



THE SEAFARER

January—May 2016



The official newsletter
of USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)

CHANGE OF COMMAND



On May 20th 2016, CGC JAMES held it's first-ever Change of Command Ceremony where Captain Mark J. Fedor relieved former Captain Tiongson as Commanding Officer. Following his relief, Captain Tiongson was frocked to Rear Admiral and will assume the role of Assistant Commandant For Resources/Chief Financial Officer At Coast Guard Headquarters.

The ceremony began with marching on the Colors and rendering honors to the Presiding Official, Atlantic Area Commander, Vice Admiral William "Dean" Lee. The Color Guard was comprised of our own JAMES crewmembers, ME3 Fonseca, GM2 Blanks, ME1 Mallory, and BM2 Wisecup. Following greetings and introductions, the Master of Ceremony and XO of CGC JAMES, CDR Matt Moyer described the time-honored tradition which formally restates to the officers, men and women of the command, the continuity of authority of command. The occasion ensures that all hands know of the shift in authority, and that a duly authorized officer is placed in charge. Deeply rooted in US Coast Guard history, this formal ritual is unique to the armed forces and publicly underscores the distinctive nature of command. It signifies the total transfer of responsibility, authority, and accountability for the command. It marks the end of a segment of the command's history. But most importantly, it signals a new beginning a new opportunity for even greater achievements in the future.

Following the relief of duties and responsibilities, Captain Tiongson sincerely reflected on this time onboard CGC JAMES and the significance of being a plank owner and Commanding Officer of a very unique and hard-working crew that brought the cutter to life. Captain Fedor shared his enthusiasm and excitement to continue the JAMES' stamina and lead the cutter to operations in the near future. Captain Tiongson was shortly thereafter frocked to Rear Admiral where his daughter and son, Katy and Dale removed his Captain shoulder boards and replaced them with Admiral insignia. His wife, Captain Katherine Tiongson replaced his Captain cover and together the family gathered for a momentous photo. The crowd celebrated as the most deserving Admiral Tiongson held his admiral's flag with pride and accomplishment.

The Wardroom, Chief's Mess, and Crew will greatly miss the first Captain of CGC JAMES and congratulates the Tiongson Family for their significant achievements and contributions to the foundation of the greatest cutter in the fleet! Moreover, the crew welcomes Captain Fedor and his family into the JAMES family and looks forward to the upcoming milestones we will carry out in the operational fleet!

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CHANGE OF COMMAND







TAILORED SHIP'S TRAINING AVAILABILITY **(TSTA)**

Formally known as the Tailored Ship's Training Availability or TSTA, this major milestone determines the readiness status of a cutter by conducting a series of evaluated drills and training. Every cutter must complete this objective every three years.

This three-week evolution emphasizes navigation, seamanship, engineering, damage control and other training. In addition to those, the cutter also performs Flight deck operations. Furthermore, all trainings are comprised of both inport and underway teams or all-hands to simulate the various possible scenarios given the operational status of the vessel.

TSTA is held in two phases. The first phase consists of two weeks at the pier, conducting numerous damage control, communications, medical, and other drills. The next phase consists of two weeks of underway training. This underway period combines both flight operations for the Airwing and shipboard drills, including General Quarters, Damage Control, Man Overboard, and fire drills. Upon completion of the basic phase, a unit is expected to be proficient in all mission areas.

In addition to inport and underway drills, CGC JAMES also conducted a Fueling At Sea evolution with the USNS Leroy Grummen. Underway replenishment (UNREP) or replenishment at sea (RAS) is a method of transferring fuel, munitions, and stores from one ship to another while under way. The supplying vessel, USNS Leroy Grummen, held a steady course and speed (between 12 and 16 knots) while the receiving ship, CGC JAMES, made its approach to come alongside at a distance of approximately 50 yards.

