

**USCGC WAESCHE  
(WMSL 751)**

# The Waesche Waypoint

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## Captain's Corner



“You say good-bye and I say hello...” It almost seems like we are living out an old Beatles’ song with our schedule lately. I know that our operational tempo has been challenging to say the least – and I am afraid it isn’t going to get much better in the near future. The Pacific Area Commander, VADM Ray, has a very personal interest in ensuring we make assignment to a National Security Cutter as attractive as possible. To that end we are working with his staff and Coast Guard Headquarters to implement various incentives to attract and keep top performers like our current crew. We are also working on “out-of-the-box” ideas to allow our folks to have as much time as possible at home while balancing the ship’s readiness and material condition. It’s a tough balance to make. I know we left Alameda for an eight-week dry dock period less than two weeks after we got home from an 80-day patrol. To help get the crew some time at home, we have partnered with Surface Force Logistics Command (the command that oversees our maintenance) to pilot a program where we bring everyone back to Alameda for two weeks while the ship remains in Portland.

Another way we try to get you some extra time with your loved ones is through Tiger Cruises. We had such a large response to our cruise from San Diego to Alameda that we couldn’t bring everyone aboard. So we opened up our trip from Alameda to Portland and had another great response. I am committed to doing these Tiger Cruises so you can have some extra time with your crewmember and also get a first-hand glimpse at what life is like aboard the ship. Rest assured it isn’t a luxury cruise! It was great having VADM Ray come along for the last leg of our trip into Alameda – I hope those of you who were on board got a chance to talk with him, ask the hard questions, and provide him with some insight of what it’s like to have a loved one aboard an NSC. Yours is truly one of the hardest jobs in the Coast Guard – and I definitely appreciate what you do.

Looking ahead, we will be back here in Portland the first week of June for the Rose Festival. It should be a great event and WAESCHE will be one of the stars of the event on the city waterfront. I hope you are able to join us here. I am hopeful the weather will be perfect – it’s currently a little cold and rainy in Portland for my taste!

Finally, thanks again for allowing me and the Coast Guard to “borrow” your loved ones so that they can do the important work they do to keep us all safe. This crew does incredible work and they are able to focus fully on it knowing they have your continued love and support back home!

### A Word from the Command Senior Chief



Greetings from sunny Portland. Though it promises to be a busy dry dock maintenance period, we have done our best to schedule a couple weeks back in the Alameda area so that we can spend time with our families. I know this has been as tough, or in many cases tougher on you than us and I thank you for your continued strength and support.

Recently the crew received a refresher concerning the services available through Work-Life and CG-SUPRT. These services are available to spouses as well. While the Work-Life staff does a great job assisting members and their family during times of crisis or mental fatigue, they also specialize in many other areas. If you are new to the area and are seeking employment, the work-life staff can help. If you are trying to live healthier and don’t know where to start, work-life can help. If you want to get your finances in order before debt or retirement sneaks up on you, Work-Life and CG-SUPRT can help. If you have child care concerns, work-life can help.

Work-life can help reduce stress while your loved one is away from home. It is important to keep you healthy mentally, physically and financially so we can concentrate on the mission. If you think work-life can help, please call 855-CG-SUPRT or visit [www.cgsuprt.com](http://www.cgsuprt.com).

Thank you again for your continued support and we will see you all real soon.

## EMI Espinosa-Sailor of the Year

EMI Espinosa has been selected as WAESCHE's Sailor of the year for 2014. Originally born in Madrid, Spain, EMI moved to the U.S. at the age of 21. In 2009, He joined the Coast Guard and went directly to EM "A" school from boot camp. After "A" school, EMI was stationed at Sector Long Island Sound in New Haven, CT where he remained until joining WAESCHE.

Here are a few of the many reasons as to why EMI Espinosa is WAESCHE's Sailor of the Year for 2014:

EMI is a qualified Anti-Terrorism Force Protection (ATFP) watchstander whose interpreter skills aided in identifying possible false statements made by detained personnel and were crucial to building a strong federal case against the suspects.

