

BEAR TRACKS

USCGC BEAR NEWSLETTER

Written by BEAR Sailors for Bear Sailors, Family, and Friends
Edited by LTJG Chris Bodner and ENS Mike Rauch



JIATF-South Patrol

The BEAR crew is just finishing up another successful patrol in the Caribbean! From patrolling established drug trafficking corridors to representing the United States in an event of international significance, our shipmates have been working around the clock over the last 61 days to perform the vital missions of the U.S. Coast Guard. To provide a snapshot, BEAR sailors safely traveled over 8,800 miles, provided over 87 hours of air coverage via an embarked helicopter, disrupted \$3 million of illicit drugs in transit, transported four detainees to Costa Rican Authorities, conducted in-depth boardings of several vessels suspected of smuggling contraband, worked with partner nations in support of combating illicit maritime activity, provided high quality tours of the ship to over 4,000 tourists in Colombia, and hosted a reception for numerous American and foreign VIPs and dignitaries, among many other things. All departments, including Deck, Engineering, Operations, and Support, worked seamlessly together in support of the mission and each other. Mid-patrol, for a bit of rest and relaxation, the crew experienced the exotic countries of Panama, Colombia, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In true BEAR fashion, the crew showed intensive focus and dedication to mission readiness throughout the entire patrol, continuing to train and improve up through the final days. We're all excited to be home soon, and will surely look back at our accomplishments with great pride!

Welcome Aboard!

- ENS Cuthrell (TAD)
- ME2 Linn (TAD)
- ME2 Matheson (TAD)
- BM2 McArthur (TAD)
- YN2 Dale (TAD)
- MK3 Carie
- SA Weers
- SA Walters
- SA Renaud
- SA Velky (TAD)
- SA Maynard

Fair Winds and Following Seas

- CDR Ramassini
- LCDR (sel) Floyd
- LTJG McDonald
- LTJG Bodner
- LTJG Antonietti
- LTJG Funke
- CWO2 Harris
- MKC Shores
- FSC Shipley
- EMC McDougall
- ETC Mejia
- BM1 Ballard
- ET2 Fitzgerald
- DC2 Noftz
- GM2 Thompson
- GM3 Atwood
- MK3 Knight
- ET3 Resseguie
- BM3 Pontecorvo
- FNMK Lawrence
- FN Kleinschrodt
- FN Nicoleau



FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

As we return from what amounts to my final patrol in BEAR, I am filled with pride as the crew performed admirably once again during another Joint Interagency Task Force patrol. The hard work and dedication of BEAR's crew alongside our inter-service and international partners netted nearly 17 tons of contraband this time around. Our team effort cooperating with partner nations disrupted nearly 750 million dollars of illicit contraband that now is no longer money filling the pockets of Transnational Criminal Organizations in our Hemisphere, nor available to other nefarious networks worldwide. Your husbands and wives, sons and daughters, dads and moms, nieces and nephews, and significant others accomplished this and you should be as proud of them as you should be of yourselves! In addition, the crew further strengthened U.S. international relations during Sail Cartagena de Indias 2014 in what was termed "A Grand Slam in Foreign Engagement" by Ambassador Whitaker, the U.S. Ambassador to Colombia and General Kelly, the Marine Corps Four-Star in charge of U.S. SOUTHCOM.

The loving support of BEAR's families and friends make what we do achievable! We remain forever indebted to our families for their unending love and leadership on the home front that enables the crew to remain mission focused!! A big thank you to Kala Carter and Jen Dalton, the BEAR Ombudsman, who actively worked to keep families informed. Without their support, BEAR could have ended up towing EAGLE out of Baltimore or in dry-dock in Oregon (all rumors quickly dispelled)!

With that said, I'm happy to present you the 2nd edition of 'BEAR Tracks' – capturing the ship's history and helping remind this fine crew of the many sea stories that are sure to only grow grander with time. I encourage you to keep a copy of this to remind them of what really happened! To my wife, Amanda and kids, Jake, Rea, Giada, and Davis...COCOxoxoxo!