Although it seems counterintuitive for two vessels to come at a close range, it can be necessary when patrolling far offshore and maintaining a high operational tempo. While setting up the configuration to receive fuel, a gunline, pneumatic line thrower, or shot line is fired from the supplier, which is used to pull across a messenger line. This line is used to pull across other equipment such as a distance line, phone line, and the transfer rig lines. Once all cables were made up, JAMES received fuel at 2000 gallons per minute. Meanwhile the Conning Officer carefully checks and maintains the distance between the two large vessels.

Following the completion of fueling, both vessels practice the procedures for an emergency break-away where the receiving vessel disconnects all lines and cables then pulls away from the supplier due to a casualty during the evolution. JAMES expertly accomplished this major evolution and was commended for their overall precision ship handling as well as superior engineering and deck management.

Prior to the evaluation commencement, many members practiced emergency procedures and response to ensure they were properly prepared for any scenario they may come across. This was the very first TSTA of CGC JAMES and certainly will not be the last. Despite being a few months old, the crew successfully and impressively scored a 97% for an overall average and was commended by the training team and evaluators for "phenomenal" results thus placing CGC JAMES as the best scoring National Security Cutter to date! This significant result was a product of hard work and dedication of the crew.

FUELING AT SEA CGC JAMES AND USNS LEROY GRUMMEN



DEGAUSSING AND DEPERMING



DEGAUSSING AND DEPERMING

After TSTA, the next step in ensuring JAMES was prepared for operational duty was the deperming process. A steel-hulled ship is like a huge floating magnet with a large magnetic field surrounding it.

The process of building a ship, within the Earth's magnetic field, develops a certain amount of permanent magnetism in the ship. When the ship moves, this field also moves and adds to or subtracts from the Earth's magnetic field. Essentially the moving ship builds up a magnetic signature which can trigger magnetic sensitive devices such as mines that are designed to detect these magnetic signatures.

Larger ships have DC coils systems built into the ship in various locations, which create a field equal and opposite to the ships permanent magnetic field, known as degaussing.

However, using degaussing coils in a surface ship can only compensate the ship's own magnetic field to a certain level and thereafter the vessel has to undergo a deperming procedure in a dedicated deperming facility.

During the deperming procedure large coils are wrapped around a ship and DC currents are used to cancel the remaining permanent magnetism of the ship. The process is repeated a number of times slowly whittling down the permanent magnetic field of the ship, making it "magnetically invisible". The ship is then able to pass over mines and other magnetic sensitive devices without triggering them.

The process took two and a half days and was conducted in Norfolk, Virginia. The weather was cold, windy, with scattered rain showers. Despite the less-than-desirable conditions, all hands were on deck and worked efficiently to ensure the job was done properly, and JAMES was one step closer to operational readiness!



COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

On December 9th 2015, USCGC JAMES was recognized for meritorious service from December 2014 to September 2015 during the crew establishment and inaugural patrol by Vice Admiral Lee, Commander of USCG Atlantic Area.

The crew is extremely grateful for this recognition and our accomplishments would not have come to fruition without the support of our family and friends - Thank you!





THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the
COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to:

USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

“For meritorious service from December 2014 to September 2015 during the crew establishment and inaugural patrol of the Coast Guard’s fifth National Security Cutter (NSC). Despite the extreme difficulties associated with bringing a cutter to life, the newly-formed crew of USCGC JAMES confronted every challenge with resounding success. Managing numerous competing demands, the crew achieved a 95 percent Master Training List completion rate, the highest of any NSC. Faced with a lack of NSC experience, JAMES developed a robust training program that yielded more than 2,000 temporary duty underway days aboard other major cutters, building critical crew knowledge and proficiency. While deployed to Pascagoula, Mississippi, the crew strategically partnered with Project Resident Office Gulf Coast, Training Center Petaluma and other entities, bolstering key navigation, seamanship, engineering and damage control skills. In the months leading up to delivery, JAMES executed a comprehensive inventory of 6,000 ship-critical items valued at more than 19 million dollars, flawlessly coordinating efforts across industry and multiple Coast Guard programs. Crewmembers devised innovative solutions to issues with the NSC inventory on-load process and developed best practices that will serve as a model for all future pre-commissioning units. At the start of its inaugural patrol, JAMES expertly fulfilled 38 training requirements, earning its Ready for Sea Certification only six days after departing the shipyard. JAMES also completed its initial Aviation Certification a mere five days later, successfully conducting 115 ship-helicopter evolutions and fully certifying its flight deck and personnel for all helicopter operations. During its landmark patrol, JAMES proudly displayed the flag in one foreign and five domestic ports, showcasing the importance of Coast Guard recapitalization to myriad stakeholders, including the Director of National Intelligence, senior officials from the National Security Council, Department of Homeland Security and National Security Agency, and Congressional delegates. Additionally, JAMES provided tours to over 3,000 public and official guests, conveying the crew’s deep pride in the cutter and its missions. Through their actions, the crew has proven to be worthy of the legacy of the cutter’s namesake, Captain Joshua James. The devotion to duty and outstanding performance demonstrated by USCGC JAMES are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.”

