

# RUSH HOUR

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## Greetings from USCGC RUSH, Underway in the Pacific Ocean!

For most, October 12, 2010 was just another warm and sunny Tuesday in Honolulu. But for RUSH sailors and family, the day marked the beginning of a new adventure.

Despite being away from homeport for only a month, RUSH has already made many great accomplishments. RUSH and her sailors are currently engaged in a Fisheries Enforce-

ment patrol for U.S. Coast Guard District 14, aiding various Pacific Island countries and governing bodies in the regulation and enforcement of their laws concerning living marine resources.

Of course, this involves the standard fare of law enforcement boardings and helicopter flights, but RUSH sailors have proven that we can do much more than just the standard.

From successfully completed search and rescue cases and community service projects to pizza nights and fish calls, life aboard RUSH is always vibrant and exciting!

So, we invite you to turn the page and step into our world of adventure, camaraderie, and shipboard life!



### Inside this issue:

Rescue on the High Seas	2
Pohnpei, Micronesia	3
Happy Halloween!	3
In the Spotlight: Law Enforcement Division	4
Sailor of the Quarter	4
Crew Achievements	5
Welcome Aboard	6
Shout-Outs	7

## Rescue on the High Seas

In the late afternoon hours of November 4th, USCGC RUSH received a report of a Kiribati family lost at sea. On October 31, the family was traveling from Ukiangang to Tikurere (two small islands spaced about 6.5 miles apart) after trading produce for fish. On their way back home to Butaritari, the engine died in their 13-foot aluminum skiff.

RUSH received the report 5 days after the family had been overdue. Immediately, RUSH began communicating with U.S. Coast Guard District 14 to construct a Search Action Plan.

Crewmembers moved with alacrity and purpose; the cutter arrived at the search area on the morning of November 5th and

began the search without delay. Our embarked helicopter, an HH-65 Dolphin, was launched three times that day to conduct searches. In the mid-afternoon, a P3 from the New Zealand Air Force spotted the skiff approximately 46 miles northwest of our current position. We deployed our small boat, manned by **BM2 Kenny Crocker**, **MK3 David Eisenhour**, **SN David Greenberg**, and **HS1 Erin Hunter**, to their position. These personnel provided crucial first-responder care while RUSH sped to the skiff. The family was brought onboard and given fresh food and water, warm showers, and dry clothes, while RUSH's **Deck Force** proficiently hoisted their skiff onto the cutter's fantail.



*RUSH crewmembers stand with the rescued family on the flight deck*



*Members of RUSH's Deck Force bring the skiff onboard*

The family was returned to Butaritari via helicopter on the afternoon of November 6th. In an astounding display of community and solidarity, most of the island's inhabitants met the HH-65 as she landed on the atoll's soccer field, greeting the Coast Guard rescuers and welcoming their neighbors home. The Commanding Officer, **CAPT James McCauley**, received the thanks of the community leaders, while the aircrew, **LCDR Kevin Barres** and **AMT1 Angelina Kirkhart**, received the bounty of fresh bananas, coconuts, and melons that the atoll's inhabitants sent to RUSH as an expression of their gratitude and joy.

This event reminds us not only of the worth and fragility of every human life, but also of the exemplary services rendered by our Guardians on a daily basis. From the petty officers who acted as extra lookouts to the medical team that provided prompt and professional care, every crewmember played an integral role in accomplishing this extraordinary rescue. Bravo Zulu to every RUSH sailor!



*CAPT McCauley greets members of the Butaritari community*

## Kaselehlie, Pohnpei!

Much like “Aloha” in Hawaiian, the Micronesian term “Kaselehlie” is used as a sign of goodwill and can mean both greetings and farewell. RUSH sailors learned this—and many other terms—during our 2-day port call in the tropical island of Pohnpei.

Pohnpei is one of the four states that compose the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). It’s population is about 34,000 strong, and the island spans approximately 40 miles in width. Reputedly the second wettest place on Earth, Pohnpei proved to be a lush and verdant tropical paradise.

Although driving rainstorms often buffeted the island, crewmembers still found many ways to enjoy the startling natural beauty and rich history of the locale.

Most crewmembers made the trek to the historic ruins at Nan Madol or visited one of the island’s many waterfalls, while others took advantage of the world-renowned surfing, diving, and snorkeling in the area. Some crewmembers even used their valuable liberty time to help paint the local hospital.

