



Aloha!

Greetings from USCGC RUSH, underway on the high seas! This is the first edition of our underway newsletter, created especially for our family and friends back home.

We hope this offers a refreshing look into the lives and accomplishment of crewmembers aboard USCGC RUSH, the world's premier high endurance cutter!

Since our departure from Honolulu, the whole crew has been working diligently to prepare for the patrol.

Our first day brought tears and hugs as family members wished their loved ones a safe and happy patrol. We welcomed aboard FS2 Moseley from ISC Honolulu, who will be helping the Food Service division this patrol. As RUSH transitted outbound Honolulu harbor, excitement filled the air as we sailed towards our adventures awaiting beyond the horizon.

Over the next couple of days, everyone focused on their specialties. We conducted small boat operations to train new coxswains, completed many general emergency drills and held divisional training for our upcoming shipboard-helicopter standardization evaluation after a long in-port.

In response to the financial need in Louisiana, Team RUSH established numerous fundraising in support of the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. It was a great way for the crew to enjoy a little morale for themselves while supporting a needy cause.

As the weekend approached, crewmembers had time to rest and relax from a week of strenuous but worthwhile work. It was a fruitful week as RUSH had a great opportunity to polish one of its finest traits-TEAMWORK.

We crossed the gates of the Pacific and entered the port of San Diego, where we completed our bi-annual certification for helicopter operations. Again, RUSH answered the call and proved ourselves proficient in shipboard aviation, qualifying in all aspects of training including flight deck tie-downs, helicopter re-fueling and helicopter control, from the bridge and in the Combat Information Center. We also enjoyed some well-deserved time-off with visits to downtown San Diego, historic southern California landmarks and the world-famous San Diego Zoo.

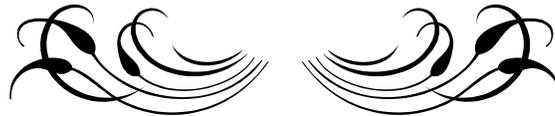
Our training visit to San Diego was a success, and provided a strong platform for RUSH to begin the patrol. As we entered our operations area, we conducted more training – this time with our shipboard helicopter. The ebb and flow of the training series seemed predominantly new for most personnel, but great teamwork and flexibility on everyone's part made for successful drills and, eventually, RUSH's readiness for counter-drug operations. Weather kicked up a bit as high seas and strong winds battered RUSH

with a few days of spilled drinks and bumpy walks down the passageway, but calmer seas soon prevailed.

Our patrol so far has drawn the best out of Team RUSH. We endured a few drawbacks with mechanical problems and bad weather, but Team RUSH responded with true professionalism and great skill to get the job done.

***From the Cabin:** Since departing Honolulu, the men and women of TEAM RUSH have continued to make me proud to be the Commanding Officer of the best ship in the Coast Guard. From gun shoots to helicopter operations to drills and training, Team RUSH has shown unwavering dedication and determination to serving their country and the Coast Guard. They've displayed a wide spectrum of talent and skill that have far surpassed my expectations of them. Without a doubt, they will continue to serve with the utmost professionalism and pride. Thank you for all of your support back home, and as always, Semper Paratus!*

-Captain Dana E. Ware



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following crewmembers!

SN Erik Asencio
 FS3 Stephen Banks
 SN John Bunker
 SN Reggie Chapa
 MK3 Cory Driscoll
 OS2 Glenn Jimenez
 OS2 Damien Porrás-Montiho
 OSC Ashford Spencer
 EMC Anthony Trueitt

SN Stephan Asher
 MK1 Dundun Blue
 ENS Lilian Butterworth
 SN Ramon Colunga
 CWO2 Michael Gephardt
 GM2 Christopher Kalinowski
 ET3 Travis Shiflett
 SKC Mark Tahtinen
 OS2 Barbara Wikel

Farewell to the following crewmembers, who will be leaving us enroute new horizons. Fare winds and following seas!

SN Stephan Asher – BM “A” School-Yorktown, VA
 SN Beau Bartlett – BM “A” School-Yorktown, VA
 SN Ramon Colunga – MK “A” School-Yorktown, VA
 SN Michael Schebell – MK “A” School-Yorktown, VA
 SN Jeffery Argyle – BM “A” School-Yorktown, VA

September 11 – October 08

HAWAIIAN WORD(S) OF THE WEEK

Kia'i Kai

*Guardian of the Sea (Coast Guard)*HAWAIIAN PHRASE OF THE WEEK

`A`ohe loa i ka hana a ke aloha

Distance is ignored by Love

Shout-Outs!

ET3 Replogle sends: Hello to my Mandilove, Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, and all my family! I'm sending my love to all of you, and my little son Noah - I miss you - Bryan

OS1 Ausmus sends: Hey Jolene, Mom, & Maw, I miss you all very much. Love you and will see you all soon!

YN1 Farnady sends: Hello family I miss you all cant wait to talk to you and see you all soon... Kristin good luck in OCS, I love you

MK3 Perez sends: HI honey I hope that all is good back home, I love you!

YNC Daniels sends: What's up cousin and Stephan. Hope all is going well, don't you guys have too much fun without me. Step' can't wait to get back and see you work that rifle in JROTC.

SN Hirsh sends: Love to all family and friends. Can't wait to see you all again some day. Cincinnati PRIDE - WHO DEY!!

OS3 Pineda sends: Hey mom having fun tell everyone that I love them and hope to see them soon. Hey everyone I hope you are all doing well will write as soon as I can and I love yall.

YN3 Mansfield sends: Shout outs to the my fam in HI and FL. I love you both and I will be home soon.

OS2 Motu sends: To my family in San Leandro, ou te alofa atu ia te outou! Tia, be safe out there in Ilwaco, try not to have too much fun ☺ To my crew in the Helemangos, keep them prayers going. I miss you guys much! Toby, take care of the girls, now. Sose and Siasoi, thanks for everything!

LTJG Daniel sends: Moani, I am so proud of your hard work and dedication to school. Thanks for taking care of everything at home. Tell Mom, Dad, Robert, Rae, the kids, and everybody I said hello and I am thinking about them. Next stop Zippy's. I love you!!!

Please enjoy these photos of our patrol!



A view of Honolulu as we departed Sand Island



The GM's and Weapons ET's take a picture with their "baby"



FS1 Lewanski and DC3 Murphy teach crewmembers about plugging and patching during our DC Rodeo



HSC Romero teaches the crew basic and advanced procedure in First Aid



HS3 Jones – Shipboard EMT/Pirate!



The Weapons ET's posing for the camera



Flight Deck manned and ready for helicopter operations



**Down down all lines, Up up all fish,
Fish Call, Fish Call, Fish Call!**



The BM's take the small boat for a spin!



Our helicopter secured on deck

We wish you great and happy tidings back home. We'll be safe and take care of ourselves, and we look forward to seeing you again.

Mahalo Nui Loa , A Hui Hou!

The Officers, Chiefs and Crew of
USCGC RUSH (WHEC 723)
"Kia'i Kai No Ka Oi – The Best in the Coast Guard!"

Visit us at:
www.uscg.mil/pacarea/rush



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