

- [. Home](#)
- [. Careers](#)
- [. Units](#)
- [. Missions](#)
- [. Doing Business](#)
- [. About Us](#)

- [. Leaders](#)
- [. Commandant's Corner](#)
- [. All Hands Messages](#)
- [. Biography](#)
- [. Official Photo](#)
- [. iCommandant](#)
- [. Podcasts](#)

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Web Journal of Admiral Thad Allen

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

2/C Cadet Melissa McCafferty Awarded Truman Scholarship

Guest post from RADM J. Scott Burhoe, Superintendent, U.S. Coast Guard Academy:

I am proud to announce that Second-Class Cadet Melissa McCafferty (pictured with former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor), a Government major from Newberry, MI, was just awarded a Truman Scholarship as part of the 2010 selection process. She is the third Coast Guard Academy recipient in the past three years (with LTJG DeCarol Davis receiving the honor in 2008, and then Cadet Alex LeKander in 2009). This is truly an amazing accomplishment reflecting the talent in our Corps of Cadets and the rigor of our academic and cadet programs.

Truman Scholarships are awarded based on the student's commitment to public service, record of leadership, and likelihood of success in the graduate school program proposed by the student. This year the Truman Scholarship Foundation received 576 applications from 245 colleges and universities. About 1 in 10 applicants receive a scholarship.

It is also worth mentioning that last month Cadet McCafferty took home the Regional (Top) Attorney Award at the American Mock Trial Association's All-East Regional Tournament. Each year this event, held at the University of Maryland's School of Law in Baltimore, fields teams from the likes of Georgetown, George Washington, American, Johns Hopkins and William and Mary.

Melissa was also a key player on the Bears Women's Rugby Team, which had an overall season record of 6-0 last year losing only to their arch-rival MIT in the last game of the season.

Congratulations Melissa. Go Bears!

Posted at [3/31/2010 10:20:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Tuesday, March 30, 2010

Modernization Series: C4IT Strategic Plan

Guest Post by CAPT Marshall Lytle, Acting Assistant Commandant for C4IT (CG-6):

For the Coast Guard to execute its mission successfully, modernization calls for the unification of multiple mission support functions (human resources, acquisitions, engineering and logistics, and C4IT) under a single mission support umbrella. While full integration is still a work in progress, we are already finding opportunities to work together to solve problems and enhance the delivery of our services.



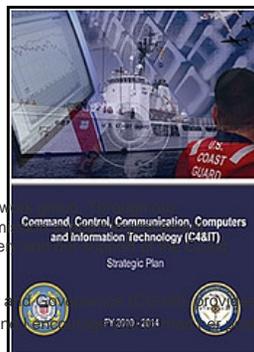
[2/C Cadet Melissa McCafferty and Justice O'Connor](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

In the [C4IT Strategic Plan for FY10-FY14](#), we identify a variety of collaborative initiatives that we are working on with our mission support partners to improve service delivery. One example is the financial systems modernization initiative, where CG-6 is supporting DCMS-8 in its migration to the DHS Transformation and Systems Consolidation (TASC) baseline. Another example is the logistics systems modernization initiative, where CG-6 is working with CG-4 in its migration to a consolidated logistics system. Some other examples of mission support collaboration include initiatives for military human resources, payroll modernization, segment architecture, and governance process integration.

In addition, CG-6 is an active participant in the Mission Support strategic planning. Involvement in this effort we are learning more about synergistic opportunities for mission support. Moving forward, we hope to leverage these opportunities to enhance service delivery for Coast Guard missions.

On the [DCMS Log](#), Ms. Jeanine Shipley, from the Office of Enterprise Architecture provides some more background on how the C4IT Strategic Plan supports modernization, and how to learn more.



[C4IT Strategic Plan](#)
Originally uploaded by [icommandant](#)

Posted at [3/30/2010 05:42:00 PM](#) [1](#) comment [▶](#)



Coast Guard Visit to New Jersey City University Job Fair

Guest Post by RADM Cynthia Coogan, Assistant Commandant for Intelligence and Criminal Investigations (CG-2):

As part of CG-2's ongoing diversity initiative, I sent a recruitment team composed of personnel from both CG-12 and CG-2 to visit [New Jersey City University \(NJCU\)](#) for a Job Fair on March 18, 2010.

CG-2 partnered with NJCU, a [Minority Serving Institution \(MSI\)](#), in October 2009 in the hopes of attracting more diverse students to the Coast Guard. NJCU is jointly designated by the National Security Agency and U.S. Department of Homeland Security as a [Center of Academic Excellence](#) for its cyber security and information assurance program of study. We are excited about partnering with a school whose academic program of study reflects and addresses the security challenges we face as a Service and Nation. We are actively recruiting for the next generation of civilian Guardians using the authorities provided under the [Federal Career Intern Program \(FCIP\)](#). FCIP is designed to recruit and attract exceptional individuals into a variety of occupations and is intended for positions at grade levels GS-5, 7, and 9.



[CG-2's Mr. Joe Sargent](#)
Originally uploaded by [icommandant](#)

By the end of the job fair, the Coast Guard recruiting team met and spoke with approximately 100 students, including undergraduate, graduate, and NJCU alumni. The team collected nearly 40 resumes from students interested in the newly designated CG-2 FCIP positions. Additional resumes from NJCU students are expected before the application deadline in April 2010.

The attraction and interest of students to the Coast Guard table prompted the NJCU Student Services to inquire about Coast Guard willingness to return to NJCU during April 2010 to conduct or participate in a workshop to assist students in the development of federal resumes and to "demystify" the federal job process. Additionally, the NJCU Student Services requested that the Coast Guard participate in the school's online service to post available Coast Guard positions.

The success at the NJCU Job Fair can be directly attributed to the Coast Guard principle of unity of effort between the staffs of CG-12 and CG-2.

Posted at [3/30/2010 10:21:00 AM](#) [0](#) comments [▶](#)



Monday, March 29, 2010

Guardian UAS Performs First Test Flight

Guest Post by CAPT Jim Sommer, Deputy Director of the CBP/USCG UAS JPO:

Last week marked an important milestone in our Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Joint Program Office (JPO) with Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The [remotely piloted UAS, named the Guardian](#), commenced its first Operational Test and Evaluation

(OT&E) flights from CBP's UAS Operations Center at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station FL. Demonstrating its persistence, the 19 March flight, lasted over 16.5 hours.

Guardian, a maritime version of the Air Force's MQ-9/Predator-B UAS, will initially patrol off of Florida, with future deployments to the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific off of Central America.



[Guardian UAS Performs First Test Flight](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

OT&E will focus on the Guardian's suitability and sensor performance in conducting maritime patrols and wide area surveillance. Radar and optical sensors will be evaluated against various scenarios including counter drug operations, and human smuggling, counter terrorism, and search and rescue based scenarios. During these scenarios, Guardian will be used to detect and track targets, including cutters and small boats on scene, as well as command centers.

Coast Guard pilots and evaluators, experts from our Research and Development Center, and Coast Guard members from the Navy's Operational Test and Evaluation Force (OPTEVFOR) will take part in the OT&E to assess the Guardian's performance. Sector Jacksonville will provide waterside support for radar targets and scenarios.

We have qualified three Coast Guard UAS pilots and plans are underway to expand our cadre of UAS pilots as well as optical and radar sensor operators. The UAS crew of five operates Guardian from a Ground Control Station via satellite link to provide up to 16 hours of endurance over a wide area.

The CBP/Coast Guard UAS JPO is a OneDHS initiative which provides the Coast Guard with valuable experience in UAS operations with CBP, which has pioneered UAS for land border enforcement. This experience and knowledge is essential for us to make informed UAS acquisition decisions. The Jointly operated Guardian will protect the homeland by detecting suspect vessels and activities along America's maritime borders and the illegal drug transit zones, and will be a model for DHS integrated results-based operations.

Posted at [3/29/2010 09:49:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)



Friday, March 26, 2010

Coast Guard Culinary Team Captures 3rd Place

Guest post from FSCS Luis Bello-Leon, Special Command Aide Program Manager (CG-00):

Earlier this month, a Coast Guard team made history at the U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, VA. Meeting for the first time on the day of the competition, these Coast Guard Chefs from all over the country came together and pulled out third place. For the first time in the history of this event, a non-Army team stood proudly on stage holding a trophy they had pursued for 5 long years!