For the Commandant,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. D. AEE".

W. D. AEE

Vice Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Coast Guard Atlantic Area

CAPTAIN'S CORNER



I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of this crew and how hard they have worked over the past year, transforming from a disparate group of individuals into a highly-effective team, and more importantly, into a family. Many of you know that we in the cutter fleet hold the word "shipmate" in the highest regard – shipmates are united by a common and unconditional desire to help one another and the unit to succeed. JAMES' remarkable successes that you read about in these pages were not achieved through the work of one or even of many individuals – they were accomplished by a team of shipmates who understood the importance of laying a rock-solid foundation for the JAMES crews that will come after us. From our permanent cuttermen to our newest non-rates, JAMES' crew embodies the dedication, professionalism and indomitable spirit celebrated in our namesake, Captain Joshua James. Together, we have succeeded in our mission of truly bringing a brand-new cutter to life. This is, of course, just the beginning, and JAMES' new mission is to prepare to do the work of our Service – to ensure the safety and security of our Nation's waters, to bring traffickers to justice, to rescue those in distress and to safeguard our many resources. As hard as it is to leave, I do so knowing that JAMES could not be in more capable hands, and I am humbled and honored to be part of this growing family.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,

CAPT Andy Tiongson
1st Commanding Officer
USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)

XO's COMMENTS

Greetings to JAMES family and friends! These past few months have been extremely busy but rewarding at the same time. This resilient crew, 6 months into JAMES' lifecycle, conquered seven immense ship-wide inspections, including an Ordnance and Electronics Technical and Safety Inspection, Boat and Aviation Standardization, Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART), and Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA). In layman's terms, these pinnacle inspections helped to fully "certify" the cutter and crew across all watch stations, and they concluded that JAMES and its crew are ready to safely perform the full gambit of Coast Guard missions and operations. The crew also enjoyed a well deserved three-day port visit to Nassau, Bahamas, where they were able to kick back, relax, and reflect upon their amazing accomplishments. As we enter into an intense and extended dockside availability, your support and fervor for this crew will be more important than ever, as you inspire and motivate us all. As previously noted, we have the best crew, cutter, and family support in the Coast Guard. Thank you for all that you do for us, the Coast Guard, and JAMES.

Sincerely,
CDR Matt Moyer



COMMAND SENIOR CHIEF

Greetings JAMES Family! So many great things have happened in the last three months! Namely, we sailed the Finest Cutter in the Fleet up to Norfolk, where we completed TSTA with flying colors. There was much hard work, and we all held true to the JAMES Way and did it all with a great attitude. I have never been more proud than being a crewmember on JAMES, and that is all because of the shipmates that surround us and the great families that support us all. The pride that you all show every day is what gives this fine ship such a great reputation. TSTA, like everything else that the crew has endured up until this point, was a challenge to be overcome. The crew nailed it, and they did it with singing, bantering, and smiles. With the hard work of PSA-2 just ramping up, we are faced with yet another challenge - Long hours of maintenance, painting, hot work, and noise. We are faced with the challenge of staying proficient; at the same time, making sure we have enough healthy people to get the work on JAMES finished, as well as stand the watch. With the operational life of the ship just around the corner, now too is the time to focus on preparing ourselves and our families for what is ahead. Education, health & wellness, family time, and home projects are all things that should start to grab our attention for the next few months. We will hold fast to the attitude and cheer that makes this cutter great, and ensure that we are all looking forward to what lies ahead both at home and at work. If there is ever a time that you or your family need assistance, advice, or someone to talk to, please feel free to reach out to me directly, or any of our outstanding Chiefs. We are here for you!

