten Island, NY

**Rate/Rank:** LTJG/O-2

**Department:** Engineering

**Goals:** Become the CO of my own cutter, have as much fun as possible

### Favorite thing about being on-board BERTHOLF:

The best part about Bertholf is having a thermostat in each room. Temperature control is awesome. No sleeping in sweat pants and hoodie to stay warm. It's the little things that count.



# MEET THE CREW



## Timothy Okeson

**Age:** 24

**Hometown:** Fredericksburg, VA

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

**Department:** Operations

**Favorite animal and why:** Tiger infected with the T-Virus (Resident evil) so he's 20 times stronger than everyone.

**Goals:** To own a motorhome, travel all 50 states collecting cactuses with the hope of them having scorpions in them so I can inadvertently spread the scorpion population to my final destination, which is the moon.

## Brian Wilson

**Age:** Undisclosed

**Hometown:** Williamsburg, Virginia

**Rate/Rank:** ME/E-6

**Department:** Weapons

**Hobbies:** Motorcycling, bicycling, kayaking and dancing.

**Goals:** Finish my degree and make warrant officer.

**Favorite animal and why:** My black lab because he's spoiled rotten.



## Daniel Faivre

**Age:** 37

**Hometown:** Nomad (wherever I lay my head is home); born in Poughkeepsie, NY

**Rate/Rank:** F&S2/CWO2

**Department:** Support

**Hobbies:** Building computers, running, traveling to new places with my wife and kids

**Goals:** Masters Degree, PH.D., put my kids through college, travel with wife once retired, own & run a Log Cabin B&B in Alaska with wife, wife and I move to Australia and/or New Zealand for a couple of years, be wealthy enough so Wife and I can spend time doing charity/volunteer work, do a tour on an Ice Breaker and see a Polar Bear eat a Penguin...

**Favorite thing about being onboard BERTHOLF:** Talking with shipmates and learning who they are and where they are from.

# INPORT HIGHLIGHTS

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## Now all hands make preparations to get underway...

This most recent inport kept the entire crew extremely busy! Everything from contractor work, to readiness inspections, to finance and administrative inspections, to standardization training kept the crew on their feet for the short month inport. Combine that with making preparations for a 90 day patrol, and you have a very strenuous schedule.

The crew handled it well, completing all requirements with a positive attitude and an outstanding work ethic. The following articles are highlights from several of the divisions about what they worked on and accomplished.



## Combat Information Center (CIC) Division

The Combat Information Center (CIC) had a very busy inport this summer. There was a long shopping list of things to do and a short time to do them in. The watch supervisors held training for all CIC personnel on things such as: Bilateral Agreements with other countries, Use of Force, Jurisdiction, and several other topics. Then after that training was completed the shop worked together as a team to create the first WMSL CIC specific checklists that will be utilized during the patrol. Also, to improve teamwork and knowledge of the systems, the shop spent a week up in the WMSL CIC simulator homing in on their skills.

Also, while the ship was in dry-dock in Portland the shop was able to take a little road trip up to Group Astoria, Oregon where they were given a tour of the command center as well as the air station. It was a great opportunity for some of the OS's to see another aspect of the rating. Some of the OS's were brave enough to climb the Astoria Column which is 125FT high. The OS's who survived the climb are pictured in the photo to the right!

-ENS Anne Newton-



# IMPORT HIGHLIGHTS

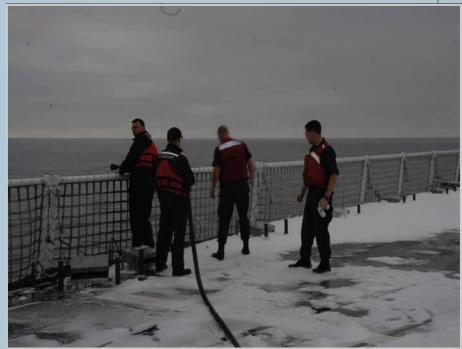
## Damage Control (DC) Division



A heavy sprinkler nozzle broke off of the ceiling in the helo hangar and fell to the deck due to heavy construction on the deck above. The new parts could only be installed by someone with specialized training, so we collaborated with SFLC and NESU Alameda to affect the repair. We're planning on getting some training for BERTHOLF personnel so that we can do such repairs on our own in the future.