[Coast Guard Culinary Team](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Our team was comprised of:

- FSC Erik Claire (Team Manager): FS "A" School, TRACEN Petaluma
- FS1 Jason Stagnitto: D7, Special Command Aide
- FS1 Stephen Bishop: LANTAREA, Special Command Aide
- FS2 Eddie Fuchs (Team Captain): DHS
- FS2 Kathleen Heitman: USCGC HAMILTON
- FS3 Lauren Foley: USCGC ALDER
- FS3 Jason Rohrs: USCGC EAGLE
- FS3 Clark Lauer: USCGC CONFIDENCE

The annual, high-paced event is considered the Super Bowl for military chefs. It is the largest culinary competition in the U.S. and brought together more than 200 competitors from 26 military installations. Sanctioned by the American Culinary Federation (ACF), the competition is judged by ACF judges and instructors from England, Sweden, and other countries.

Congratulations to Team Coast Guard!

Posted at [3/26/2010 12:35:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)



Revisions to Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy

Guardians,
Yesterday, the Secretary of Defense announced interim policy changes to the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. MCPO-CG Bowen and I signed a [letter](#) which summarizes these revisions and here is the ALCOAST ([ALCOAST.pdf](#)) on the subject.

You can also read the [Secretary of Defense's policy statement](#).

As an Armed Force, the Coast Guard will comply with the law and follow Department of Defense policy changes on this issue.

Since this is a sensitive topic, I ask that everyone respect each other's opinions as we discuss these interim changes and the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy.

Posted at [3/26/2010 07:58:00 AM](#) @[comments](#) 



Thursday, March 25, 2010

Connecticut Maritime Association

Guardians,

Earlier this week I spent some time at the Connecticut Maritime Association (CMA) shipping conference, "Shipping 2010."

From their web site, "The Connecticut Maritime Association is a non-profit organization built by its members for its members. ... As stated in an article published by Fairplay Magazine, it is an Association made of individuals representing every aspect of shipping and international trade. This vibrant volunteer based organization has filled a real need for a forum for serious debate within the U.S. on the problems confronting the international shipping industry. Almost without exception, the (conference) met or exceeded past high standards - these were practical, hard-nosed assessments from top people in the industry - a gathering which can attract the top (leaders) and keep them in their seats has found the right "

I first attended a CMA conference in 1993 when I was Captain of the Port for Long Island Sound and I agree it is an excellent forum to discuss very difficult issues.

At CMA this year I first met with the North American Maritime Ministry Association (NAMMA), a group of volunteer Port Chaplains who provide support to seafarers. At a breakfast roundtable we discussed seafarer issues including access to shore leave which has been a significant issue following increased security measures after 9/11. Our Captains of the Port work continually with industry to insure that those needing legitimate access to cross regulated facilities are able to do so. Another current issue is seafarers who are abandoned without means to subsist or return to their native country. We continue to work closely together.

Later I participated in a panel discussion entitled "Environmental Pressures that WILL Change our Business." The panel was moderated by Yudhishtir Khatau, President Designate, BIMCO. Other presenters included Peter Swift - Managing Director of INTERTANKO, CAPT Phil Davies - Director of the Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), John Mimikakis - Environmental Defense Fund, and Philippe Boisson - Bureau Veritas.

This panel was fascinating and focused on the way ahead in dealing with environmental issues in the maritime transportation industry. At the same time the Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was meeting in London. Key issues discussed at both fora included green house gas emissions from ships, ballast water management, and recycling of ships.

The current challenge before the maritime industry is how best to proceed regarding an international system of protocols and agreements to reduce pollution from ships. The recent global conference on climate change in Copenhagen failed to produce a clear agenda in this area. It was the consensus of our panel that industry and individual nations must work quickly through IMO to create a framework to reduce pollution from ships to avoid a disparate collection of unilateral actions taken by individual states or regional governing bodies. Initiatives being considered include an Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) for new ships, development of Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plans, and the voluntary use of a Ship Efficiency Operational Indicator.

Of note, the United States and Canada have jointly proposed at MEPC "amendments to the international convention for the prevention of pollution from ships (MARPOL) which will formally establish a North American Emission Control Area (ECA) in which emissions of sulphur oxides (SOx), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and particulate matter (PM) from ships will be subject to more stringent controls that the limits that apply globally."

We also continue to work on the development of ballast water management regulations consistent with the IMO convention of 2004.

A lot of hard but meaningful work to be done here ... thanks to CMA for creating an opportunity to have the discussion.

ADM A

Posted at [3/25/2010 03:33:00 PM](#) @[comments](#) 



Address to the Newport, Rhode Island Council of the US Navy League

Guardians,

Early this week I visited Newport Rhode Island and addressed the Naval War College as previously posted. I also

address the Newport Council of the Navy League regarding The Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower and our relationship with the U.S. Navy. The Newport Council provides terrific support to over 15,000 sea service members in the area including our local Coast Guard units: Station Castle Hill, USCGC IDA LEWIS, USCGC JUNIPER, USCGC WILLOW, and USCGC TIGER SHARK. All of those units were represented at the dinner. CAPT Ray Perry of Sector Southern England attended as well.

In my remarks I emphasized the key role of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard agencies around the world in broadening the notion of seapower to include maritime security, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response. I noted our operations with combatant commanders to build emerging Coast Guards in countries like Sierra Leone, Senegal, Liberia, Yemen, and Iraq. I also discussed the USCGC DALLAS relief mission to Georgia following the conflict with Russia. I highlighted our recent joint efforts with the Navy in the Pacific to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and our work with the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum.

A very valuable evening and our thanks to outgoing Council President Mike Slein and incoming President Anne Huot. I was pleased to take part in recognizing the life time achievements of former Naval War College President, RADM Joe Strasser, and CAPT Shirley Hill, Nurse Corps, US Navy.

The Navy League is a strong supporter of the sea services and we appreciate their local programs in Newport that recognize our enlisted persons of the year.

ADM A

Posted at [3/25/2010 05:07:00 AM](#) [@comments](#) 



Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Visit with New York City Mayor Bloomberg

Guardians,

I visited with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg today with Prospective Sector New York Commander, CAPT Linda Fagan, my Executive Assistant.

We visited in the Mayor's "Bull Pen" where he works with his staff collaboratively in an open office environment without walls. We discussed maritime security issues impacting New York, the future of an integrated operations center for Sector New York, the various uses contemplated for Governors Island, and potential improvements to our building between Battery Park and the State Island Ferry Terminal. Sitting in on the discussion was Deputy Mayor for Operations, Edward Skyler.



[Visit with Mayor Bloomberg](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Hats off to CAPT Bob O'Brien and his staff at Sector New York for their terrific working relationship with the Mayor and his staff. We salute our friends Police Commissioner Ray Kelly and Deputy Commissioner for Counter Terrorism, Rich Falkenrath, former Deputy Homeland Security Advisor under Fran Townsend.

ADM A

Posted at [3/24/2010 03:15:00 PM](#) [@comments](#) 



Modernization and the Surface Community

Guardians,

During a recent visit to St. Petersburg, I had the opportunity to talk about modernization and how it impacts the surface community with LT Benjamin Goff who is the Commanding Officer of the CGC NANTUCKET. He wrote a very insightful paper ([/Modernization.pdf](#)) on his perception of the culture in the surface community and how it may need to change to fully embrace our modernized mission support structure.

Some of you may agree with his points while others will not. I encourage you to discuss this at your unit, respecting each other's opinions, and examine how our "cultural norms" impact our ability to accept change in our workplace.

As we continue to move forward with modernization, we are seeing success stories throughout the surface community but we are also uncovering problematic procedures or management practices that require a second look. That is what a "change-centric" culture is all about. Together, we can improve how we do business because at the end of the day, the goal is to be more operationally effective.

Posted at [3/24/2010 09:46:00 AM](#) [@comments](#) 



American Association of Port Authorities

Guardians,

On Tuesday morning I had the opportunity to address the American Association of Port Authorities. This important industry group is concerned with port operations, security, infrastructure, labor relations, and safety. I discussed the maturation of Coast Guard programs and competencies related to port resiliency and our experiences starting with the Maritime Transportation Recovery Unit that was stood up in St. Louis following Katrina to more recent successes following Hurricanes Ike and Gustav and several major oil spills. Most recently our team that was sent to Port Au Prince played a key role in reopening that port for commerce.

