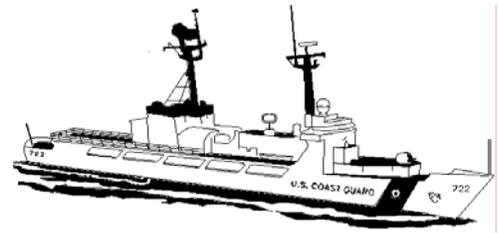


USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC 722)

Deployment News, 22 January 2006



Greetings from USCGC MORGENTHAU! This is the very first e-mail newsletter of our current deployment. We hope this newsletter keeps you well informed of the great accomplishments and happenings of the Pacific Area's ship of choice – the United States Coast Guard Cutter MORGENTHAU.

FROM THE BRIDGE:

Greetings once again from the high seas. We just watched the most gorgeous sunset, right where God intended it to set - over the ocean. We've had smooth sailing as we all get our "Sea Legs" back in shape for the patrol. The ship is in Bristol condition following our long overhaul in drydock. Rest assured she is in great shape and she almost feels happy to have the deep water under her keel again - as is her crew. We've worked out a few bugs and are busy training and preparing for what lies ahead. We're looking forward to returning home with more bragging rights and even better sea stories. Thanks for your support and thoughts. Ours are with you all as well. Best Regards - Captain M. E. Sullivan



SINCE WE LEFT HOMEPORT...

Thank you to all our family and friends who watched the ship depart from our homeport of Alameda, California on Tuesday, 10 January. MORGENTHAU put to sea safely and steamed for San Diego, California, arriving on Thursday for six days of workups, training, an ammunition onload and fueling—all preparation for our deployment. We spent a full day loading ammunition on 12 January. We had to offload all our major and minor caliber weapons ammunition back in October to prepare for our two months in the drydock over the winter, and now that that's done, we stocked up again with a ten-hour evolution. The entire onload was done safely and efficiently thanks to the leadership of our Weapons Officer, LTjg Ryan Waters; Gunnery Officer, ENS Miles Jenkins; and Gunnery Division Chief, GMC Mark Jacobs.

We then got underway from the Naval Weapons Station at North Island (in San Diego) and moored at Naval Station San Diego—in zero visibility. We hate zero visibility. It's exactly like driving your car down I-5 in the fog. We drove our ship very slowly and safely, positioning extra lookouts fore and aft to look for small vessels. The ship has a state-of-the-art electronic navigation suite aboard which kept us in the middle of the channel (sort of like driving in a video game), but it's still unnerving conning the ship when you can't see. We moored safely though and everyone breathed a collective sigh of relief.



MORGENTHAU then started workups, which are specific tactical exercises to prepare for our deployment. Our boarding teams conducted boardings all weekend long to reacquaint themselves with law enforcement operations, partnering with local Coast Guard units in San Diego. Starting on

Monday, we received our aviation detachment aboard and started conducting actual tactical scenarios with our small boat and our

newly-embarked helicopter. We were scheduled to leave San Diego on Wednesday morning, 18 January, but we detected problems with our propeller shaft seals and anchor mechanisms that week. We spent one extra day repairing those casualties, and left the Naval Station first thing on Thursday 19 January. We spent a few hours refueling in Point Loma before putting to sea safely that evening, and we landed our helicopter that night for the first time.

Commence the underway routine!

Friday (20 January) was an extremely busy first day at sea. Our law enforcement teams continued training for our upcoming mission. We flew two flights with the helicopter, including coordinated operations with our (very fast) small boat. The drill went perfectly, which was great to see since we hadn't done a full-speed rehearsal since our last deployment last summer and fall.

As is traditional at sea, Saturday morning was an all-hands field day to get the ship clean. Our Weapons berthing area, under the leadership of berthing area master-at-arms ET2 Mark Edillion, won the "best berthing area" competition and each resident won a 2-hour liberty card. We also squeezed in two flights with our helicopter to identify vessels in the area that might be of interest. We shifted to the underway holiday routine (i.e. time off) in the afternoon. About twelve of our crewmembers took end-of-course tests to meet career goals of advancement, furthering their education. We also had advanced damage control team training, coordinated by LTjg Mike Hjerstedt, and more law enforcement training.



