

# MOHAWK MONTHLY

## Volume 5

The arrival of the month of October proved to be bittersweet. A few days prior to pulling into Key West, several eligible crewmembers participated in a Cutterman's Board, allowing the lucky few to earn their temporary Cutterman's pin. The crew was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to anchor off of Fort Jefferson, giving many the chance to see a bit of national history. After a well deserved stand-down and time with the families, the crew got back to work preparing for the upcoming patrol. Six Chiefs began a 2 month initiation process, crew members spent a day helping predecessor USS Mohawk clean up and others represented the MOHAWK at the 7<sup>th</sup> District's Admirals Cup Softball Tournament.



**Top Left:** SN Shilling carrying supplies off USS Mohawk to warehouse.

**Top Middle:** SN Alejandro giving shipmate SN Hicks a high five after a great hit!

**Top Right:** ET3 Akers carrying wood off USS Mohawk to warehouse.

**Bottom:** Fort Jefferson National Monument at Dry Tortugas on Garden Key.

# Cutterman's Board

On October 1, 2009 the permanent Cuttermen onboard convened in the Wardroom to conduct a Cutterman's board for four Shipmates. The minimum requirements necessary to stand in front of the board are six months on the Cutter, and to be qualified in your watch station including Damage Control. Onboard MOHAWK we also have an examining body to ensure that those who wish to wear the pin are worthy. The pin identifies them as the "salts" of the ship and the people with the answers. The MOHAWK Cutterman's Board ensures our Cuttermen have that knowledge and sets the standards for professional development aboard the ship. During the board, the prospective Cuttermen are asked a series of questions varying from CG History to MOHAWK specific knowledge. The board consisted of the 12 Cuttermen on MOHAWK and was chaired by MOHAWK's Ancient Mariner CWO Tommy Green. After questioning their shipmates for over an hour the board was satisfied that ENS Molly Godden, ET2 Jon Harling, MK3 Ruben Cabrera Matos, and SN Keiron Williams were worthy to wear the pin and are entitled to all privileges that come with it.

-CWO Green



**Top Left:** ENS Godden, ET2 Harling, and MK3 Cabrera Matos preparing to receive their cutterman pins.

**Top Right:** MOHAWK's permanent cuttermen preparing to welcome new members.

**Bottom:** CWO Davis pinning on ENS Godden's cutterman pin.

# A Trip to Dry Tortugas

The Dry Tortugas are a small group of islands 70 miles west of Key West. The MOHAWK was able to anchor just outside of these islands that are only accessible by boat or plane. The islands got their name from the Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon who saw an abundance of sea turtles on the island when he discovered it in 1513. In 1824, 5 years after Spain sold Florida to the US for \$5 million, a lighthouse, today known as Garden Key Light, was constructed to guide ships around the reefs and shallow waters that surround it. Worried that hostile powers could use Dry Tortugas to obtain naval superiority of US shipping routes, the US built Fort Jefferson to ensure that our Gulf Coast was protected against foreign enemies. Fort Jefferson was actively used by the US military from 1860 through the Civil War until 1935 when it was named a National Monument by President F. D. Roosevelt. The crew of the MOHAWK was able to walk around the National Monument and experience US history dating back to the early 1800's. In addition to the history of the Dry Tortugas, the islands are known for their crystal clear water, white sand beaches, and wildlife. With the help of our boat crew members the MOHAWK crew spent the day walking around the fort experiencing the rich history and snorkeling off the pristine white beaches.



Left: The walls of Fort Jefferson at Dry Tortugas.

Right: The islands of the Dry Tortugas.



# Crew helps clean up USS Mohawk



**Top:** Several crew members carrying hundreds of feet of mooring lines from below decks on the USS Mohawk to be stored in the warehouse.

**Bottom Left:** MK1 Huber, OS1 Carroll, SK1 Valentin, YN1 Grix, and FS1 Ramos providing a much needed lunch to their shipmates

**Bottom Right:** ENS Baladad, ENS Flores, HS2 Gomez, and SN Busch, removing a refrigerator from below decks.



On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the MOHAWK crew selflessly gave up a day of stand down to help our predecessor clean up. USS Mohawk was built in 1934 for the Coast Guard and was responsible for over 14 attacks against Nazi Submarines during WWII. CGC MOHAWK helped clean out below decks taking old artifacts such as refrigerators and placing them in storage while the ship is being refurbished. In between the crews hard work the First Class Petty Officers provided a barbeque for their shipmates on the pier. The day was extremely productive, rewarding and fun!

# MOHAWK SOFTBALL TEAM COMPETES

## In Regional Softball Tournament

It wasn't a kiddie tournament. In fact fully grown men and women from the MOHAWK rekindled their past by competing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Regional Admiral's Cup Softball Tournament in Cooper City, FL. Best of all, the team, complete with fourteen crewmembers, not only met expectations, but exceeded them with only three days of practice as they competed against fellow Coast Guard men and women.

After returning from a two month deployment, the team came back, regained their footwork on land, and dusted off the cobwebs of their old mitts and bats. Practices concentrated on the techniques of hitting a slow pitch as opposed to a 65-90mph fastball.