In order for BERTHOLF to pass our Aviation Certification requirements, we needed to test our Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) system.

Regulations state that AFFF cannot be allowed to spill into the water while in port, so we acquired an enormous 21,000 gallon tank to fire the solution into. After several attempts, as well as overhauling the entire AFFF #1 station, BERTHOLF now has 2 highly capable AFFF stations.



The division also removed a number of clogs and the like from the VCHT, as they often do. The scullery posed particular difficulty, but the division corrected it just in time for the galley's grand re-opening after the new deck was installed.

Overall, the DC division is pretty much the best.  
-ENS Kyle Telesco-

## Show Me the Money! (aka Admin Inspection)

BERTHOLF completed its first administrative and finance visit inspection this import. Almost a year of preparation by all hands made the inspection a success. BERTHOLF hosted members from the Capability, Standardization and Analysis Division of Force Readiness Command (FORCECOM) who reviewed BERTHOLF records in 21 different areas ranging from the management of the educational services onboard BERTHOLF to the Morale Program. During two days of rigorous inspection and appraisal of paperwork, BERTHOLF emerged with "glowing reviews" from the assessment team. Bravo Zulus and honorable mention go out to SKC Ortiz, YN1 Capehart, SK1 Bautista, the former Electronics Maintenance Officer, CWO Snyder, and the Education Services Officer, ENS Hsieh. Though the efforts of these crewmembers are recognized, recognition goes out to the entire crew for a job well done during BERTHOLF's first Finance Administrative Assessment Visit.

# INPORT HIGHLIGHTS

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## Gunnery/Law Enforcement

Gunnery and Law Enforcement Divisions worked hard to gear up for BERTHOLF's current operational patrol. Much of the inport, personnel from both divisions worked on preps to complete the cutters TSTA gunnery exercises for the coveted Battle "E", small arms qualifications from seven range days, Boarding Officer and Boarding Team Member boards, preparing for an ammunition onload, and law enforcement training.

The focus on this patrol will be completing our gunnery exercises for the Battle "E" ribbon, conducting fisheries and drug law enforcement operations, professional qualifications and personnel development.

We would like to welcome ME3 Mohammed Ansari, ME1 Brian Wilson, ENS Rachel Foote, ENS Paul Ledbetter, LTJG Brian Lisko and GMC Wackford to the Gunnery/Law Enforcement Division!

We look forward to the upcoming patrol!

-ENS Brock Blaisdell-

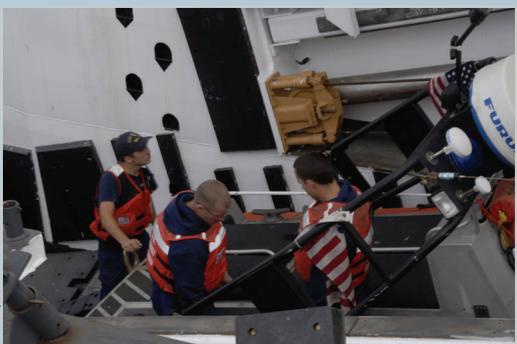
## BOAT STAN

BERTHOLF was visited by the Boat Forces Standardization Team (BOATSTAN team), whose job it was to both inspect our three small boats, but also to assess our training program and our certified boat crewmembers. This visit lasted for two days, during which boat crew members accompanied the STAN team on inspections of the small boats, took written examinations, and demonstrated their boat driving and operating skills.



When asked if he had anything to say about BOATSTAN or how BERTHOLF performed at BOATSTAN, BM1 Aaron Zierk stated that he would like to "thank the boat crew members for all of

their hard work and long hours, and also those who assisted in the effort to prepare for BOATSTAN (especially after a long dry dock period and a short inport). We scored the full ten points for our underway drills and gained a lot of useful information to better prepare BERTHOLF for the future."



