

Thetis Digest

14 Feb - 28 Mar



The Coast Guard Cutter Thetis returned to Key West, Florida, Sunday after a 45-day patrol in the Western Caribbean Sea. Thetis' crew engaged in several law enforcement missions, completed a great deal of training and provided offshore presence in the Caribbean waters during Cmdr. Kathy Felger's twilight patrol as commanding officer.

A major aspect of any patrol is training; for mechanical problems at sea, different operations, qualifications, and for the mission. Due to the self-contained nature of a ship at sea, each crewmember plays a critical role to ensure Thetis' continued safety. In addition to running numerous drills, Thetis crewmembers utilized her full armament by conducting both .50 caliber and 76mm gunnery exercises.

While conducting operations, Thetis worked alongside allied nations to patrol the high seas and combat narcotics smuggling by transnational criminal organizations. Partnering with British and Dutch naval vessels to achieve a common goal both strengthened the Coast Guard's relations with partner nations and provided our service with a unique opportunity to conduct law enforcement operations alongside foreign assets. The Coast Guard units tasked with conducting counter-narcotics operations from U.S. Navy and allied ships are Law Enforcement Detachment Teams – LE-DETs. During this patrol LEDETs operated on both British and Dutch Navy ships as force multipliers for counter-drug operations. Thetis supported both of these ships by providing a platform for suspected drug smugglers and returning all evidence and contraband to the U.S. for prosecution.

Thetis will off-load nearly 1000kg of cocaine, valued at \$40M, in Key West this week from two separate LEDET interdictions in the Caribbean Sea.

During the patrol, Thetis deployed with an armed Coast Guard helicopter. The aircrew of seven and their precision marksman skills are another force multiplier in successful counter-narcotics missions. In one instance, the helicopter crew was able to detect a vessel suspected of drug smuggling and use effective warning shots to stop the vessel. Though the boarding of the vessel resulted in no contraband found, the case was an example of the great value the airborne use of force tools bring to combating illicit traffic at sea.

Overall, Thetis had a successful patrol in the Caribbean. Beyond invaluable training, multiple law enforcement operations, hundreds of safe helicopter evolutions, and work with partner nations, Thetis was able to visit Cartagena, Colombia and U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, providing the crew with a brief opportunity to relax and recharge. Upon return to Key West, Thetis will shift back to the demanding work in keeping a 27-year-old vessel ready to support Coast Guard missions. Before Thetis sets sail on her next mission, she will undergo a change of command. Cmdr. Kathy Felger has led the crew through six successful counter-drug and alien migrant interdiction patrols, and will pass the torch to her successor, Cmdr. Jose Diaz, in a change of command ceremony scheduled for May 19.

Captain's Corner

Greetings THETIS Friends and Families! We've wrapped up another successful patrol and are looking forward to the perfect Spring weather in Key West. This was my last patrol aboard THETIS and I could not be more proud of the crew and what the ship has accomplished over the last two years.

We will soon welcome CDR Jose Diaz as the new Commanding Officer of THETIS. He and his family have been in Key West before and are looking forward to serving with the crew. Our Ombudsman, Lesli Bravo, has continued to be an excellent source of support for our crew and families. Please thank her for her service to the Coast Guard and THETIS.

Thank you to all of our families for their enduring support of the THETIS crew. We could not do our important missions and enjoy our time at sea without your love and support.



For all of our outgoing Thetis crew members and families, thank you. It's been a pleasure being your Ombudsman for the last year and I'm very thankful I had the chance to work with your families. If you need me in the future or with help during your transfer this year to get in contact with your new unit's ombudsman I'd be more than happy to help. We wish you all luck in your future Coast Guard adventures. To all of our new Thetis crew members and families, welcome. I look forward to working with you and getting to know you. If you do not have my contact information yet, please feel free to email me at thetisombudsman@gmail.com or give me a call at 601-517-9384.



Ombudsman

Lesli Bravo

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



The Engineering Dept took every opportunity they had to continue to train personnel, and make critical repairs on equipment. Still in the wake of a large transfer season, over 20 shipmates became fully qualified in their watch stations, and several received their temporary Cutterman's Pin - an award that signifies when a coastie has been at sea for more than 6 months and is fully qualified at their unit. In addition, Engineers responded to several equipment casualties, including a major steering casualty. In short time, they returned steering to the bridge, and THETIS continued flight and small boat operations. As is tradition, the Engineers came through and worked diligently to keep mighty THETIS' steaming.



DECK DEPARTMENT



Deck Department utilized all available training time to hone its skills during special evolutions including helicopter operations, boat operations, and non-compliant vessel pursuit. Experts trainers in Deck assisted in the qualification process of members across all departments in the aforementioned activities. Additionally, Deck Department flawlessly executed multiple at sea transfers of personnel and contraband, ensuring the smooth flow of operations between deployed assets. Beyond the training and operations, Deck spent a great deal of time and energy preparing gear, examinations, and the training program for the upcoming Ship-Helicopter Standardization Visit, ensuring readiness to excel.



operations department

Operations department was busy this patrol conducting multiple gunnery exercises, creating navigation briefs, working towards qualifications, and so much more. As with any JIATF-South Patrol, Law Enforcement operations are primarily the focus, requiring the entire crew to work together; with Ops department leading the charge. Some operations this patrol consisted of transfers with foreign partner nations, allowing THETIS the unique opportunity to strengthen international relations. Operations department is happy to be home with friends and family!



SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

Support department had a successful patrol, cooking meals, preparing documentation for an upcoming transfer season, running drills and making sure that vital equipment for THETIS got ordered. Support department was also busy standing watch in their many qualified positions including but not limited to, helicopter operations, and special sea detail. Support department is happy to be home and looking forward to spending time with family and friends.



AVIATORS



THETIS was happy to welcome an aircrew aboard for this patrol. Their unique set of skills provided real time on-the-job training, allowing the crew to see a part of the Coast Guard that normally isn't easily accessible. Participating in crew morale events and hosting morale gun shoots, the crew integrated themselves seamlessly and we would be happy to have them back!

MORALE

Poker Tournament



EATING COMPETITION



FISH CALL



Wing Eating Competition



Morale Gun Shoots



Advancements



Cutterman's Ceremony