OS2 Kim Hawkins calls Bingo with ENS Pam Wade's help

Saturday night was our traditional morale night. Our cooks made phenomenal homemade pizzas, and our Morale Committee hosted a Bingo Night, called by OS2 Kim Hawkins. There were some cool prizes—see the pictures elsewhere in this newsletter.

MEET OUR AVIATION DETACHMENT

We are pleased to host our aviation detachment from Jacksonville, Florida, Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON). We have a crew of five aboard for the duration of our deployment. Each of our new crewmembers tells a little of himself in this section.

LCDR Richard Hancock, senior aviator and mission commander: My hometown growing up was Virginia Beach, VA. I enlisted in the CG Reserves in 1990 and, after graduating from Old Dominion in '93, was commissioned in the Coast Guard in 1994. After graduating flight school I flew HH65's in Miami for five years where I deployed on just about every white hull with a flight deck on the east coast. After Miami I served as a T-34 flight instructor for VT-6 in Pensacola, FL. I have been assigned to HITRON since Feb '04 and loving it; I have been very fortunate to serve aboard some great cutters. I am married to my high school sweetheart and we have two children, Travis and Payton. I am very proud to be a part of the United States military and



I am very eager to catch some bad guys with the help of the men and women of the MORGENTHAU.

LTJG Bryon Mace, co-pilot: I am originally from Lakeville, MN. I began my military career at a small engineering school in New York. Following graduation in 1996, I attended flight school at Fort Rucker, AL, where I graduated in December of 1997 as an AH-64A Apache pilot. I was immediately sent to Korea as a platoon leader for a year tour, followed by a two year assignment as a platoon leader and admin officer at the 101st ABD DIV, Fort Campbell, KY. I then attended more schooling, as well as the transition to the AH-64D Longbow Apache. I was assigned to a newly formed Longbow unit at Fort Hood, TX, where I spent nine months as the assistant operations officer, prior to moving the unit to Illesheim, Germany. I assumed command of a Longbow Troop in December of 2002 and deployed my Troop to Kuwait in February of 2003 for the build up and subsequent operations into Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following redeployment to Germany in February of 2004, I relinquished command and moved to Grafenwoher, Germany where I managed the US Army Europe's pre-command courses for Company, Battalion, and Brigade Commanders. I left the Army and Europe in July of 2005 for HITRON – Jacksonville. My wonderful wife, also from Minnesota, is named Jody. We have one beautiful 13 month old daughter, Abbigael.



AMT2 Solomon Moreno, flight mech and gunner: I go by "MO" and I am from a small town west of San Antonio, Uvalde, Texas. I am a huge Dallas Cowboys fan and I am happy to see the Horns finally seal the deal and win the big one. I have been married 7 years and my wife's name is Christina. We have 2 dogs, a black lab named Dallas, and a beagle mix named Dora. I have been in the CG for about seven years. I started on a 180' out of Cape May from March '99 to August '99. From there I went to Station Sabine Pass, Tx from Aug '99 to Jan '00. I was then transferred to CGAS Clearwater for my airman training, went to AMT "A" school in Tulsa OK and came back to the Air Sta in Jan01. In Dec02 I was promoted to 2nd Class Petty officer and shortly there after I completed my Flight Mechanic syllabus. In Clearwater I also did many deployments with OPBAT in the Caribbean locating and stopping migrants and go-fasts. At Clearwater I received an Achievement Letter for finding 8 lost kayakers and hoisting 2 to safety after they had been blown off course and in frigid waters for days. I have enjoyed the SAR [search and rescue] aspect of my job very much. From seeing all the good things that the CG did in New Orleans, I can say with pride that I am a Coastie. This past July I transferred to HITRON, so this is my first HITRON deployment. I am excited to be here and can't wait to put my training to work. I am here to kick some butt and chew bubble gum, I am all out of bubble gum.