Cheers,
FSCS Chad Barrett, CSC



OMBUDSMAN'S OUTREACH

I encourage all the spouses to email me if you have not been receiving my emails and E-vites. If you have a question, I will do my best to answer it or point you in the direction of someone who can.

You can email me at: Caycelacorte@yahoo.com.

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

CAPT ANDREW J. TIONGSON

ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR RESOURCES/CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER AT COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS.

MKCM DAVID MACDONALD

TRACEN YORKTOWN

DCCS JOHN GOHIER

TRACEN YORKTOWN

DC 1 DUSTIN ROLL

CGC EAGLE

ET2 MEGAN BURGE

PORT SECURITY UNIT 308

MK2 JOHN FILIPPONE

STATION ISLAMORADA

FS2 SHANTAY RODRIGUEZ

CGC BLUEFIN

MK3 LUKE SHIELD

CGC BEAR

FS3 REBECKAH KEAN

SECTOR CHARLESTON

SN JAMES LEWIS

EM "A" SCHOOL

FN LOGAN CHRISTOPHER

EM "A" SCHOOL

FN EDDIE SANTANA

MK "A" SCHOOL

FN KENNEDY EILERMAN

ME "A" SCHOOL

SN SARAH WARREN

OS "A" SCHOOL

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS



WELCOME ABOARD!



Captain Mark J. Fedor Commanding Officer USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)



Captain Fedor reports to JAMES with nearly 10 years of sea-time experience on five different cutters including two previous commands. Prior to his arrival in Charleston, he served as the Chief of Response for the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, FL. In that capacity, he was responsible for all Coast Guard law enforcement, search and rescue (SAR) and maritime incident management along the southeastern seaboard and throughout the Caribbean.

Prior to his tour at the Seventh District, Captain Fedor was the Commanding Officer of the cutter MOHAWK (WMEC 913) in Key West, FL where he led efforts to seize two semi-submersible drug submarines with over 16 metric tons of cocaine. His other operational assignments include being First Lieutenant onboard the cutter DAUNTLESS (WMEC 624), Operations Officer onboard the cutter DURABLE (WMEC 628), Commanding Officer of the patrol boat MONOMOY (WPB 1326), and as Executive Officer onboard the medium-endurance cutter LEGARE (WMEC 912).



His staff tours include being an Intelligence Analyst in Miami, FL, Military Aide to the Coast Guard's Seventh District Commander in Miami, FL, the Coast Guard's Fiscal Year 2004 federal budget coordinator in Washington D.C., a Congressional Fellow to the House of Representatives Government Reform Subcommittee for Drug Policy and the Appropriations Subcommittee for Transportation, and as a Special Assistant and Speechwriter to the 23rd Commandant of the Coast Guard in Washington D.C.

He graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science in Government. He earned a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in 2001 and a second Masters Degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College in 2011.

Captain Fedor's personal decorations include four Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, four Coast Guard Achievement Medals and the Commandant's Letter of Commendation.

Captain Fedor has been married to his wife Amy for 23 years and they have four children, Tyler (15), Will (14), and twins Megan and Drew (8).

WELCOME ABOARD!



SA AUSTIN AHERN

SA Austin Ahern is from Daphne, Alabama and reported to CGC JAMES on December 29th 2015. He intends to become a Machinery Technician (MK). He was unsure what to expect prior to arriving to his first unit. His nerves soon subsided as he realized the crew was extremely helpful with his transition and taught him what he needed to know. His goal while attached to CGC JAMES is to get qualified as quickly as possible to become a better asset to the cutter.

