

BEAR TRACKS

USCGC BEAR NEWSLETTER

Written by BEAR Sailors for BEAR Sailors, Family, and Friends
Edited by ENS Aaron Davis and LTJG Mike Rauch



JIATF-South Patrol

Welcome home USCGC BEAR and her crew! After 67 days away, BEAR is returning to homeport with yet another drug bust under her belt and a satisfied crew. Despite missing the holiday season, the BEAR crew kept in high spirits quickly achieving additional qualifications and getting the large number of new crewmembers acquainted to life at sea. BEAR made the best of the situation and had a spectacular Christmas at sea, enjoying a tremendous meal put on by the galley, receiving a surprise visit from a gift-bearing Santa, and an unexpected opportunity to call home to family and friends. Of course family members were missed, but the BEAR crew's hard work and dedication never faltered. We welcomed three new permanent cuttermen, OSC Earles, EM1 Colletti and DC1 Mangold and shared final patrol experiences with BMC Christensen and CWO2 Pierce who will be retiring from the Coast Guard this Spring. The patrol highlight was an interdiction of a go-fast vessel that resulted in the seizure of 1,500 lbs of cocaine valued at over 20 million USD. Our embarked helicopter and small boat worked hand and hand to secure the contraband and bring three suspected smugglers into custody. USCGC BEAR once again lived up to its motto, "First in Class, Second to None," thanks to the countless hours invested by the crewmembers onboard. Bravo Zulu BEAR!

Welcome Aboard!

- SK2 Gibson
- ET2 Impeartrice
- OS3 Adair
- BM3 Prillaman
- BM3 Santos
- SN Conty
- SN Smith
- SN Slater
- SN Dervin
- SN Moore
- SN Joyner
- SN Pfister
- SN Dore
- FN Sloan
- FN Shelton
- FA Stanley
- FA Temple
- FA Williams
- LT Penso (TAD)
- LT Neiman (TAD)
- ME1 Brewer (TAD)
- AMT1 White (TAD)
- MK2 Truitt (TAD)
- AET2 Garza (TAD)
- AMT3 Cheveresan (TAD)
- AMT 3 Goulet (TAD)
- AMT1 Harris (TAD)

Fair Winds and Following Seas

- CWO2 Pierce
- BMC Christensen
- GM1 Gladman
- BM3 Keenan
- SN Bowman
- SN Page
- SN Hawkins
- SN Harrison
- SN Conkey
- SN Smith

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Hello BEAR Family and Friends,

As the end of our first patrol of 2015 draws near, I can only begin to express my gratitude for the sacrifices BEAR crew, family, and friends have made over the past year serving our great nation. This patrol included us deploying during the holiday season, which is never an easy task. Thank you to those at home who held celebrations early, sent their loved ones to sea with presents for them and their shipmates, and then celebrated the season with their BEAR crewmembers from afar. We did our best to still celebrate the season while carrying out our missions and I would like to say a special thanks to all of our BEAR shipmates who went above and beyond the call of duty to make the holidays (especially Christmas morning at sea) a truly memorable experience for each shipmate.

During this patrol, the old salts welcomed nearly 20 new crewmembers aboard for their first BEAR patrol. Once again, the crew surged to integrate each and every member into the BEAR family and ensure we were mission ready! The hard work and dedication by the entire crew paid off with a tremendous number of qualifications, an estimated 800kg cocaine disruption after chasing a go-fast smuggling vessel for two days in rough seas, the interdiction of another go-fast vessel resulting in the seizure of nearly twenty-million dollars in cocaine and the detainment of three suspected smugglers, and the saving of seven lives on our transit back home when we responded to an eight foot migrant vessel in the Straits of Florida with gale force winds and heavy seas looming on the horizon. Whatever the event or mission, BEAR's crew quickly came together, demonstrating their versatility, dedication and professionalism to efficiently execute our missions.

Sea tours are never easy. It is the shipmates we are surrounded by, the families that support us, the missions we execute and the sea stories we develop that make it all worthwhile. Thank you for your continued support of the BEAR crew. BEAR looks forward to returning home and spending some well deserved time with all of our family and friends as we prepare for future operations.