He masterfully responded to a major lube oil leak on the #3 Ships Service Diesel Generator,



which prevented a catastrophic machinery space fire onboard WAESCHE.

He has immersed himself in the technical documentation for Waesche's complex engineering systems, spearheading multiple casualty repairs that would typically require contracted technical assistance, saving the Coast Guard thousands of dollars.

Volunteering to be the assistant Unit Health Promotion Coordinator and seamlessly taking the lead when the primary coordinator was unable to get underway with the ship.

EMI is now in the running to be the PACAREA Sailor of the year. Thank you EMI for everything you have done. Keep up the good work!

### Awards, Medals, Ribbons

#### Good Conduct Ribbon

Awarded for satisfactory service, which is defined as proficiency in rating, sobriety, obedience, industry, courage, and neatness throughout such period of service. As of 1 July 1983, an individual is required to perform three consecutive years of satisfactory service to earn this award. Subsequent awards are authorized for each additional three consecutive years of satisfactory service.



The following shipmates were awarded the Good Conduct Ribbon between January and March:

- ET2 Casini
- SK2 Rich
- MK3 Scales
- OSCS Reed
- MK3 Shelson
- BM2 Trubee
- FSCS Hall
- ET2 Case

### Operations Department



The Operations Department has remained busy juggling law enforcement operations, preparing for and conducting Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA). The Tactical Operations, Communications, Electronic Warfare, and Intelligence Divisions did an outstanding job in the ship's Combat Information Center (CIC), coordinating numerous law enforcement interdictions. These efforts included managing communications between our operational command, maritime patrol aircraft, the ship's embarked helo, and multiple boats carrying our boarding teams, ultimately leading to the interdiction of 659 kgs of cocaine and detention of 4 suspected smugglers. The Navigation Division did a great job preparing for TSTA by practicing Mode III navigation (navigation utilizing paper charts instead of electronic charts) and honing their visual communications (communications by flags and lights) skills. As always, Deck Division was an integral part of almost every shipboard evolution, conducting 30+ boat launch and recovery evolutions and 50+ helo evolutions. Deck members also put in a significant amount of time and energy preparing the ship for our Aviation Standardization Team inspection. Congratulations to ENS Josh Gerry and OSC Sean Pierce for achieving very challenging qualifications of Underway Officer of the Deck and Inport Officer of the Deck, respectively.

## Engineering Department

The Engineering Department has continued to run damage control and engineering drills in preparation for and during TSTA. At the same time they have kept our engineering plant running in great shape by maintaining the engineering systems and conducting planned maintenance. The Damage Control Division has worked diligently to maintain all safety equipment and documentation, as well as ensuring that the sewage system is operational. The Main Propulsion Division is kept busy ensure proper plant operation and safe engineering spaces and standards are met. Main Propulsion is typically in charge of running engineering drills. The Electrical Division has been working hard to maintain lighting and the electrical distribution system onboard WAESCHE. Also, there have been electrical issues with the Main Diesel Engines this month that Electrical Division has worked to correct. The Auxiliary Division has ensured that the ship can safely make water, manage fuel, and maintain air conditioning equipment. There have been multiple issues this month with water-making systems that "A-gang" has diligently worked to fix.



### How Salty Are You?

What is the difference between a ship's course and its heading?

Answer to Last Month's Question:

*Q: How many nautical miles are there in one degree of latitude?*

*A: 60 Nautical Miles in one degree of Latitude*

## Combat Systems Department

The Combat Systems Department has been conducting numerous major and minor caliber gunnery exercises in preparation for, and in conjunction with TSTA. These gunnery exercises are an all-hands evolution for the department, as each division plays their own critical role. Both Gunner's Mates and Electronics Technicians can take pride in the fact that their combined skills and experience directly contributed to outstanding performance during each and every evolution. The Gunnery Division also recently conducted a Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) with officers from Mexico's Secretaria de Marino (Mexican Navy). This exchange not only helped build international good will, but also supported regional security and interoperability. Members of the Law Enforcement Division have been hard at work, ensuring that our boarding team members remain highly trained and ready to confront any situation they may be faced with. The deployment may be over, but our crew knows the job is never done.



