

# MOHAWK MONTHLY

September  
2009

Volume 4



# PANAMAX 2009

PANAMAX is a multinational exercise that is tailored to the defense of the Panama Canal. It is designed to strengthen the interoperability of nations with critical interests in the Panama Canal and to assist the Panamanian Public Forces in the protection and the guarantee of safe passage through the canal as well as ensuring its neutrality. The exercise gave MOHAWK the opportunity to interact with 20 different countries and do many different training exercises including mock boardings, refueling at sea, steaming in formation and visual communications.



Top Left: BM3 Fisher and SN Hicks doing flag signals with the other vessels as a part of the PANAMAX Exercise.

Top Right: BMC Bullock teaching the deck force for an at sea fueling.



Bottom: SN Zavala, SN Shilling, SN Mick, SN Nordstrom, SN Busch, SN Howard, SN Hicks, and SN Alejandro

# MOHAWK and Dutch Oiler AMSTERDAM PANAMAX 2009

As part of PANAMAX the crew of MOHAWK was able to develop a great relationship with the men and women of the Royal Netherlands Navy vessel. Their mission onboard amenities are much different than what we are used to, but their sense of humor and spirit is very comparable to our own. This camaraderie lead to a great working relationship and some new friends in The Netherlands. As part of the exercise we were able to complete a Refueling at Sea (RAS) and do boarding on one another's



**Top Left:** Line handlers for RAS. **Top Right:** Riggers and Fueling Team preparing to receive fuel. **Bottom Left:** MOHAWK receiving fuel from AMSTERDAM. **Bottom Center:** Boarding Officer, ET2 John Mikelaitis, talking with the Commanding Officer of AMSTERDAM. **Bottom Right:** FNMK Shawn Copper getting searched by boarding officer from AMSTERDAM.



# MOHAWK and USS DOYLE

## PANAMAX 2009

MOHAWK also had the opportunity to work closely with our own U.S. Navy. We were able to show off our paint job and enjoy some friendly inter-service rivalry during mock boarding exercises with USS DOYLE (FFG-39). By the time USS DOYLE completed their boarding on the MOHAWK their crew members were extremely jealous of our service!

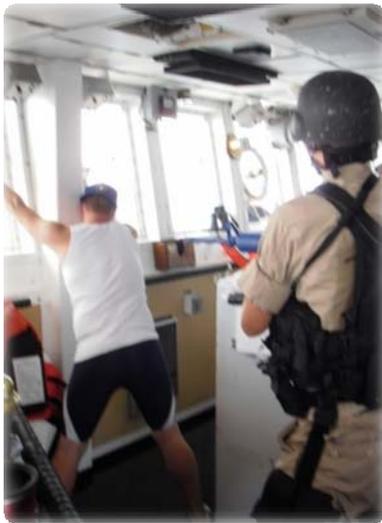


USS DOYLE boarding team.



EM2 Joneric Santos interviewing a member of USS DOYLE crew during a mock boarding.

SNBM Jordan in neutralized by a US Navy boarding team member.



The "Mediterranean Star" (MOHAWK) crew being "controlled" during USS DOYLE boarding.



You see the strangest things on a boarding!



ENS Molly Godden (L) and ENS Bridget Flores (R) post for a quick candid just before USS DOYLE boarding team came aboard.

# Congratulations on Qualifying!

IT3 Rodriguez -CIC watchstander

ENS Gomez- Underway OOD

ENS Baffer- Underway Security, Generator, Machinery, Inport EOW

EMC Kane- Underway Security, Generator, Machinery, Inport EOW

DC1 Moore- Generator, Machinery, Inport EOW

DC1 Bodie- Inport EOW, Underway EOW

DC2 Husband- Underway Security

MK2 Berard- Machinery

MK3 Pumo- Underway Security, Generator, Machinery

FNMK Cooper- Small Boat Engineer

FN Grimes- Generator

FN Runner- Underway Security

MK2 Tomlinson- Underway Security, Inport Security

SN Jamison- Helm & Lookout

SN Howard- Helm & Lookout

ENS Skordinski- QMOW

## Congratulations on becoming a temporary Cutterman:

ENS Godden

ET2 Harling

MK3 Cabrera-Matos

SN Williams

Congratulations to SN Nordstrom  
for making E-3!

Congratulations to SNBM Jordan  
for passing the end of course BM test!

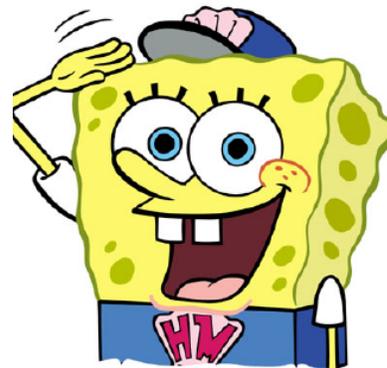
Congratulations to DC2 Aspuru  
for making E-5!

