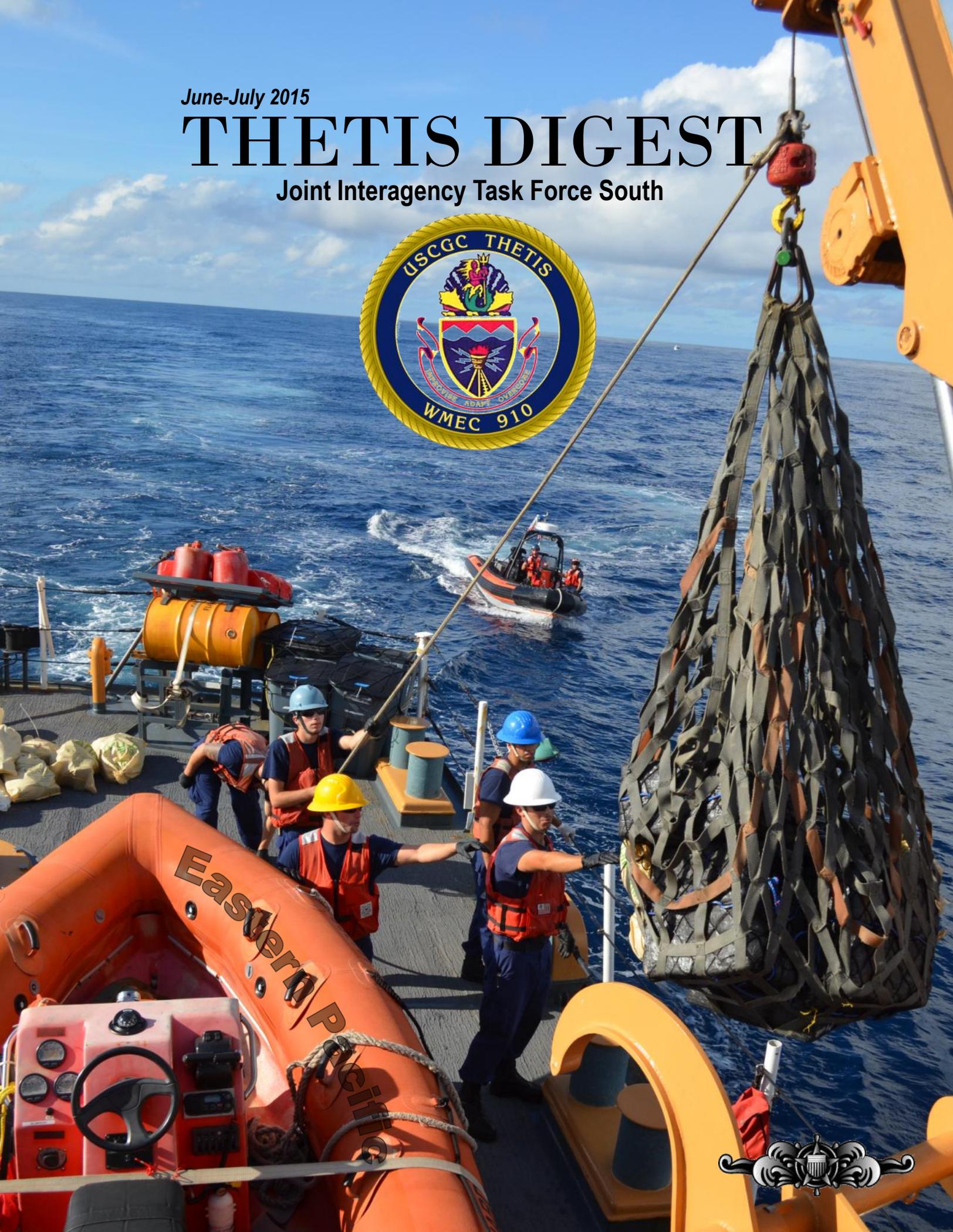


June-July 2015

THETIS DIGEST

Joint Interagency Task Force South



THETIS, a 270 foot cutter based out of Key West, Florida, is a multi-mission platform. Over the last sixty-five days *Thetis* transited through the Panama Canal in order to conduct operations supporting diverse Coast Guard missions primarily drug interdiction, in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

Coast Guard drug interdiction accounts for nearly 52 percent of all U.S. government seizures of cocaine each year. The Coast Guard has a long history of drug interdiction, dating back to 1890 when the Revenue Cutter *Wolcott* seized opium on board the steamer *George E. Starr*. As the Coast Guard nears its 225th anniversary of drug interdiction, *Thetis* takes pride in carrying out these missions.