I was also honored to receive the AAPA Port Person of the Year Award from my good friend Mike Leone from MASSPORT in Boston. Also in attendance representing New York and New Jersey was RADM Rick Larrabee (USCG Ret).

ADM A



[Speaking at the American Association of Port Authorities](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Posted at [3/24/2010 06:06:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)



Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Annual Address at the Naval War College

Guardians,

This afternoon I spent some time at the Naval War College in Newport, RI. I first spoke to the combined student body regarding Coast Guard operations and relationship with the US Navy. Topics included piracy, theater security cooperation, Operation Iraqi Freedom, multilateral operations with foreign Coast Guards, the Arctic, and Coast Guard Modernization. Later I held an all hands session with our students (pictured here). This is an annual event I look forward to. I have seen over the past four years a greater appreciation of what we do and how we work with the Navy and Marine Corps to implement our Maritime Strategy for the 21st Century. Our thanks to the Naval War College and President RADM Jim Wisecup.

ADM A



[U.S. Coast Guard students at the U.S. Naval War College](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Posted at [3/23/2010 05:34:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)



Guardians: On and Off Duty

Guardians,

When I [visited Haiti](#) earlier this month, I met BMC Paul Cormier who was working with PSU 307. Chief Cormier is a Reservist who happened to be in Haiti working for a non-profit charity when the earthquake struck on 12 January. After hearing his story, I asked him to write a guest blog about his amazing experiences. Chief Cormier's efforts highlight that we are Guardians whether we are on or off duty. Thank you Chief.



[PSU 307](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

From BMC Paul Cormier (the person wearing the Booney hat in the photo):

Greetings fellow Guardians,

I was my honor to serve in Haiti during this massive post earthquake rebuilding effort. During 1994, my port security unit, PSU 309, was deployed to Haiti for Operation Uphold Democracy. Following that deployment, I started a non-profit charity, the Soleil Foundation, which provides education to Haitian orphans. Our foundation is located in near the town of Leogane in the village of Brossier.

I was working at our foundation headquarters when the earthquake occurred (on 12 January). This was my first experience with an earthquake. Fortunately, God decided to spare me. Immediately following the quake, after we accounted for and cared for our personnel, I mustered up my first-aid trained personnel and medical supplies and proceeded on foot to the nearby villages to triage and administer first aid. We were overwhelmed and worked throughout the night. After triaging and assisting over 300 people, we returned to our village and bedded down for the night in a cow pasture.

The aftershocks seemed to come about every 45 minutes. It was a sleepless night. The following day we were able to better perform a damage assessment. Most of the structures in our area were collapsed or seriously damaged. We had no electricity and no cell phone coverage. But, we had each other. We were very happy that we were able to help the injured. We walked to town (Leogane) that afternoon and witnessed the widespread devastation and death. It was so sad to see everything gone and so many lives lost.

The story goes on and on, but I'll save that for another time.

My point here is that, as a member of the Coast Guard, our work doesn't end when we end our duty day. Our training and experience allows us to continue to perform our duties both at home and abroad, wherever we may be when our services are needed.

I am proud to say The Coast Guard was there, assisting the people of Haiti, within minutes of one the most devastating earthquakes of our time.

When finally meeting up with CDR Deptula from MSST Boston, I asked for and was allowed to stay in Haiti to assist with the recovery and rebuilding effort. It was a true honor.

Posted at [3/23/2010 03:32:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)



Monday, March 22, 2010

Long Range Identification System: Canadian Coast Guard Commissioner's Commendation

Guardians,
On March 19th I had the pleasure of recognizing CDR Kevin Keast, LCDR Chris Shivery and though not in attendance Mr. George Weller for their outstanding contribution to the development of the international Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) system. The Canadian Coast Guard Commissioner's Commendation was awarded during the brief ceremony.



[Canadian Coast Guard Commissioner's Commendation](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Their leadership, teamwork and expertise was invaluable to the Canadian Coast Guard during discussions at International Maritime Organization (IMO) meetings and through the development of the technical specifications for the International Long Range and Identification system. The United States LRIT team's efforts were instrumental to the success of the project which allowed Canada to fulfill its commitments to the international community while providing increased Maritime Domain Awareness worldwide. "With LRIT, the United States Coast Guard now tracks all SOLAS class U.S. flagged vessels anywhere in the world all the time," said CDR Kevin Keast. "Over 600 U.S. flagged ships are currently being tracked with another 2400 foreign vessels that are transiting within 1000 miles of our coast or enroute to a United States port. We expect to track even more ships as more National Data Centers come online - This new capability adds tremendous value to our joint missions like search and rescue, security, safety and environmental protection around the globe."

CDR Kevin Keast is the Division Chief, Communications & Sensors Office of C4 & Sensor Capabilities USCG Headquarters, COMDT (CG-7611)

Posted at [3/22/2010 02:16:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)



Modernization Series: A Station OIC's Perspective

Guest post by Captain Rick Gromlich, Director of the Mission Support Integration Office (DCMS-5):

In late January, Command Master Chief Isherwood visited Base Support Unit (BSU) San Pedro and asked Station Los Angeles-Long Beach about their experiences with Logistics Transformation. On the DCMS Log, [BMCS Cheyney, Officer in Charge, Station LA/LB](#), details his positive experiences using the new Mission Support Business Model and the Asset Logistics Management Information System (ALMIS).

He also provides an opportunity for us to address some of the supply chain issues being experienced at transformed

units. CDR Koermer, Logistics Transformation Division Chief, CG-445, explains what we are doing to tackle these issues and what those of you in the field can do to alleviate some of your pain points.

As always, we appreciate your feedback and support. Please continue to share your experiences and challenges at AskMissionSupport@uscg.mil.

Posted at 3/22/2010 09:56:00 AM @comments



Mr. Kennedy Awarded Meritorious Public Service Award for CG36500 Restoration

The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard with great pleasure presented the Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Award to Mr. Peter Kennedy on March 19, 2010 for his significant contributions to the preservation and celebration of Coast Guard history. Recognizing the remarkable design and truly historic performance of legendary Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat CG36500, famous for its heroic 1952 rescue by Mr. Bernie Webber and crew of 32 mariners from the grounded SS Pendleton amidst a ferocious Nor'easter, Mr. Kennedy endeavored to completely restore the rescue craft. He led a team of talented and dedicated Orleans Historical Society volunteers on a tireless mission to convert the weather-exposed, dilapidated hull of the decommissioned CG36500 back to full operational capability. Through countless hours of detailed workmanship, dedicated research to replicate the craft's original configuration and thousands of dollars of donated funds, CG36500 emerged from a series of overhauls to become a floating museum and the only fully-restored and operational 36-footer from its class of 132 boats built at the Curtis Bay Yard. Demonstrating exceptional enthusiasm, Mr. Kennedy and other volunteers have continued to maintain CG36500 as an educational and inspirational exhibit for the entire Coast Guard and our Nation.



Mr. Kennedy Awarded Meritorious Public Service Award Originally uploaded by uscgpress

Posted at 3/22/2010 09:02:00 AM @comments



Spill of National Significance SONS 2010 Exercise Begins Today

Guest blog from Captain Anthony Lloyd, Chief, Office of Incident Management and Preparedness

Today, the Coast Guard-sponsored DHS Tier II Spill of National Significance (SONS) 2010 exercise begins. The exercise is based upon a scenario in New England involving a collision between an oil tanker and a car carrier causing a catastrophic oil spill. It is an operations-based, full-scale exercise intended to stress all levels of the response organization.



Spill of National Significance SONS 2010 Exercise Begins Today Originally uploaded by uscgpress

The Coast Guard National Command Center is leading the way by sending exercise information via electronic alerts to simulate critical communications much like what was implemented during Haitian response operations.

Exercise partners include: Transport Canada, Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Interior, Department of Transportation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Navy Supervisor of Salvage, National Response Team, Shell Oil Products US, as well as the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Exercise design and execution are major efforts that require the full participation of all partners.

The SONS 2010 Exercise Design Team developed the scenario and scripted actions for the first 48 hours to facilitate a "warm start." This approach allows full-scale activities on Day 3 to focus on immediate interaction between the National Incident Commander (NIC), played by RADM Jim Watson, and senior leaders throughout DHS and the NRT departments and agencies, as well as field response in New England.