I am humbled by this crew and forever indebted to the BEAR family. Thanks a Million for Making it Great!

~CDR D. W. Ramassini



A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP DIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNSEL (LDAC)



If Your Actions Inspire Others To Dream More, Learn More, Do More, And Become More, You Are A Leader.



QUALIFICATIONS

Underway Officer of the Deck (OOD)

BMC Ryan Christensen
BM2 Meredith Stocker

Inport Officer of the Deck (OOD)

ETC William Coffey
BMC Ryan Christensen

Quartermaster of the Watch (QMOW)

SN April Uzdevenes

Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch

FS1 Rebecca Lamm
BM3 Steven Horton

Helm and Lookout

SN Kody Weers
SN William Walters
SN Andrew Velky
SN Evan Renaud

Boatswain's Mate of the Watch (BMOW)

SN Alberto Vidal

CIC Watch Supervisor

OS1 Paula Verden

CIC Watchstander

SK3 Joshua Martin

Mk92 Radar Watchstander

ETC William Coffey
ET3 Justin Resseguie

Basic Damage Control

SN Evan Renaud
SN William Walters
SN Kody Weers
SN Andrew Velky

Advanced Damage Control

FN Ismael Hidalgo Fernandez

Fuel, Oil, and Water King (FOWK)

MK3 Michael Tanner



Helicopter Control Officer (HCO)

ENS Justin Maio

Landing Signal Officer (LSO)

ENS Rachel Cuthrell

Helicopter Tie Down Crewmember

BM3 Steven Horton
SK3 Joshua Martin
SN Alberto Vidal
SN Marquis Barefield

Engine Room Watchstander

MK2 Brett Winkelmann
DC3 Ryan Bosley
EM3 Tyler Burns

Underway Security Watchstander

DC1 Lucas Mangold
FN Itzel Cash
FN Carlos Rodriguez Felix
FN Ismael Hidalgo Fernandez

Inport Security Watchstander

FS1 Rebecca Lamm
FN Itzel Cash

Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Sentry

SN Christopher Conkey
FN Nahum Nicoleau

Master Helmsman

SN Evan Renaud
SN Marquis Barefield



HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Boarding Team Member

ENS Michael Rauch
SN Kyle Smith
SN Christopher Conkey

Boarding Officer

LTJG Christopher Bodner

OTH Crewman

ET2 Jeremy Moore
MK3 Richard Williams
SN Kyle Smith
SN Christopher Bowman
SN Christopher Conkey

OTH Engineer

MK1 Landon Carter
MK3 Richard Williams

CB-L Crewman

MK2 Stephen Fleming
MK2 Brett Winkelmann

CB-L Engineer

MK2 Stephen Fleming
MK2 Brett Winkelmann

Non-Compliant Vessel (NCV) Crewman

MK2 Stephen Fleming
BM3 Domenic Keenan

Flight Deck Fire Party Team Member

FN Itzel Cash

Aviation Fuel Handler

Carleton Kleinschrodt



ADVANCEMENTS:

*Christopher Levitsky to FN
Domenic Keenan to BM3
Jared Carter to HS1*

AWARDS:

Sea Service Ribbons:

*SN Vidal
FN Nicoleau*

Letters of Commendation:

*SK1 Weschrek
FS1 Lamm
FN Rodriguez-Felix
FN Hidalgo-Fernandez
FS2 Chandler
FN Lawrence
ET3 Resseguie*