## Support Department

"Battle Dressing Station," or BDS (the ship's medical first responders), participated in 40 medical drills during the course of TSTA. In anticipation of TSTA, BDS personnel participated in a "round robin" training of the crew which encompassed several types of wound treatments including sucking chest wounds, amputations, open jaw fractures, electrical shock, abdominal wounds, burns, compound fractures, mass casualties, and smoke inhalation. Through the course of these rigorous evaluations, the team did quite well; the crew received an average of 100% on all of the drills, which is a true testament to their dedication and professionalism. Members of the BDS team include FS1 Haiduck, FS1 Merrill, FS3 Britton, FS3 Scott, FS3 Godwin, SNFS Nunez, SK2 Rich, ME3 Lopez, MK3 Robbins, OS3 Moses and ME1 McDonald.



# 20 Questions with



## SN Kayla Vargas

Born and raised in Queens, NY, SN Vargas joined the Coast Guard because she has always been interested in law enforcement and was drawn in by the idea of saving lives. Her first unit was Station Fort Pierce, FL. From there she joined the WAESCHE where she is hoping to be put on the Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) A-School list. SN Vargas has always had a knack for aviation; she even used to fly small planes before joining the Coast Guard. Other hobbies include playing the guitar, enjoying good food, and playing sports such as basketball, softball, and lacrosse.

**1. What keeps you up at night?** The fear of the General Emergency alarm going off.

**2. What's a recent book you have read?** NAVRULES

**3. What's on your iPod?** A lot of Justin Beiber.

**4. Favorite item in your locker?** Candy!

**5. Guilty Pleasure?** Mess Cooking.

**6 Personal hero and why?** My mom because she is always encouraging and even though she is 3,000 plus miles away, she is always there for me.

**7. What's one thing that you've learned on WAESCHE that you'll never forget?** How to recover from your lowest point.

**8. If you were not in the Coast Guard what would you be doing?** Working with kids with Autism and teaching them.

**9. If you had a theme song what would it be?** Let it go by Idina Menzel

**10. Favorite Basic Training memory?** Having to refer to myself as a "jacked up" Yeoman.

**11. Favorite movie quote?** "To infinity and beyond" from Toy Story

**12. If you could be one celebrity for a day who would it be?** Beyonce.

**13. What is your dream Coast Guard Job?** Being an AMT at AIRSTA Clearwater, FL

**14. What do you drive?** 2009 Scion TC

**15. What gets you out of bed in the morning?** The realization that I only have five minutes to get ready after snoozing my alarm multiple times.

**16. Favorite app on your phone?** Uber.

**17. Favorite thing to do in the Bay Area?** Take the ferry to the city and ride my bike around.

**18. Favorite takeout restaurant?** Any Chinese take-out restaurant.

**19. Favorite Vacation Destination?** Miami, FL.

**20. If you could have any superpower what would it be and why?** The ability to fly in order to save money on airline tickets.

# The Home Front



**OSI Castonguay's** daughter Laura sporting her Seahawk pride.



**SKC Garris** – Cheesehead Emily with her NFC rival buddies, son Nate and his friend Bryce, getting ready for the big game.