Best Regards,
CDR Andrew Meverden, Commanding Officer



QUALIFICATIONS

Underway Officer of the Deck (OOD)

ENS Gus Moreno
ENS Nicole Kenney
ENS Aaron Davis

Quartermaster of the Watch (QMOW)

GM2 Hoff
GM2 Ross
SK2 Catalioto
SK2 Gibson
BM3 Santos

Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch

OS3 Adair
SN Maynard

Helm and Lookout

GM2 Ross
SK2 Gibson
BM3 Santos
SN Joyner
SN Pfister
SN Dervin
SN Conty
SN Dore
SN Slater
SN Smith
SN Moore

Master Helmsman

IT1 Bryce

Boatswain's Mate of the Watch (BMOW)

BM3 Santos
BM3 Prillaman
SN Walters
SN Bailey
SN Maynard

Engine Room Watchstander

EMC Daniel
MK2 Truitt
DC3 Jaime
DC3 Pulgarvidal
MK3 Carie

Inport EOW

ENS Ludewig

Underway EOW

ENS Ludewig
DC1 Mangold
MK1 Scott
MK1 Stommel

Navigator

LTJG Maio
BM1 Daigle

Boarding Officer

ME1 Brewer
GM2 Hoff



Underway Security Watchstander

FN Shelton
FN Sloan
FN Stanley
FA Temple
FA Williams

Inport Security Watchstander

ET2 Impeartrice
SK2 Gibson
ET3 Wilson
OS3 Adair
FN Shelton
FN Sloan
FN Stanley
SN Dervin
SN Joyner
SN Smith
FA Temple
FA Williams
SA Conty
SA Dore
SA Slater

Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Sentry

MK1 Scott
SN Bailey

Fuel, Oil, and Water King (FOWK)

MK1 Carter

CIC Watchstander

ET2 Impeartrice
OS3 Adair

Boarding Team Member

ENS Kenney
ETC Coffey
BM1 Daigle
MK1 Robert Scott

Inport Generator Watch

MK2 Truitt
DC3 Jaime
DC3 Pulgarvidal
MK3 Carie

Davit Operator

MK1 Scott

Repair Party Electrician

ET2 Impeartrice
ET3 Jolicoeur
ET3 Ploski
ET3 Wilson

OTH Coxswain

BM2 Stocker

OTH Boat Crewmember

MK1 Scott
BM3 Santos
BM3 Prillaman
MK3 Carie



HARD WORK PAYS OFF

OTH Boat Engineer

MK1 Scott
MK3 Carie

Non-Compliant Vessel Pursuit Crewmember

BM1 Daigle
GM2 Hoff

Non-Compliant Vessel Pursuit Coxswain

BM2 Shore

Helicopter Control Officer (HCO)

LTJG Rauch
ENS Davis
ENS Moreno

Landing Signals Officer (LSO)

FSC Eakes

Flight Deck Fire Party Team Member

FN Sloan
FN Stanley
FN Williams
SK2 Gibson
FS3 Meyers
YN1 Karim
GM2 Hoff
GM2 Ross

Flight Deck On Scene Leader

ENS Ludewig
DC1 Mangold

Flight Deck Tie Down Crewmember

YN1 Karim
ET3 Wilson
FS3 Meyers

Aviation Fuel Handler

MK2 Truitt

Aviation Fuel King

MK3 Williams

Basic Damage Control

FA Williams
ET2 Impeartrice
SN Smith
OS3 Adair
SA Conty
FA Stanley
SK2 Gibson
FA Shelton
BM3 Santos
SN Dervin
SA Slater
FN Sloan
SN Dore
SA Pfister
FA Temple
SA Moore

Advanced Damage Control

ET3 Wilson
GM2 Hoff
FS3 Tucker
FA Williams
ET2 Impeartrice
SN Smith
OS3 Adair
SN Conty
FA Stanley
SK2 Gibson
FA Shelton
BM3 Santos
SN Dervin
SA Slater
FA Sloan
SN Dore
FA Temple



PERMANENT CUTTERMEN:

OSC Earles
EM1 Colletti
DC1 Mangold

AWARDS:

Letter of Commendation:
ET3 Ploski
SN Conkey

Achievement Medal:
MK1 Carter
OS2 Lucci
FS3 Meyers
SN Smith

Good Conduct Ribbons:
ETC Coffey
SK2 Catalioto
EM3 Burns
FN Rodriguez Felix

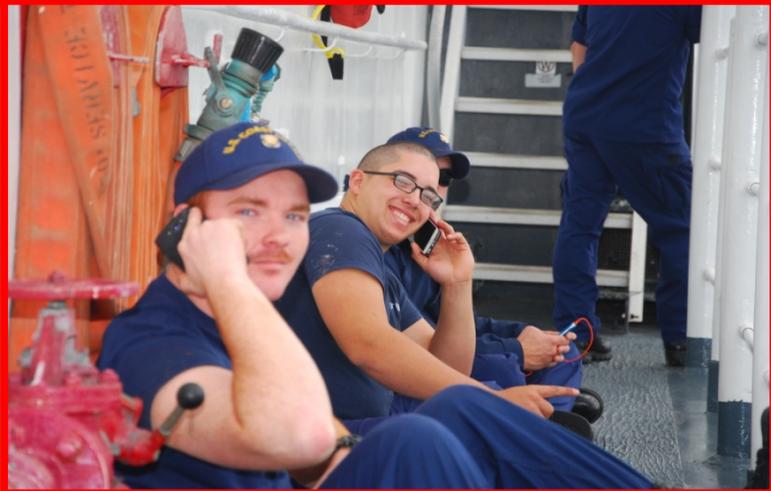
Snipe of the Month:
EM3 Jones (December)
DC3 Jaime (January)



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM CGC BEAR!

