

USCGC MELLON Commanding Officer's
Out-of-Hemisphere Newsletter
July 2010

Greetings MELLON friends and family! I am happy to report that MELLON and her crew has just competed CARAT Singapore, our last scheduled engagement for our out-of-hemisphere patrol. As we begin our long journey back to home port in Seattle, I am excited to tell you about the exotic places we've visited and the hard work your Coast Guardsmen and women have accomplished in the past several weeks. Also, since the last I wrote you, MELLON underwent a busy transfer season that saw many of our good shipmates depart and many more join the MELLON family. As always, I have selected photos that highlight some of the experiences of your sailors and provided links to CARAT websites where you may view many, many more. Finally, I am pleased to extend an invite to a special August event for our Seattle area families to celebrate Coast Guard Day.

MELLON completed three major CARAT engagements in June and July: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. From the end of May until the first week of June, MELLON participated in training exercises with the Indonesian Navy. CARAT Indonesia was conducted in Surabaya, the country's second largest city located on the east end of the island of Java. In addition to the Law Enforcement and Small Boat trainings that are our primary contributions to CARAT, members of the crew attended the Military Operations Symposium, planning conference, and a reception hosted by the USS VANDEGRIFT. We were underway for three days to conduct boarding and gunnery exercises with the fleet while hosting five Indonesian Naval Officers. They had the opportunity to fire small caliber weapons, be part of the boarding teams, compete in small boat races, and even sing a little karaoke at Morale Night.

Below left, BM2 Michael Culver instructs an Indonesian sailor on how to drive our small boat as BM1 Jancauskas oversees the training of three other Indonesian sailors.
Below right, RADM Tyson is welcomed aboard by CAPT Klipp, BM2 Dillon Smith and sideboys SN Nikolas Michaels, SN Lahi Simeona, SN Brian Schmidt, SN Joshua Heldt, SN Katelyn Danielson, and SN Stuart Balaban. Photo: IT1 Kris Chirico



Popular activities during our free time in Indonesia were visits to the Surabaya Zoo, shopping downtown, or visiting Chinatown and the Arab Quarter. One crew member was even picked out of a crowd to be a model in the Surabaya Fashion Parade.

OS3 Wyatt Hrykiewicz backstage at the Surabaya Fashion Parade.

Photo: OS3 Wyatt Hrykiewicz



Our next engagement was in Lumut, Malaysia from 6 – 12 June. CARAT Malaysia followed the typical routine inasmuch that it encompassed a six day training period with a two day underway phase. Our time in Malaysia was special, however, as the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), is modeled very closely to the U.S. Coast Guard. The MMEA formed three years ago, and as a relatively new organization they were very motivated to practice boarding procedures with us.

One of the biggest exchanges of our training was the opportunity to tour newly constructed patrol boats and host tours of MELLON for the Malaysian sailors. The highlight of the week was the reception MELLON hosted for our colleagues in the Malaysian armed forces and U.S. Navy. Our Food Services staff did a stellar job preparing many delectable appetizers and treats for our guest to enjoy. Our Supply Department also gave a hand and did an outstanding job to make our flight deck fit for a soiree with the USN Seventh Fleet Band, “The Orient Express.”



At left, Pristine Phi Phi Island, Thailand.

At right, 3/c Cadets receive training on control techniques during exercises with the MMEA.

Photos: IT1 Kris Chirico



In mid June, after a month and half of hard work with the U.S. Navy and local coast guards, MELLON and her crew were afforded one week of well deserved R&R in beautiful Phuket, Thailand. From 13 - 20 June, MELLON anchored off the island of Phuket on the west coast of Thailand and the crew made the most of our time there. Favorite activities were eco-tourism, day trips to pristine Phi Phi Island, and visiting the international resort community of Patong Beach. With its vibrant atmosphere and incredible scenery, Phuket lived up to its reputation as a premier vacation destination and will be an experience that we will remember fondly.



From the left, members in the photo are SN Lahilahi Simeona, BM2 Dillon Smith, OS2 Casey Probert, ET1 Joe Bryan, OS1 Eric Loyd, BM2 Mike Culver, and SN Katelyn Danielson.