Scripted products include draft Incident Action Plans and an Area Command Operations Guide representative of the first two response days. The development of these documents generated valuable discussions about Federal On Scene Coordinator authority, organizational elements, the role of the NIC, and response issues such as places of refuge. Lessons learned from these discussions will be included in the exercise After Action Report (AAR) further increasing preparedness throughout the National Response System. Exercise play begins on March 24th.

Posted at 3/22/2010 05:09:00 AM @comments

Labels: Incident Management and Preparedness, National Command Center, SONS, Spill of National Significance, U.S. Coast Guard





Friday, March 19, 2010

1st Fast Response Cutter Named for USCG Enlisted Hero BERNARD C. WEBBER

Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I announced today the name of the first Fast Response Cutter in the Sentinel Class will be the BERNARD C. WEBBER. Named for Petty Officer First Class Bernie Webber who executed one of the most famous rescues in U.S. Coast Guard history. He piloted Motor Lifeboat CG-36500 from Station Chatham, MA to the freighter Pendleton which had split in half during a massive storm in 1952. Webber and his three crewmembers rescued 32 sailors from certain death. Later the Coast Guard crewmen were awarded the Gold Life Saving Medal for their courage and heroism. CWO BOSN (retired) Bernie Webber passed away last year and was interred at Wellfleet, MA on Cape Cod in May.



[SENTINAL Cutter](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

With great pride I also announce that all of the 58 Sentinel Class cutters will be named after enlisted heroes. In the words of Alexander Hamilton, "a few armed vessels judiciously stationed at the entrance to our ports, might be useful sentinels of the law." Our cutters will be named after our enlisted "sentinels" ... not only of the law, but safety of life at sea as well. A formal keel laying ceremony will take place for the first FRC on April 9th in Lockport, LA at the Bollinger Shipyard. Here's the link to the [ALCOAST.pdf](#) I shared with the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard.

ADM A

Posted at [3/19/2010 02:46:00 PM](#) [4 comments](#)

Labels: [Alexander Hamilton](#) [Bollinger Shipyard](#) [CG 36500](#) [Enlisted Heroes](#) [Fast Response Cutter](#) [Petty Officer Bernie Webber](#) [Sentinel](#) [SS](#)

[Pendleton](#) [U.S. Coast Guard](#)



Wednesday, March 17, 2010

FY11 Budget Hearing Testimony

Guardians,

Earlier today, I testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security regarding the Coast Guard's FY11 budget request.

Here are my written ([./WrittenStatement.pdf](#)) and oral ([/OralStatement.pdf](#)) statements from the hearing.

Posted at [3/17/2010 06:22:00 PM](#) [1 comments](#)



Modernization Series: Core Technologies

Guest Post by CAPT Marshall Lytle, Acting Assistant Commandant for C4IT (CG-6):

Transforming the Coast Guard's Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Technology (C4IT) assets into the Mission Support Business Model's four cornerstones – configuration management, bi-level maintenance, total asset visibility, and product line management – is a top priority for the Coast Guard.

As we moved to describe C4IT assets as product lines, the nature of the C4IT's breadth and depth across our organization became readily apparent. The Mission Support model had to be flexed a bit to fully reflect the complex and widespread nature of Coast Guard's C4IT enterprise.

Many Coast Guard C4IT assets fit the business model definition of a product line, a group of closely related products with similar attributes. However, a number of C4IT assets were foundational to other product lines. So, we began to group together those technologies into what we now call "Core Technologies". The result is a set of Core Technologies and Product Lines that the [C4IT Service Center](#) is creating.

Mr. Mark Powell, the Director of the C4IT Service Center offers an [excellent explanation of the C4IT Service Center's Core Technologies](#) on the DCMS Log. I believe that "Core-Technology Management" should be the fifth cornerstone of the business model that ensures the viability of readiness supporting mission operations. I hope you'll read it to learn more.

Posted at 3/17/2010 09:31:00 AM @comments 



Tuesday, March 16, 2010

CGC Kiska Visit - Field Perspective on Speed Mentoring

Guardians,

I had the opportunity to do an All Hands session with the crew of CGC KISKA in Hilo, Hawaii. I met with the Commanding Officer, LT Charlotte Mundy, and we talked about her [blogging](#) experiences. I also had the chance to do a "speed mentoring" session with the KISKA crew that we all found beneficial.

Here is LT Mundy's guest blog on her perspective of the day's events:

When the Coast Guard Commandant, ADM Thad Allen, asked if we wanted to participate in a little experiment, the crew of CGC KISKA quickly responded with a resounding "Yes!" Then ADM Allen asked if anyone had heard of Speed Mentoring. There were a few blank looks and head shakes, so he took a few moments to explain the concept.



[CGC Kiska Visit](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

From the Coast Guard's Leadership Office: "Modeled after speed dating, speed mentoring is a relatively new concept that focuses on quick-hit information, time-efficient networking and the methodical pursuit of a mentor...By simply providing a venue and structured method for participants to seek out their own mentoring relationships during a fast-paced event, speed mentoring addresses [or solves] many disadvantages of formal mentoring programs."

That sounds very structured to me compared to the trial run we experienced on KISKA's messdeck. ADM Allen took eight volunteers from the crew and we split up into two groups, one mentored by him and the other mentored by his Aide, LCDR Jo Cousins. We split the deck of Novations Mentoring Connection Cards between the two groups and got started.

The Connection Cards are similar to a regular deck of playing cards. There are 52 cards in four suits: Challenge, Opportunity, Journey and Messages. Each card poses a question, and the course of play we used was for a member to draw a card, and then each person in the group shared his or her answer. There was some discussion if someone had a particularly salient point to talk about. Once everyone had answered the question on the card, the next person pulled the next card.

My table, led by LCDR Cousins, had mostly Journey and Challenge cards, and the questions generated good discussions. SN Ryan Andres said, "I believe the "speed-mentoring" session acted just as much or more as a "speed-get-to-know-your-crew" session. Being on this boat for the better part of a year I felt I had a good idea of who the people in the crew were and where they came from. This exercise quickly proved me wrong with every question that was answered. I learned more about the couple of participating crewmembers in the group in 15 minutes than I did in 10 months of being on this boat, even though I hold close friendships with them outside of work...From a "mentoring" aspect it forced you to open up in a situation that wasn't nearly as intimidating or awkward as I would normally expect when it comes to "mentoring".

I completely agree with SN Andres; I learned things about my crew that likely wouldn't have come up in typical shipboard banter. And, as a leader, I gained valuable insights into what motivates individuals onboard. One shipmate's response to a question about how we each define success underscored the importance of his family to him. And another's reliance on a positive outlook to see him through challenges was a good reminder to me that even the CO has something to learn from everyone in the crew.

At the other table, LTJG Frank Reed, KISKA's Executive Officer reflected on his experience during the session: "There were numerous examples that were provided that ADM Allen easily related to, either from his perspective as the son of an enlisted man; as a junior officer; as a commanding officer; or as a flag officer. He was in tune with BM3 Goracke's observation that public recognition is not always evenly shared amongst CG communities; he was able to share examples from his career where people "got credit beyond what they deserved or didn't get credit where it was due" (his example was a PA involved in a high profile on-land rescue conducted mostly by Air Sta personnel who were recognized, including the PA, when numerous cuttermen stationed nearby assisted but weren't recognized).

He was also able to relate that each lesson we learn is a building block for the future...and that by sharpening our skills on a lower level we can then be able to handle larger situations (in his case, dealing with heads of federal agencies or corporate media).

I thought it was an excellent exercise that certainly carried a lot of impact due to ADM Allen's involvement, but can be useful at a lower level. Being able to experience ADM Allen's ability to truly engage the "deck plates" certainly lend immeasurable validity to the tough, impact-full decisions like modernization and budget management, etc.

BM3 Brian Goracke summed the session up well, "The discussion helped to ensure that all personnel no matter what their pay grade had an equal opportunity to share life events that contributed to the overall development of each person."

And FN Nolan Rager, TAD from CGC STEADFAST, gave it "two thumbs up."

Speed mentoring has something to offer both mentors and mentees. For mentors, the session was a good opportunity

to share some lessons learned as well as continue to learn from other people with different perspectives. For mentees, the session provided a low-stress environment to reflect on leadership development and gain valuable insights from people who had already faced challenges and celebrated successes. It's informal and easy to tailor to different scenarios, including group size, locations, time available and participants' level of experience. Oh yeah, and it's pretty fun, too.