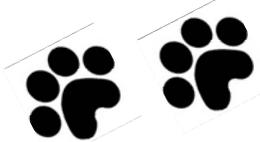
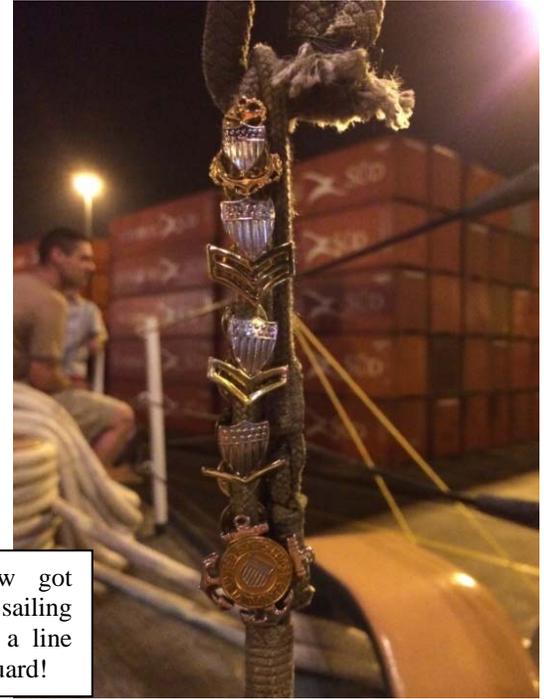
CG Achievement Medals

*BM1 Ballard
MK3 Knight*



HEART OF THE BEAR

Family and friends, you're looking at the owner/operator of BEAR's "House of Fades". FN Nicoleau has done an awesome job during his off time keeping us looking sharp while underway. Thanks FN Nicoleau for all your hard work!



While in Cartagena, the crew got together and "tagged" a foreign sailing ship that inadvertently dropped a line across BEAR's bow. Go Coast Guard!



Tom's Run

America's Longest Fun Run



Tom's Run is held in honor of CWO4 Tom Brooks, who was an avid fitness enthusiast. CWO4 Brooks contracted Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (also known as Lou Gehrigs Disease) in early 1999 and passed away. Tom's Run is unique in that it is not a competitive race to see which team can finish 200 miles the fastest but rather a team building event that promotes solidarity with all teams finishing together as an act of unity. This year, BEAR crewmembers rallied to the cause in steamy Guantanamo Bay, Cuba during a port call. The timing could not have been more perfect as we pulled in the day the event began and runners immediately hit the treadmill, elliptical, bike, and various outdoor trails. The blistering heat of Cuba was no match for the determination of the crew, many of which sacrificed their liberty time to put in some miles. Tom's Run brought together numerous shipmates and helped assemble the crew to a common cause. Thank you to all those who participated in this extraordinary event and we look to participate again next year! Go BEAR!

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK...



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

What an amazing patrol we have had! As usual, the Engineering Department did not fail to impress. Starting out our patrol with a shakedown cruise, we planned to operationally test all of our systems and equipment; BEAR Engineers were ready to overcome each and every casualty.

Right out of the gates, BEAR experienced a catastrophic failure to the #2 engine room supply fan leading to sustained engine room temperatures of over 100°F. The Main Propulsion team consisting of **MKC Shores**, **MK3 Knight**, **MK3 Williams**, **FN Maisonave**, **FN Nicoleau**, **FN Levitsky**, and **FN Cash** and led by **MKC Allen** jumped into action and replaced the 700 lb fan in an extraordinary timeframe. It took several long nights and an immense amount of help from personnel from the Electrical and Deck Divisions. After some long nights in cramped hot spaces they got the job done. Despite it all, their attitudes were superb!



During patrol, BEAR experienced several leaking fuel injectors on the main diesel engines. Main Propulsion stepped up again to replace and torque all faulty injectors in record time. Their persistence eliminated possible fire hazard and restored BEAR's operational readiness.