A Christmas Story

This year CGC BEAR was away from home port for the Holiday Season. Despite being away from family and friends, CGC BEAR still kept its Holiday cheer through the help of Bear's Christmas Elves and **SKC Shawna Weschrek**. Together they developed a grand plan to bring Christmas Gift bags for the whole crew filled with a little touch of home. **MKC Rawlings** provided our Holiday Tree and SKC Weschrek provided decorations and lights. The mighty FS Division helped to purchase baking items needed to create the holiday treats of chocolate covered peanut butter balls, chocolate covered pretzel knots and sticks, sugar cookies and snicker doodles, bags of hot cocoa, holiday candy and a custom made 2014 CGC BEAR ornament. All the treats were packaged up, to keep them safe and sound, for the trek down south as the BEAR crew completed their mission. The FS staff worked late into the night to make over 300 sugar cookies and snicker doodles, cutting out and decorating each one. **ENS Kenney** wanted to join in the elf fun and put a special touch on each ornaments making bows for each one. The night before Christmas and with one final push Santa's Lead Elf and her helper elves **ENS Ludewig**, **CWO Pierce**, **OSC Newton**, **OSC Earles**, **EMC Daniels**, **BMC Christenson**, **FS1 Lamm** and **SK2 Catalioto** put the Christmas bags together for distribution. And quite as a mouse, just before the 4 to 8 duty swap rotation SKC Weschrek snuck down the hall to the Wardroom, Mess Deck and Chiefs Mess and laid out each bag so that all could have a Christmas surprise. And as she walked down the hall to go snuggle in her rack she looked back at Mess Deck and said "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"



BEAR crew talking to family on Christmas Day!



BEAR receives a visit from Santa!



Thanks to SKC Weschrek for getting everyone onboard a gift bag!

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

To kick off the patrol, BEAR conducted a shakedown like previous patrols; this time however, changes were made to account for some unfavorable weather. A delayed cruise out of the Chesapeake Bay allowed the machinery and the engineering department led by **LT Anais Greenley** to be thoroughly tested for the first time in months following a Dockside Availability.

Standown began with only a few major casualty items. During scheduled maintenance, **EM3 Malik Jones** found that the #2 Fire Pump, was grounded out. Quick calls were made to procure a new pump prior to sailing. With the assistance of NED Portsmouth, BEAR was able to remove the broken pump and install a brand new one. **EMC Demosthenes Daniel** and **EM1 Nicholas Colletti** coordinated the wiring and operational test of the new pump prior to the expiration of liberty.

While the EM's were taking care of business aft, up on top of the cutter the Auxiliary and Damage Control Division were carefully following a TCTO change to the Ship's Whistle. **DC3 Anthony Jaime** and **FN Carlos Rodriguez** worked long hours on the mast to complete the fabrication and installation of the whistle while under the watchful eyes of **MKC Michael Rawlings** and **DC1 Lucas Mangold**. After the installation of the horn was complete, **EM2 Bryan Kees** and **EM3 Tyler Burns** spent long hours troubleshooting a ground and restoring full operation to the horn thanks to some plastic wrap borrowed from the FS staff. After multiple phone calls back to the product line and corresponding emails, the ships whistle was operational again.

During stand down, the Auxiliary Division had also been addressing a heating failure to the lube oil sump of the Emergency Diesel Generator. With the last minute arrival of parts **MK1 Landon Carter**, **MK2 Brett Winkelmann**, and **MK3 Rich Williams** were able to complete the repairs to the EDG prior to sailing on patrol.

A quick stop in Mayport, Florida allowed **LTJG Parker Bratman** and the fueling team to take on 15,000 gallons of diesel fuel, top off on lube oil, and offload oily waste. With the combined efforts from BEAR's FOWKs, **MK2 Stephen Fleming**, **MK2 John Rhodenhizer**, and **MK3 Michael Tanner**, all evolutions went as quick and smooth as possible.