LT Charlotte Mundy

Posted at 3/16/2010 05:32:00 PM 1 comment



Monday, March 15, 2010

Legendary Coast Guardsman Lieutenant Herbert M. Collins Crosses the Bar

Guardians,
Today I announced with regret the passing of one of our Coast Guard legends, Lieutenant Herbert M. Collins, USCG (RET). Here is the message shared with the field:

COMDTNOTE 5360

SUBJ: DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED CG VETERAN

1. IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT I ANNOUNCE THE PASSING OF LIEUTENANT HERBERT M. COLLINS, USCG (RET.), A LEGENDARY COAST GUARDSMAN AND THE LAST SURVIVING CREWMEMBER OF THE ALL-AFRICAN AMERICAN PEA ISLAND LIFE SAVING STATION. LIEUTENANT COLLINS SUCCUMBED TO CANCER ON SUNDAY EVENING, MARCH 14TH, SURROUNDED BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



Pea Island Surfman Herbert M. Collins
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

2. LIEUTENANT COLLINS SERVICE TO THE COAST GUARD AND OUR NATION ALONE IS SIGNIFICANT, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE CHALLENGES THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS FACED AS THE SERVICE WAS INTEGRATED. YET HIS LEGACY RUNS EVEN DEEPER IN OUR COLLECTIVE HERITAGE AS HE WAS ALSO THE GRAND NEPHEW OF DORMAN PUGH, ONE OF SEVEN GOLD LIFE SAVING MEDAL RECIPIENTS FROM THE PEA ISLAND RESCUE OF THE CREW OF THE STRICKEN SCHOONER E.S. NEWMAN IN 1896. WHEN LIEUTENANT COLLINS RETIRED IN 1976, HE AND HIS FAMILY SET THE BAR FOR THE LONGEST CONTINUOUS FAMILY SERVICE IN THE COAST GUARD, A RECORD THAT BEGAN WITH HIS GRANDFATHER, JOSEPH H. BERRY, IN 1880.

3. BORN IN 1921 IN MANTEO, NORTH CAROLINA, LIEUTENANT COLLINS ENLISTED IN THE COAST GUARD AND ATTENDED BOOT CAMP IN FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA. FIRST ASSIGNED TO THE CUTTER TALLAPOOSA IN SAVANNAH, COLLINS SERVED AS A MESS ATTENDANT. HE THEN SERVED AT STATIONS FROM FLORIDA TO VIRGINIA, INCLUDING ABOARD CUTTER MENDOTA IN NORFOLK, VA, ALONGSIDE REKNOWNED AUTHOR AND COAST GUARDSMAN, ALEX HALEY. LIEUTENANT COLLINS THEN TRANSFERRED TO THE ALL-AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE SAVING STATION AT PEA ISLAND WHERE HE SERVED AS A SURFMAN FOR THE DURATION OF WORLD WAR II. HE AND HIS FELLOW SURFMEN CARRIED OUT VITAL SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESPONDED TO A DISTRESSED SHIP THAT HAD BEEN HIT BY A TORPEDO BETWEEN THE PEA ISLAND AND CHICAMCOMICO COAST GUARD STATIONS. IN 1947, LIEUTENANT COLLINS ENDED AN HISTORIC ERA IN COAST GUARD HISTORY AS HE HANDED OVER THE KEYS WHEN THE PEA ISLAND STATION WAS DECOMMISSIONED. HE LATER RECEIVED HIS COMMISSION AND WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT BEFORE RETIRING IN 1976.

4. AFTER SERVING IN THE COAST GUARD, LIEUTENANT COLLINS CONTINUED TO BE AN OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE FOR OUR SERVICE. HE SHARED HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND HIGHLIGHTED THE PROUD HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICANS WHO HAVE SERVED. PHOTOS OF LIEUTENANT COLLINS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON COAST GUARD AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY ARE AVAILABLE [HERE](#). THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF THE HEROES OF PEA ISLAND IS THE SUBJECT OF A NEW FILM TILED THE RESCUE MEN, TO WHICH LIEUTENANT COLLINS CONTRIBUTED. MORE DETAIL IS AVAILABLE [HERE](#) or WWW.RESCUEMENFILM.COM.

5. A MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT 1330 ON 26 MARCH 2010 AT THE HINES-RINALDI FUNERAL HOME LOCATED AT 11800 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, SILVER SPRING, MD, 20904. IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, THE COLLINS FAMILY HAS REQUESTED THAT DONATIONS BE MADE TO THE MONTGOMERY HOSPICE INC., 1355 PICCARD DRIVE, SUITE 100, ROCKVILLE MD, 20850. DETAILS OF INTERMENT REMAIN TO BE DETERMINED.

6. ADM T. W. ALLEN, COMMANDANT, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, SENDS.

Posted at 3/15/2010 05:18:00 PM 1 comment

Labels: [African American History](#) [Alex Haley](#) [Legends](#) [LT Herbert Collins](#) [Rescue Men](#) [Surfmén](#) [U.S. Coast Guard](#)



CG Academy Chorale Cadets Tour Italy with Song

Guest Blog from Livorno, Italy by First Class Jason Veara, U.S. Coast Guard Academy

The 22 member Coast Guard Academy Chorale arrived in Venice, Italy March 6th for an eight day international singing tour. Since arriving we have performed at many prestigious venues. Our first concert on Sunday was at the Peggy Guggenheim Museum. Located on Venice's Grand Canal, the museum is dedicated to 20th Century European Art. We were graciously welcomed and exposed to various art forms from around Europe. While in Venice we also had the opportunity to perform at the Scuola Navale Militare, a high school level prep program for the Italian Naval Academy. There, we were treated to a tour of the school and dined with students. Before performing, we gave a brief presentation about the Coast Guard, the Academy, and the opportunities that await us as Coast Guard Officers.



[CG Academy Cadets Sing in Italy](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

From Venice we traveled by train to the Tuscany region of Italy where we are spending the remainder of the week. Yesterday we performed at an event arranged by the US Consulate in Florence in honor of the birthday of Florentine explorer - and the namesake of the "Americas" Amerigo Vespucci. Yesterday's event, which marked the anniversary of Vespucci's birth, precedes several celebrations that are intended to fortify relations between Florence and the Americas. Last night, we performed at the St. James Episcopal Church bringing patriotic melodies and traditional tunes to fellow Americans and English speaking natives living in Florence.

Today, we will travel to the Academia Navale (the Italian Naval Academy) in Livorno, where we will spend the afternoon interacting with Italian Midshipmen in a variety of sports and activities. To end our week long adventure on a high note, we will then perform alongside the Italian Naval Academics band in an evening concert for the Italian Midshipmen and assembled dignitaries from around the region.

The Cadet Chorale is a group of Cadets selected from the Cadet Glee Club. Comprised of all classes, we spent countless hours practicing and preparing to represent the Academy, the Coast Guard, and the United States during our time in Italy. We are looking forward to the rest of our time abroad and to returning home to share our many cultural and professional experiences we have been so fortunate to experience during this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Posted at [3/15/2010 09:56:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)



Saturday, March 13, 2010

Frederick F. Herzberg Awarded Distinguished Public Service Award from Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard

SEATTLE - Adm. Thad Allen, Commandant of the Coast Guard, presents Frederick F. Herzberg a Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award during a visit to the Coast Guard base here, March 11, 2010. Herzberg,



[Frederick F. Herzberg Awarded Distinguished Public Service Award by Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

a retired Coast Guard Captain, became a staunch advocate for the history of the Coast Guard. He led the launch of The Foundation for Coast Guard History, a non-profit organization, over ten years ago. Using his own resources and with the help of others the Foundation captured the personal stories and anecdotes of some of the most seminal events in Coast Guard history. In addition to assisting the services' historian, the Foundation promotes and recognizes the contributions of the U.S. Coast Guard to our country.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd class David R. Marin

Posted at [3/13/2010 09:15:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)



International Women's Day: Tribute to the Resilience of Haitian Women

Guardians,

The U.S. Coast Guard Jazz Combo, "The Capital Cutters", participated in a major Washington Event last night to celebrate "International Women's Day; A Tribute to the Resilience of Haitian Women" which was hosted by the Honorable Raymond A. Joseph, Ambassador of the Republic of Haiti and Mrs. Lola Poisson Joseph, which took place at the Washington Hebrew Congregation Hall.