SA DYLAN KUBACK

SA Dylan Kuback came to CGC JAMES from Palm Coast, Florida. He also reported on the 29th of December 2015 and intends to become a Machinery Technician (MK). He anticipated he would arrive to an environment as serious as bootcamp, but found the crew to be very inviting and a close knit family. He hopes to attend A School by the summer of 2016 after attaining his qualifications onboard CGC JAMES.



SA CHUCK SAKENAS



SA Chuck Sakenas is from Turnersville, New Jersey. He reported on the 28th of December 2015. He wishes to pursue the rate of Boatswains Mate (BM) and is eager to learn from the BMs onboard CGC JAMES. He was unsure what to expect of his first unit and quickly realized the crew was very professional and cared about new arrivals. He was also surprised to experience TSTA for the first time. Although the timeframe of his arrival was hectic, there were many great evolutions to experience, including a diverse range of shipboard drills. Upon departing CGC JAMES, he wants his hard work ethic to leave a lasting impression.



FA CORTEZ ROBERSON

FA Roberson is a newly reporting member of JAMES from Coast Guard Recruit Training in Cape May, New Jersey, and is a native of Mobile, Alabama. The most enjoyable part of JAMES for him is being a member of the Auxiliary Division. He hopes to attend HS "A" School, and in his free time enjoys hanging out with friends.

WELCOME ABOARD!



SK3 LINDSEY BAUGHER

SK3 Lindsey Baugher reported on March 25th, 2016, and is from Lexington, South Carolina. She joined the Coast Guard 3 years ago, and comes to us from CGC REEF SHARK, an 87' WPB in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, and has never been on a WMSL. She anticipated that the crew would be really tight. She is excited to get to see new places, to get qualified, and the overall experience, but is most of all happy to be back home.

FA ZACHARY JONES

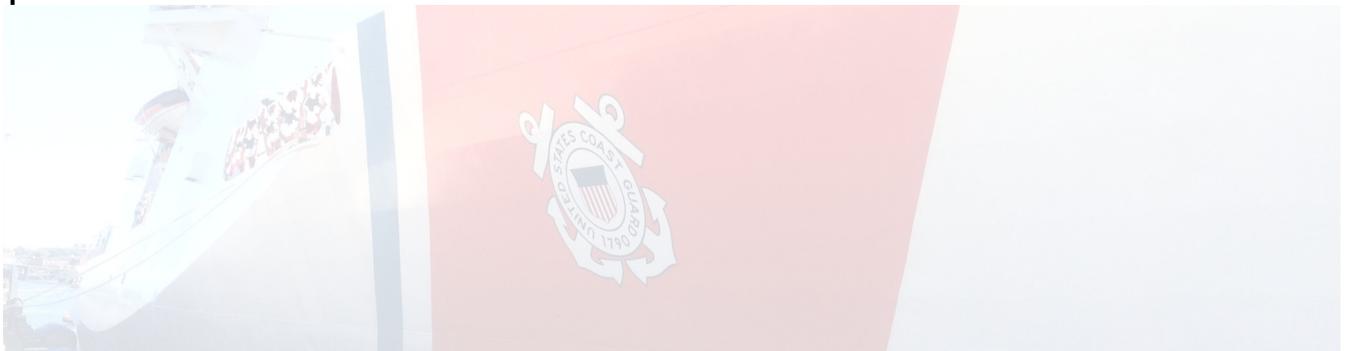
FA Jones is from Crystal River, Florida, and is reporting to JAMES from Recruit Training in Cape May, New Jersey. He is a member of Main Prop Division and is considering attending EM "A" School. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing and playing sports.



SA GABRIEL RUBIO



SA Rubio is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is newly graduated from Coast Guard Recruit Training in Cape May, New Jersey. The most exciting thing he has experienced on JAMES so far is special sea detail. In his free time, he likes to read, watch movies, or go fishing. He hopes to attend MST "A" School.



WELCOME ABOARD!