AET2 Nghiep Trang, flight mech and gunner: I'm originally from Detroit, Michigan, but now I am a resident of Florida. I have been in the Coast Guard for nearly 8 1/2 years. I was stationed on the Coast Guard Cutter Storis in Kodiak, Alaska, and also at Coast Guard Air Station (CGAS) Kodiak, CGAS Miami and CGAS Jacksonville. So far as a HITRON gunner, I have shot at one go-fast while I was deployed aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Legare. I'm married and have two dogs.



Fred Nichols: I'm the civilian contractor for the Hitron program in Jacksonville and for this deployment I'm the mechanic for the MH-68A Strayray (the Augusta 109e). I been with this program for over a year now. I live in Jacksonville, Florida. I'm retired from the U.S. Navy, having served 20 years as a helicopter mechanic, mainly on the Navy's H-60s. I'm married with three teenagers.



SURVEY OF THE WEEK:

We asked some of our crew what they are looking forward to on this deployment:

- "Port calls" – FN Tim Daugherty, Montgomery, Alabama
- "Go fast chase" – AET2 Nghiep Trang, Jacksonville, Florida
- "Busting some dudes for transporting illegal contraband and pollution our streets" -- SK2 Michael Simonetti, Middletown, New York
- "Port call in Australia and long darts" – MK2 Chuck Malinski, Fayottonville, British Columbia
- "My detailer getting me some orders that I really really want for once" – MKCM Aaron Relford, Disputanta, Virginia
- "Getting tan" – LTJG Steve Arnwine, Baltimore, Maryland
- "Monterey and poking at dead things with a stick" – EM2 Jason Barnick, Monterey, California
- "Staying sober underway" – OS1 Stephen Aragon, Fresno, California
- "Blowing something up" – GM2 Jonathan Kinker, Phoenix Arizona
- "Looking forward to a great last patrol" – YNC Ann Ladd, Chicago
- "Enjoying my 7th and final patrol" – DC2 Andrea Cooper, San Jose, California
- "Bang! Bang! Rat tat tat tat tat tat! KaBoom! Hoorah!" – GM3 Daniel Baenziger, West Side, California
- "Turning 21 and going home and being with my girl" – BM3 Nathaniel Fraise, Bakersfield, California
- "My last trip, going home and restoring good order and discipline to the little dog – she knows who she is" – BM1 Jeff Hamilton, Paducah, Kentucky
- "Earning more snowflakes" – LTJG Elizabeth Gillis, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- "Getting orders to go to OS "A" school and being a daddy when I get home" – SN Sean Bahl, Yuma, Arizona
- "HS "A" school or YN "A" school" – SA Wayne Benson, Los Angeles, California
- "Getting qualified" – ENS Kyra Van Echo and ENS Pamela Wade, Winchestertonfieldville, Iowa
- "Getting swoll this patrol" – ENS Ernie Saponara, San Diego, California

CREW RECOGNITION THIS WEEK:

- EM2 Taran Benavente received the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon as our Runner-up October-December Sailor of the Quarter
- SN Michael Bongiorno certified as Rescue Swimmer
- OS2 Brandon Clarke celebrated a birthday on 16 Jan 2006
- DC2 Andrea Cooper received the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon as our October-December Sailor of the Quarter
- SN Ryan Dunn certified as Rescue Swimmer
- ET2 Mark Edillion celebrated a birthday on 21 Jan 2006
- MK2 Michael Gill celebrated a birthday on 16 Jan 2006
- OS2 Kim Hawkins certified as Rescue Swimmer

- ENS Miles Jenkins was selected for promotion to O-2
- SN Daniel Moraga certified as Master Lookout
- FN Luke Siekmann certified as Security Watchstander
- SK2 Michael Simonetti certified as Rescue Swimmer

SHOUTS-OUT FROM OUR CREW:

- GM3 Daniel Baenziger sends: "Love ya Bubs!! Love ya Stoodle noodle!! Miss you guy's soo much!!!!"
- EM2 Jason Barnick sends: "Happy birthday Lindsey, Leslie and Tammy. Keep practicing, Caleb."
- MK2 Chris Breuer sends: "I LOVE YOU Jess!"
- SN Daniel Brown sends: "Hey mom just thought I would send you a shout out missing the ohana back home. Love all of you. Kaniela."
- OS3 Dustin Bingham sends: "To Angela my loving wife, I couldn't do this with out you. I love you and will see you soon. To Lexie. I love ya little sis, take care of mom, dad."