[The Capital Cutters Jazz Combo](#)
Originally uploaded by [icommandant](#)

Maureen Bunyan, a local ABC-TV News Anchor, was Mistress of Ceremonies which featured special guests and keynote addresses from the Papal Nuncio of Haiti, Archbishop Barney Auza, and a presentation of the Recipient of the Humanitarian Award to actor Sean Penn.

Ambassador Joseph personally thanked the U.S. Coast Guard Band for their outstanding entertainment throughout the evening. Over 550 people attended the event to include Members of Congress, Members of the International Diplomatic Corps and State Department, DOD Officials and notables like the Mayor of Washington, Mrs. Harriet Fulbright, and Lynn Heffron who are participating in the Coast Guard's Diversity Summit in April.

Members of the Coast Guard's Diversity Staff attended the event including CAPT Steve Baynes, the Coast Guard's Advisor to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Portia Davidson, Workforce Policy Advisor.

Posted at [3/13/2010 06:22:00 AM](#) [0](#) comments



Thursday, March 11, 2010

Commandant Announces to the Press the Reactivation of the CGC Polar Star

Guardians,

On Wednesday I was pleased to announce the commencement of repair and renovation work which allow the POLAR STAR to commence operations in 2013. The Congress has appropriated \$62m to fund the reactivation. I spoke with the caretaker crew and thanked them for maintaining the material condition of the ship while funding issues were resolved. They are anxious to begin the work which will be done at Todd Shipyard in Seattle. We also estimate that this work will result in the employment of 250 people.



[Commandant Announces to the Press the Reactivation of the CGC Polar Star](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

This is a significant step in maintaining the readiness of all three of our icebreakers pending further discussion regarding the future of the POLAR SEA and POLAR STAR which are nearing the end of their service lives. Our icebreakers are the only vessels in the US fleet capable of establishing a presence in polar regions. Their endurance, command and control capability, and flight decks allow operations to be conducted in remote locations where there are no forward operating bases and access is difficult.

My thanks to skipper LCDR Jack Jackson and his crew for the visit.

ADM A

Posted at [3/11/2010 09:10:00 PM](#) [0](#) comments



Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Coast Guard Academy Board of Visitors



Guest post by

On Tuesday I joined Coast Guard Academy Superintendent, Rear Admiral Scott Burhoe, at a lunch in the House Rayburn Building for the member of the Coast Guard Academy Board of Visitors. This Congressional mandated body provides "advice and recommendations" to the Commandant on the "operation and matters relating to the Coast Guard Academy."

[WASHINGTON- Rear Adm. Scott Burhoe, Superintendent for the Coast Guard Academy, Chairman James Oberstar of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure \(D-8th/MN\), Naval Air Station, and Admiral Duane Allen, Commandant of the Coast Guard, discuss the Coast Guard Academy.](#)

[House of Representatives press](#)

Chairman James Oberstar, Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (D-8th/MN)
Representative John Mica (R-7th/FL)
Representative Howard Coble (R-6th/NC)
Representative Joe Courtney (D-2nd/CT)
Representative Mazie Hirono (D-2nd/HI)
Representative Michael Michaud (D-2nd/ME)

Senate:

Chairman Jay Rockefeller, Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology
Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) - Chair
Senator David Vitter (R-LA)
Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)

We appreciate Chairman Oberstar serving as the host and the insightful comments offered by all participants. Members of Congress noted the community service of Coast Guard Academy cadets and the service of our personnel in Haiti and Hurricane Katrina. We look forward to seeing the members at the Academy in the future.

ADM A

Posted at [3/10/2010 06:38:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)



21st Century Partnerships

Guest post by CAPT Bruce Jones, Chief, Office of Strategic Analysis (CG-0951):

The Coast Guard has long understood the importance of partnerships as a force multiplier. The interagency and international response to the catastrophe in Haiti is the most recent example. Working together, under a unified command structure with partners who share common goals, can result in remarkable success in mission execution and mission support. The same principle is equally important in planning strategically for the future.

Last week, CG-0951 hosted 60 government professionals from 6 Cabinet-level Departments and 12 different federal agencies with maritime responsibilities to the first ever Evergreen Federal Interagency Stakeholders Workshop in Lansdowne, Virginia. It was inspiring to see the enthusiasm and spirit of cooperation of our federal maritime partners throughout this three day event.

Evergreen is the Coast Guard's process to develop strategies to prepare for the future. Each four-year cycle of Evergreen engages over 200 Guardians and stakeholders. The program uses an "alternative futures" approach to strategic planning employing five scenarios set in the year 2030, with each representing a different plausible future. Past Evergreen efforts have helped us identify and implement concepts such as Maritime Domain Awareness and Coast Guard Sectors.

Using these future scenarios, participants were asked to imagine opportunities, challenges, and potential partnership strategies for maritime stakeholders. The partnership strategies were then "tested" in the other scenarios. Those that worked well in all five scenarios are deemed "robust strategies" that will better prepare us, and our interagency partners, for whatever future we may face.

In 2008, we held a similar Maritime Stakeholders Workshop that included members of the commercial maritime industry. Because that workshop was so successful, we decided to make external stakeholder workshops a permanent part of the Evergreen process.

This workshop is an outstanding example of how we are implementing one of our own Evergreen strategies, "21st Century Partnerships", and I would like to thank all of those who participated. If you would like to learn more about Evergreen or get involved, please visit our [website](#).

The agencies that participated were:

Department of Homeland Security - Headquarters, Customs and Border Protection, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Transportation Security Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard;
Department of Justice - Federal Bureau of Investigation;
Department of the Interior - Minerals Management Service;
Department of Defense - U.S. Navy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and
Department of Transportation - Maritime Administration and Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

Posted at [3/10/2010 08:18:00 AM @comments](#) 



Monday, March 8, 2010

Modernization Series: Reserve Force Readiness System Update

Guest Post by RADM Ronald Hewitt, CG-1:

In his [blog](#) on the DCMS website, RDML May provides a recap of the Reserve Force Readiness System (RFRS) and introduces upcoming training for those active duty and civilian Coast Guard personnel responsible for the management of our Reserve forces. This nine day training will provide those in attendance the necessary skills to expertly assist Reservists with their unique administrative, training and legal issues, aiding them to be fully integrated within our Service, working side by side with our active duty members.

Please visit our mission support blog to view this post and stay up to date as we continue to roll mission support information out to the field. As always, any questions and feedback are welcome. Please email questions or topics for future posts to AskMissionSupport@uscg.mil.

Semper Paratus!

RADM Ron Hewitt
Assistant Commandant for Human Resources

Posted at [3/08/2010 02:36:00 PM @comments](#) 



Sunday, March 7, 2010

Shout Out from a retired Chief on Coast Guard Haitian response operations

Guardians,

We have received several comments over on Facebook on our Haitian recovery operations posts. I received the below email from Chief Petty Officer (retired) Ken Lukins. I took the photo from a Clearwater H-60 as we overflew Port Au Prince enroute the Killick Coast Guard Base last Monday.



[Aerial view of damaged Port Au Prince neighborhood and adjacent emergency shelter camps](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

ADM A

"Admiral - may this find you well. I wanted to pass information about the excellent job the CG was doing in Haiti. I met with some of the CG personnel at the embassy during my last trip on the relief effort. Cmdr Bell and LCDR McClain were at the top of their game. I also wish to thank the CG for their assistance in helping me with injured team members - the medical team I was protecting were involved in a bus accident with serious injuries. The CG came through in helping me coordinate aid - through a long, round about way: my calling my wife (a disabled CG vet), her calling the CG and the ball began to move. My best regards and deepest respect. Ken Lukins, Chief, USCG (retired) (I am the Chief who helped brief you and Dick Clark on terrorism issues at the Atlantic Strike Team back what seems another life time ago)."