The stop also allowed the Main Propulsion Assistant, **CWO2 Paul Dalton** to instruct and teach new members **FN Williams** and **FN Shelton** about air compressors and how to overhaul the vital machinery. After pulling out of Mayport, BEAR was tasked to work for District 7 and spent a day off the coast of Miami within cell phone reception providing the crew several hours of phone access to place some much needed phone calls home to say Happy Holidays.



During BEAR's first port call in Roatan, BEAR suffered the loss of one of our flight deck safety nets due to heavy weather. Thanks to the hard work of **CWO2 Paul Dalton**, **LTJG Parker Bratman**, **DC1 Lucas Mangold**, **MK3 Camden Carie**, **DC3 Ryan Bosley**, **DC3 Anthony Jaime**, **FN Carlos Rodriguez-Felix** and **FN James Shelton**, during the last day of the port call, BEAR was able to repair, weight test the flight net, and get a waiver to continue flight operations with the repaired flight deck net.



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (CONT.)

Throughout the course of the patrol, Bear conducted 26 helo sorties flying over 55 hours. The aviation fueling team consisting of **MKC Michael Rawlings**, **MK1 Landon Carter**, **MK2 Stephen Fleming**, **MK2 Jessica Truitt**, **FN Patrick Raph**, **FN Carlos Rodriguez Felix**, and **FN James Shelton** ensured the helo was always able to stay topped off on fuel. During flight operation, the flight deck fire team lead by **LTJG Parker Bratman**, **ENS Lexie Ludewig**, and **DC1 Lucas Mangold** and consisting of **DC2 James Ruble**, **DC3 Ryan Bosley**, **DC3 Anthony Jaimie**, **DC3 Blas Pulgarvidal**, **EM3 Malik Jones**, **FN Jackson Sloan**, **FN Justin Stanley**, and **FN Edward Williams** was always standing by ready to react in the event of a casualty. **MK1 Robert Scott** was also standing by during flight operations as the davit operator ready to lower the small boats in the event of a man overboard or LE case.

Towards the end of patrol, BEAR conducted a machinery space fire drill with outstanding results and shortly after, put our skills to the test during an actual casualty. While entering the engine room, **MK2 John Rhodenhizer** noticed a major lube oil leak coming from the expansion joint on the #1 Main engine and secured the machinery while **MK3 Camden Carie** grabbed an AFFF extinguisher to start flushing the lube oil into the bilge. **DC1 Lucas Mangold**, EOW at the time, quickly called for GE and Damage Control Assistant, **LTJG Parker Bratman**, assumed control of the casualty while **CWO2 Paul Dalton** and **MKC Michael Allen** led the casualty response in the engine room. The oil was quickly flushed into the bilge and main prop led by **MK1 Edward Stommel** went to work replacing the expansion joint and restoring the #1 MDE fully operational status.

We couldn't be more proud of the Engineering Department! Their hard work on maintenance and casualty repairs this patrol has yet again brought BEAR's machinery up another notch. To apply the amount of teamwork, focus and sweat equity in this fashion, despite the daily frustrations of being underway on a 32 year old vessel, shows what true professionals this department consists of. It is truly a pleasure to sail with this group of engineers!



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Operations were busy as always during BEAR's fourth JIATF South patrol since 2013. BEAR became well practiced in her response to the detection of smugglers, and was prepared to answer the call when it came. Each division gave exceptional performance of duties in order to build a team effort for mission success, which included several disruptions and the seizure of nearly 1500 lb of cocaine. The patrol was an opportunity for the most experienced in Operations, including department head **LT Daniel Bell**, to pass on their experience to the new BEAR members and keep the ship set up for future deployments.

ELECTONICS- BEAR's ELEX Division returned to the Caribbean to display their expert knowledge, work ethic, and dedication. Cutters utilize electronic gear for most of their missions. As is the case on land, this gear requires constant attention and maintenance. While underway, having parts delivered can be a challenge. BEAR's technicians were once again superior with innovative repairs in-house. The veteran IT shop was led by **IT1 Daniel Bryce**. They worked tirelessly to keep the ship's server up and running, and maintain the intercom (1MC) so word could quickly be passed to all hands. **IT2 Christopher Silva** also led the upkeep of the ship's webpage, and **IT2 Richard Caruso** took ownership of the flight deck training helicopter tie-downs. The ETs had one new member, **ET2 Anthony Impeartrice**, who quickly championed the cutter's small boat electronics. **ET2 Jeremy Moore** returned for patrol and led the shop in repairs on electronics and fire control RADAR. ET2 Moore's reenlistment was a special event, when he dedicated another 6 years to the Coast Guard. Selected to be BEAR's Sailor of the Quarter, **ET3 Michael Ploski** also returned and performed excellent maintenance, working side by side with the division's expert communications technician, **ET3 Patrick Wilson**, and fire control RADAR technician, **ET3 Nicholas Jolicoeur**. Together, the shop took strides in building a mentor program onboard, training **SN Sara Maynard**, who was eager to dedicate extra time to learn as a future ET.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - This patrol, **ME3 Christopher McAbee** welcomed **ME1 Nathan Brewer** from Station Freeport, Texas as a temporary member to the Law Enforcement Division. Together they conducted multiple boardings, totaling over 40 hours, which resulted in an 800kg cocaine disruption and a successful interdiction of 676kg cocaine, over \$20 million worth, helping to interrupt drug traffic throughout the Caribbean. Furthermore, in their spare off time, they spent many hours conducting law enforcement training, allowing for the qualification of two Boarding Officers, five Boarding Team Members, and six Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Sentries.