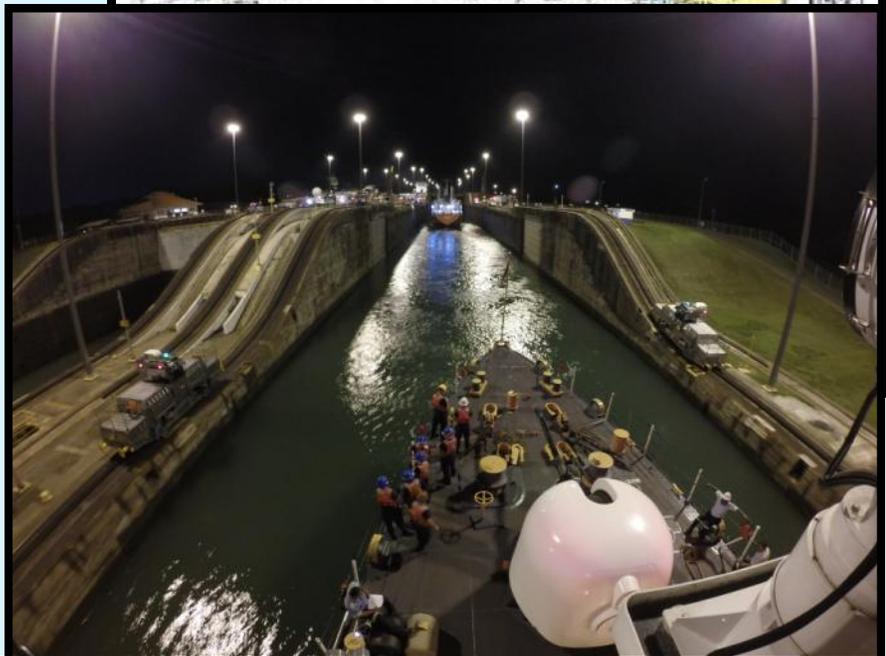
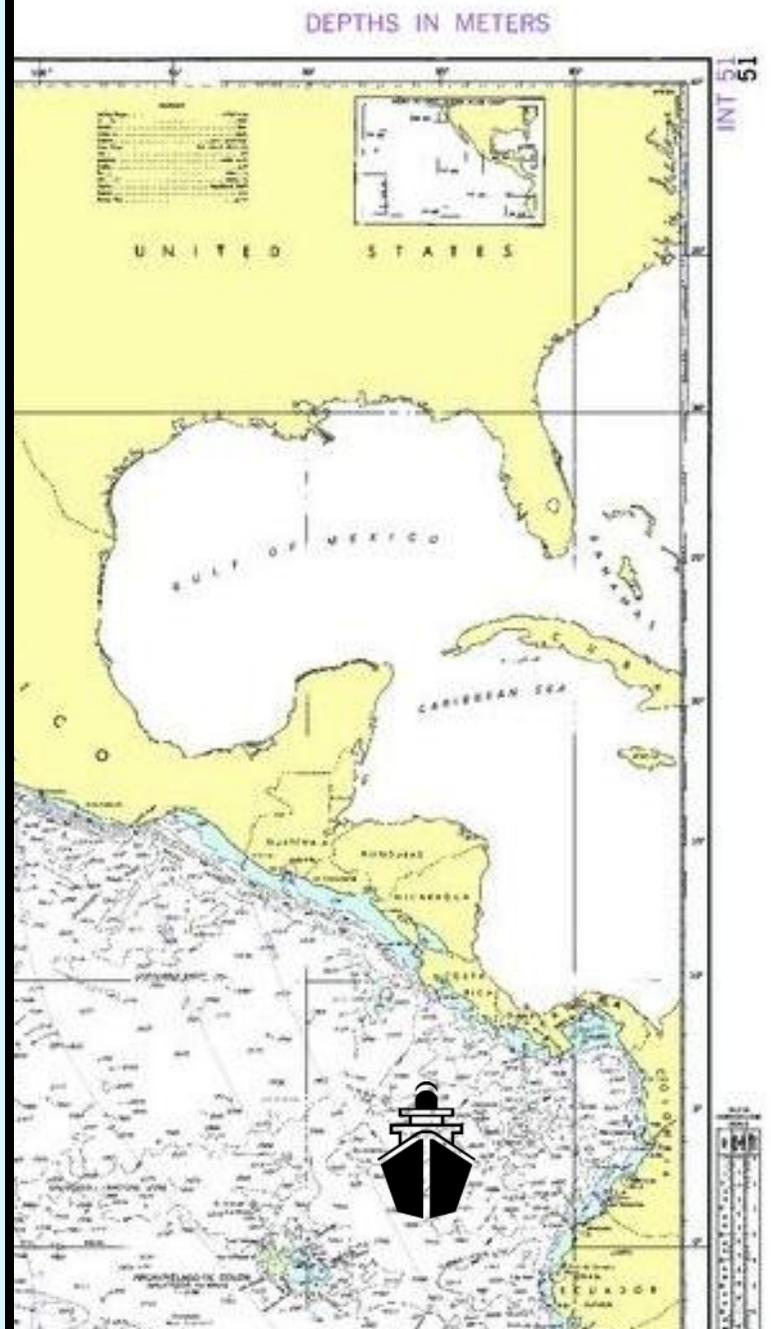
Early in the patrol, *Thetis* intercepted a *Go-Fast Vessel* transporting approximately 700kg of cocaine. Over the next several days the crew of *Thetis* stopped three more *go-fast-vessels* and a fishing vessel seizing an additional 3,280 kilograms of cocaine. Towards the end of its patrol *Thetis* intercepted another fishing vessel carrying 670 kilograms of cocaine. In total *Thetis'* crew disrupted and interdicted six vessels suspected of drug smuggling, detained 15 suspected narco-traffickers and recovered over 4,650 kilograms of illegal narcotics worth an estimated wholesale value of \$140 million. Maritime Enforcement Specialist First Class, Charles Kinnear, one of *Thetis'* boarding officers states, "These high speed and highly visible boarding's are one of the most dangerous missions we face. As a team we acted expeditiously to secure the vessels and the suspects engaged in violations of the Maritime Drug Law Enforcement Act."

