

# THETIS DIGEST

18SEP15 – 05NOV15



# *Executive Summary*

Coast Guard Cutter Thetis returned to Key West, Florida on Thursday after the crew conducted an eventful 48-day patrol operating in the Florida Straits and off the coast of Central and South America. Thetis' crew spent 11 days in the Florida Straits conducting migrant interdiction operations where the crew cared for 61 Cuban migrants attempting to illegally enter the U.S. After their time in the Straits, the Thetis' crew traveled south and transited through the Panama Canal for the second time this year to conduct counter-drug operations in the eastern Pacific.

While in the Pacific, the crew stopped two go-fast-vessels suspected of smuggling illegal narcotics, resulting in the interdiction of 920 kilograms of cocaine, worth an estimated value of \$30 million, and the detention of 7 suspected narco-traffickers.

Petty Officer Second Class, Porsha Crespo, one of Thetis' boarding officers, states, "Patrolling the high seas is a difficult and demanding job that puts our crew at risk daily. However, the reward and sense of pride that comes from successfully stopping contraband from entering the United States makes it all worth it."

During the Panama Canal transit, The crew had the opportunity to celebrate two time-honored Coast Guard traditions with the crew as five crewmembers were advanced and two crewmembers received their permanent Cutterman's Insignia. Fireman John Montalto, Petty Officers Thomas Jones, Israel Aguirre, Michael Gonzalez, and Elliott Hickman were all advanced to their next higher paygrade. Additionally, Petty Officers Jason Bravo and Jorge Caraballo received their permanent cutterman's insignia in the memorable location where the Pacific Ocean meets the Caribbean Sea. The cutterman's insignia was instituted in 1974 and recognizes Coast Guardsmen who have completed five years of sea duty and signifies that they have exhibited the requisite professionalism and dedication to duty expected of seagoing Coast Guardsmen.

# CAPTAINS

## CORNER

Greetings Thetis Family and Friends! Thank you so much for your continued support of our entire crew. As you'll see from this Digest, we've had another exciting and successful patrol. These achievements would not be possible without all of the sacrifices each of you make to support our missions. In addition to a few exciting drug interdiction cases, the crew stayed very busy with training and qualifications. Whether it was the many new shipmates with their first qualification or the "old salts" stepping up into new roles, it is always impressive to see the dedication and commitment from the crew to helping others in supporting all of our missions.

We are fortunate to have a longer maintenance period this winter. Enjoy your time with friends and family, whether in Key West or traveling, for the holidays.

CDR Kathy Felger, Commanding Officer



## Ombudsman

*Leslie Bravo*

“The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life.” –Plato

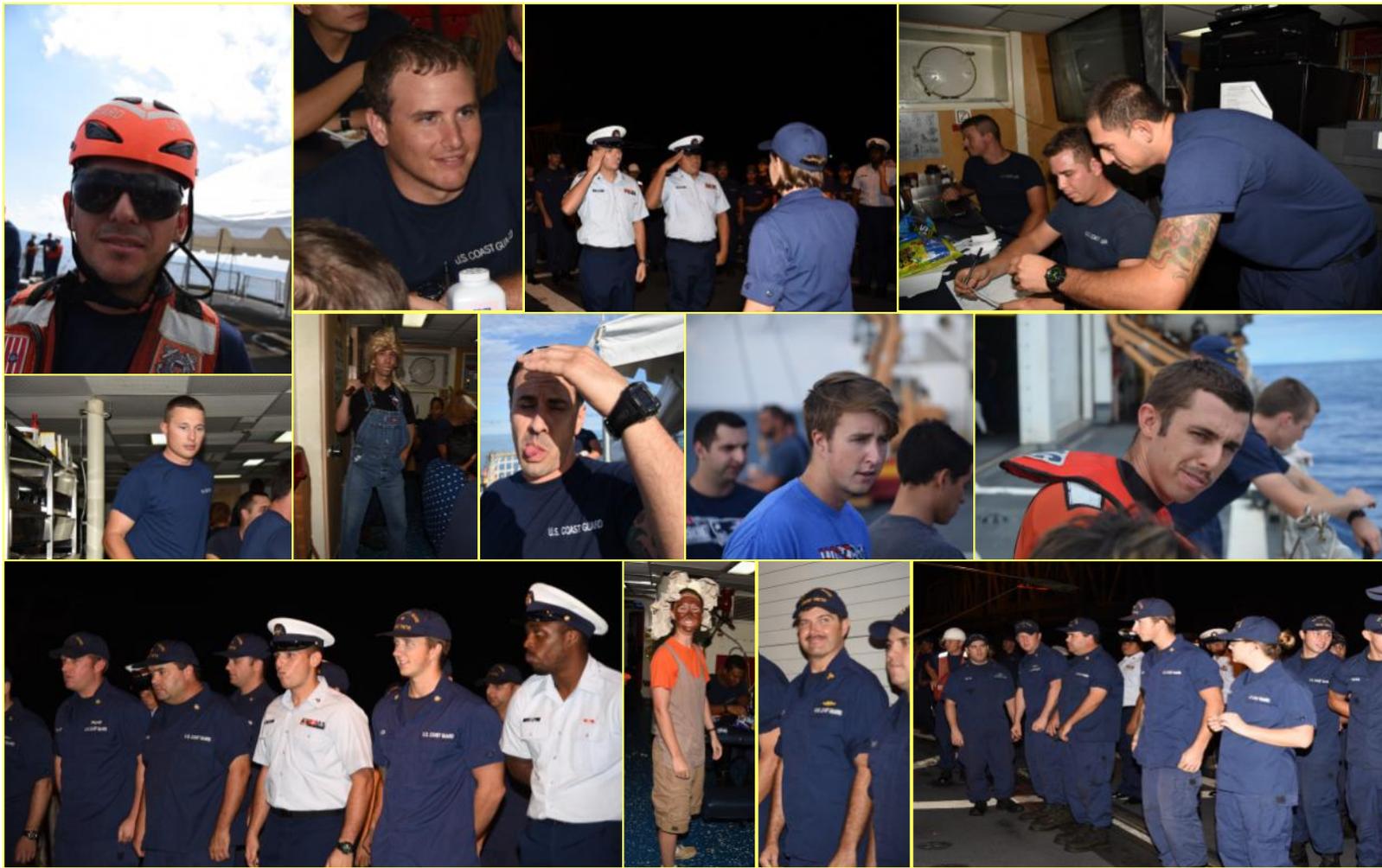
I know education is an important part of everyone's life and future. Whether it's you, your spouse, or your kids, at some point it is discussed. Being in the military world sometimes it is thrown to the side because of the uncertainty of where you will be moving, when, for how long, deployments etc. Thankfully, with all of the technology today, you can take school with you wherever you go. In Key West, the military offers Saint Leo's university. There is a campus on Boca Chica for traditional classes or you can take majority of classes online. They offer associates programs, bachelor's programs, graduate certificates, master's programs, and even one doctoral program. If and when you move they also offer traditional classes at campuses in California, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia, but online can be from anywhere and in the comfort of your own home. Saint Leo's University has been a leading provider of educational services to the U.S. Military for nearly 40 years and was voted one of the most military friendly colleges. Visit [www.saintleo.edu](http://www.saintleo.edu) for more information.