# FLIGHT OPERATIONS



## AVSTAN

**"6516, this is tower. You are cleared to land over the centerline with primary tiedowns. Take all signals from the LSO. Green Deck."**

In order to embark a helicopter and an aviation detachment for our upcoming patrol, BERTHOLF needed to renew her qualification to both land and refuel helicopters. This was a two-part process which involved first certifying our equipment (Aviation Certification: AVCERT) and then certifying our helicopter crews (Aviation Standardization Training: AVSTAN).

After successfully completing AVCERT, we were ready to embark aviation training team members from the ATC Mobile Ship-Helo Branch. AVSTAN had three different phases. The first phase consisted of a written evaluation for all flight operations personnel: tie downs, fueling team, air direction controllers (ADC), landing signal officers (LSO), and helicopter control officers (HCO). The second phase consisted of on-station training for all flight operations personnel. Finally, the third phase consisted of underway flight operations . BERTHOLF conducted a series of "touch and go" evolutions (where the helo lands on the flight deck, and then immediately takes off again) with a helicopter (HH-65) from Air Station San Francisco, call sign 6516. BERTHOLF also conducted landings with primary tiedowns (the helo lands and is secured to the flight deck by tiedown personnel) during the day, and also at night. The last part of the flight operations consisted of a "crash on deck" drill, where the helo landed (safely, of course), and as the helo was shutting down the ship's Aviation Training Team (ATT) led the ship in responding to a simulated "crash on deck."



BERTHOLF performed extremely well at AVSTAN, resulting in the certification of BERTHOLF to conduct flight operations for the next two years. Excellent job to all involved!!

-ENS Beth Denicola-

# FLIGHT OPERATIONS

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## HITRON Embarkation



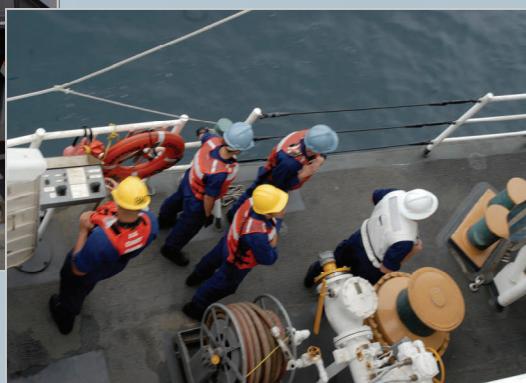
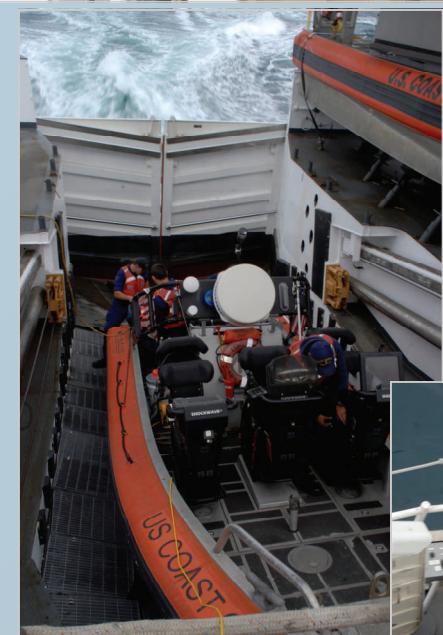
Successful completion of AVSTAN means that BERTHOLF will be able to embark a helicopter and an aviation detachment (AVDET) during our upcoming patrol. We anticipate conducting flight operations almost every day, if not every day. Our helicopter will not only help us spot vessels of interest, but they can also (with permission) stop non-compliant vessels using warning shots or disabling fire... very helpful for our boarding teams and ship in executing all law enforcement missions!

# PATROL INTENTIONS



## Take in all Lines...All Ahead Full!!

For the next 90 days, BERTHOLF will be underway conducting training and Coast Guard operations. First major milestone will be the final completion of our Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) in early September. This will involve a gun shoot, testing our ship's weapons systems and our crew's skill at operating them. Following TSTA, BERTHOLF will perform law enforcement, Search & rescue, homeland security and homeland defense missions, as well as continuing to conduct important shipboard training.