These interdictions were carried out as part of Operation Martillo, which is one component in the United States government's whole-of-government approach to countering the use of Central American littorals as transshipment routes for illicit drugs, weapons and cash. Operation Martillo is an international operation focused on sharing information and bringing together air, land and maritime assets from the U.S. Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security and Western Hemisphere and European partner agencies to counter this illicit trafficking.

In addition to conducting drug interdiction operations, *Thetis* had an opportunity to support the Coast Guard's Living Marine Resource mission. Coast Guard objectives include promoting the recovery of marine protected species and their habitats. *Thetis* crewmembers worked together to free a 50 pound green sea turtle tangled in debris and fishing line. The crew of *Thetis* was able to save the sea turtle and clean up the line preventing future environmental hazards.

This exciting and successful deployment in the Pacific Ocean was a unique opportunity for *Thetis*, whose crew is normally deployed throughout the Caribbean Sea in support of similar missions. The crew of *Thetis* is looking forward to time in port with friends and family.

(Bottom Right : USCGC THETIS transits through the panama canal.)



Message from the Commanding Officer

Greetings THETIS Family and Friends!

I want to welcome all of our new shipmates and families to THETIS. I know transfer season is challenging for everyone, especially when the ship is deployed. I hope everyone is getting settled in Key West and enjoying the many activities that our small town paradise has to offer.

This has been an exciting and rewarding patrol for the entire crew. As you can tell from the pictures and comments here, the crew has been very successful in executing Coast Guard missions. Our transit through the Panama Canal and our assigned missions in the Eastern Pacific Ocean brought many great opportunities and the crew excelled with each one. They have a lot to be proud of and they couldn't have done it without the support of all of you at home. Enjoy your reunions and the many sea stories our shipmates have to tell. We all look forward to homecoming and some well-deserved time off.