## CO's CORNER

HOME! It's been a very busy month for your Mohicans and I know everyone is glad to be home at last. We will be off for a few days of well-deserved R&R and then back at it again; getting the ship ready to sail and do the mission we have been trained and equipped to do. Fortunately we'll be home for Thanksgiving this year.

In early October, MOHAWK will field a softball team to participate in the Seventh Coast Guard District Commander's Cup Softball Tournament up in Cooper City, FL (near Air Station Miami). Under the able leadership of Coach "Doc" Halliday the team will compete against a number of other area Coast Guard units for diamond supremacy – best of luck!

On October 8<sup>th</sup> the MOHAWK crew will head over to our sister ship... maybe our mother ship is more accurate... the USS MOHAWK CGC museum in Key West for a public service day. We plan to put the old girl in some new paint and clean her up good. It should be a good day of helping out one of the finest maritime museums in the country. Of interest, the USCGC INGHAM, a World War II-vintage Coast Guard high endurance cutter (327' class) is being moved down to Key West to take up residence alongside the USS MOHAWK CGC. Look for INGHAM's grand arrival in late 2009.



Semper Spongebob

I want to mention the great kudos MOHAWK and the crew got from the ships we were working with in Panama. A number of the crew from the USS DOYLE plan to defect to the Coast Guard when DOYLE returns to port and the Dutch Navy thought MOHAWK was one of the best looking and most professional ships they had worked with. In September we visited Guantanamo Bay, Cuba several times. The Aviation Detachment Officer in Charge photographed MOHAWK each time we pulled in because he just couldn't get over how good the ship looked. We also played host to Mr. Ivan Fong, General Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security while we were there. Mr. Fong and his delegation learned a lot about the Coast Guard and left the ship a better advocate for us and our needs. Each of these instances really says a lot about the hard work your Mohicans put into what they do to keep up the ship and make our coasts safe and secure. I appreciate their hard work and, as always, I appreciate your support. We couldn't do it without you!

# COMMAND CHIEF

Hello again to all the Families and friends of Coast Guard Cutter MOHAWK. We are winding down to the end of a very successful patrol. Everyone knows that our patrol is almost complete and they will get to be with their loved ones soon which has kept spirits and morale high on board.

During the month of September we had another short stop in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and then headed off for an exercise called PANAMAX. During PANAMAX your loved ones had the chance to see how Navies from different countries operate. There were many different countries involved with the exercise and every one of them expressed how impressed they were with our crew's pride and professionalism. After PANAMAX we had a brief stop in Colon, Panama. We then went on patrol for a while before stopping off in a small place called Bocas Del Toro, Panama where everyone had a blast. The Island was beautiful and the locals were really nice. Most of the crew relaxed on the beach while some went surfing and spear fishing. The surfing and spear fishing in Bocas Del Toro is some of the best in the world.

We are now on our way home and will be passing by Mallory Square before you know it. Just hang in there for a couple more days.

I will be passing the Command Chief position back to Chief Edwards in the next couple of days. That being said I am still here for the families and crew of the MOHAWK so don't hesitate to contact either one of us for anything.

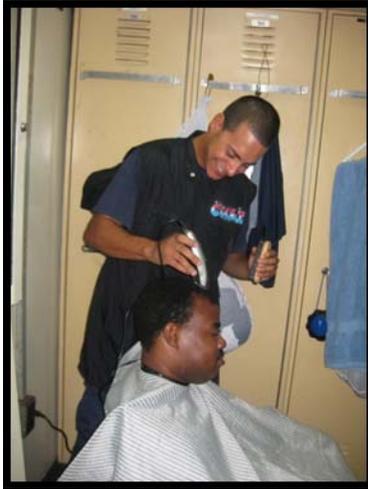
My email address is [Radford.w.Hoffpauir@uscg.mil](mailto:Radford.w.Hoffpauir@uscg.mil)

Thank you for allowing your loved ones to be my shipmates. It is my honor to serve beside each and everyone on them. Your support and sacrifices do not go unnoticed.

Sincerely,  
FSC Rad Hoffpauir

# INTERVIEW WITH SN ALEJANDRO: BEING A BARBER ON THE MOHAWK

\*Interview by SN Keiron Williams



**KW:** How long have you been a barber? What made you decide to be a barber?

**BA:** I have been cutting hair for 2 years. Even before the coast guard I wanted to do it. When I was younger my mom started working in a beauty parlor/barber shop, and being around it made me want to cut hair and become a barber.