# D E C K Department

During the fall “EastPac” Patrol, Deck Dept. was vital in the interdiction and disruption of over 900 Kilograms and \$30 million of contraband. They ran various evolutions ranging from lowering the units 2 small boats, to running multiple transfers of contraband to other Coast Guard assets. Deck Dept also completed 8 mooring and unmooring evolutions, that included pulling in and out of port calls and transiting through the Panama Canal. Deck department welcomed 05 members and said goodbye to 02 shipmates heading off to “A” schools. Deck Dept. is excited to head back to Key West after a long patrol away from friends and family.





Another patrol and yet again a busy few months for our Engineering Department...

Though every person onboard played a vital role in all of THETIS Missions, the Engineers tend to play double the role a big majority of the time. This department consists of the Auxiliary Division (A-GANG), the Main Propulsion Division (Main Prop), the Electrical Division (EM Shop), and the Damage Control Division (DC Shop); whom were all very busy with all different sorts of casualties and training. The entire Engineering Department came together this patrol as we normally do when team work and great effort is needed. We all responded diligently safely and efficiently during all casualties and operations. The Engineering department as a whole is a Family away from our own families, and no matter what we have each other's backs, but we are very happy to be home to our families and loved ones.

Written by: MK2 Bravo

“Sacrifice is not measured by pain, but in *moments* away from family and friends”

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

# Support Department

Support Department consists of FS's, SK's, and a YN. Over the past 48 days, the FS' prepared over 175 delicious meals for the crew, as well as holding ice cream socials, and continuously putting out snacks for to keep the crew morale high. SK's routed Purchase Requests and YN1 put together several welcome aboard packages for our newly reported crew members. Our two port calls and multiple BSF's went smoothly due to the Support Officers experience and preparation. Support department is looking forward to getting back home for some well deserved time with friends and family.





# Operations Department

During the past 48 days the Operations Department was extremely productive completing a multitude of different tasks. The navigation division diligently updated charts and created navigation briefs for pulling in and out of ports, while the weapons division conducted a .50 cal gunnery in the middle of the Eastern Pacific. The ET's and IT's were busy troubleshooting equipment and re-working sea-watch, while the OS's ran several cases from CIC.

During our patrols each division works extremely hard to achieve their individual goals in turn achieving unit readiness. Operations department is extremely proud of all that we have accomplished this Patrol and were looking forward to some time in port with families and friends!



# Achievements

Bravo Zulu to the following members.  
Thetis is proud to recognize you for your hard work!

## GOOD CONDUCT AND RE-ENLISTMENT



## CUTTERMAN CEREMONY



## ADVANCEMENTS!

Congratulations to DC1 Hickman, FS1 Simmons, OS2 Busick, BM2 Gonzales, FS2 Aguirre, FS2 Leffler, MK3 Jones, and FN Montalto!



# *morale*





You are invited to  
THETIS'  
HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY

THE CDC will be having a parents  
night out from 1830-2330! Sign-ups  
on the mess deck!

Where: Sigsbee Sunset Lounge Bar and Grill  
When: December 3rd, 1900  
Who: Everyone! (kids not recommended)  
Price: \$15 per person for E6 and above  
\$10 per person for E5 and below  
Events: White Elephant - \$30.00 max.  
Ugly Sweater Contest  
Cash Bar  
Dancing