Ombudsman's Corner



In the Florida Keys hurricanes are a threat during the months of May to November. Some so severe they require full evacuation to Orlando, some that are moderate and require sheltering at Boca Chica, and others not so severe that you shelter in place at your home. Whatever the case may be if a hurricane is to approach you will be notified within a timely manner depending on the category of the storm. If we are to shelter at Boca Chica there is a list, according to what street you live on, as to what shelter you are staying in. If full evacuation to Orlando is required, travel will be reimbursed. If sheltering in place at your home, there will be no leaving base at all. Have a disaster plan and a disaster kit ready for your family in the event that any of these scenarios happen. To get back into the Florida Keys after a full evacuation, there are stickers you can pick up from Mary at Fleet and Family, or if you have a valid driver's license with your home address being in the Florida Keys area, that will work as well. Be prepared and always stay informed!

Leslie Bravo

Thetisombudsan@gmail.com

DECK DEPARTMENT



The Deck Force division is truly the arms and legs of the ship. They make of a large part of any work party, pulling together as a team to accomplish the goal. Members of the deck department have expanded their pull in the ship by assisting as translators, training as QMOWs in their free time, and cross qualifying to become one of the most versatile members of the ship. Deck Force is involved in every boarding and boat ops. Over this past patrol deck force has anchored, moored and unmoored Thetis, painted bits, and offloaded drugs seized during interdiction operations. The deck division also consists of many of Thetis's boarding team members that stopped and searched 6 suspect vessels during this patrol.

"We take pride in our work and what we do on a daily basis. We've painted this ship from bow to stern and we'll do it all over again every time we pull back into port. Being a deckie is hard work and sleep is definitely a luxury underway. From boat lowering detail in the early hours of the morning to carrying bails of drugs from last nights operations. We get the job done."

~SN Cannon



The deck department prepares to moor THETIS.



THETIS deck department prepares to let go anchor by streaming the buoy.



The deck department works the mooring lines while the THETIS moors up.

DECK DEPARTMENT



Top Left: BMC Boes gets his hair cut **Left:** BMC Boes during hair cut. **Bottom Left:** LTJG Piantedosi **Top Right:** SN Summerrall showing his gun **Bottom Right:** OTH delivering narcotics.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



The Engineering Department played a vital role in USCGC THETIS' successful EASTPAC patrol. Despite multiple generator casualties and damage to crucial flight nets, they kept the ship operationally ready by working around the clock to effectively monitor, and repair all pieces of machinery equipment necessary for THETIS to carry out her mission. The engineers filled a critical role in the patrol by keeping the OTH small boat, and Coast Guard Helicopter 6528 fueled and ready for immediate deployment during operations. As THETIS welcomed aboard new shipmates halfway through the patrol, the Engineering Department led the way in training by holding multiple damage control training evolutions to ensure that the crew was always ready to respond in the case of an emergency. Upon return to homeport, the department will be wishing fair winds, and following seas to one of their most pivotal members - MKC Damien Russo. He will be successfully retiring from the Coast Guard after 20 years of service. On this patrol alone, his expertise was vital in keeping THETIS operational by repairing both the Emergency Diesel Generator, Ship Service Diesel Generator, and keeping all auxiliary equipment up and running. His leadership, experience, and presence will be sincerely missed.

(Top Left: The engineers train the crew on DCPQS and life saving techniques that can protect the ship and save the crew. The engineers held several DC Olympics and drills to help the crew train realistic fire, flooding and collision scenarios. The engineers have a vast array of rates from electrical work, machinery technicians, and damage control technicians. To be apart of the engineer's crew you must have stamina and strength. Top Right: MK2 Bravo showing his patriotism. Bottom Left: DC3 Steen Bottom Right: Damage Control training.)

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Continued...



