

# USCGC CYPRESS

2ND QUARTER 2016

01 APRIL 2016

## Dry dock

Every four years, Coast Guard cutters undergo a dry dock maintenance period, when they are taken out of the water for major repairs and hull painting. Dry dock availabilities are filled with work beyond the scope of the crew, such as overhaul of shaft, rudder, crane and small boat davits. The maintenance contracts competitively bid and except for a few cutters that are rehabbed at Baltimore's Coast Guard Yard, most are completed in a privately owned ship yard.



This past quarter CYPRESS underwent a \$2.5 million, 70 day availability at International Ship Repair in Tampa, FL. In addition to the contract work, CYPRESS crew did a great job on self help projects including laying new non-skid on several exterior decks and replacing the rear main seal on one of the engines.

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## BMC Laatz Retirement

- LTJG Stephanie Knaup

On Friday March 18th, 2016, Chief Boatswain's Mate J R. Laatz retired after 20 years of faithful service to the Coast Guard. BMC Laatz was joined by his family, the crew of CYPRESS, and previous shipmates to celebrate his retirement at the Windjammer located on board Sector St. Petersburg, FL.



### Career History 1996-2016

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Department Chief  | USCGC CYPRESS                              |
| Command Chief     | Pensacola, FL                              |
| Department Chief  | USCGC VENTUROUS                            |
| Command Chief     | St. Petersburg, FL                         |
| Division Chief    | MSST HONOLULU 91107<br>Honolulu, HI        |
| Section Leader    | CG PSU 307<br>Clearwater, FL               |
| OPS Petty Officer | USCGC KODIAK ISLAND<br>St. Petersburg, FL. |
| Quarter Master    | USCGC COURAGEOUS<br>Panama City, FL        |
| Seaman            | USCG Station Grand Isle<br>Grand Isle, LA  |



CDR Florentino presents BMC Laatz with Retirement Certificate. Master of Ceremonies CWO4 James Allen reads citation.



SA Wheeler, SA Mines, BM3 Wideman, MK2 Martin, BM1 Jurgens and BMC Laatz conduct the Flag Passing Ceremony.

## *This Month in AtoN History*

- ENS Tevin White

This month in AtoN history, and in recognition of our fellow Black Hull fleet, the Coast Guard commissioned the lead cutter of the 175' Keeper Class Buoy Tender with the *Ida Lewis* in 1997, home ported in Newport, RI. Honored after famous lighthouse keepers, the Keeper Class buoy tenders were the first cutters equipped with Z-drive propulsion, allowing them to rotate 360 degrees. With un-



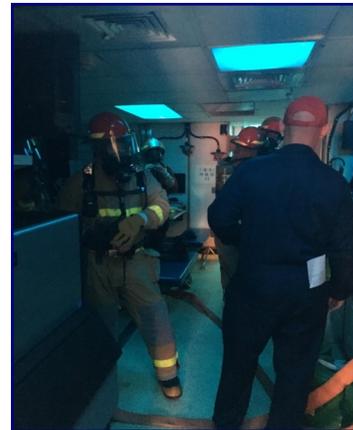
matched maneuverability, the Keeper Class, along with the larger Juniper Class 225', allow AtoN to be maintained and serviced with accurate precision and minimally manned crews. The newly renovated buoy tender fleet are able to service the nation's aids with state-of-the-art positioning equipment and cutters fit to meet the demands necessary to provide safe waterways for the American public and shipping industries.



## *Captain's Corner*

- CDR Amy Florentino

CYPRESS and the crew are excited to be back in Pensacola after a busy dry dock in Tampa. We got a lot of work done and I am really proud of everyone's accomplishments. 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 we returned to Pensacola. The cutter spent two days underway for training and equipment testing followed by a training day in St. Petersburg, FL to make sure we were back in the operational mindset and ready to take care of the ship. All went well and we are now ready to get back into operations.



*Above: Fire fighting attack team responds to an engine room fire during a machinery space fire drill with loss of ship's power.*

*Left: CYPRESS moored at Sector St. Pete alongside CGC RESOLUTE.*



- I sent out an email solicitation for a new Ombudsman. I have received a few replies and plan to meet with interested parties and name the new Ombudsman in May.
- May is military appreciation month in Pensacola. Keep an eye out for special military deals and events. The chamber of commerce has a website that features many of the deals: <http://pensacolachamber.com/about-the-chamber/armed-services/military-appreciation-month/>

# Service Wide Exam

- MK3 Keith Hall

As a reminder to all individuals, 'tis the time where the Service Wide Exam (SWE) is just around the corner. Dry dock was a great opportunity for some to get some needed study time in, but for others—not so much. To help with those who may need some more material, below are some Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) questions some of those who are taking the SWE may see:

1. What is an E-8 in the Marines? **Master Sergeant or First Sergeant**
2. What is an E-5 in the Marines? **Sergeant**
3. What is an E-6 in the Army? **Staff Sergeant**
4. What is an E-6 in the Air Force? **Staff Sergeant**
5. How many levels of FPCON are there? **Five**
6. What year did the Navy establish the Chief rank? **April 1, 1893**
7. America declared war on Mexico in what year? **1846**
8. When is a special set of evaluation marks done for an individual? **Non Judicial Punishment**
9. The likelihood of an event happening is worded how according to ORM? **Probability**
10. After NJP how long must someone wait before getting back on the A school list? **One Year**
11. The life saving service gave rise to the birth of the USCG in what year? **1915**
12. What is the largest brand allowed on the body? **4 X 4**
13. CG Auxiliarists cannot do which of the following?
  - A. Boat Crew
  - B. Boat Engineer
  - C. Anchor Watch
  - D. Coxswain**
14. How many points for the ASVAB is the CO of a unit authorized to waive in order for a member to attend “A” school? **Five**
15. Who do you need on board before you can get underway?
  - A. Coxswain \*also can't participate in LE operations\***
  - B. Officer
  - C. Chief
  - D. Petty Officer
16. What A school does not require normal color vision?  
**Damage Control**
17. Who was the first Master Chief in the Coast Guard?  
**YNCM Curwin**
18. Who was the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard?  
**BMCM Calhoun**



*“While it cannot be guaranteed that any one member will be advanced, the servicewide examination (SWE) process ensures a fair and impartial opportunity for advancement and a guarantee that all enlisted members of a particular rating will have an equal advancement opportunity.”*

*-COMDTINST 1000.2*

Enjoy and best of luck to all!

# Welcome Aboard

## Q & A with our new shipmates:

- Rate / Name
- Previous Unit
- Pizza for Breakfast or Breakfast for Dinner?
- Favorite Ice Cream Flavor?
- Favorite Vacation Spot?



### BM3 Daniel Hampton

- USCGC VALIANT
- Breakfast for Dinner
- Pecan Praline
- Oakracoke Island, NC



### DC3 Kerry Duncan

- Surf Station Noyo River
- Pizza for Breakfast
- Cookie Dough
- Home! Los Angeles, CA



### SA TJ Mines

- CG TRACEN Cape May, NJ
- Breakfast for Dinner
- Chocolate Moose Tracks
- Baha, Mexico



### SA Braden Wheeler

- CG TRACEN Cape May, NJ
- Breakfast for Dinner
- Cookies and Cream
- South Padre Island, TX



### SA Jessica Guldán

- CG TRACEN Cape May, NJ
- Breakfast for Dinner
- Cookie Dough
- Woods in Tennessee



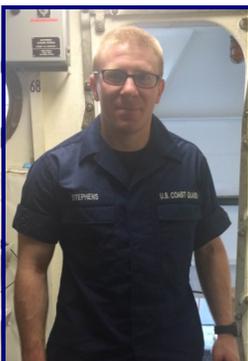
### ENS Tevin White

- Officer Candidate School
- Pizza for Breakfast
- Strawberry Cheesecake
- Hawaii



### SA Andrew Stillman

- CG TRACEN Cape May, NJ
- Breakfast for Dinner
- Vanilla
- Tahoe, CA



### SA Garrett Stephens

- CG TRACEN Cape May, NJ
- Breakfast for Dinner
- Peanut Butter Cup
- Sand Point, Idaho



### SA Devin Bradlaw

- CG TRACEN Cape May, NJ
- Breakfast for Dinner
- Chocolate
- New Orleans, LA

*Congratulations to ET1  
Picou on Sailor of the  
Quarter*



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**XO & BOSN as safety  
observers during boat ops.**

*Fair Winds and Fol-  
lowing Seas!*

LTJG Grim  
BMC Laatz  
SN Harper  
SN Kershaw  
FN De La Cruz



***Life as a newly reported Seaman***

- SN TJ Mines

Growing up, I couldn't figure out what I wanted to do after high school, but I knew I wanted to do something that involved being on the water. I thought about many different career choices and finally set my sights on the Coast Guard. I reported to boot camp in September 2015 and had no idea what I got myself into. I had no idea what was going on and pretty upset with myself. I quickly acclimated to the demands TRACEN Cape May demanded of me. Week six of boot camp meant billet week. When I was told I would be reporting to the CGC CYPRESS out of Pensacola, FL I was in shock. Being from California, that was a long way from home!

Upon finishing my eight weeks in Cape May and graduating from boot camp, I was ready to begin my new Coast Guard Career. After going back to California for two days to pack my belongings, I reported to my new unit on November 12th. BM2 Whitehead picked me up from the airport and brought me to the cutter where I met fellow SN Towe. He greeted me with a smile and said "Welcome to Cutter CYPRESS! Everyday is a great day on here. You're going to love it!" At the time, I had no idea who SN Towe was and thought he was out of his mind with all of his energy. I proceeded to finish my check-in process, but had no idea who to talk to or where to go. After getting lost a few times, I finally found my way to the bridge and met my department heads who made it very clear that I was going to be working hard. My first couple of weeks consisted of painting and sandblasting. Then came the time for my first

patrol and luckily it was to the bright and sunny Caribbean. Five months onboard CYPRESS and I'm proud to say I've learned a lot and have definitely had my fair share of hard work, but I've loved every minute of it. The environment and crew are great! I'm looking forward to the rest of my time on CYPRESS before I head to BM A-School.

**Post Dry Dock Underway Drills**