Posted at [3/07/2010 12:49:00 PM @comments](#) 



Friday, March 5, 2010

Vancouver 2010 Olympics - Praise for All Hands

Guardians,
We released the following message today complimenting all those involved with the planning and support for the Winter Olympics in Vancouver:

SUBJ: BRAVO ZULU – OPERATION PODIUM
1. THANK YOU FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE VANCOUVER 2010

OLYMPICS. I AM EXTREMELY PROUD OF ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO DEDICATED SO MUCH TIME IN THE PLANNING, PREPARATION, AND EXECUTION OF THIS HISTORIC OPERATION. FROM THE CUTTERS, BOATS, AND AIRCRAFT PATROLLING OFFSHORE TO THE WATCHSTANDERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER, OPERATION PODIUM WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS.

2. THIS EVENT HIGHLIGHTS THE TREMENDOUS VALUE THE COAST GUARD PROVIDES TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND THE GLOBAL MARITIME COMMUNITY. TO PROTECT THE OLYMPIC VENUES, YOU CREATED A SEAMLESS SECURITY REGIME ACROSS AN INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY BY LEVERAGING ALL OF OUR CAPABILITIES, AUTHORITIES, AND PARTNERSHIPS. YOU OPERATIONALIZED THE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE STRATEGY FOR 21ST CENTURY SEAPOWER BY MERGING NAVY AND COAST GUARD SKILL SETS AND INTEGRATING THEM WITH OUR CANADIAN PARTNERS TO CONSTRUCT A UNITED SECURITY FRONT.

3. OUR SHIPRIDER AGREEMENT WITH THE CANADIANS AND ABILITY TO EMBED CG PERSONNEL IN CANADIAN INTERAGENCY OPERATIONS CENTERS WERE CRITICAL ELEMENTS IN PREVENTING TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINALS OR TERRORISTS FROM EXPLOITING THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY. THESE STRONG INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS PROVIDE TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE SAFETY AND SECURITY EFFORTS ACROSS THE NORTHERN BORDER. I KNOW THIS LEVEL OF COLLABORATION REQUIRES A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF WORK SO PLEASE PASS ALONG MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION TO ALL THOSE WHO EXECUTED OR SUPPORTED OPERATION PODIUM.

4. I WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO NOTICED AND APPRECIATED YOUR EFFORTS. SECRETARY NAPOLITANO AND GENERAL RENUART, COMMANDER U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND, ALSO NOTED YOUR EFFECTIVENESS AND HIGHLIGHTED IT AS A MODEL FOR FUTURE INTERAGENCY AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS.

5. BRAVO ZULU!

6. ADMIRAL T. W. ALLEN, COMMANDANT, SENDS.

Posted at [3/05/2010 02:26:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Labels: [Olympics 2010](#) [Operation Podium](#) [Vancouver](#) [Vancouver Olympics](#)



Bravo Zulu - Coast Guard Tsunami Preparations and Public Notification

Guardians,
Following the devastating earthquake in Chile it was our duty to immediately prepare the public for what could have been an enormous tidal surge on our coasts. I am very pleased with those efforts and praised you all for your actions in my message released today:

SUBJ: BRAVO ZULU – TSUNAMI PREPARATIONS

1. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DILIGENT EFFORTS IN PREPARING FOR THE TSUNAMI FOLLOWING THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE IN CHILE ON 27 FEBRUARY. ON EXTREMELY SHORT NOTICE, PACAREA AND ALL OF THE WEST COAST DISTRICTS BEGAN TO IMMEDIATELY WARN THE MARITIME PUBLIC OF THE POSSIBLE TIDAL SURGE WHILE SAFEGUARDING OUR OWN ASSETS SO THEY WERE AVAILABLE FOR FOLLOW-ON RESPONSE OPERATIONS.

2. THE FLEXIBILITY AND AGILITY OF OUR COMMAND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONAL ASSETS WERE ON DISPLAY ONCE AGAIN. MOVING AIRCRAFT TO HIGHER GROUND, EVACUATING CUTTERS, TRAILERING BOATS, AND LOOKING AFTER OUR PERSONNEL RESIDING IN TARGETED AREAS WERE ALL ACCOMPLISHED EFFICIENTLY AND IN CONCERT WITH LOCAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES. OUR WELL ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIPS AND PROTOCOLS WITHIN THE PORT ENVIRONMENT AND THROUGHOUT GOVERNMENT FACILITATED THIS ENTIRE PROCESS AND ENSURED ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WERE TAKEN IN A COORDINATED MANNER.

3. WHILE I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL THE TIDAL SURGE WAS NOT AS SUBSTANTIAL AS INITIALLY FEARED, THE QUICK RESPONSE EFFORTS WERE A BENEFICIAL EXERCISE IN DISASTER PLANNING AND REFLECTED OUR UNIQUE VALUE TO THE MARITIME PUBLIC. I KNOW SECRETARY NAPOLITANO WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE COAST GUARDS EFFORTS AND THE OVERALL COLLABORATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT. PLEASE PASS ALONG MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION TO ALL OF OUR STAFFS AND UNITS WHO REACTED TO THE TSUNAMI WARNINGS.

4. BRAVO ZULU!

5. ADMIRAL T. W. ALLEN, COMMANDANT, SENDS.

6. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.

Posted at [3/05/2010 02:20:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 

Labels: [Admiral Allen](#) [Chile](#) [tsunami warnings](#)



Thursday, March 4, 2010

Restoring the commercial port in Port Au Prince, Haiti

Guardians,
The picture shown here is what is left of the commercial container port in Port Au Prince. The warehouse on the right used to be adjacent to the pier where containers were offloaded. To the left is a barge that is spudded down and acting as a offload platform for

containers while the port is rebuilt. At the far right end of the barge you can see a crane. That crane formerly sat on the pier and is now in the water. The entire area between the barge and the warehouse is where the container pier used to be.

Our thanks to RDML Sam Perez (USN) who is leading the port reopening. Thanks also the Coast Guard Maritime Transportation Recovery Unit and USCGC OAK for their critical effort in support of port reopening.



[Damage to the container pier in Port Au Prince](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

ADM A

Posted at [3/04/2010 06:55:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)



PSU 307, Port Au Prince Haiti

Guardians,

This photo was taken in Port Au Prince harbor with the final contingent of PSU 307 prior to their deployment back to Clearwater. They were the 'ready' PSU when the call came to support the port reopening and did a terrific job insuring the safety and security of the port, including training Haitian security force to protect the port.



[PSU 307](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

ADM A

Posted at [3/04/2010 06:26:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)



Air Station Clearwater H-60 on soccer field at Killick Coast Guard Base, Haiti

Guardians,

On Monday we visited Port Au Prince. We flew by helo from Santo Domingo to avoid using a landing slot at the airport which remains busy with relief operations. Overflying Port Au Prince at low altitude the extensive damage was apparent as were the numerous tent villages that have built to accommodate the displaced population.



[Air Station Clearwater H-60 on soccer field at Killick Coast Guard Base, Haiti](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

We landed at the Haitian Coast Guard Base at Killick. This picture shows our helo in the background on the soccer field. In the foreground is the former Haitian Coast Guard Mess Hall which collapses in the quake. The base was hit hard but our Haitian partners were resilient and assisted our crews that came ashore from cutters in treating local citizens injured the quake. The boat maintenance facility was damaged but remained in tact and is being used by the United Nations as a warehouse for relief supplies from Colombia.

From Killick we moved by small boat to the port in Port Au Prince where I met with RDML Sam Perez (USN). RDML Perez is an old friend and Deputy Director of JIATF-South. He was deployed by SOUTHCOM to supervise the port opening and repair. We will provide pictures of the port damage in a subsequent post.

Finally, I met with the last contingent of Port Security Unit 307 who were making preparations to redeploy after providing security for the port reopening. We had lunch together, dining on MRE's.

We returned to the Killick Base and then helo'd over the North Claw of Haiti to Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos Islands where our OPBAT helos have operated since our hangar at Great Inagua was destroyed by a hurricane last year. From there we proceeded to Nassau for the meetings I discussed in an earlier post.

ADM A

Posted at [3/04/2010 06:20:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)



Aviation Detachment - Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Guardians,

We discussed the great job our Aviation Detachment at GTMO

did during Haitian response operations in an earlier post. Here is the photo taken outside their facility adjacent to the runway. The AVDET is an extension of Air Station Miami originally created to support deployed aircraft. The AVDET support cutters calling at GTMO and provides other logistical support to personnel departing or reporting to units. They were able to ramp up as part of the mission support organization that kept our cutters operating in Haiti.