Photo: IT1 Kris Chirico

After our transit from Phuket and some time in Singapore to attend to ship's work, MELLON participated in CARAT Singapore from 5 - 19 July. Although our last engagement before starting the trip back home, the entire crew rallied and mustered all their effort to complete highly complex and advanced training evolutions with the Singapore Navy and Police Coast Guard. While not training with our Singaporean counterparts, the crew took full advantage of the many attractions that the affluent and exceptionally clean city-state had to offer. Many frequented local draws such as Clark Quay, Sentosa Island, the Singapore Flyer Ferris Wheel (the largest in Asia), Chinatown, and the many luxury shopping malls throughout the city.



At left, BMC Foy Melendy ensures that members of the Singapore Navy safely download their weapons prior to conducting a boarding exercise.

Photo: MC2 David Brandenburg

At right, a bird's eye view of a favorite liberty stop, the Singapore Flyer Ferris Wheel.

Photo: IT1 Kris Chirico



For more information of our CARAT 2010 events on the web:

- ✓ There is a huge photo gallery at

<http://www.clwp.navy.mil/CARAT2010/carat.html>.

- ✓ CARAT also has an excellent presence on Facebook. To navigate to the CARAT 2010 Facebook page, go to the "search" window at the top of your own Facebook page. Once there, type "Cooperation Afloat." When you see the CARAT page at the top, click "Like" to the right of the page to get connected.

- ✓ There is a mostly accurate article with good pictures of MELLON in Thailand at

<http://www.pattayadailynews.com/en/2010/05/28/us-thai-coast-guard-complete-carrat-2010-training>

*****BRAVO ZULU!*****

These crewmembers received special recognition in May:

The esteemed **Coast Guard Commendation Medal** was awarded to ELC2 Don Gilmer, ETC Harry Carter, GMC Neal, and HSC William Epps.

LT David Smith, DC2 Brian Norris, ET2 Cordell Benner, and EM2 Pete Dunphy merited the distinguished **Coast Guard Achievement Medal** for the outstanding leadership they practiced and accomplishments during their tours.

The **Commandant's Letter of Commendation** was earned by seven of our permanent crew members and one temporary assigned duty member; LTJG Brad Peifer, LTJG William Becker, F&S2 Jeffrey Spreen, EMC Robby Payne, OS2 Michelle Buccherri, BM2 Michael Culver, MK2 Shawn Garrett, EM2 Jon Giammalvo, IT2 Shane Gorton, SK2 Jamal Bethea, ET2 Rachel Knecht, EM3 Brittany Worthen, and OS2 Ramona Mason.

Many thanks to two shipmates who volunteered to become part of our crew in order to help the cutter maintain a high level of operational readiness throughout the patrol. They are ETCS James Stolle and OS1 Jeffrey Ashook; both received **Letters of Appreciation** for their expertise and teamwork.

Well-deserved promotions went to ETCS James Stolle, OS1 Buccherri, and SK3 Dyanira Hurtado.

The following personnel reached important qualification milestones:

Underway Officer of the Deck: ENS Casey Goranson.

Underway Engineering Officer of the Watch: ENS Michael Prosser and MKC Mickey Winans.

Boatswain's Mate of the Watch: SN Stuart Balaban and SN Nikolas Michaels.

Underway Security Watch Stander: DC3 John Reichard, FN Christopher Trump, 3/c Cadet Clare Dorsey, and 3/c Cadet Jacob Naum.

Inport Security Watch Stander: SN Jonathan Baker.

Helm and Lookout: SN Jonathan Baker, SN Estaban R. Belvedere, SN Matthew Husk, SN Corey Malhiot, SN Brianna Nelson, SN Jacob Stewart, 3/c Cadet Justin Maio, and 3/c Cadet Ellen Kintz.

The following personnel reached important career milestones:

F&S2 Jeffery Spreen and FS3 Leo Chavez earned their **Permanent Cutterman Pins**, signifying at least five years spent at sea during their careers.

