

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)

13 August—03 October 2014

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)

Fall Patrol Newsletter 2014



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

VALIANT Sets Sail to the Windward Passage



On August 13, 2014, Valiant set sail for the Windward Passage and North Caribbean Sea to prevent overloaded Haitian migrant vessels from taking to sea, a dangerous practice that risks the lives of hundreds of men, women and children each year. In support of Operation Southeast Watch, Valiant and other Coast Guard assets work alongside interagency and international partners to prevent and respond to illegal maritime migration in the Caribbean Sea and Florida Straits.

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)



Migrant Transfer
During the patrol, Valiant's crew repatriated 24 Haitian migrants to Cap Haitien, Haiti and embarked 11 Cuban migrants that had been rescued by the cruise ship Carnival Liberty.

Top Left: Haitian migrants embark Valiant's small boat. Top Right: Operations Specialist Third Class Brummer, Chief Machinery Technician Wagner and Machinery Technician Second Class Zamora stand ready to process migrants as they embark the ship. Center Left: Damage Controlman Third Class Martin, Ensign Wissner, and Seaman Everett prepare to aid migrants as they climb up the Jaco's ladder onto the main deck. Bottom Right: A female migrant waves goodbye to Valiant's crew as the small boat drives away from the cutter towards Cap Haitien. Bottom Left: Maritime Enforcement Specialist Stieren shows he is ready to conduct operations.

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)

Helicopter Operations



Top Left: Tie Down team members prepare to send up a fuel sample to the MH-60 Jayhawk Helicopter. **Top Right:** Ensign Russo directs the helicopter. **Bottom Left:** Ensign Boyle and Ensign Navetta take a photo to commemorate Lieutenant Brown's first overnight embarkation on a 210 ft cutter. **Bottom Right:** Valiant conducts a Helicopter In-Flight Refuel (HIFR) with a MH-65 Helicopter.

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)



Conducting Operations

Top Left: Boatswain's Mate Third Class Button and Ensign Bonner conduct steering checks. Top Right: Valiant conducts a pyrotechnics shoot. Bottom Left: Boatswain's Mate Second Class Hotchkiss enjoys being underway. Bottom Right: Machinery technician First Class Goad and Machinery Technician Third Class Rise observe operations from the flight deck.

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)



Entering Port au Prince, Haiti

In the first visit of a U.S. Coast Guard cutter to Port au Prince since the 2010 earthquakes, Valiant arrived to host several U.S. and Haitian government and military representatives.



**Top: Chief Machinery Technician Gainey urges shipmates to “maintain course and speed!”
Center: Crew members onboard a Haitian tug enroute to Valiant, accompanied by Valiant’s previous Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Sommella.
Bottom: Commanding Officer Commander Chamie and Ensign Bonner ensure crew members are embarked safely back onboard the cutter as a storm approaches.**

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)



Visitors Arrive

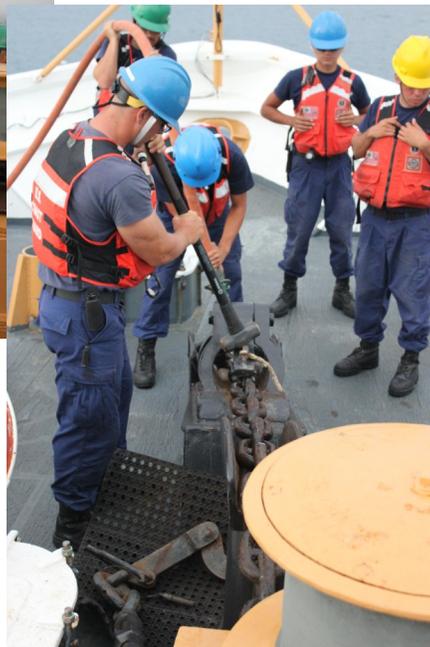
While anchored in Port au Prince, Valiant's crew hosted the U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, the Honorable Pamela White (pictured center left), the Deputy Chief of Mission to the U.S. Embassy in Haiti, the Honorable Brian Shukan; the Chief of the Haitian Coast Guard, Commissaire Joseph Jean-Marie Wagnac; and other government representatives.



Top Left: Chief Boatswain's Mate Driscoll, Gunner's Mate First Class Isaacson, Engineering Officer Lieutenant Smith, and Food Specialist Third Class Stevenson take a photo with the Honorable Pamela White, the U.S. Ambassador to Haiti.

Bottom Left: Members of deck force prepare to weigh anchor and head outbound.

