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**NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA, FLORIDA**



The U.S. Coast Guard seagoing buoy tender USCGC Oak (left, WLB 211) gets underway as the seagoing buoy tender USCGC Cypress (WLB 210) stands by to deploy from NAS Pensacola. File photo by Patrick Nichols

## Cypress back at NASP after maintenance

By Mike O'Connor  
Gosport Associate Editor

A familiar face – or make that, ship silhouette – is back at NAS Pensacola's Port Operations.

United States Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Cypress (WLB 210) has returned to duty following a \$2.5 million, 70-day dry dock overhaul at International Ship Repair in Tampa. About every four years, Coast Guard cutters are placed in dry dock for hull painting and any major repairs. It's an opportu-

nity to carry out maintenance that's beyond the scope of the crew, such as large-scale engine and crane work.

The crew of Cypress joined in the work as well, laying new non-skid surfacing and replacing the rear main seal on one of the ship's engines.

Cypress Commanding Officer Cmdr. Amy Florentino said the crew is excited to be back after the busy overhaul interval. "We got a lot of work done and



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I am really proud of everyone's accomplishments," she noted in the ship's April newsletter. "During the maintenance period we also welcomed a lot of new shipmates. The combination of new personnel and overhaul of critical equipment meant we needed to conduct 'ready for sea' training and sea trials before returning to (NAS) Pensacola." All went well, she added, and the ship is now ready for operations.

NAS Pensacola Commanding Officer Capt.

Christopher Martin toured the ship May 13 with NASP XO Cmdr. Shawn Dominguez. They met with Florentino for a video briefing on the ship's history, mission and upgrades; then toured its spaces. Martin liked what he saw.

"I was impressed with the flexibility of the mission that Cmdr. Florentino and her team carry out," Martin said. "The ship was incredibly clean and well-maintained."

Cypress is the 10th ship in its class of seagoing buoy tenders. In addition



(Left-right) NASP XO Cmdr. Shawn Dominguez and NASP CO Capt. Christopher Martin get a tour of USCGC Cypress' bridge from Cmdr. Amy Florentino. Photo by Mike O'Connor

to its primary duty of maintaining aids to navigation,

the versatile ship is equipped to perform

search and rescue (SAR), law enforcement/homeland security, environmental pollution response and more.

Cypress, launched in 2001, has been stationed in the Gulf of Mexico since commissioning. First attached to Coast Guard Sector Mobile, the ship was moved to NASP in 2011. Its area of operations ranges from Apalachicola to Brownsville, Texas.

For more information on Cypress, visit the ship's web page at <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/cgc-cypress>.