- DC2 Andrea Cooper sends: "Hey guys. Just a quick hello from your daughter. Love and miss you all. Erin your snowboarding helmet is at my house:) hehehe Love ya, Ang." "Chuck, how are things?"
- BMCS Darren Davis sends: "Greetings to my family, all my beautiful kids, and to you Pam. I love you tons. Things are running very smoothly. Go figure. Good luck on your tests tomorrow Dad. You're in my prayers."
- CDR Mark Dietrich sends: "Hey Ellen, John, Mary and Julia, I miss you all so much already. Good luck and be a huge help to your mom. Ellen, I'll charge your Starbucks card while I'm gone! John, sorry I had to take the Xbox with me this trip, but hang in there anyway. Mary, so proud you scored 7 points in your basketball game yesterday! Julia, you would be so amazed at the stars out here at sea. I love you all. Love, Dad"



ET3 Dan Nelson shows off his Bingo prize (he cheated)

- ...and "David and Tony, keep the e-mails flying...the entertainment value's priceless. Miss you guys."
- OSC Brian Dorsey sends: "To my gorgeous wife and 4 special girls. I miss you very much and can't wait to give you all hugs and kisses again. Nicole, daddy says 'Fish Paste'."

- ET2 Mark Edillon sends: "I love you Joyce! I appreciate all the email you send, I miss you a lot. Say hi to Junior and family, Sosa, Jay and Nina, Auntie Carol and family and everyone else. Take care and keep busy."
- ET3 Scott Finstad sends: "Hi Everyone! The Patrol is going great. Grandma, Grandpa, Pam, Kevin, Kent, Benji, and Lorraine, I'll see you guys when I get back! Get those breaded elk steaks ready :)!!"
- YN3 Jessica Garay sends: "Bebe, I miss you and stay focused in everything you do at the Air Station. I know you could do it. Ed and Les hope Annabel isn't given you guys a hard time. Say hi for me to the family and give them hugs and kisses. Send me more pics. Love Jess."
- LTJG Elizabeth Gillis sends: "Hi Mom and Dad. I didn't crash! Happy Birthday, Mom. I'm sorry I can't be there, but I'm sure the rolls at Charlie's Crab will be great. I love you."

- ET1 Troy Gracie sends: "Cynthia and Mykaela I miss both of you very much. And yes Mykaela, I miss Nala and Sunshine too. Dad and Paula, I hope you enjoy this news letter."



- BM1 Jeff Hamilton sends: "To Tiki: Yet another adventure, one day I'll come home and stay. Until then I love you and miss you and those little dogs too. To Ollie Dog: Cheer up buddy, look on the bright side, at least Mom didn't bring home a CAT for a sister. To Matilda Jean: For Ollie's sake quit bouncing around and stand still, he's not as flexible as you. To Mom and Dad H: Nope, no pictures yet, at least one's you can print anyway. I'll have some next pit stop. Hope everyone is on the mend, love Jeff."

- LCDR Richard Hancock sends: "I would like to send a shout out to my cookies to be good for mommy, do your homework and don't talk back. To my wife Happy Anniversary and thank you for saying I do on 22 Jan 94."

- OS2 Kim Hawkins sends: "Mamma, Happy 29th BIRTHDAY, you're the best mom in the whole entire universe (yes other moms, I'm sure your great, however, mine is the champ!) I LOVE YOU MOMMY" Jared, I am thinking about you out here in the middle of the ocean; I hope you're having all the fun a 6 year old should be having AND getting all smiley faces at school AND brushing your teeth like we had fun doing when I visited! I brush MY teeth at least 2 times a day, how about you? I Love you Jared, Tami and Jill (all be sure to kiss the puppies for me!) Jacqueline! Sorry I didn't get the chance to chat with you before I left; you're so busy at your ripe old age of 11! I miss you all and think of you often ... hugs (big bear kind) and kisses."