Some had to hide their egos. Seaman Chloe Hicks commented, "It's a lot different catching and hitting a slow pitch! I've always played fast-pitch and I've never had more than a split second to make a decision of whether or not I was going to hit the pitch. Everything that I was taught for technique had to be forgotten. To be honest, I missed the ball quite a few times the first practice we had. Eventually, I got a hang of it." Needless to say, many members of the closely-knit crew whiffed a few balls.

Despite this, the team delivered a performance that would make many professional teams look like a bore. After an exhausting triple-header on Friday, the team finished the day with a 1-2 record, losing to a combined team representing CGC DIAMONDBACK, CGC DOLPHIN and Station Fort Myers.

By Saturday, the team was determined to battle back. With football-esque scores in the opening game, the MOHAWK'S crew put Communications Station Miami to shame with an 18-3 victory.

Following that, the MOHAWK needed just one more coveted victory against Station Fort Lauderdale to land a top spot in the semifinals.

After losing a 9-2 initial lead in a disastrous 5<sup>th</sup> inning, many fans were on the edge of their seats and the game appeared to be a toss-up. Following a scoreless 6<sup>th</sup> inning, the top of the 7<sup>th</sup> had Station Fort Lauderdale up 11-9. It was crunch time for the MOHAWK. Luckily, the bats kept moving and both Petty Officer Second Class Ryan Andzelik and Fireman Dustin Wise delivered much needed singles. Helping out his shipmates, Seaman Michael



**OS2 Andzelik and BM2 Wolf change defending against their CG opponents.**



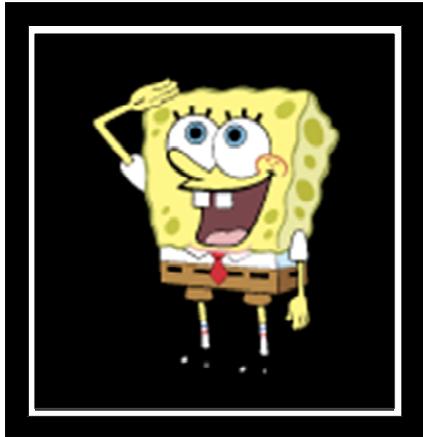
**OSC Halliday, BM2 Wolf, SN Cline, FN Wise, SN Morgan, GM2 Mobiglia, ET2 Mikelatis, FN Smith, ET1 Parlett, SNBM Jordan, SN Alejandro, BM3 Waller, ENS Murray, SN Hicks, & OS2 Andzelik**

Cline followed through by hitting an impressive triple that tied the ball game. Finally, in superb timing, Petty Officer Second Class Eric Mobiglia knocked in the winning run with a base hit, clinching the win. Although the team lost in the semifinals, the weekend was a great success, bringing together a wide array of Coast Guardsmen for some friendly competition. The team received 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall and Petty Officer Second Class Brad Wolf was honored with the Defensive Player of the Tournament award. Although the MOHAWK'S crew helps protect American borders and seas by day, over Columbus Day weekend, the only thing they were protecting was home plate. -ENS MURRAY

# SAILOR OF THE QUARTER

## ET1 JAMIE PARLETT

ET1 Jamie Parlett is noted with pride and is commended for her performance of duty while serving in USCGC MOHAWK (WMEC 913) from 01 July to 30 September 2009. During this period of exceptionally high operational tempo and significant unit accomplishments, her leadership, technical skills, and dedication to crew morale were key to MOHAWK's superior performance and outstanding work climate. As the Leading Petty Officer of the Electronics Division, she skillfully coordinated myriad grooms and repair projects which significantly improved the ship's materiel readiness and C4IS capabilities. Her detailed review of divisional procurements ensured proper utilization of AFC-77 money, opening the door to reallocation of over \$12,000 for ship's general operating funds. ET1 Parlett's keen attention to detail uncovered a \$17,000 part that was improperly delivered, ensuring the part was returned to stock and obviating replacement costs from unit funds. In addition to her assigned duties, she served as Chairperson of MOHAWK's Human Relations Council and played a key role in the ship's damage control training program serving as an active member of the Damage Control Training Team. During a robust transfer season she organized and led ten Gangway Petty Officer of the Watch and Junior Officer of the Deck qualification boards enabling rapid replacement of transferred personnel within the duty sections and spearheaded innovative changes to the inport watch section regime. She eagerly volunteered to serve as interim Morale Officer when the incumbent Morale Officer departed PCS, deftly completed the quarterly morale report and audit with no discrepancies, and mentored the newly assigned Morale Officer. Her leadership on the Morale Committee was directly responsible for a number of very popular events including a Coast Guard Day Picnic, a beach party in Guantanamo Bay, and participation in a Regional Softball Tournament. Each of these events had a demonstrable positive impact on unit morale and esprit d'corps. She is commended for her outstanding performance of duty. By her meritorious service, she has upheld the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.