WEAPONS - The Weapons Division, consisting of **GM1 Forrest Gladman**, **GM2 James Hoff**, and **GM2 Thomas Ross**, is responsible for keeping all of the firearms in good working order and ready to defend our crewmembers. Both GM2 Hoff and GM2 Ross dove into training for and qualification in a variety of positions bringing even greater value to the crew, and increasing BEAR's versatility. This patrol, our Gunner's Mates also exercised the .50 caliber machine guns for surface warfare and trained entirely new gun crews for each mount.



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT (CONT.)

COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER - The Operations Specialists: **OS1 Rebecca Murray**, **OS1 Paula Verden**, **OS2 Michael Lucci**, **OS3 James Noble**, and **OS3 Turner Adair** led by **ENS Nicole Kenney**, **OSC Donald Newton**, and **OSC Steven Earles**. CIC Watch Supervisors and Watchstanders stood nearly 1,400 hours of vigilant watches during the patrol, maintaining the overall tactical operational picture for the command. This kept BEAR in the best possible position for mission success. BEAR's OS's ensured the unit was able to effectively communicate with our assets and interagency partners while executing simultaneous complex evolutions. All division members were crucial in relaying vital information to Coast Guard District Seven in the prosecution of BEAR's seizure of 676 kilograms of cocaine, valued at over 20 million dollars! The division is proud of the latest addition to our shop, OS3 Adair, who quickly earned his "CIC Watchstander" qualification; as well as OS2 Lucci, who earned the CG Achievement Medal for his contributions to BEAR over the past year.



SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

Our support department, led by **CWO Patrick Pierce**, had an amazing patrol filled with many achievements. Truly taking BEAR's motto "Greatest strength through versatility" to heart, the Support Department proved how strong they are.

The Supply Division was very busy this patrol getting BEAR's storerooms in good working order. **SK2 Gibson** and **SK2 Catalioto** started out the patrol with a revamping project in Lower Lower stores. This reorganization project has been long overdue and will shorten the time to find and retrieve parts for our customers. Additionally, Supply Division personnel made significant contributions to BEAR's operational success. **SKC Weschrek** continued her qualification toward In-port Officer of the Day and **SK2 Catalioto** qualified as Quartermaster of the Watch on the bridge and has made strides towards becoming a Boarding Team Member. Our newest Storekeeper, **SK2 Gibson**, completed his Basic and Advanced DCPQS qualifications, In-port Security Qualification, Flight Deck Fire Team Qualification, Helm and Lookout Qualification and Quartermaster of the Watch. The Storekeepers were busy during flight quarters as well with **SKC Weschrek** participating in more than 120 evolutions on deck as Landing Signal Officer and Night Safety Observer. **FSC Eakes** also qualified LSO embodying the versatility of BEAR's crew. **SK2 Catalioto** and **SK2 Gibson** were members of the flight deck fire fighting party, standing by in the event of an emergency.

BEAR's Yeoman, **YN1 Otmane Karim**, was extremely busy this patrol taking care of members departing PCS, leaving for "A" Schools and "C" Schools, juggling inbound and outbound flights as well as awards and achievement recognitions for numerous all hands events. He successfully completed Tie-Down Crew Member and Flight Deck Fire Team qualifications and is breaking in as Quartermaster of the Watch. Additionally, **YN1 Karim** was a key member of the HELO ops team putting in over 80 evolutions on deck.