- SN Amanda Jenkins sends: "Hey mom and dad hope you're having fun in Louisiana. Cody you'd better be keeping your grades up. Brittany and Aaron, where's my picture of the baby? Ashley and Joey, y'all better not work too hard. Sherry and John, I can't wait to see the new puppy, give him a good name. Mark and Jen, I hope Hawaii was fun and they found your golf clubs. And to my one and only, I love you more than anything and I can't wait to talk to you or see you."

- YNC Ann Ladd sends: "Hi Mom, It was great having you sail with us. I love you and miss you. To all my friends, I hope you enjoy the newsletters. Write often, it's always good to hear from each of you."

- FSCS Randall Litka sends: "Dad, my prayers are with you. I love you and I need you to get well. Mom and Pop and Mom, I love you all and I miss you dearly. Rick, Russ and Tana, I love you and miss you all more than you will ever realize. Brenda, Lindsey Shauni and Binky....You all are my rock. I Love you all so much. I will be home soon."



FN Jim Adams (R) went on to win at Bingo (after cheating) as did ET3 Dan Nelson (L) but not so much with CAPT Michael Sullivan (middle)

- BM2 Sean McMullen sends: "Happy Birthday to my daughter Elissa, and to the rest of my family I miss you and love you all."
- MK2 Brian Meachum sends: "Marcella, Mikayla, and Jenaveve I miss my girls and I think of you guy's every minute. I love you babe don't forget to feed my dog."
- FA Manuel Ontiveros sends: "Hey Baby, I miss you and I Love you with all my heart. Take care of yourself while I'm gone and

good luck with making asst. manager. I am so proud of you. Love, Your Chango.”

- SN Jonathon Pangelinan sends: “Love You all going out to the KOTLA family.”
- BM3 Caleb Paramo sends: “Hillary, I love you so much, can't wait for my car (keep looking)!!!”
- LTJG Piero Pecora sends: “Oompa: I love you honey, I can't wake until I talk to you soon. Don't Bite Colleen and don't let Stitch chew up all of my stuff.”
- OS1 Wendy Perdue sends: “Miss you baby! Don't work too hard. I'll be home soon... hug and kisses.”
- CWO2 Anthony Parker sends: “Denise, Amanda, Ricky miss you, love Dad. Mom, love you.”
- FS3 Elizabeth Roberts sends: “Jason, I love you and I miss you so much MMUUUAAAHHH!! Take care of Lilly for me. Hopefully she won't drive you too batty. Mom and Dad I love you guys and miss you. Keep Johnathan out of trouble. Love Elizabeth.”
- OS1 Alfredo Rivera sends: “To my wife and son: I love and miss you both.”
- MK2 Mike Ryan sends: “Hi babe I love and miss you very much. Give the kids a kiss from daddy. Dad, Happy Birthday. Mom hi and I love you both. Dan and Laurie hi and I miss you guys. Take care of my family while I'm gone. I sure wish I could be up there to see you all.”
- FS1 Mike Simpson sends: “Te Amo Mi Miriposa! I can't wait to see you on the beach baby.”



FN Tim Daugherty with his Bingo prize and winning card (he also cheated)

- YN3 Laura Smith sends: “Mom I miss you very much. Tell Rachael to stay strong through troubled times and tell Celina I love her. Too my little critters auntie will be home to see you soon.”
- OS2 Brian Soto sends: “Just want to say hi and hope all is well to those back home.”
- SK2 Benjamin Warholoski sends: “Well here we go again boo, I



- hope you're keeping yourself busy at home. I love you my wife and I miss you soooooo much.”
- SK3 Clifton Wolfe sends: “Hey Irene. Tell Alex I said hi and you keep on keep'n on. Luv you Cliff.”

WE'LL SEE YOU ALL SOON...

We'll be safe out here on the high seas – you be safe too at home, and thank you for your support, e-mails and care packages! We're thinking of you all the time.

Best regards,

The Officers, Chiefs and Crew of
USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC 722)
“Decus Pacifici – Pride of the Pacific”

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