Happy Holidays!... Did I just write that? It's hard to believe that the holidays are upon us already (especially when it's still in the 80s outside!). When did they start running Christmas sales before Halloween? For me, the "Holiday Season" has always started with Veteran's Day – a couple weeks before Thanksgiving. It's one of our most important holidays in my opinion. It's a day that started out as "Armistice Day" an observance of the Armistice that ended World War One – that went into effect on "the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month". It has since morphed into a day that we honor our veterans – past and present. I have a lot of veterans in my family; my dad was in the Army as was my father-in-law. Both of my grandfathers served in the Army during WWII (in fact my mother's father served in WWI as well), and my mother's sister was an Army nurse in Vietnam. They're all heroes in my book (even if it did take some convincing for them to accept the fact that I was going to enlist in the Coast Guard and not the "Green Team").

Another important observance this month is National Native American and Native Alaskan Month. As you probably know, MOHAWK is named for one of the great northeastern American Indian tribes. Keep an eye on our website for some links to the tribe's governance page as well as some history of our proud namesake.

In the "better late than never" department, we received information a few days before the end of October that October had been designated "National Work and Family Month" by Congress. The observance "ACKNOWLEDGES THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SACRIFICES THAT OUR ACTIVE DUTY, CIVILIAN, RESERVE AND AUXILIARY PERSONNEL MAKE TO SUSTAIN CG MISSIONS, AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT WORK-LIFE PROGRAMS PLAY IN SUPPORTING OUR WORKFORCE. WHILE ACHIEVING A HEALTHY BALANCE BETWEEN COMPETING FAMILY AND WORK DEMANDS IS CHALLENGING, IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS AND WELL-BEING OF THE CG, OUR MEMBERS, AND OUR FAMILIES." Each of you are a key element of that support network. I am glad to see that Congress is recognizing the sacrifices each of you make in support of your veterans.

Like the holidays, it's hard to believe it's almost time for MOHAWK to sail again. It seems like that fact sort of ties all of this together. Your veterans, being called to sail in a ship named for a great tribe of Native Americans and I am asking you to sacrifice once again so that the crew can do their very important job. I wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving – and know that I am thankful for each and every person who sails in MOHAWK and for the awesome people that support them each and every day.

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Hello again everybody! I hope everybody is doing well and enjoying the in port with your loved ones. Things on the Ol' MOHAWK are going pretty well, lots of work getting done in preparation for our upcoming patrol.

Speaking of that, I know this holiday season will be kind of different for everybody. For those families that have been in the Coast Guard for awhile this is nothing new. But for the new folks this may be the first time you have been without your loved one. I ask all of you to look after one another and help one another out. I know we would all love to be at home for the holidays, but duty calls. As always, I thank you all for the sacrifices you make so we can help protect our great nation.

Something new this trip though will help to hopefully fill those miles apart. We are now authorized to use the satellite phone for moral calls. That means we will actually be able to call home for those special days, anniversaries, and yes even Christmas. We are still working out the bugs, but as of now everyone is authorized a 15 minute block. I know it does not take the place of being home but at least it is better than an email. The chance to hear your loved ones voice on the other end can make anybody's day brighter.

I want to thank FSC Rad Hoffpauir for stepping in as Command Chief during the last patrol. He did a great job! I also want to congratulate him, it looks like he will be getting his star (promotes to senior chief).

Take care everybody and Happy Thanksgiving. I will be writing you all again next month. Again, enjoy the holidays as much as you can. Help each other out, we are all one big family. As always, I am here if you have any questions, please feel free to email me [anthonv.i.edwards@uscg.mil](mailto:anthonv.i.edwards@uscg.mil).

# Chiefs Call To Initiation

*CCTI is a voluntary, time honored tradition. It is a six week process held once a year and is designed to affirm the Coast Guard's Core Values of Honor, Respect & Devotion to Duty. CCTI also develops the uninitiated Chiefs networking abilities, re-enforce the feelings of brotherhood amongst all the Chiefs, and be the crowing point of the new Chief's military career. The PCPO (Prospective Chief Petty Officers) work on a PQS, create Charge Books which contain 1 page Words of Wisdom from all the other initiated Chiefs in the mess, and hat boxes to proudly display their Combo Covers with their new shiny CHIEF's anchor on it (vs. the CG Emblem they have worn all of their 15+ year career). The initiates perform community service as well as fundraising. The funds they are able to raise support charity as well as their CCTI Indoc day & evening dinner, which everyone will tell you, is what they look forward to the most.*

*This year's Mohawks PCPO's are: BMC Bullock, MKC Edwards, FSC Hoffpauir, EMC Kane ETC Stinson, & MKC Torres.*

*Semper Paratus Chiefs!*

*-Chief Hulett*

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**



**SN Howard Nov 2**

**GM2 Mobiglia Nov 8**

**LT Schurke Nov 9**

**FS1 Ramos Nov 22**

**FN Guthrie Nov 26**

**OS2 Andzelik Nov 26**

# Newest Additions to Our CG Family

## Alivianna Madalyn

*Newborn daughter of BM1 Matthew Lowry*



She was born on September 21st at 1042 at NAS Jacksonville. She weighed 8 lbs 14oz. She is the newborn sister of Cianna