MK3 MARA DEVROS



MK3 Devros, a native of Belleville, Illinois, comes to us from CGC FORWARD after serving there for a year and a half. She is now a productive member of A-Gang. Although she has never been on a WMSL before, she is excited to learn about the Coast Guard's newest platform, and is surprised at how spacious the berthings are. She enjoys hiking, biking, and other outdoors activities.

FN KARA BOURNE

FN Bourne is from Ft. Pierce, Florida, and comes to JAMES from Station Ft. Lauderdale. This is her first experience on a WMSL and she is excited to one day get underway on a mission-oriented patrol. She one day hopes to attend either DC or IS "A" School. She is a valued member of the Auxiliary Division, and in her off time enjoys outdoors activities.



ELC4 JOSEPH BELSON



CWO Belson is from Clearwater, Florida and comes to JAMES from the C4IT Department at Base Boston. He is now the Division Officer of the ET/IT Division. The best part of being on JAMES for him is having an ET/IT Shop again. In his spare time, Mr. Belson enjoys biking, golfing, and geocaching. After JAMES, he plans on retiring and moving back home to Tennessee with his family.

SK3 MATHEW WILSON

SK3 Wilson is from Jacksonville, Florida. His last assignment was with Coast Guard 7th District Command Cadre. He is impressed with how friendly the crew has been. SK3 enjoys beach activities, watching sports, and watching Netflix, and wants to learn how to spear fish.



WELCOME ABOARD!



SNFS URIEL JUAREZ

SNFS Juarez hails from El Paso, Texas, and comes to JAMES from CGC BISCAYNE BAY. Whenever he has time off, he works out and listens to music. The best part about being on JAMES for him is being a part of a commissioning crew and being onboard a brand new cutter.

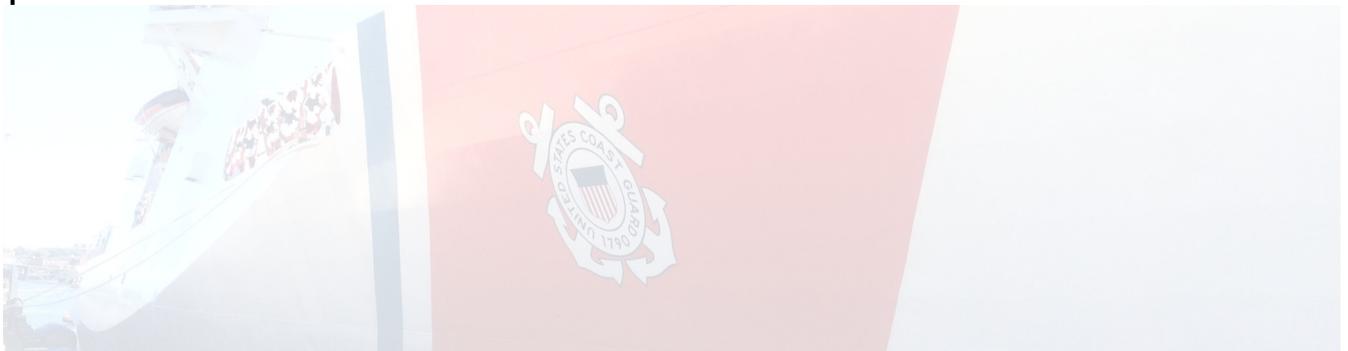
ET3 MASOOD MOHAMMAD

ET3 is an Ashburn, Virginia native reporting to us from CGC HUDSON. He is a member of the Combat Systems Department. His most enjoyable experience aboard JAMES thus far is having the opportunity to meet new people. In his free time, he enjoys exercising and playing soccer.



FA KYLE WHYTE

FA Whyte is from Charlotte Hall, Maryland, and is a member of the Engineering Department. What he enjoys most about JAMES is that he is able to meet new people almost every day. In his off time, he kayaks, surfs, goes long boarding, and enjoys blacksmithing. He wants to one day attend FS "A" School.



WELCOME ABOARD!