Top: EMC Robinson and MKC Panish pose after their advancement to Chief. **Bottom Left:** DCC Wingate has his Anchors pinned on. **Right:** ENS Deschene **Bottom Right:** MK2 Look

Ops Department

Out on an Eastern Pacific patrol this summer, the operations department contributed significantly to the success of Thetis' missions. We started off with a bang, employing the skills of our Combat division right from the start. The CIC team led us through multiple cases, all of which extended through the night, resulting in hard-earned mission accomplishment, securing the on load of more contraband than the Mother Thetis has ever seen! Under the leadership of three different commanding officers: Commander Hudson, Commander Ryan, and Commander Felger, the cases continued, and the Ops department welcomed new crew members who hit the ground running. The equipment ran smoothly thanks to the ITs and ETs, who tirelessly kept up with the repairs and maintenance of our navigation and communication systems. Towards the end of the patrol, our gunners were challenged with the job of sinking a fishing vessel to eliminate navigational hazards, their marksmanship proved to be effective and was an exciting event for the crew. Everyone in the department stood watch, be it in CIC, Detainee watch, or even on the bridge as a newly qualified Quarter Master of the Watch helping make the watch schedule more manageable. Our boarding teams worked with great efficiency and through long nights and harsh conditions, ensuring that contraband would be kept out of our nation's borders, and even rescued a sea turtle from drifting nets. Our OS's and IS worked hard to prepare case briefings and aide in the passing of intelligence information to seize more then 4,000 kg of cocaine. The Operations Department was busy throughout the patrol and its hard work reaped the benefits for cutter Thetis!

(**Top Left:** Cadets Dagher Jansson **Left:** IT3 Alfonso stand ATFP **Bottom Left:** Operations Department cooks pizza! **Top Right:** ET2 Valle **Middle Right:** ETC Deleo preparing pizza. **Bottom Right:** ENS Seleznick **Middle:** THETIS Boarding team returns to the cutter.)



Ops Department (cont'd)



Top Left: HITRON AVDET returned from disabling a go-fast.
Top Right: THETIS Boarding Team returns a sea turtle.
Right: A sea turtle caught in flotsam.
Bottom: Boarding Team prepares to return the sea turtle after rescuing it from the net.

Congrats OPS!



LT Matejka, operations officer on USCCG THETIS, receives his Cutterman's pin while underway. Bravo Zulu!



Support Department



The Support Department, comprised of Storekeepers, Food Service Specialists, Yeoman, and a Health Services Technician, had a challenging but extremely rewarding patrol. With transfer season, over half the department is now made up of new faces as we finish the patrol. Despite the challenges faced, this extremely dedicated group of professionals ensured all parts were shipped and critical repairs were made, medical and personnel needs were taken care of, and delicious and creative meals were a daily source of morale for the crew. With the operational tempo of this patrol being very fast at all times, it was the Support Department's duty to ensure that we were always supporting the mission any way that we could, and we did it well!



(**Top Left:** YN1 Brewer **Left:** CWO Morere **Bottom Left:** FS2 Hughes and FS2 Malaska **Top Right:** FS3 Lefler **Right:** HS1 pretending to be a FS **Bottom Right:** SK3 Courtney preparing for a small boat ride.)



4th of July

HAPPY AND HEALTHY ACCRIM

This is celebrated the 4th of July with delicious food cooked by the 1st class petty officers on board and some amazing red, white, and blue cup cakes baked in the galley!



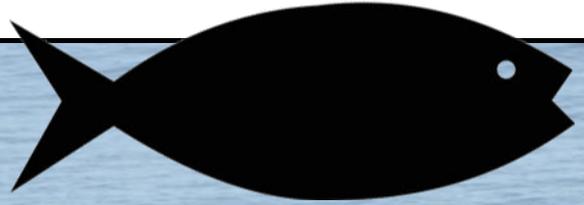
Fun and Games!



