



THE SEAFARER

June—October 2016



The official newsletter
of USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)

PREPARING FOR PATROL



Despite only being a year old, CGC JAMES accomplished a multitude of major milestones while preparing for its first operational patrol. These major events included its first Tailored Ship’s Training Availability (TSTA), Fueling at Sea (FAS), and Change of Command Ceremony. Upon returning to homeport, CGC JAMES underwent extensive construction and system upgrades during Post Shakedown Availability (PSA-II).

Outside of the shipboard enhancements, the crew’s primary goals during PSA-II were to Enhance Proficiency, Maintain Operational Relevancy, Strengthen Partnerships and ensure Personal Readiness. This was accomplished by actively reaching out to operational and support units and constantly seeking training opportunities for crew members. Members temporarily sailed onboard other cutters and units, assisting with local and joint law enforcement opportunities, conducted small boat operations, exercised Antiterrorism and Force Protection (AT/FP) procedures, rehearsed shipboard drills and engaged in Damage Control training.

The ship and crew of the “Best Cutter in the Fleet” has now truly become ready for operations and is preparing for its upcoming deployment, where it will complete the full spectrum of Coast Guard missions, including environmental protection, search and rescue, counter-narcotics and national defense operations.

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PERMANENT CUTTERMAN



Bravo Zulu to our newest Permanent Cutterman: MKC Reid, SK2 Seale, IT1 Wilson, and ME2 Fonseca!

The significance of the Cuttermen's Insignia is profound. The Cutterman's Insignia was instituted in 1974 to provide recognition for Coast Guard personnel who, in the tradition of professional mariners, have performed duties afloat commensurate with their grade and rate and who have endured the rigors and dangers of sea duty for a substantial period.

It signifies they have exhibited the requisite professionalism, leadership, and dedication to duty expected of seagoing Coast Guard personnel. The insignia is a visible means of recognizing their positive character traits and personal sacrifices while identifying the wearer as a professional mariner.

The design can be divided into three basic areas. Each is representative of a cutterman's special qualities. The helm and the waves represent our maritime heritage.

The five point star represents five years of sea duty and the shield represents Coast Guard's mission as maritime guardians.

As part of the longstanding tradition, the Cutterman's Insignia is dipped into salt water within the ship's bell and then pinned on our newest cuttermen. They are now part of a long blue line of courageous souls who do the nation's business at sea. Salt in their veins and steel in their spine....

some of America's finest!



29TH ANNUAL JOINT WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

On June 14th, two of our very own shipmates attended the 29th Annual Joint Women's Leadership Symposium sponsored by the Sea Service Leadership Association in Arlington, Virginia.

This year's theme was "Leading with Purpose, Embracing our Future," and this was certainly the outlook of BM2 Shiel and BM3 Stuart as they met with hundreds of service members nation-wide, including associates from the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and Norway.

In addition to conversing with peers, they had the opportunity to meet with senior leaders of many Services, notably the



Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Paul Zukunft.

They also had the pleasure of meeting Rear Admiral June Ryan, Chairperson for the Board of the Sea Service Leadership Association. Her accomplishments were particularly inspirational for our two shipmates. Rear Admiral Ryan is currently serving as the Ninth District Coast Guard Commander, but

she originally enlisted in the Reserves in 1982, obtaining the rank of BM3 before attending Officer Candidate School.

BM2 Shiel and BM3 Stuart participated in multiple lectures and forums with distinguished speakers that focused on leadership, retention rates, co-location, upcoming retirement plans, military-wide and individual Coast Guard concerns, and future changes to Coast Guard policy.

For more information concerning the Sea Service Leadership Association and its' initiative, please visit their site at <http://www.sealeader.org/>.



BOARDING TEAM MEMBER COLLEGE

The United States Coast Guard is one of the most unique agencies in the Federal Government. We are at all times one of the five Armed Services but we have 11 statutory missions ranging from national defense to environmental protection.

One of our most high profile and complex missions is Maritime Law Enforcement. Because of our capabilities and broad, multifaceted jurisdictional authority, the Coast Guard is the nation's leading maritime law enforcement agency.

We take great pride in executing this mission with military precision and the utmost compassion for the maritime public we serve.

In preparation for future deployments, CGC JAMES partnered with the Coast Guard Maritime Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA) to facilitate an informal Boarding Team Member (BTM) School.

Under the expert tutelage of the MLEA, JAMES' crewmembers gained extensive training on law enforcement tactics, personal defense, and dealing with non-compliant persons.

Law enforcement is hard in general but can be even more challenging in the marine environment. Thus, training is imperative and always guided by our mantra: "Using the minimum force necessary to compel compliance".