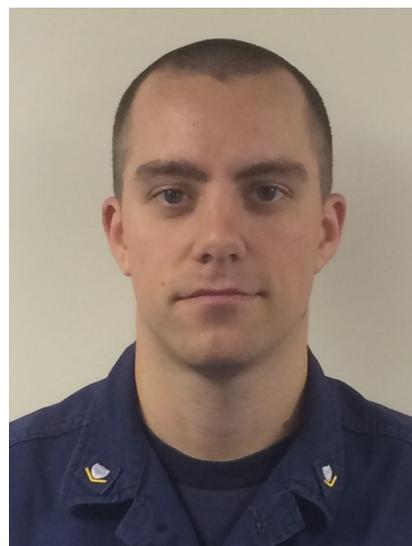
FN MATTHEW SAUNDERS



FN Saunders is from Oviedo, Florida, and currently works for the Auxiliary Division. What he most enjoys about JAMES is that she is full of great people with good work ethic who live by the Coast Guard's core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty (but he also thought the Bahamas were nice, too). In his free time, FN Saunders enjoys playing traditional Irish music on the 19th century concert flute, as well as playing various styles on guitar. He also is interested in late Roman history, particularly campaigns and politics of the Eastern Greco-Roman Empire. He is interested in attending ME "A" School, but is also considering applying for OCS.

EM3 ALAN BROWN

EM3 is a native of Alexandria, New Hampshire. He was last assigned to Coast Guard Station Merrimack River. EM3 is a member of the Engineering Department and enjoys hiking, beach activities, video games, and spending time with his family in his time off.



MK3 MICHAEL WEBB



MK3 Webb is from Jacksonville, Florida. He enjoys the fact that, despite being new to JAMES, he still sees familiar faces. In his spare time, he likes to work on his car and surf.

ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTIONS!

Congratulations to the following members of CGC JAMES on their advancement and promotions!

GM2 BLANKS



DC1 ROLL



LT PIÉ



FOLLOW CGC JAMES (WMSL 754)!

As we continue the Joshua James legacy,
follow CGC JAMES Facebook page for frequent updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/USCGCJAMES>



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USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)

1050 Register St.
Charleston, SC 29405

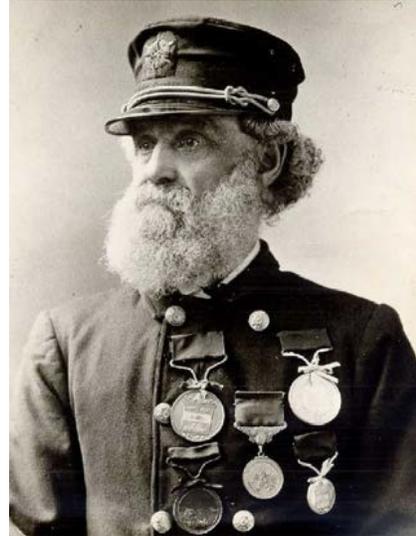
Jennifer.M.Patron@uscg.mil

History of Joshua James

Joshua James was probably the most celebrated lifesaver in the world, credited with saving hundreds of lives from the age of 15 when he first joined the Massachusetts Humane Society until his death at the age of 75 while on duty with the U.S. Life-Saving Service.

He was honored with the highest medals of the Humane Society, the United States, and many other organizations.

His father, mother, brother, wife, and son were also heroic lifesavers.



A special silver medal was struck for Joshua by the Humane Society in 1886, for "brave and faithful service of more than 40 years." The report said "During this time he assisted in saving over 100 lives."

The most famous rescue of his career, for which he received the Humane Society's gold medal, as well as the Gold Life-Saving Medal from the United States Government, took place between the 25th and 26th of November, 1888. During that period he and his men saved the lives of 29 persons from five vessels.

More information on Joshua James can be found at http://www.uscg.mil/history/people/Joshua_James.asp
http://www.uscg.mil/history/people/Joshua_James_Interview.asp



*On behalf of the entire crew of the CGC JAMES, we would like to bestow our sincere appreciation on the friends and family who support our daily efforts to prepare the ship to enter into an operational status. Whether underway or inport, our families and friends are a constant motivator and our **brave and faithful service** is for you.*