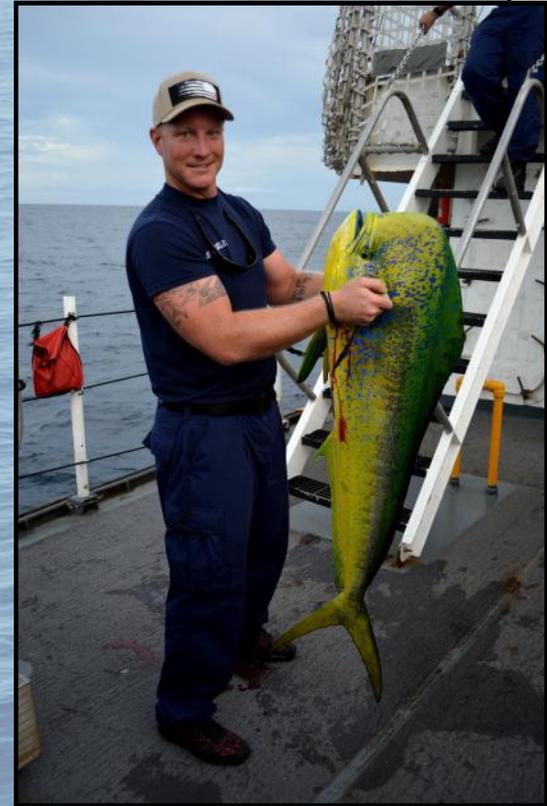
Top Left: SN Stallman, SN Hillman, and BM3 Marler prepare for a hotdog eating contest. **Left:** SN Acevedo, IT3 Alfonso, and GM3 Lobosky play trivia! **Bottom Left:** Swim Call! **Middle:** OS3 Mazzii enjoys swim call in the Pacific! **Top Right:** SN Hillman, BM3 Marler, and SN Castro fight for the most dogs. **Right:** ENS Gray, Cadet Daigher, ENS Deschene, CDR Felger, and Cadet Jansson play trivia! **Bottom Right:** IS2 and SK2 collect prizes!!

Fish Call!

Down down all lines! Up up all fish!



Top Left: ME1 Kinnear holds his 40lb Dolphin Fish. **Bottom Left:** GM1 Shelley fights a Sail Fish. **Top Center:** Sail Fish jumping. **Middle Center:** Dolphin Fish jumping. **Bottom Center:** Dolphin Fish jumping. **Top Right:** GM1 Shelley holds up his 35lb Dolphin Fish. **Bottom Right:** The crew watching GM1 fight the Dolphin Fish.



Qualifications

100%

Bravo Zulu!

Inport OOD

ENS Sowers
BM1 Morelli

Inport EOW

MK2 Bravo

Quartermaster of the Watch:

Cadet Jansson
Cadet Daigher
OSC Anderson
ETC DeLeo
ME2 Kressbow
BM2 Toth
GM3 Labowskey
SN Summerall

Boatswains Mate of the Watch:

SN Carroll
SN Cannon
SN Summerall
SN Day
SN Stallman

Helm & Lookout:

BM2 Toth
SN Sommers
SN Castro
SN Hillman
SN Jones
SA Beaty
SA Yeazus
SA Oosterman

Boarding Team Member:

MK2 Bravo
IT1 Anderson
MK3 Katz
IT3 Alfonzo

Helo Fire Party OSL:

IT1 Anderson

Oiler:

DC3 Ruiz
DC3 Steen

Aviation Fueling Team

FN Hughes

Aviation FOWK

FN Hughes

Security:

DC3 Markward
ENS Bogdan
MKC Angulo
FN Monty
FN Dunn
MK1 Brummett
MK1 McNeal

CIC Watchstander:

OS1 Brookhart
OS2 Kuechenberg

Inport Security:

SN Diggs

Advanced DC:

BM3 Gray
SN Carroll
SN Stallman
Cadet Jansson
Cadet Daigher

HCO:

SUPPO
ENS Sowers

LSO:

OSC Anderson

OTH Engineer:

MK2 Look

Boat Crew:

MK2 Look
BM2 Toth
MB3 Gray

Pursuit Coxswain:

BM3 Marler
BM3 Gonzales

New Shipmates

*LCDR Guyer
CWO Luck
ENS Tomeo
ENS Pilarski
ENS Gray
ENS Bogdan
FSC Szekley
MK1 McNeal
MK1 Brummet
SK1 Ochoa
OS1 Brookhart
YN1 Brewer
DC1 Williams*

*BM2 Toth
OS2 Kuechenberg
SK2 Krajnik
FS2 Simmons
DC3 Markward
OS Chavarria
SA Yeazus
SA Oosterman
SN Sommers
SN Castro
SN Hillman
SA Beaty
SN Jones*