The Food Service Division (**FSC Eakes**, **FS1 Lamm**, **FS3 Meyers**, **FS3 Beaty** & **FS3 Tucker**)

worked especially hard this patrol ordering and stowing over \$80,000 worth of food while also producing 220 meals for 100 people. Additionally, they provided a stupendous Christmas meal and delicious special treats for the Super Bowl. Despite BEAR's limited restocking opportunities, the Food Service team pulled together and created exceptional meals, even when the supplies were not always the best to work with. Their attitude in the galley was all smiles, giving BEAR crew members morale through every meal. The Food Service Division also contributed greatly to BEAR's operational success. **FSC Eakes** qualified as Landing Signal Officer and **FS3 Meyers** qualified as Helo tie down crew member during 180 flight quarter evolutions between the two of them. The FS's also impressed with their drive towards advancement. **FSC Eakes** passed the Senior Chief EPME test, **FS3 Meyers** passed his 2nd class ERAT's test and received his first Achievement Medal and **FS3 Tucker** completed her Advanced DCPQS qualification.

BEAR's Corpsman, **HSC Dixon**, worked tirelessly during this patrol keeping everyone well during the occasional bouts of creeping crud while ensuring BEAR's crew was up to date on mandatory training. He provided CPR classes, amazing drill scenario's and created power point presentations monthly, keeping BEAR's members CGBI training in the green.

This was also the final patrol for **CWO Pierce** before his retirement in April. We want to take this moment to thank him for all his hard work and contributions to BEAR. He was an inspiration to all and could always be counted on for a good sea story or lesson on leadership. Thank you **CWO Pierce**!



SUPPORT DEPARTMENT



DECK/NAVIGATION DIVISION

This past inport, the Deck and Navigation Divisions onboard BEAR combined into one large division. Led by **LTJG Rauch**, **ENS Davis**, **BMC Christensen** and **BM1 Daigle**, the deck/navigation division saw yet another busy inport highlighted by the arrival of 10 new faces. **BM3 Santos** and **BM3 Prillaman** (a previous BEAR sailor) arrived from BM “A” school and quickly jumped into their qualifications to include inport security, quartermaster of the watch, boatswain’s mate of the watch and boat crew. Also joining us this inport was **SN Joyner**, **SN Pfister**, **SN Dervin**, **SN Conty**, **SN Dore**, **SN Slater**, **SN Smith** and **SN Moore**. With hard work and determination, all members worked as a team to quickly tackle their helm and lookout, inport security, basic and advanced DCPQS. Their next steps in the following months will be to get their name on the “A” school lists and continue their Coast Guard careers!

Despite the influx of new personnel, other members of the division continued to work towards their own personal goals. **BM2 Stocker** qualified as OTH coxswain and **BM2 Shore** began breaking in Underway OOD. **BM1 Daigle** received his Navigator qualification and helped safely navigate BEAR over 11,000 nautical miles this patrol. **SN Maynard**, **SN Bailey** and **SN Walters** all qualified boatswain’s mate of the watch embodying BEAR’s motto “greatest strength through versatility.”

This patrol we said goodbye to **SN Bowman** (GM “A” School), **SN Page** (BM “A” School), **SN Hawkins** (GM “A” School), **SN Harrison** (GM “A” School), **SN Conkey** (ME “A” School), and **SN Smith** (ME “A” school). We wish them luck at their respective schools as they continue their careers. Their expertise and positive attitude will be missed aboard BEAR.

Also departing are **BMC Christensen** who will be retiring after serving 23 years in the Coast Guard and **BM3 Keenan** who is pursuing his third mate’s license. The success of the Deck/ navigation division can be attributed to these individuals’ expert knowledge and willingness to help others. Fair winds and following seas to these shipmates!

With the patrol dwindling down, we reflect on our accomplishments and are proud of the sea stories we created with our shipmates! Thanks for another great patrol!





BEAR TRACKS · CGC BEAR NEWSLETTER
DEC 2014- FEB 2015

AVDET

Dear BEAR,

Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) Aviation Detachment 15-08 has been proud to serve with Cutter BEAR's officers and crew. We began our holiday cruise together just south of the Florida-Georgia line and steamed south to the warmth and glow of the Spanish Main. Remember that first flight condition 1? Many more were to come, and we had good times.