**KW:** When you reported to the Mohawk, how did you convince your shipmates that you could cut hair?

**BA:** I really didn't convince them, they saw how I cut one of the guys hair and from there more and more people started coming. So the more people that showed up, the more people got convinced and from there it just blew up.

**KW:** So on the boat your barber nickname is "Bryan Stylez", where did that name originate?

**BA:** Well, its my nickname/my future barber shop name. One of my old shipmates, SN Garcia, who used to be on the boat, had a piece of paper taped to the door before I gave him a haircut one day in the locker room that had "Bryan Stylez Barber Shop" written on it, and from there it just blew up.

**KW:** Do you plan on pursuing being a barber professionally or by attending any military "C" schools to further your abilities as a barber?

**BA:** Yes I do. I want to get my barber's license outside of the coast guard and, if possible, I'm trying to attend a "C" school.

**KW:** On the boat, who are your favorite or most frequent customers?

**BA:** Umm....EM2 Diggs has always been there even outside the boat. SN Williams is always there (me!). BM3 Waller, SNBM Jordan, and SK3 Balanos from Sector Key West (who is always in my barracks room trying to get haircuts). Other than that I have officers, chiefs, and everyone else from once in a while who get haircuts from me.

**KW:** Being on a boat, especially one like the Mohawk, the boat moves a lot underway when it's rough. How much of a challenge is that when trying to give someone a haircut, and does it help your ability at all when it gets steady again or when you get back on land?

**BA:** Well, its hard when the boat's moving around, but as long as you keep a steady hand you will be fine. Anything's possible, and I'm not scared of the rough sees, you just have to be confident going in for a haircut and you'll be fine. Yea It helps going back to land because you don't have the person moving from side to side, so yea it is definitely a relief going back to land.

**KW:** So do you have any words of wisdom or encouragement to any aspiring barbers, on or off the Mohawk?

**BA:** Don't let anyone stop you from doing what you really want to do.

# Newest additions to our CG Family

**Phoenyx Kayelan Tolliver**  
*Newborn Son of MK1 Timothy Tolliver*

“He was born on September 3rd at 2023. He was 5 pounds 5 ounces and eighteen inches long. He was born at Lee Memorial Hospital in Cape Coral, Fl. and at that time my life was completely whole.”



**Karyam Joan**

*Daughter of EM2 Johneric Santos*



“Her name is Karyam Joan Santos she born on June 5, 2009 in Lower Keys Medical Center.”

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SK1 Valentin 01September  
BMC Bullock 03 September  
CDR Hendrickson 05September  
DC2 Husband 12September  
ET3 Taylor 12 September  
SN Nordstrom 19September  
FN Donaldson 20 September  
YN2 Wakim 24September  
SN Hicks 03October  
OS3 Henry 07 October  
EM2 Diggs 08 October  
BM3 Waller 10 October  
SN Mick 11 October  
FN Smith 13 October  
SN Jamison 14 October  
BM2 Wolf 17 October  
DC3 Aspuru 23 October  
BM2 Torres 27 October  
OSC Hulett 28 October  
FN Runner 28 October

# PORT CALL IN BOCAS DEL TORO PANAMA

Bocas del Toro is an exotic, yet relatively unknown location situated on the boarder of Costa Rica and Panama. The island offered much in the way of rest and relaxation for the crew including tropical rainforests, good surf, local musicians, handmade crafts and Caribbean treats.



Top Left: YN2 Wakim, SN Busch, FN Donaldson, SN Shiling, BM2 Wolf, and BM3 Waller

Top Right: Coast of Bocas del Toro

Middle Left: MK1 Caropepe, ET2 Mikelaitis, FN Grimes, and SN Klein

Middle Right: Local Musician

Bottom Left: Town of Bocas del Toro

# SMALL WORLD NEWS

Have you ever heard the saying “it’s a small world”? From my own experience I found that out to be very true! I had the honor to meet with CDR Hendrickson and he asked me where I had gone to college and I told him a Junior College in my home town in the Antelope Valley and he asked me if it was the Antelope Valley College. To my surprise I told him yes and said no one knows where that is! We kept on with our conversation and he then told me the reason he knew where my college was because his wife built a Toyota dealership in the antelope valley and again to my surprise that is where I had bought my 05 Tudra. So...who would have known that my CDR out of all the people on my boat (including the people from CA) knows about the little Podunk town I call home!

-FA Runner

## Photography

Photography is art- No matter what you are taking pictures of you are capturing a moment in someone else’s life or even your own. I can’t even explain how much joy it brings me to be able to catch those moments that show what hard work, dedication, and even fun shipmates have. I hope you have enjoyed all the pictures, there will be many more to come!

-FA Runner

To my Shipmates:  
Thank you for all your  
smiles, hard work and  
support! – FA Runner



Left: FA Runner



Right: SN Hicks  
and FA Runner