Operating with awesome stamina and teamwork, the Engineers were at it again later in the patrol when a governor on one of our main diesel engines began to act up. Main Prop and the Electrical division, made up of **EM1 Colletti**, **EM2 Kees**, **EM3 Burns** and **EM3 Jones** worked as an unstoppable team, joining together to dig into the complicated electrical and pneumatic



control system. The combined technical knowledge of this team is amazing. Late into the evening, the shops were able to find a suitable repair to correct the problem and get the engine back on line. The EM Division was also busy with, well... everything! Their impact is seen when correcting nearly everything that plugs into power. Despite the long list of machinery and systems that the Electricians maintain, they've performed flawlessly. They have done amazing, whether working on the ship's weather stations, flight deck lighting systems, sewage systems, small boats, ship's lighting, potable water distilling plant, engine control console, or the damage control communication systems.



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (CONT.)

The Damage Control Division, made up of **DC1 Mangold**, **DC2 Ruble**, **DC2 Noftz**, and **DC3 Bosley** have done a stunning job. The Damage Control Division is responsible for the huge task of training the crew and care of all damage control equipment onboard. Their knowledge and talent were put to work during daily training sessions, bringing our crews newly reported members up to speed with damage control qualifications. The Damage Control Division also played a key role in the repair of the ship's air conditioning. After practicing numerous times the DCs expertly repaired a vital system with only one opportunity for success. Putting their ingenuity to the test, the DCs fabricated a shower system for use by detainees and migrants to ensure their comfort and health needs were met. At the last hour of the patrol, the air compressor used to fill our fire fighting air bottles failed. With supplies from the Navy and assistance from **MKC Allen** and **MKC Rawlings** the air compressor was repaired and properly tested just in time, avoiding a delay to our homeport. Great job team!



The Auxiliary Division includes **MKC Rawlings**, **MK1 Carter**, **MK2 Fleming**, **MK2 Winkelmann**, **MK3 Tanner**, **FNMK Lawrence**, **FN Kleinschrodt**, **FN Rodriguez**, and **FN Hidalgo Fernandez**. During our shakedown cruise, multiple casualties were experienced including our air conditioning condenser, high pressure pump to the potable water distilling plant, cable for the small boat crane, and a failure of the aviation fuel hose reel. The Auxiliary Division was quick to repair each and every one of these casualties. Their exceptional ability to rise to each challenge and

multi-task and prioritize allowed the shop to handle numerous casualties at all ends of the Cutter. Having the massive responsibility of maintaining aviation fuel, the Auxiliary Division completed 48 refueling evolutions transferring over 6,800 gallons of fuel to our attached helicopter. Each one of those transfers required hours of recirculation and testing every morning to ensure the highest quality fuel was provided. Being the experts of small boat engineering the Auxiliary Division provided outstanding training of all boat crewmen on a daily basis. Great job to all those who worked so hard!



It's astonishing how much was accomplished considering the amazing work listed above was completed while carrying out the daily work routine and completing qualification training, drills, flight operations, small boat evolutions, law enforcement boardings, watches, and preparations for Sail Cartagena de Indias 2014 in Cartagena, Columbia.

This patrol was one of the first full length patrols that BEAR will conduct in the coming months. The Engineers have put more than the average amount of work into this cutter and despite the long work list ahead, BEAR has made great strides toward being the best in the fleet. BEAR is only as successful as the engineers that take care of her and that care has shown greatly this past year. BEAR has made such rapid improvement due to the well trained and thorough eyes of all the Engineering Department and guidance from the EO, **LCDR (sel) Floyd**, and Division Officers, **LTJG Funke**, **LTJG Antonietti**, **ENS Bratman**, and **CWO2 Dalton**. Congratulations on making this a great patrol! We would like to thank all the spouses, family, and friends for supporting our crew!

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Under the guidance of **LT Dan Bell**, **LTJG Chris Bodner**, and **ENS Justin Maio** the Operations Department continues to lead the charge in all operational endeavors. As we near the end of our patrol, we look back at the challenges we faced and accomplishments we achieved with pride. These include having conducted 269 Shipboard Helicopter evolutions (resulting in over 87 hours of flight time) and safely navigated over 8,800 nautical miles, all for the purpose of combating illicit maritime activities on the high seas.