Bottom Right: Seaman Large ensures the cat's paw is set.



USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)



Valiant Conducts Training: Simulated Helicopter Crash on Deck

In preparation for Aviation Standardization and in aid of qualifications and re-certifications, Valiant conducted a Helicopter Crash on Deck drill with an embarked MH-65 Helicopter. Crew members combated the fire and pulled out the “injured” pilots to take them to safety.

Top Left: Members of the Fire Party advance on the fire. Top Right: An MH-65 Helicopter takes off from the flight deck. Bottom Left: Chief Boatswain’s Mate Driscoll instructs crew members as they pull out a pilot and take him to safety. Bottom Right: Ensign Wissner oversees the Damage Control (DC) efforts.

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)



Gunnery Exercises
Valiant conducted multiple gunnery exercises during the patrol for training and to destroy a hazard to navigation.
Top Left: Maritime Enforcement Specialist Second Class Warren and Seaman Food Service Specialist Coreano prepare to shoot .50 caliber rounds.



Center Left: Crew members fire 25 mm rounds on the focsle. Right: Gunner's Mate First Class Isaacson oversees the exercises. Bottom Left: Seaman Sanborn acts as lookout, ensuring the area is clear before any shots are fired.



USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)



Faces of Flight Operations
Top Left: Maritime Enforcement Specialist Second Class Warren and Seaman Dodd serve as Tie Down team members. Top Right: Seaman Cisneros and Seaman Chu stand ready.
Center Left: Chief Boatswain's Mate Driscoll instructs Yeoman First Class Wakim as he breaks-in Landing Signal Officer (LSO). Bottom Right: Ensign Bonner serves as LSO. Bottom Left: Damage Controlman Third Class Martin stands ready in his proximity suit.



Fond Memories
Top Left: Ensign Navetta, Seaman Large, and Electronics Technician Second Class Burns observe from the bridge. Top Right: Chief Machinery Technician Gainey practices his helmsmanship. Bottom Right: Commanding Officer Commander Chamie and Ensign Bonner oversee operations from the bridge wing. Bottom Left: Ensign Russo and Machinery Technician First Class Goad look forward to getting M/V Memory underway from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



Departures and Advancements



Time to Celebrate!

Top Left: Seaman Cisneros receives his departing plaque from Chief Boatswain's Mate Driscoll before he leaves to attend Boatswain's Mate A-School in Yorktown, Virginia.

Top Right: Fireman

Electrician's Mate Van Vliet advances to Electrician's Mate Third Class, and is pinned by Chief Electrician's Mate Eastman and Machinery Technician Second Class Zamora.

Bottom Left: Damage Controlman Third Class Marovich advances to Damage Controlman Second Class, and is pinned by his division members Damage Controlman Third Class Martin and Damage Controlman First Class Renteria.

Bottom Right: Maritime Enforcement Specialist Third Class Warren advances to Second Class, and celebrates with the traditional Valiant Maritime Enforcement Specialist hand signal.

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)



FS3 Stevenson Becomes a Permanent Cutterman!

After serving onboard Coast Guard cutters for more than 5 years, Food Service Specialist Third Class Stevenson earned his Permanent Cutterman's pin.

Stevenson's mentor, Health Services Technician Second Class Potratz helped him prepare for a board with Valiant's Permanent Cuttermen (pictured above), which he took prior to being pinned. During the examination, he answered questions on Coast Guard history and spoke on underway leadership and the lessons he can pass on to the men and women currently assigned to the cutter. Stevenson previously served onboard USCGC Mellon (WHEC-717), homeported in Seattle, Washington. His favorite part of being assigned to a cutter is the camaraderie one finds amongst the crew.

Top Left: During the Cutterman's Pin ceremony, all Permanent Cutterman assigned onboard line up, and the pin is passed down the line, from Cutterman to Cutterman until it is handed to Food Service Specialist Third Class Stevenson.

Bottom Left: Commanding Officer Commander Chamie awards Food Service Specialist Third Class Stevenson his Permanent Cutterman's certificate.

Right: All of Valiant's Permanent Cuttermen welcome Food Service Specialist Third Class Stevenson among their ranks.

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)



Heading Home

VALIANT returned to homeport at Naval Station Mayport on the morning of Friday, October 3rd, 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.

**Photos by Operations Specialist Third Class Brummer, Ensign Boyle, Operations Specialist Second Class Washington, and Seaman Dodd.
Assembled by Ensign Boyle**