

R 041745Z SEP 15
FM CCGDSEVENTEEN JUNEAU AK
TO USCGC BOUTWELL
COGARD AIRSTA KODIAK AK
INFO COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC
COMPACAREA COGARD ALAMEDA CA
COMCOGARD SFLC BALTIMORE MD

BT

UNCLAS

PASS TO OFFICE CODES:

INFO COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//DCO/CG-5R/CG-MLE//
COMPACAREA COGARD ALAMEDA CA//PAC-00/PAC-01/PAC-23/PAC-35LE/PAC-
37CF/PAC-37AF//

SUBJ: BRAVO ZULU - CGC BOUTWELL D17 ALPAT

1. My compliments to the officers and crew of CGC BOUTWELL and the embarked AVDET from Air Station Kodiak for your successful completion of a challenging 75 day Alaska patrol (ALPAT). You fully lived up to your motto, and were "Best in the West" during the execution of all tasking.
2. Ever nimble, upon entering the Bering Sea you immediately responded to the port of Dutch Harbor to enforce marine safety zones associated with Shell's 2015 Arctic drilling fleet. You seamlessly integrated into Arctic Shield 2015 operations and ensured a safe marine transportation system for all waterway users.
3. Your enthusiasm for fisheries and safety was readily apparent, completing 23 boardings of fishing vessels in the Bering Sea and along the Aleutian Islands. Your diligence in operational planning and targeting effectively doubled the FY15 contact rate for vessels participating in the remote Aleutian Island golden king crab fishery. These efforts ensured a high level of regulatory compliance by vessels participating in federally managed fisheries and marine safety compliance with federal commercial fishing vessel requirements. Your actions substantially influenced this critical industry, as Alaskan fisheries comprise over 59 percent of the national catch, valued at over six billion dollars annually.
4. While patrolling the United States - Russia Maritime Boundary Line, you provided timely and detailed sighting information on foreign fishing vessel activity that enabled my staff to have a more productive information exchange with our Russian Border Guard enforcement colleagues. In addition, your active presence served to deter potential incursions by foreign fishing vessels into the U.S. EEZ.
5. You highlighted your search and rescue expertise throughout the response to an acutely ill resident of a remote Alaskan village in need of immediate medical attention. Your seamless coordination with the D17 Command Center, in tandem with your embarked AVDET, ensured this individual was evacuated in time to receive higher level care ashore.
6. Through sustained operational adaptability, you filled a second mission-critical role, returning to the Arctic to support the first POTUS visit above the Arctic Circle. Your presence provided a strategic level of contingency support offshore the remote Alaskan village of Kotzebue.
7. BOUTWELL's devotion to duty embodied the U.S. Coast Guard's commitment to the safety of mariners who operate in the harsh conditions of the Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea, and our commitment to the proficient enforcement of the complex fishery regulations that protect our marine resources.
8. Bravo Zulu.

9. We Stand the Watch on the Last Frontier.

10. RADM D. B. Abel, Commander, District 17 and CMC B.L. VerHulst send.

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