BERTHOLF's newest cleaning best friend: the Dirt Dog!

# MORALE!!!

## It's all about your attitude...

No matter how advanced the technology and resources, without the hands to work and operate them, they exist to no avail! Just like we have to maintain our equipment and assets, it is even more important to upkeep our people; and that, dear readers, is morale. The morale committee onboard is very excited about upcoming events that have already been planned, and also

about ideas pending for our schedule. Many new crewmembers onboard are submitting ideas for this and future patrols. We are even honored to have the esteemed WAESCHE Morale Committee Chairman onboard, FS2 Claude Bovell, to help us with new ideas already used on our sister ship! Over the next few months, Morale intends to have weekly morale events underway, including a skeet shoot competition with the ship's morale shotgun, poker, spades, bingo, darts, and ping-pong tournaments, golf driving competitions off of the flight deck (with nets for practice, and, mind you, biodegradable golf balls!), and much more! With all soda onboard, morale shirts stocked, more morale resources and funds available, further plans for pierside events pending, and operational mission accomplishment underway, morale has never been better poised to soar through the overhead! The hard-working crew

of this ship deserves nothing less; expect to hear more specifics about all events in future newsletters!

Cheers,  
ENS Paul Ledbetter  
Morale Officer



## Everybody loves pizza...and ice cream!

One morale tradition onboard BERTHOLF is "cooks night off," where a group of volunteers from the ship cooks the evening meal once a week to give the cooks and mess cooks a break. On Wednesday, 01 September 2010, the junior officers took charge of the galley and served a scrumptious meal of pizza to the crew (featuring both burned and non-burned pizza selections for a wider variety of choices). The highlight of

the meal took little preparation but was a great success: ice cream sundaes!!



**Ahoy BERTHOLF Families & Friends.**

**It has been a long road to this point, but we are finally a “Ready For Operations” cutter and joining our fellow cuttermen in the major cutter fleet on patrol. It feels good to know that our crew will begin to have significant impact on the safety and security of our nation across the span of Coast Guard missions.**

**The crew has performed superbly these first few weeks underway, quickly bringing our new shipmates up to speed and continually enhancing our procedures and skill. It will be a privilege to sail with them and watch them excel.**

**I know being away from our families is a challenge. Please do not hesitate to make contact with our Ombudsman if you have a situation that arises or you need information on the various resources that are available to support CG families.**

**Thank you for your support of BERTHOLF.**



## **USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL 750)**

### **Public Affairs Officer**

ENS Elizabeth Denicola  
c/o Commanding Officer  
USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL 750)  
FPO AP 96881-3904

Phone: 510.437.3452

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E-mail: [Elizabeth.A.Denicola@uscg.mil](mailto:Elizabeth.A.Denicola@uscg.mil)

### **Ships' Photographer**

SN Kristina Smithe

E-mail: [Kristina.M.Smithe@uscg.mil](mailto:Kristina.M.Smithe@uscg.mil)

## **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  
Attn: (Member's Name)

## **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

**1-877-272-7337**



**American  
Red Cross**



### **Tricare West**

[www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com)

1-888-874-9378

### **Tricare Dental**

[www.tricare dental program.com](http://www.tricare dental program.com)

1-888-622-2256

### **Overseas Information**

[www.tricare.osd.mil/overseas](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/overseas)

1-888-777-8343 (option 4)

## **Important Numbers:**

**Bertholf: 510-437-3452**

**Bertholf2: 510-437-3451**

**OOD Cell Phone: 510-719-1854**

**CO Extension: 2221**

**XO Extension: 2222**

**American Red Cross: (202) 303 5000**

### **Contact Our Ombudsman**

Kim Faivre

[kimfaivre@comcast.net](mailto:kimfaivre@comcast.net)

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.uscgaworklife.com](http://www.uscgaworklife.com) for online relocation information about schools, transportation, apartments, and much more.