The Operational Specialists (**OSC Steven Earles**, **OSC Donald Newton**, **OS1 Rebecca Murray**, **OS1 Paula Verden**, **OS2 Michael Lucci**, and **OS3 James Noble**) are responsible for monitoring all of BEAR's sensors and communications, which include radars and radios. They also maintain a tactical operational picture for the command, which provides valuable insight for mission planning. All members of the division contributed greatly to the mission success of BEAR, by being key players in the coordination efforts of multiple law enforcement assets. Additionally, **OS1 Verden** earned her qualification as **CIC Watch Supervisor**.



The Electronics Division, led by **ENS Justin Maio** and **ETC William Coffey**, is designated with the overall maintenance and operation of all shipboard electronics. The shop consists of **ET1 Joseph Schubert**, **IT1 Daniel Bryce**, **ET2 Jeremy Moore**, **IT2 Christopher Silva**, **ET3 Michael Ploski**, **ET3 Justin Resseguie**, **ET3 Nicholas Jolicoeur**, and **IT3 Richard Caruso**. These resourceful technicians responded to over eight electronics casualties and kept the ship's important systems infrastructure up and running like clockwork. They effected repairs to keep BEAR in the hunt and maximized her operational effectiveness. They helped keep ship's morale high by maintaining Direct TV in a ready status and stood a vigilant watch over the Navy DVD system to make sure no movies were missed!

The Gunner's Mates (**GM2 Christopher Thompson** and **GM3 Chad Atwood**) have ensured all firearms are in good working order and ready to defend our crewmembers. The division had outstanding success in restoring the ship's MK75 weapon system, leading to outstanding performance shooting an aerial target for TSTA. In addition, they exercised the .50 caliber machine guns for surface warfare and the MK36 Decoy Launch System for electronic warfare. **GM1 Gladman** looks to complete his MK75 technician course and continue the division's success. While he is away, **GM2 Thompson** and **GM3 Atwood** run the shop on their final BEAR patrol. **GM2 Thompson** earned the esteemed title of Hampton Roads Cutterman of the Year for 2013 and had his award presented at quarters. The division celebrated **GM2 Thompson's** reenlistment inside the MK75 weapon system during February 2014. This was a special event for the division, and it reflected the core value of devotion to duty in a unique way. Weapons division looks to continue making BEAR ready for action.



Our Maritime Law Enforcement Specialist **ME3 Christopher McAbee** combined forces with members of the Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Team (**ME2 Matthew Matheson** and **ME2 Everett Linn**) to conduct and document multiple boardings of vessels in the fight to stop illicit trafficking of narcotics and illegal immigration. Together, they conducted numerous hours of law enforcement training, enabling the qualification of one Boarding Officer, two Boarding Team Members and two Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Sentries and helping a number of others make significant progress on their qualifications.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT (CONT.)



Where are we!? A question often heard on the messdeck of Cutter BEAR. There are at least four crewmembers who are all too familiar with our ship's position at any given time. Meet the Navigation team aboard Cutter BEAR! Led by **BM1 James Ballard**, and consisted of **BM2 Meredith Stocker**, **BM3 Seth Pontecorvo**, and **BM3 Ryan Langlois**, our Nav team not only ensures the safe operation and navigation of BEAR, but also contribute to the core missions of law enforcement as boarding officers, boarding team members, coxswains, and boat crewmen aboard our ship's small boats, and as underway and inport officers of the deck, overseeing daily operations of Bear.