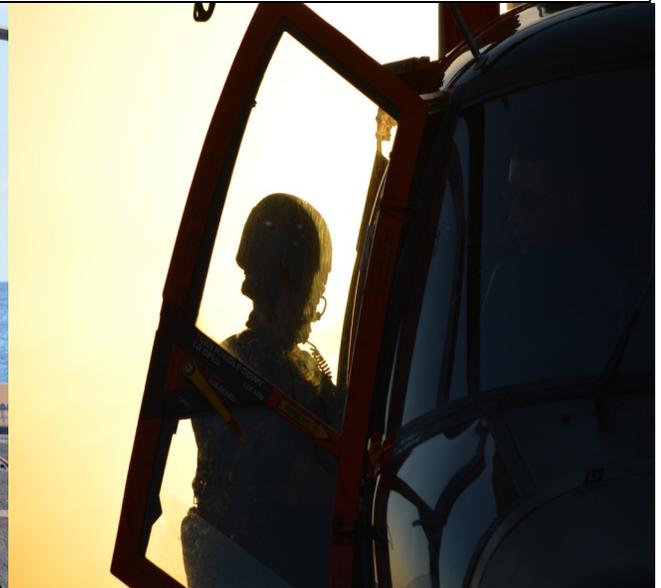
Our time onboard was a full swing of the compass - from late night flights, to MEDEVACS into Panama, to flying off from Fidel Castro's back yard to fix our broken wings. We laughed, we cried, we tried our hand at mess cooking but mostly hit our stride playing cards on the mess deck. Between all the movies and working out we also helped keep some drugs from reaching our shores.

This ship has a proud and fascinating history and we are honored to be a small part of that. So many of you went far out of your way to make us feel welcome and part of the crew, and for that we are deeply thankful. You could not have been more hospitable, capable, and hard working. You are inspiring and true to your motto: "First in Class, Second to None".

We hope BEAR returns to her mooring swiftly and safely, and wish the very best to her shipmates and families. Cheers!

HIT 15-08,

Mission Commander: LT Neil "Sofa King" Penso
Mission Copilot: LT Jason "Pilot #2" Neiman
Precision Marksman: AMT3 Class Preston "Bang Bang" Goulet
Plane Captain: AMT1 Shane "Blasphemy" White
Aviation Electrician: AET2 Raymond "Ang-Ray" Garza
Aviation Mechanic Petty: AMT3 Edward "Chevy" Cheveresan



FROM YOUR JUNIOR OFFICERS

To the BEAR Crew,

Working with BEAR sailors has been a privilege. The accomplishments made from your great efforts underway inspire us to learn from you.

As the hour of noon approaches, you may find us scouting the passageways recording the magazine temperatures, ensuring the noon meal is fit for crew consumption, routing messages and reports, and searching for the CO to request noon bells. At times we are behind the scenes working on administrative work, developing training plans, and tracking maintenance; tedious, yet necessary work. However, we pride ourselves being amongst professionals like you. Our bread and butter is up on the bridge, down in the engine room, on the boat deck, on boardings, and leading some special evolution. We exist for mission execution and we can complete that mission because of the training you all have given us. Thank you to all those who spent tireless hours teaching us, studying with us, counseling us, and whipping us into shape from time to time. The effort you put in to all of us will pay dividends and we will never forget you. Going to sea is challenging, but we would gladly sail with all of you again.

Respectfully Yours,
LTJG Justin Maio
LTJG Parker Bratman
LTJG Mike Rauch
ENS Aaron Davis
ENS Gus Moreno
ENS Nicole Kenney
ENS Lexie Ludewig



FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

BMC CHRISTENSEN

BMC RYAN CHRISTENSEN

PROUDLY SERVED
FEBRUARY 1992—MARCH 2015

BMC Ryan Christensen was born in Dike, a small farming community in north east Iowa. His parents Dale and Gloria Christensen and his sister Amy still live there. His brother lives in Kansas. Ryan joined the Coast Guard in 1992 after finally tracking down the one recruiter for the state of Iowa. He currently resides in O'Fallon, IL, a sleepy village 24 miles east of Saint Louis, MO. He lives there with his wife Rachel, three 15 year old daughters Miya, Talia and Carissa and his 14 year old son Gabriel.

Governors Island New York- The SN years.

DEPENDABLE- Out to sea for the first time. There I really fell in love with being out to sea. I was going to go to the XO request and complaint mast one day because I didn't want to return to port. That morning I got orders to QM A school and went there instead.

SWEETBRIER- Adventure and love in the 49th state. I first saw Cordova from the water. It was tiny and someone behind me said, "that's it, you're looking at the whole town." I met my wife there. We adopted our girls there in 2000 and had our son in 2001.

SYCAMORE- Plank Owner. As I was getting ready to leave there the Coast Guard deleted the QM rate. I left SYCAMORE as a QM.

Station Dauphin Island- Entering the BM world and making XPO. We did our job well by winning the Kimball Award. I was also there during 3 hurricanes, including Katrina. It was a challenging time and it was good to be a part of the response.

CHEYENNE- Blood, Sweat and Poison Ivy. I went to the hospital twice for poison ivy, once for a sprained ankle and an ambulance ride for nearly passing out while working a buoy. It was hard work but good work.

Sector Upper Mississippi River- Showtime. I was in Waterways and I did public affairs. I enjoyed making new relationships with other government agencies and the river industry. I also was able to lead many community service projects with my shipmates.