RUSH hosted a reception on its first day in Pohnpei. In attendance were community leaders, foreign diplomats, and **Mr. Okean Ehmes** a native of Pohnpei and also a Coast Guard Academy classmate of **CDR James Estramonte**, our Executive Officer.



*The view from The Village Inn, a resort where most crewmembers enjoyed some well-deserved R&R*



*RUSH crewmembers pose proudly in front of their recently completed painting project*



*CGA Class of 1993: CDR James Estramonte and Mr. Okean Ehmes*



*RUSH’s stellar Food Services division, which catered and staffed the shipboard reception in Pohnpei*

## Happy Halloween!

Once upon a midnight dreary, RUSH families pondered weak and weary, whether their sailors would have a chance to celebrate Halloween...

RUSH ushered in this spooky holiday with pizza and ice cream, a costume contest, and a scary movie on the flight deck. Here are some of the best costumes:





**ME1 Pedro Lucena**, who reported to RUSH from LE-DET 404 of TACLET South in Opa Locka, FL.



**ME2 Luis Rodriguez**, who reported to RUSH from Sector San Juan's Enforcement Division.

## Division in the Spotlight: Law Enforcement Division

Of the Coast Guard's 11 statutory missions, few are as visible and impactful as our Maritime Law Enforcement mission.

Recognizing this, then-Coast Guard Commandant Thad Allen authorized the establishment of the **Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME)** rating on June 6, 2008.

MEs serve as a cadre of professionals with knowledge in a broad range of law enforcement and security subject matters. Their duties encompass maritime law enforcement boardings, execution of advanced interdiction missions, maintenance of unit law enforcement gear, development of unit force protection plans, coordination of interagency operations, and delivery of small arms and unit law enforcement training.

RUSH is billeted for an ME1 and an ME2; they are assigned to the newly-established Law Enforcement division in the Weapons Department. **ME1 Pedro Lucena** and **ME2 Luis Rodriguez** play a crucial role in the execution of RUSH's Law Enforcement mission. Their knowledge, experience, and training provide them with the skills to lead every boarding, and to administer training and qualification boards to RUSH's prospective boarding team members. Bravo Zulu to RUSH's newest—and most tactical—Guardians!



**ME1 Lucena** and **ME2 Rodriguez** prepare to lead members of RUSH's Law Enforcement team through a boarding.

## Sailor of the Quarter: **BM3 Michelle White-Pickett**

Bravo Zulu and Congratulations to **BM3 Michelle White-Pickett**, RUSH's Sailor of the Quarter for the 4th Quarter of 2010!

Known for her indefatigable work ethic and constant willingness to help others, **BM3 White-Pickett** is a member of the Navigation Division, a fully qualified Boarding Team Member on the Law Enforcement Team, and a trainer for 'Fit Deck', RUSH's popular underway fitness program.

Her award citation reads:

"Through exemplary performance in all aspects of your duties, you have distinguished yourself as a fine sailor and a consummate professional. As supervisor of all Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch, you increased the level of security, appearance, and professionalism of all watchstanders through extensive training and monitoring of all quarterdeck responsibilities. As a key member of RUSH's Health Promotion Coordination team, you continuously demonstrated new and diverse workouts to perform underway while motivating others through calisthenics and strength training using "Fit Deck" and P90X" routines. During RIMPAC 2010, you held the critical position of signalman, solely performing all required Allied Visual Signals with both the U.S.

Navy as well as foreign navies. Your devotion and willingness to take on added responsibility has been apparent through your tireless efforts to obtain more certifications and to continue developing professionally. You've successfully balanced the demands of the Boarding Team Member and Boat Crew PQS, as well as your membership of the Navigation and Seamanship Training Team. Your unwavering dedication to duty and relentless attention to detail has increased RUSH's mission readiness for your District Fourteen Patrol. Your actions reflect the utmost example of loyalty and commitment to RUSH and the Coast Guard."



## Advancements



*SN Gabriel Gomez*



*SN Mitchell Hamilton*



*SN Ben Parks*



*ET3 Wesley Schwatka*



*FS2 Sean Richmond*



*MK2 Ivan Hess*

## Good Conduct Awards

The following crewmembers earned Good Conduct Awards in the month of October:

*OS2 Kevin Morris 03 OCT 2010*

*FS2 Taliea Epps 14 OCT 2010*

*DC3 Jesse Johnson 16 OCT 2010*

*ET3 Charles Whitmore 29 OCT 2010*

Keep up the "good" work!



