

R 072220Z DEC 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-37//
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 an unscheduled 42 day Alaska patrol (ALPAT).
2. BOUTWELL embodied the true meaning of the core value of "Devotion to Duty" by stepping up to fill a short notice gap in PACAREA Bering Sea cutter coverage that included employment over the Thanksgiving holiday. Your preparedness, devotion to duty, and initiative supported D17 SAR readiness, ensuring the safety of hundreds of commercial fishers and mariners operating in the Bering Sea.
3. Weathering multiple storms, you took every opportunity to conduct boardings. Your diligence in planning and targeting resulted in completing two thirds of the first quarter FY16 boarding goal for Bering Sea pot vessels. 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 positively influenced this critical industry, as Alaskan fisheries comprise over 59 percent of the national catch, valued at over six billion dollars annually.
4. BOUTWELL's efforts epitomized the U.S. Coast Guard's commitment to the safety of mariners who operate in the harsh conditions of the Bering Sea in winter and our commitment to the proficient enforcement of the complex fishery regulations that protect our marine resources.
5. I appreciate the challenges involved preparing for and ultimately decommissioning a ship. To impact that schedule unexpectedly, especially over the holidays can be tremendously disruptive and stressful for all hands as well as their families. Thank you for the leadership and professionalism displayed by the entire crew (and those back home - emphasis added) in completing this challenging assignment. BOUTWELL's storied history over almost half a century of faithful service to our Nation has seen operations across the globe, most recently conducting counter-narcotics in the Eastern Pacific, stopping illegal high-seas drift net fishing in the Far East, maritime interception operations in the Persian Gulf, and counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. Considering this impressive resume, I am honored that what will (hopefully) be BOUTWELL's final patrol was close to home in our Alaskan waters.
6. Bravo Zulu.
7. We Stand the Watch on the Last Frontier.
8. CAPT C.L. Cashin, Acting Commander, District 17 and CMC B.L. VerHulst send.

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