Aviation Support Detachment - Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

ADM A

Posted at [3/04/2010 05:52:00 AM](#) [@comments](#)



Visit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Guardians,

On Tuesday we visited GTMO. We received briefings on the tremendous work done by our support detachment to support Haitian earthquake response operations. We also were briefed on security operations being conducted by MSST LA/LB under the command of Commander Charlene Downey. The Coast Guard has provided waterside security in GTMO since the detainee facility was established in 2002. It was also good to see DALLAS in port and making preparations to get underway after the extensive repairs and availabilities over the last year. Our personnel continue to draw praise for their professional, dedicated service and it was an honor to share some time with them.



MSST LA/LB
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

ADM A

Posted at [3/04/2010 03:47:00 AM](#) [@comments](#)



Meetings in the Bahamas on Counter Drug Operations



RADM Steve Branham, Deputy Chief of Mission Timothy Brown, Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest, ADM Thad Allen
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

This is the second post on our recent trip to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Bahamas and Guantanamo, Cuba and is focused on our visit to Nassau.

The US Deputy Chief of Mission, Timothy Zuniga-Brown, met us on our arrival. That evening we had a working reception where we discussed OPBAT with Minister of National Security, Orville A. 'Tommy' Turnquest and Commodore Roderick Bowe of the Royal Bahamian Defence Force. Our Seventh District Commander, RADM Steve Branham joined us as well. Representatives from the DEA Regional Office in Miami and the DEA team in Nassau joined us, as did our Coast Guard team that staffs and operates the OPBAT command center at the Embassy. The following morning we met with the US Country Team to discuss how to create better connectivity and information sharing between JIATF-South, the El Paso Intelligence Center, CBP Air and Marine Operations Center, Joint Task Force-North, and OPBAT to combat illicit trafficking arriving in the US. We also discussed our excellent relationship with Bahamas and our cooperation in illegal migrant interdiction and search and rescue, in addition to our counter drug operations. Our thanks to our Coast Guard senior leaders in Nassau, LCDR Louie Parks (OPBAT Supervisor) and LCDR John Berry (Coast Guard Liaison Officer), and to all the personnel that staff and support the OPBAT command center.

ADM A

Posted at [3/04/2010 03:36:00 AM](#) [@comments](#)



Wednesday, March 3, 2010

MH-60 Accident

Guardians,

Earlier today, one of our MH-60T helicopters, which was returning to Air Station Elizabeth City, NC from Olympic security operations in Vancouver, had an accident 50 miles east-southeast of Salt Lake City.

There were five Guardians onboard the aircraft and thankfully all them survived the incident. Some had injuries and they are being treated at a local hospital.

Here is more [information](#) on the incident.

Posted at 3/03/2010 08:07:00 PM 0 comments



Four Countries....Two and a Half Days

Guardians,

We returned late Tuesday from a very quick trip to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Bahamas, and Guantanamo, Cuba. The trip was originally planned around a hemispheric counter-drug summit scheduled in Santo Domingo the first week of March. Relief operations in Haiti delayed the conference to early June.

Given the number of current issues being worked with all four countries we elected to make a short visit to each. Working with Air Station Washington and our outstanding personnel and partners serving at the embassies we were able to visit all four countries in 2 and a half long days.



[Dominican Republic Honor Guard](#)
Originally uploaded by [icommandant](#)

Ms. Kirstin Madison, our Director of International Affairs, joined me with Master Chief Skip Bowen and Reserve Master Chief Jeff Smith. The trip involved Coast Guard issues and counter drug issues related to my role as Chairman of The Interdiction Committee (TIC). So I was also joined by CDR David Billburg of the TIC staff who is also the former supervisor of the Operation Bahamas, Turks, and Caicos (OPBAT) command center at the US Embassy in Nassau. Every stop and event was extremely informative and beneficial to Coast Guard and interagency counterdrug operations.

I intend to post separately on each of the events and will start here with the TIC related meetings.

As Chairman of the TIC I report to the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The TIC is an interagency committee made up of the leaders of drug interdiction and law enforcement agencies. It includes the Coast Guard and our DHS partners in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the Office of Counter Narcotics Enforcement (CNE) in the Department. The committee also includes the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Department of State, and the Intelligence Community (IC). The TIC is established by statute in Title 21 of the US Code and its recently approved revised charter details the various responsibilities and functions.

Our stops in Santo Domingo and Nassau were focused on TIC counter drug issues. In Santo Domingo we met with the DEA team that is working with our Dominican Republic partners regarding drug smuggling by general aviation aircraft, fast boats, and other conveyances (commercial containers). I also met with VADM Homero Luis Lajara-Sola, Chief of Naval Operations of the Dominican Republic Navy and LTGEN Pedro Rafael Peña-Antonio, Secretary of State for the Dominican Armed Forces. (SEFA). We concluded our visit by meeting with the US Deputy Chief of Mission, Christopher Lambert, who serving as the Charge' d' Affairs. President Lionel Fernandez has been a vocal proponent and supporter of our joint effort combat drug trafficking in the Dominican Republic.

As an aside, I was delighted to meet with Commodore Jose Najri who is the Commodore of the newly established Dominican Naval Auxiliary. This milestone is the culmination of a significant effort by our Coast Guard Auxiliary to create similar search and rescue organizations in other countries. This particular effort actually started when I was the Seventh District Commander. Congratulations to our Dominican Republic partners on this significant achievement.

We thank VADM Lajara for his hospitality and collaboration in counterdrug, migrant interdiction, and search and rescue operations. We also have great admiration and respect for the response operations conducted by the Dominican Republic government in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake.

Thanks also to our Coast Guard team in Santo Domingo, LCDR Jose' Quiñones and LCDR Derrick Cromwell.

The next post will discuss our visit to Nassau.

ADM A

Posted at 3/03/2010 10:00:00 AM 1 comments



Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Modernization Series: Field Impacts

Guest Post from CDR Erik Langenbacher, Deputy, Group/Air Station Port Angeles:

As the Deputy Group Commander, I have noticed continual great success in the Logistics Transformation Program Integration Office (LTPIO) program operationally and logistically.

Operationally, at our daily ops brief, ALMIS allows for a very efficient look at all Group operational plans for the upcoming day. With a simple log in and a few clicks, I can easily review the operation schedule involving 34 assets (WPBs, MLBs, CB-Ms, RB-Ms, RB-Ss, LE-33s, and MH-65s).

Logistically, we enjoy similar granularity throughout our area of operation. What used to take hours of phone calls to update status boards is completed in seconds. At our briefs we are quickly brought up to speed with real time asset status allowing for efficient allocation of assets to fill operational needs based on mission, weather, and availability.

Additionally, the Naval Engineers like the support the Product Lines provide the boats and cutters for depot level repairs. For example, CGC WAHOO recently developed a shaft vibration that required haul out. The Product Line engineers quickly determined that an immediate repair was not required and allowed operations with additional monitoring. Working around operational requirements and using a scheduled charlie period, the WPB Product Line found a facility that could make the repairs in a timely and efficient manner without pulling the WPB out of its operational schedule.

Posted at [3/02/2010 08:37:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)



Monday, March 1, 2010

WAESCHE: One Step Closer to Commissioning

Guardians,

On Sunday, 28 February, our second National Security Cutter (NSC), WAESCHE, [arrived in its homeport of Alameda, California](#). WAESCHE is in "In-Commission Special" status and will be making final preparations for the commissioning on 07 May 2010.

Before arriving in Alameda, WAESCHE rendezvoused with BERTHOLF, the first NSC. Both crews gathered on their flight decks to form their respective hull numbers.

The WAESCHE's crew, and all the people who support them, have done an incredible job getting the ship to this point in its construction. That success is a reflection of the crew's hard work and our revised acquisition procedures that enabled us to incorporate lessons learned from BERTHOLF. WAESCHE achieved the Authority to Operate classified and unclassified systems one year sooner than BERTHOLF and reduced the number of trial cards by 50 percent following acceptance trials. To lower the number of construction hours, we reduced the number grand blocks and hull assemblies from 32 on BERTHOLF, to 29 on WAESCHE, and only 14 for STRATTON, the third NSC.



[WAESCHE and BERTHOLF](#)
Originally uploaded by [icommmandant](#)

Those are clear signs of a learning organization and a change-centric culture.

To the WAESCHE crew: welcome home and I look forward to seeing you in May!

Posted at [3/01/2010 12:19:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)



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