BEAR- Back out to sea for the last time.

Units:

Feb '92-Apr '92	Recruit Basic Training	Cape May, NJ
Apr '92-Apr '94	Governors Island	Kodiak, AK
Apr '94-Sep '94	CGC DEPENDABLE	Cape May, NJ
Sep '94-Nov '94	QM "A" School	Yorktown, VA
Dec '94-Jun '96	CGC SWEETBRIAR	Cordova, AK
Jun '96-Jul '99	ISC St. Louis	St. Louis, MO
Jun '99-Oct '01	CGC SWEETBRIAR	Cordova, AK
Oct '01-Jul '03	CGC SYCAMORE	Cordova, AK
Jul '03- Jun '07	CG Sta Dauphin Island	Dauphin Is, AL
Jun '07-Jun '11	CGC CHEYENNE	St. Louis, MO
Jun '11-Feb '14	SECT. Upper Mississippi	St. Louis, MO
Feb '14-Mar '15	CGC BEAR	Portsmouth, VA



FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

CWO2 PIERCE

CWO PATRICK M. PIERCE

PROUDLY SERVED
AUGUST 1989—JUNE 2015

CWO Patrick Pierce enlisted in the Coast Guard on August 7, 1989 from Charlotte, NC. After Recruit Training in Cape May NJ, he reported aboard CGC CHILULA in its homeport of Atlantic Beach, NC. It was here where his love for the sea took hold. After a year of exploring the islands of the Caribbean he accepted orders to Storekeeper training in Petaluma, California.

After graduation from Storekeeper "A" school, and advancement to Petty Officer Third Class. Petty Officer Pierce accepted his next assignment to Air Station Elizabeth City. Although this assignment was a nice break from the hectic pace of shipboard life, he longed for more sea experience. He eagerly accepted orders to his next assignment, CGC DILIGENCE, home-ported in wonderful Wilmington NC. His assignment to DILIGENCE proved to be a fantastic experience that reconnected him to the sea he loved. It was here where he advanced to Second Class Petty Officer, but more importantly, met his bride to be, Ms. Page McGrath of Richmond Va.

Once his tour on DILIGENCE was complete, Petty Officer Pierce gladly accepted orders to Integrated Support Command Honolulu on the beautiful island of Oahu. It was a wondrous assignment filled with vibrant rainbows and sunsets that he enjoyed with his new bride. He advanced to Petty Officer First Class and returned once more to the sea on CGC RUSH, patrolling throughout the Pacific Ocean from the Bearing Sea to the Marshall Islands to South America. It was while Petty Officer Pierce was assigned to RUSH that he welcomed the arrival of his beautiful daughter, Della. Shortly thereafter he advanced to Chief Petty Officer.

Chief Petty Officer Pierce returned to Elizabeth City with his family to serve at the CG Support Center. There he was blessed with the arrival of his son, Daniel. Chief Petty Officer Pierce advanced to Senior Chief and transferred to another Elizabeth City command, the National Strike Force Coordination Center. While only two years at the NSFCC Senior Chief Petty Officer Pierce promoted to Chief Warrant Officer and accepted orders to Base Portsmouth.

Upon completing his tour at Base Portsmouth, Chief Warrant Officer Pierce returned to sea, this time as Support Officer aboard CGC BEAR where he closed out his Coast Guard career and began a new chapter in his life.

Units:

Aug '89-Sept '89	Recruit Training	Cape May, NJ
Oct '89-Dec '90	CGC CHILULA	Atlantic Beach, NC
Mar '91-May '94	CG Air Station	Elizabeth City, NC
Jun '94-Jun '98	CGC DILIGENCE	Wilmington, NC
Jul '98-Apr '01	ISC Honolulu	Honolulu, HI
May '01-Jul '04	CGC RUSH	Honolulu, HI
Aug '04-Jun '08	CG Support Center	Elizabeth City, NC
Jul '08-Jun '10	National Strike Force	Elizabeth City, NC
Jul '10-Jun '14	CG Base Portsmouth	Portsmouth, VA
Jun '14-Apr '15	CGC BEAR	Portsmouth, VA



ON THE HOME FRONT

BM2 Stocker's daughter, Kyleigh, has been enjoying her time down in Florida with grandma and pop pop. She is excited to see her mom soon!



BMC Christensen's son celebrating his 14th birthday party!

The Christensen triplets driving for the first time. Can't wait to share this job with Ryan!



ON THE HOME FRONT

Mk1 Carter: we love you and are sad you missed the snow!!! From Luke and Libby



Welcome back home MK2 Rhodenhizer! We missed you so much and can't wait for everything 2015 holds for our family!!