New **Temporary Cutterman Pins** were awarded to LTJG Anthony Garcia, ENS Michael Prosser, DC3 Nathaniel Olson, BM3 Neil Stallings, SN Stuart Balaban, SN Aaron Colvin, SN Michael Calma, and SN Ryan Mahoney for qualifying in all their required watchstations and serving at least 6 months onboard MELLON.

The **Sea Service Ribbon**, earned after completing one year at sea, was awarded to ENS Casey Goranson, ENS Taylor Gruver, ENS Ian Williams, ENS Michael Prosser, OS2 Meredith Braswell, OS2 Mark Rodriguez, DC3 Nathaniel Olson, FN Christopher Davis, SN Anthony Longo, and SN Ryan Mahoney.

*******WELCOME ABOARD NEW CREW MEMBERS!*******

The months of June and July brought many new face to CGC MELLON. An earlier-than-expected arrival to Singapore allowed us to bring in new crew members. They are:

LTJG Sam Andriessen, ENS Jen Davidson, ENS Keoni Hutton, ENS James Provost, ELC2 Rodney Clark, F&S2 Richard Nelson, HSC Christa Solis, OSC Brian Koerber, DCC Douglas Knight, MK1 Krista Beck, ET1 Timothy Maier, EM1 Benjamin Russel, BM1 Matthew Smith, ME1 Carl Kirtsinger DC2 Thomas Alonzo, SK2 Nancy Wilson, OS2 Shawna Leatherby, MK2 Michael O'Connor, ET3 John Harris, SK3 Matthew Mehs, YN3 Kinzley Moorcroft, ET3 Susannah DeFeo, MK3 Chad Rosenau, MK3 Jeremy Wolsleben, OS3 James Melton, FN Robert Dirado, SN Jonathan Finnerty, SN Ryan Godwin, SN Melissa Papp, SN Gustavo Rivera-Gonzalez, SN Jorge Saza, FA Oleksandr Matyushyn, FA Jesse Perez, and SA Emily Swanson,

.Finally, farewell to our shipmates who departed MELLON this month for new assignments:

LT David Smith, LTJG Brad Peifer, LTJG William Becker, ELC2 Don Gilmer, F&S2 Jeffrey Spreen, ETCS James Stolle, ETC Harry Carter, HSC William Epps, GMC Neal, EMC Robby Payne, OS1 Jeffrey Ashook, DC2 Brian Norris, IT2 Shane Gorton, ET2 Cordell Benner, SK2 Jamal Bethea, OS1 Michelle Buccheri, BM2 Michael Culver, EM2 Pete Dunphy, MK2 Shawn Garrett, EM2 Jon Giammalvo, ET2 Rachel Knecht, OS2 Ramona Mason, EM3 Brittany Worthen, BM3 Mathew Miller, FS3 Elizabeth Stewart, ME3 Dexter Toby, and SN Joshua Bishop.

*******ANNOUNCEMENTS!*******



New Arrival! Congratulations to LT Jeremy Wahrmund and family on the arrival of their third son, Trev. We wish you the best in the many adventures ahead for you and yours.

*****TIGER CRUISE UPDATE*****

As the prospective Tigers know by now, Tiger Cruise has changed. A Tiger embark in Hawaii was cancelled due to the necessity for MELLON to maintain a high state of readiness for the trans-Pacific voyage. We are working on a new plan to embark Tigers in San Francisco, CA, on August 19th. More information is available from your Tiger Sponsor.

*****COAST GUARD DAY*****

Coast Guard Day picnic will be held Friday, 13 August, at Lord Hill Farms in Snohomish-Monroe from 1100-1500. Tickets cost \$5 if purchased in July and \$10 if purchased in August. The PSSU Seattle MWR office will sell tickets during business hours.

That's it for this Newsletter. Please know that your sailors are safe and well as we begin our journey back home. We look forward to the day when we see you again.

Sincerely,

Dave Klipp, Captain
Commanding Officer

ps: Questions or suggestions about items in this newsletter? Please write me at David.S.Klipp@uscg.mil