The Nav Team is also responsible for the preparation of every single nautical chart, ensuring the safe transit of BEAR during some of her most hazardous operations. When the Nav Team is not Navigating, you can find them on and about the deck as highly influential crewmembers onboard. They inspire others to lead a healthy and cultured lifestyle while at sea. After this trip, we say goodbye to our 2 most experienced members of the team. **BM1 Ballard** will depart us for the shores of Ocean City Maryland, where he will act as a Heavy Weather Coxswain at Station Ocean City. While the very talented, charismatic **BM3 Pontecorvo** looks to return back to the North East as he reports to Station Castle Hill with beautiful Newport, Rhode Island acting as the back drop of the next chapter of his adventurous lifestyle he calls normal. Fair Winds and following Seas boys.

As a team, the Operations department and BEAR are completing the mission we set sail to do and are continuing to ensure safety of life at sea and keep drugs off the streets of the United States.



SUPPORT DEPARTMENT



The Support Department has been very busy this patrol getting our house in good working order. The Storekeepers started out the patrol by revamping Lower-Lower stores to house all our AMIO gear. This enabled us to remove all the bins from up on our O-3 deck and preserve all items in a safe and dry environment. All members worked very hard to make this project successful. **CWO Harris** removed (destroyed) shelves to make room for SK1's organizational plan. **SK1 Weschrek, SK3 Martin, SNSK Stewart and YN2 Dale** spent hours down in Lower-Lower putting together over 200 ready to go kits for all migrants who come aboard the cutter. This ensures that we can get them aboard more quickly and start getting them settled and taken care of faster. When the cutter had to make a longer than planned stop in Key West, the Support shop came through with flying colors and helped to clear out 5 mission limiting casualties. We were also able to get multiple supply runs in for departments to ensure the cutter was ready for a full deployment. The Support department was very busy with Helo ops this patrol. SK1 Weschrek had over 175 evolutions on deck as an LSO and met recurrency requirements as a Tie Down Member and SK3 Martin broke-in and qualified as Tie Down Crew. SK3 Martin also broke-in and qualified as CIC Watch Stander. As a team we pulled together and got through *Sail Cartagena de Indias 2014* in Cartagena, CO. Everything from having flags made for parades and receptions, to helping prep for a brunch that housed diplomatic and military officials and the reception that followed, which entertained over 75 guests. Both **YN2 Dale** and **HS1 Carter** have been a welcome addition to our Support Department as TAD guests. YN2 has worked very hard getting personnel to and from foreign countries, having orders done up on the fly and pushing out multiple awards throughout the patrol. HS1 Carter has done an excellent job of keeping us healthy and supporting our missions as an honorary Spanish

linguist. And of course, a big congratulations for his recent promotion to First Class Petty Officer! Sailing with a full Food Service Staff for the first time in ages, USCGC BEAR pulled away from the pier in early April 2014 for a 62 day patrol. With the newest members of the crew **FNFS Petgrave** and **FS3 Beaty** putting in numerous man hours to gain more experience, salty dogs **FS3 Meyers** and **FS2 Chandler** guided the greenhorns to produce many outstanding meals thus gliding pretty smoothly through the entire patrol. Come heavy swells or low vegetable supply **FSC Shipley** kept her cool and made sure the galley always fired on all cylinders while her second in command **FS1 Lamm** made sure messcooks and the messdeck were in check at all times, among various other tasks. The galley staff produced an outstanding reception and brunch during *Sail Cartagena de Indias 2014*, serving Admirals, Generals, and foreign dignitaries with feedback stating that the event was "A grand slam in foreign engagement." From chopping up leftovers and cardboard in the muffin monster to swabbing the deck and cleaning out the reefer, there was nothing too big or too small for this stellar group of cooks! Three of the six cooks celebrated birthdays underway this patrol and unfortunately for BEAR, two cooks will be transferring during this inport. But with the loss of two there will be a gain of two and BEAR will continue to produce excellence from its galley department. Thank you to the whole SUPPORT department for making this patrol such a success!



DECK DEPARTMENT

BEAR's Deck Force welcomes six new shipmates this patrol! BMC Christensen joins us from Sector upper Mississippi River and we also have SN Renaud, SN Velky (TAD), SN Walters, SN Weers, and SN Maynard who all came from Basic training to take part in our efforts to keep BEAR in the hunt! Welcome aboard shipmates!