NATIONAL OBSERVANCE AND SPECIAL EMPHASIS

Over the past few months, the JAMES Facebook Page partnered with the unit's Leadership Diversity Advisory Council (LDAC) to highlight various members of the crew that met the spirit of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute's (DEOMI) National Observance and Special Emphasis Month. Thus far, we've highlighted Caribbean Heritage Month, Women's Equality Day, National Hispanic Heritage Month, and National Disability Employment Month.

The purpose of LDAC is to create and maintain a positive workplace environment, where everyone is encouraged to use their unique talents and skill sets to achieve their full potential and maximize their contribution to the Coast Guard. Onboard JAMES, LDAC identifies potential areas of concern, including civil rights and equal opportunity matters, pertaining to JAMES personnel.

They also serve as a sounding board for considering various Equal Employment Opportunity programs, making recommendations for their development and implementation, in an effort to have positive and lasting impacts on our Command Climate.

We will continue to promote National Observances and Special Emphasis months in order to foster the LDAC's mission and foster JAMES' command philosophy of "Be a Professional, Be a Leader and Be a Shipmate."

HOLDING FAST: HURRICANE MATTHEW

From October 7th-8th, CGC JAMES remained steadfast for the first major hurricane of the season. Hurricane Matthew made its way up the Eastern Seaboard enroute Charleston, South Carolina after causing tremendous damage to Haiti and the Bahamas. A few days before, the crew of JAMES breathed life back into the cutter by energizing engineering and navigational systems that were dormant for months due to ongoing construction projects.

Every hour, the crew watched local and national news in anticipation for the final decision to either remain in homeport or head out to sea. However, in the final hour, JAMES carefully weighted all risk and made the ultimate decision to remain at the pier and hunker down with the entire crew remaining onboard in the event of an emergency.

Welders worked diligently over 36 hours to make repairs to the ship and seal temporary holes before the storm's arrival. The crew mitigated the risk of staying inport by having tugs standing by to assist and planned to move to an anchorage if the pier was damaged.

Fortunately, JAMES made it safely though after experiencing significant winds and sea state. Once Hurricane Matthew passed, JAMES deployed its cutter boats to conduct a damage assessment of Charleston harbor and assist with the local response effort. There were no damages onboard JAMES; however, many pennants and flags were placed out of service due to enduring harsh winds and rain.

One of them was the cutter's commissioning pennant, which was later presented to Captain Fedor on behalf of the crew as an token of appreciation for his resilient leadership and transparency during a very difficult and trying period. His decision to be resolved and hold fast inport allowed the crew and the cutter to "weather" the hurricane successfully without incident or injury to the cutter or the crew.



CAPTAIN'S CORNER



To all Families and Friends of the Cutter JAMES,

It's been five months since I assumed command and not a day goes by when I'm not impressed with the dedicated efforts of this crew and the capabilities of this amazing ship. As I write this, we are approaching the last stage of our Post Shakedown Availability, Phase Two (PSA-II). PSA-II is a major industrial period for JAMES with upgrades to our small boat launching systems as well as the command and control (C2) suite in our Combat Information Center. The enhanced C2 suite integrates our sensors and weapons control systems into one consolidated operating picture. It's amazing technology; kind of like Star Wars without Chewbacca.

More important than all of the technological advancements is the crew's commitment and positive attitude. The men and women on JAMES are a cut above demonstrating ingenuity and camaraderie at every turn. This was clearly evident during the recent passing of Hurricane MATTHEW through the Charleston area. Due to ongoing projects preventing an early departure in advance of the storm's arrival, we had to batten down the hatches and ride it out at the pier. Despite many challenges, the crew brought the ship's systems back to life after being dormant for months, developed a variety of contingency plans to prevent damage to the ship and maintained their poise and professionalism as the storm approached. I couldn't be more proud to be a part of this great team!

Finally, thank you to all the families of JAMES crewmembers who routinely sacrifice time away from their loved ones so the ship can accomplish its missions. The extended JAMES family was also impacted by Hurricane MATTHEW as they had to evacuate from the coastal areas that were vulnerable to flooding. Just another example of how much our families contribute to JAMES' success on a daily basis. Thank you for your continued support.

By the next edition of this newsletter, we should be close to commencing our first operational deployment. Literally years in the making, the first deployment will be the culmination of thousands of work hours, watches, and completed checklists. This crew is ready to do the nation's business at sea and JAMES is the perfect platform to showcase the Coast Guard's broad authorities and capabilities. It's a proud time to be in the Coast Guard and JAMES is one of reasons why. SEMPER PARATUS!

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

XO's COMMENTS

“Wow...where to start. It has truly been an amazing couple of months, and our crew's resilience and outstanding Service-wide reputation grows stronger by the day. Balancing two large-scale industrial contracts while maintaining operational relevance and proficiency has not been easy, but the crew has adeptly managed to do so with aplomb. In the past several months alone, more than half of the crew has been temporarily assigned out of the Charleston area of responsibility, attending schools, training, and sailing aboard other Coast Guard units to hone their skills with one goal in mind - getting JAMES ready for worldwide operations. Several distinguished visitors and leaders have also visited and connected with JAMES, and their message was unvarying - JAMES and its crew are among the best in the fleet!”



