

CGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)

02 September—06 October 2013

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)

Fall Patrol Newsletter 2013



**The Adventures of the
most VALIANT crew in the
fleet!**

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Prior to Sailing....

Exemplifying the Coast Guard's motto of *Semper Paratus*, VALIANT's crew shows that they are ready and willing to respond to any situation, particularly those in aid of others. Here, several crew members finish up a day's work constructing a house frame with the Beaches Chapter of Habitat for Humanity.



Habitat for Humanity

SN Blake Werner uses a handsaw to finish one of the corner frames of the home.

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Underway

VALIANT departed Mayport on September 2nd, with an embarked HITRON HH-65 Helicopter CG-6512 and headed for the Caribbean Sea to join other partners in the execution of Operation Martillo, a counter-narcotics operation focused on preventing the movement of narcotics from South and Central America to the United States

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Training

After embarking CG-6512, VALIANT crew members began training exercises for various helicopter operations



Flight Quarters Commences...

The helicopter hot fueling detail sends the JP-5 fuel pump up to CG-6512, during Helicopter in Flight Refueling (HIFR) as the Landing Signal Officer (LSO) looks on.



Helicopter Operations

Ensign Mills looks manned and ready to help Ensign Bonner Break-in as Landing Signal Officer (LSO), who supervises the flight deck during ship-helo operations

Focused and Fun

Recently qualified tiedown crew member Seaman Thomas awaits the excitement that is about to begin on the Flight Deck.



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A happy day and a farewell...

Ensign Mills conducts a re-enlistment for Seaman Crawford while he sits onboard the helicopter, prepared to depart mighty VALIANT for Marine Specialist Technician "A" School

Seaman Crawford is joined by Boatswain's Mate First Class Goodwin, Chief Boatswain's Mate Driscoll, Ensign Mills and Commanding Officer Stephen Burdian, who will surely miss him, but are excited for the opportunities that await.



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Bravo Zulu

After Seaman Crawford's departure, Operations Specialist First Class Hendricks reminds the crew that it is time to get back to work and....

as Maritime Enforcement Specialist Second Class Stieren would say, "Efficiently execute the Coast Guard's mission of maritime law enforcement."



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Helicopter and Small Boat Operations: A Team

After CG-6512 sights a Target of Interest (TOI), Boatswain's Mate First Class Goodwin (Bottom Left) and Machinery Technician Second Class Gaudioso (Bottom Right) depart on the Over the Horizon (OTH) small boat, ready for action.



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Flight Quarters: Behind the scenes

Top: HH-65 Helicopter Pilot Lieutenant Fuentes prepares to take-off.

Bottom: Helicopter Control Officer (HCO) Gunner's Mate First Class Pulk and Operations Officer, Lieutenant Kellogg, work inside the Bridge to coordinate and monitor the safety of helicopter evolutions .

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DC Olympics

A fun training and Battle of the Departments event, Damage Control Olympics is an opportunity for crew members to learn how to combat fires and flooding aboard VALIANT, while competing for points to see which Department-Administration, Deck, Engineering or Operations-will excel.

Top Right: Commanding Officer, Commander Stephen Burdian, works with Storekeeper Second Class Van Valkenburg to secure a pipe rupture.



Left: Machinery Technician Third Class Rise enjoys the challenge of “pipe patching.”

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The Making of an Olympian

Right: Gunner's Mate First Class Pulk enthusiastically shows the proper way to set up a P-100 pump to dewater a space



Racing to the Finish

Left: Seaman Lambert scrambles to ensure his partner has everything in order before the Training Team leaders mark time and inspect for discrepancies during the Fire Fighting Ensemble donning race.

Right: Seaman Norton helps Seaman Werner don the proper fire fighting gear, in a race to get the fastest time for Battle of the Departments points.



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Prepared to Launch!
Top: Seaman Everett stands ready to safely navigate Valiant at the helm while Chief Botswain's Mate Driscoll (Bottom) shows his excitement for more helicopter operations



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Top: Tiedown team members ensure the helicopter is secured to the deck with primary tiedowns before fuel is provided to the aircraft.

Right: Fueling team members run back after giving the helicopter the fuel it needs to take off and patrol.



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Working as a Team
During all operations aboard VALIANT, the cutter's crew members work as a team, looking out for each other and manning positions that serve as a guard over teammates. Dressed in silver, the Rescueman stands by, ready to act in case of emergency as the fueling team hooks the hose up to the helicopter.



Bottom Right: Ensign Bonner signals to the aircraft that the fuel pump is secured, as Ensign Mills coaches him through another helicopter evolution.

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After a Parts Drop, the Helo is Ready for Operations

Top Left: A CBP P-3 Aircraft dropped off a helicopter part CG-6512 needed to continue its patrolling of the Southwestern Caribbean Sea

Bottom Right: After receiving the needed part, Aviation crew members prepare the helicopter for flight.

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Sailor of the Quarter

Seaman Lambert was chosen as Sailor of the Quarter (SOQ) for his diligent work onboard and in the community. Before departing on patrol, Seaman Lambert organized a Habitat for Humanity event with a local chapter. Once underway, he worked with Seaman Werner to organize a Patriot Day ceremony in remembrance of September 11.



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A Fine Day for Advancement

Top: While in Guantanamo Bay, Operations Specialist Third Class Washington advanced to Operations Specialist Second Class, with his new rate insignia pinned by Chief Electrician's Mate Ratterman and Operations Specialist First Class Hendricks.

Bottom: Seaman Apprentice Hartfiel is advanced to Seaman, with Commanding Officer, Commander Burdian, by his side.



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Working Topside and Below

While Engineers such as Chief Machinery Technician Waguespack and Machinery Technician Second Class Gaudio (Top) are often below decks, in Main Control and patrolling the engine room, they work closely with the crew above, providing the operational status and speed Valiant needs to carry out her evolutions.

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Gunnery Exercise

Seaman Werner dons his Battle Gear for the 50 Caliber Machine Gun.



Crew Members practice firing the 25 mm on the Foc'sle of the cutter, bracing each other due to the force of the weapon.



Keeping a Watchful Eye

Commanding Officer, Commander Burdian and Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Sommella, always look out for the safety of VALIANT and her crew, whether during flight quarters, getting underway the first day of the patrol, or heading home.



USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)



Heading Home

VALIANT returned to homeport at Naval Station Mayport on the morning of Sunday, October 6, into the welcoming arms of their loved ones.

Fair Winds and Following Seas to all departing crewmembers who served their last patrol aboard the mighty VALIANT.



**THE CREW OF VALIANT WOULD LIKE TO
EXTEND OUR APPRECIATION TO THE FAMILY
AND FRIENDS WHO PROVIDED CONTINUOUS
SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM
ACROSS THE MILES DURING THIS PATROL.**



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