As always, we like to recognize those shipmates who continue to move forward and exceed expectations by finishing qualifications while still maintaining excellent work ethic and positive attitudes. We would like to congratulate former SNBM Keenan on his advancement to BM3! Earning your crow's is a proud achievement for non-rates and we wish the best of luck for BM3 Keenan and the rest of his career. Shout out to SN Stewart completed the striker program for Storekeeper and is awaiting his advancement from SNSK to SK3; and SN Brandt for earning her orders to Boatswain's Mate "A" School! All members have put forth the extra effort to earn qualifications as Boat Crew Member, Coxswain, Boarding Team Member, Helmsman and Lookout, and Basic Damage Control.

What's that? A seat cushion? A cooler? A bail? This year's Mother's Day brought quite the surprise as SNSK Stewart and SN Provoyeur spotted bails of contraband in the middle of the ocean while traveling on a randomly drawn track line that was previously jettisoned 66 hours before by a go-fast. Their combined eagle-eyed prowess resulted in a drug disruption valued at \$3M. The odds of having these bails cross 20 yards down our beam were carefully calculated to be approximately 18,675,309 to 1.



BEAR was selected to take part in Sail Cartagena de Indias 2014, in which BEAR was allotted the opportunity to share the pier with the magnificent Tall Ships from the Latin and South American countries. This extraordinary event, which is normally supported by CG Barque EAGLE, was a high profile public affairs event where we hosted a slew of VIPs and dignitaries from other countries, including General Kelly, US Southern Command, as well as admirals and captains from other Navies. Crewmembers participated in numerous public affairs events such as marching in a parade, attending an address from the Minister of Defense of Colombia, shipboard ceremonies, and closing it out with a parade of sail with all the other ships, barques, and barkentines. BEAR also opened the brow and hosted tours to four thousand civilians interested in seeing what the U.S. Coast Guard was all about.

As the patrol comes to an end, we look back on all the hard work that everyone has put in. Whether it be handling double watches, needle gunning, studying for qualification boards, or late night Helo ops, Deck Force put in maximum effort to keep BEAR in the hunt. We thank everyone and hope you enjoy your time back with your families as we make our way back to home port. You deserve it.

From the 1LT:

Hats off to LTJG McDonald for training a professional Deck Force, your work established the foundation for the Deckies and helped build a hard working machine. After taking over the reins I had the pleasure of working with BMC Christensen, who has been a great mentor so far and getting me up to speed. Great work Deck Force; your blood, sweat, and tears did not go unnoticed. Just wait until people mention how BEAR's the best looking ship in Portsmouth! I hope you all learned a lot this patrol and are ready to hit the ground running while we get ready for inspections, change of command, and our next patrol. Bravo Zulu shipmates!

Respectfully Yours,
ENS Mike Rauch



DECK DEPARTMENT (CONT.)



HITRON AVIATION DETACHMENT

14-20

Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) Aviation Detachment 14-20 would like to say thank you to the crew of CGC BEAR for your outstanding professionalism and support over the past 2 months.



Since our embarkation on April 14th we have been made to feel as an integral part of the crew, working to ensure mission readiness through countless drills and training evolutions, conducting flight operations daily to ensure constant surveillance of the waters we have been tasked to patrol, and enjoying port calls in Key West, Bocas Del Toro, Cartagena, and Guantanamo Bay. Though we were not directly involved in a drug smuggling interdiction during this patrol, the tremendous efforts made by all hands allowed us all to maintain proficiency, train new members, and ensure a remarkable degree of availability and readiness. It is without question, that given the opportunity, this crew would have readily and flawlessly executed the mission.