COMMAND SENIOR CHIEF



Greetings JAMES family,
 As I sit here and write this, Hurricane Matthew is chewing up the Florida coastline, headed this direction. Although we are planning to ride this one out at the pier, the crew of JAMES has responded about how I would expect: with laughter, motivation, and extremely long and hard work over the last few days! Everything, from getting the main engines out of five months of lay-up, to emergency toilet paper purchasing, securing for sea, and bringing new electronics to life, this crew is truly exceptional. Never have I sailed with a better bunch of dedicated sailors. Bringing The Best Cutter in the Fleet back to life has been interesting to watch and be a part of, and it has given the crew something to focus on besides the sometimes mind-numbing PSA-2 work. Worry about our loved ones has been an underlying stress onboard, and it is refreshing to know that a great majority of our dependants heeded the government's advice and evacuated the area to safer places. If there is one thing that bogs a sailor down, it is having worry for the family. It is much easier knowing that our loved ones are out of harm's way, allowing us to focus on what we do and why we signed up for this service. In this, I thank all our loved ones, as I feel very strongly that this is just one more critical way that you all support us in what we do. Thank you for that! After the storm has passed, it will be time to get back to PSA-2. Soon, JAMES will be done with that and ready for operations. That doesn't change the fact that there may other storms in the future, both literal and figuratively. Those too, we will meet head-on, and be stronger and better because of the support we get from our families and the fantastic support they give each other: a critical piece of that big puzzle that makes JAMES great!

Cheers,
 FSCS Chad Barrett



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

MEMBER

REPORTING TO

RAML ANDY TIONGSON

CG HEADQUARTERS

CDR DANIEL KEANE

DD-SEDA RIO CG-9321

LT WILLIAM PIE

BASE CHARLESTON

LTJG HENRY WARD

CGC FARALLON

OS2 DEONTRE SAWYER

CGC HAMILTON

FS2 EMMANUAL WHITE

STATION ERIE

MK2 MICHAEL LOVETT

CGC MUNRO

FN KYLE WHYTE

FS A SCHOOL

FN DAVID BRIZENDINE

DC A SCHOOL

FN MATTHEW SAUNDER

GM A SCHOOL

SN CHARLES SAKENAS

BM A SCHOOL

SN AUSTIN AHERN

MK A SCHOOL

SN DYLAN KUBACK

MK A SCHOOL

SN VICTORIA JAMES

SK A SCHOOL

SN CHASE SMITH

OS A SCHOOL



WELCOME ABOARD!

<u>Member</u>	<u>Reporting from</u>
LCDR Geoffrey Sahlin	Base Miami Beach
ENS Jay Power	CG Academy
ENS Andrew Moeller	CG Academy
ENS Susanne Dannessa	Base Charleston
OSC Lucas Vasquezcruz	MSST King's Bay
MKCS Philip Yarbrough	Sector Charleston
DCC Max Hermes	Sector Ohio Valley
ET1 Philip Isle	ESD Sourtpport
FS1 Jason Rohde	CGC ANVIL
OS2 Kathryn Tuten	Sector Delaware Bay
IT2 Ryan Woods	ESD Mobile
IT2 Ronald Newcomb	ESD St Louis
ET3 Ryan Dixon	ESDP Pipeline
SNOS Spencer Wilmarth	OS A School
DC3 Jonathan Adcock	MAT Newport
SNFS Stephon Lawton	FS A School
SNFS Zachary Sweat	FS A School
SA Yasmin Clark	TRACEN Cape May
SN Jordan Tygh	TRACEN Cape May
SN Demantre Walker	TRACEN Cape May
SA Philip Allison	TRACEN Cape May
FA Joshua Galvez	TRACEN Cape May
FA Mitchell White	TRACEN Cape May



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As we continue the Joshua James legacy,
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USCGC JAMES (WMSL 754)

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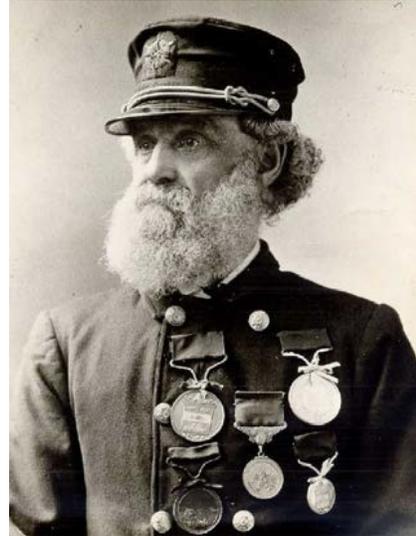
History of Joshua James

Joshua James was one of the most celebrated lifesavers 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.*