## Other Achievements



Congratulations to...

*IT3 Clarke Heckman* for being awarded his 1 Year Sea Service Ribbon;

*SK3 Tyrone Cray* for achieving his Temporary Cutterman's Pin;

*FS3 Ronicesha Wearren* for achieving her Temporary Cutterman's Pin; and,

*SN Gabriel Gomez* for earning the title of Messcook of the Month.



# Welcome Aboard!

*Aloha to the following personnel who are temporarily assigned to RUSH:*



**FN Chelsea Peterson**

**Permanent Duty Station:**  
BSU Honolulu  
(Honolulu, HI)



**ET3 Asa Daniels**

**Permanent Duty Station:**  
ESD Honolulu  
(Honolulu, HI)



**ET1 Brandon Hewitt**

**Permanent Duty Station:**  
ESD Milwaukee  
(Milwaukee, WI)



**HS1 Erin Hunter**

**Permanent Duty Station:**  
HSWL Field Office  
Miami (Miami, FL)



**ENS Xiaobin Tuo**

**Permanent Duty Station:**  
USCGC Polar Sea  
(Seattle, WA)

*Aloha and Mahalo to the Shipriders who provided their knowledge and expertise on Pacific fisheries:*



**Nemia Otireta**  
from Kiribati



**Wayne Anjian**  
from the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)



**Scott Clementz**  
from the Australian Fisheries Management Association

*and Aloha to the Aviation Detachment from Air Station Barbers Point and their HH-65 Dolphin Helicopter:*



From left to right: **AET3 Terrence Widrlechner, AMT3 Jared Blitz, AMT1 Angelia Kirkhart, LTJG Jason Gross, and LCDR Kevin Barres.** (not pictured: **AET1 Jesse Wilkins** .....



# USCGC RUSH (WHEC 723) KIA'I KAI NO KA OI

**ENG2 Jeffrey Paquette:** To my wonderful family, I love you and miss you all so much and I can't wait to see you!

**EMO Erik Peterson:** I would like to send a "Shout Out" to my wife for her Birthday 24 November. Happy Birthday!

**YN2 Aldrich Adams:** Shout Out to my Baby Momma FS3 Kunkel!

**GM3 Chase Gillyard:** I love you silly monkey.

**FS1 Phillip Meece:** To My Lovely wife Rachel and my beautiful girls Emily and Audrey- DADDY LOVES YOU AND MISSES YOU!!!!

**OS1 Andrew Lincoln:** Jenn, Franklin, Reagan, and Kili daddy loves you and misses you loads. I will be back soon.

**SNOS Will Cumbie:** Hey GM3 Chamberlain, I am having a super time on this patrol with you, I can't till we get back to Hono and you let me shoot your gun. Your pal, Cumbie.

**The Combatant OSs:** Ricky Jenkins! We hear you on the radio all the time and wish you were still here standing watch with us. Alooooohaa!!!

**CDR James Estramonte:** To my wife, Luz, and girls, Marissa and Bella- Dad loves and misses you. XOXO!

**ENS Rick Mozolic:** Hey Steve it is great rooming with you and I will get you back in our next wrestling match.



**SN Alexander Waller:** Autumn Baby, I miss you like crazy want to share every moment with you. This patrol has been full of adventure and I can't wait to tell you all about it. We'll be back in each other's arms before you know it! I love you...mwah! Waller Tribe, I hope ya'll are doing great! I miss you all and am looking forward to showing you around Hawaii when you come visit. Tell everyone I'm doing well and that I love them.

**DCC Nathan Wissman:** Cara and Caroline, you are the light of my life! -Daddy



**ET1 Brandon Hewitt:** Hi Alicia, Quinn, Lucy, Girl, Buddy, Mom, Dad G., Dad H., Lil' Gangsta Robbie, Mom Mom and Pop Pop Sawyer, Mom Mom and Pop Pop Garrett, Aunt Sandra, Uncle James, Ashley, Jordan, Lisa, Sam, Andrew Jacob, Joe and Beth I love and miss you. I can't wait to see you at Christmas. -Pops, B., Biscuit



# Swim Call



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