As a result of unwavering discipline and preparation, CGC BEAR and HITRON 14-20 in conjunction with partnering Maritime Patrol Aircraft and international patrol vessels, we were successful in the disruption of smuggling operations totaling an estimated street value of \$3M of cocaine. We thank all members of the crew for their hard work and dedication, and wish you all the best of luck on your future patrols and endeavors.

HITRON: *Force from Above!*



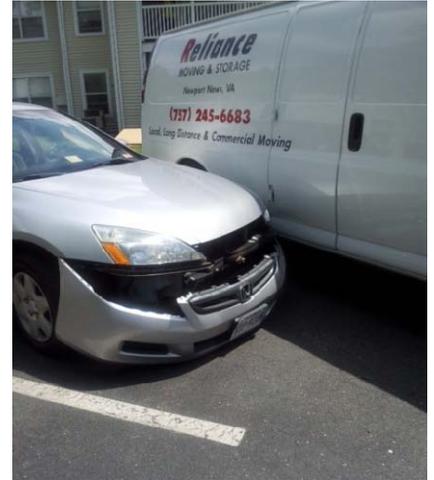
- Hours flown: 87+ hrs
- Sorties flown: 50
- Rounds expended during six gunnery exercises:
 - 7.62 mm: 500
 - .50 caliber: 60
- Maintenance hours: 330+
- JP-5 burned: 6000+ gallons

ON THE HOME FRONT

Joe,

This patrol fell right in the middle of our very first CG move. I was so nervous knowing I'd have to handle it all by myself. I was afraid that everything would go wrong. Well, not everything went wrong, but a lot did...including the movers ripping the bumper off of our car! Haha. I now know that our next move will be a breeze because I'm prepared for it all! I'm so proud of you for your accomplishments on the Bear and I can't believe this was your last patrol! Your first station is now behind you and we have so much in our future to look forward to! Sunny Florida, here we come!!!

Love you, Brooke



We have had a quick spring and enjoyed the beach when the weather has been nice. We have missed you and can't wait to spend the summer of adventures. We are so very proud of how hard you work.

Love,

Luke, Libby and Kala

I couldn't be prouder of you, LTJG Chris Bodner! I'm so impressed by your dedication and hard work and for always giving it your all no matter how exhausted you are. Thank you for always loving me and supporting me, even when you're thousands of miles away and in the middle of the sea. I'm so excited to start this next part of our life together. Oregon is so beautiful, and I know you'll love your Incident Management billet!

Love, Cynthia



BEAR CUBS



SN Smith's 8 month old daughter became a pro crawler and took her first steps while the Bear was underway this patrol! She missed her amazing daddy so much!!!



MK2 Rhodenhizer! Thanks for taking such good care of us in April! Hope you enjoyed your mini getaway and we miss you very much! We are so proud of the hard work you do every day! Love, Lindsey, Madeline and Lacey Reese



To CWO HARRIS: A lot has happened during this patrol that you have unfortunately (or fortunately) missed! Shortly after your departure, as you know, we moved into our first home...amidst new carpeting being installed, upstairs and downstairs painting, and no kitchen cabinets or appliances! The icing on the cake was our new puppy who was not potty-trained (thank goodness for Nature's Miracle!). We've had a wayward mouse in the house, a baby copperhead snake in the backyard that our new puppy decided to eat its lifeless body as sushi, and ants (who are messing with the wrong house). We also celebrated our 10 year wedding anniversary, and while I never thought we'd be spending it apart, I felt the love with the beautiful bouquets of flowers. Despite all the craziness, we are keeping our eye on the prize...RETIREMENT!!! No more missed birthdays, anniversaries, school concerts, soccer games, scouts, karate, dog training, dog walking, unpacking, unpacking, and did I mention unpacking? All kidding aside, Matthew, Amy, and I are very proud of you and are EXTREMELY excited to have you back home with us forever! It's been a fun adventure and I wouldn't change a thing, but it's time to furl the sails and remain pier-side! We love you, we're proud of you, and we can't wait to have you home!