**OS3 Wertman's** brother and his dog, Silver.



**MKI Lynn's** daughter Annette and son Ron Jr. having some fun with a hula hoop.

**SA Hensler's** fiancé Megan Murphy enjoying some time with family.



# The Home Front



**ETC Sturges**  
with his mom  
Dorothy.

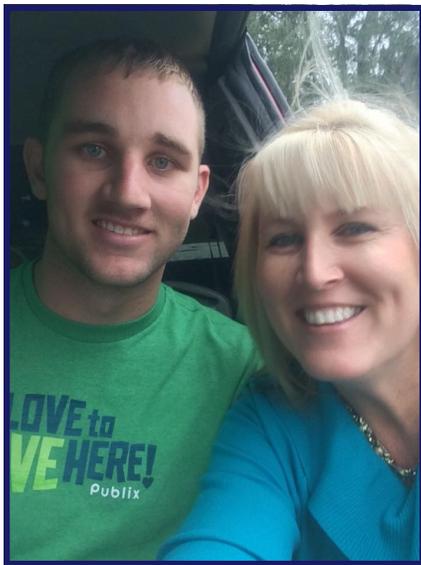


**DCI Witkowski's**  
son Oliver playing  
with toys.



**OSC Pierce's**  
daughter Ellee  
having fun on her  
first birthday!

**MK2 Nettles'**  
mother, Jolynn  
and brother,  
Josh.



**ISI Valentin**  
and his son  
Rylan reuniting  
in San Diego.



**BM3 Aycock's**  
son Noah with  
his grandpa.

# Tailored Ship's Training Availability

Tailored Ship's Training Availability, or TSTA, is a two-phased, ship-wide evaluation of both the crew's proficiency and shipboard training teams' effectiveness. The first phase consists of two weeks at the pier, conducting numerous damage control, communication, medical, and other drills and two weeks of underway training. This underway period consists of shipboard drills, including General Quarters, Damage Control, Man Overboard, and General Emergency drills. During TSTA, the focus is on developing the ship's self training capability through training teams. WAESCHE completed 155 drills and received an average score of 97%. Bravo Zulu!





**“Second to None”**



## From the Ombudsman



Hello, everyone! I hope everybody has been enjoying 2015 so far. We've been staying very busy with school projects and field trips (Joanna got straight A's for the second quarter in a row!), work, our pets (two kittens and a needy Golden Retriever are fun, but keep us on our toes!), and then I volunteered to be the mom in charge of all the troop's Girl Scout cookies! What was I thinking? I've got Thin Mints and Samoas coming out my ears! I had a terrible disappointment when the Green Bay Packers lost the NFC Championship to the Seattle Seahawks...er...I mean Seahawks, too, but we'll get 'em next year! I know we're all hoping that time flies by so we can enjoy some time with our loved ones.

I recently attended a meeting with Mrs. Donna Ray, and she asked me to send her support and warm wishes to the entire WAESCHE crew and all of our WAESCHE families and supporters. At the meeting, we were given a presentation about United Through Reading, which is a program which aims to unite U.S. military families who face physical separation by facilitating the bonding experience of reading aloud together. Military service members are given the opportunity to be video-recorded reading books to their children at

home. The goal of the program is to create emotional connections between parents and their children, encourage literacy, and making homecomings easier. WAESCHE has this program already in place, and it's a great way to keep in touch during deployments. If you are interested in making a DVD for a child in your life, get in touch with FSI Haiduck or myself for more information.

It's officially tax season! Did you know that active duty members E-5 and below, or with an income of less than \$75,000 (\$150,000 for couples) can get their taxes done for free? If you're interested, call the legal office at (510) 437-2762 for more information on this great program! Also, on the subject of finances, the Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center recently went through an upgrade. Formerly, certain financial institutions (I know USAA was one) would release funds a day before payday, but it appears that they are no longer doing this. I have been asked by my ombudsman higher-ups and the Pay and Personnel Center to remind everyone that paydays are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. If payday falls on a weekend or holiday, payday will be the business day prior. If you run into a financial emergency, you can always call CG SUPRT at 1-855-CGSUPRT. One last financial note: If there are any WAESCHE college students out there, the Coast Guard Foundation's scholarship program is soliciting applications for the 2015-2016 academic school year. If you are interested, check out <http://www.coastguardfoundation.org/how/scholarships>. Take care, everyone, and as always, get a hold of me if I can ever be of service to you or your family members.

Warmest regards,

*Emily*