

CGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)

09 April–29 May

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)

Spring Patrol Newsletter 2011



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

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JIATF-S... Here We Come!

It was full-steam ahead as USCGC VALIANT left Miami Beach on 09 April 2011 with high hopes of an action packed Joint Inter-Agency Task Force South Patrol.



Business Time

The Executive Officer, LCDR Heyward Silcox, wasn't planning on taking any prisoners.

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Never Give Up the Ship!

Commanding Officer, CDR John Dettleff, proves during a weapons display that he was ready to lead the VALIANT crew in support of the Coast Guard's mission of... being extremely tactical.



Ready to Fight

Operations Officer, LT Jacob McMillan, was ready to single-handedly take out a go-fast. VALIANT was just waiting to find one.

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A Keen Look-out

BM1 Crews, one of VALIANT's newest Underway OODs, utilizes the big eyes in the search for action.



Armed from the Air

This was VALIANT's first patrol with a Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) asset embarked. HH-6556 joined VALIANT from HITRON Jacksonville.



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Happy Hour

LT Aponte and several members of the flight crew chill out on the flight deck. Their relaxed demeanor on deck gave no hint as to the absolute professionalism they showed when in flight performing the mission.



Fueling Team

MK3 Hazzard and FNMK Ruiz (the standing Sailor of the Quarter) enthusiastically ensured the helo was fueled to fly.

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The Other Fueling Team

Along with Senior Chief Johnson, FS1 Hague led VALIANT's unusual food staff. This quiet, tucked-away office is where many of VALIANT's delicious recipes are concocted.



Makin' Bacon

FS3 Beck joined VALIANT for the patrol. The deal? "Will cook for adventure."

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Winner Winner, Chicken Dinner!
**FS3 Nguyen always throws some
great attitude into the recipe!**



Sunday Night = Steak Night
ME2 Legrand can grill up a storm.
BEHOLD.

Hmmm...

**So what ever happened to Glenn,
the Red Footed Booby that made a
home on VALIANT's decks for more
than two weeks of our patrol?**



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On the Way Down

En route to the OPAREA, VALIANT spotted a migrant chug. The chug, barely afloat, had six Cuban migrants onboard.



Saving Lives at Sea

BM2 Gomez passes the migrants life vests. All of the migrants, happy to be rescued by the Coast Guard, were transferred safely to the CGC KODIAK ISLAND for repatriation.

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Search and Rescue

After receiving an Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacon alert, VALIANT located the fishing vessel, CAPT NEPHI, disabled with no propulsion and taking on water. BM1 Purinton and SNBM Ortega were sent over to make sure everything was alright. It wasn't...



Set the R&A Bill

That night, the Rescue and Assistance team were sent over to dewater the vessel which was taking on water due to a split seam in the hull. CAPT NEPHI was successfully transferred to the Mexican Navy the following morning.

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NOW, Set the GO-FAST Bill!

Migrants—check. SAR—check... what are we missing—Law Enforcement (LE)! VALIANT detected a northbound go-fast! The helo and both small boats were launched. The go-fast was intercepted, boarded, and found to be a drug-boat refueling vessel.



Nice Work Glenn.

The “Prize Vessel” had four outboard engines and was painted blue to make detection difficult... Glenn did what he could to un-camouflage the vessel which was eventually turned over, with her crew, to Honduran authorities.



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Dirty Fishing Vessel?

VALIANT believed that the pictured fishing vessel was running dirty. **VALIANT** detected the vessel and sent over a boarding team to investigate.



100% Fish Accountability...

Day turned to night as the boarding team scoured the vessel leaving no space unaccounted for. They even dug deep into the ice-packed fish holds. What did they find? Fish.



It's Alright Though

Glenn, always the team player, made sure no one got lonely out on the small boat.

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Dial in the FUN

**“Hello, is there bingo
tonight?”**

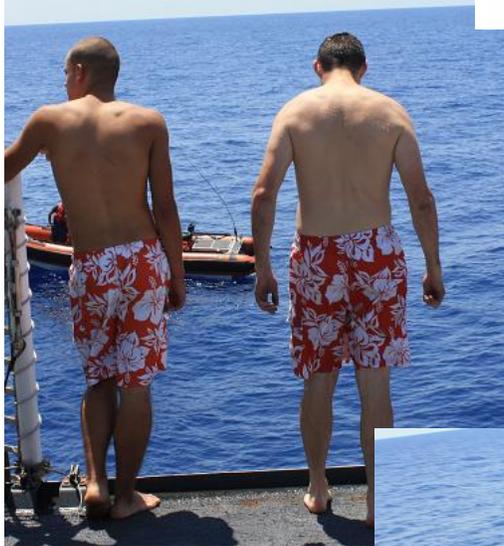
**BM2 Dinu makes a call for the
Coast Guard’s other mission—
morale!**



And Fun Came in the Form of Brief Stops for Fuel (BSFs)!

**VALIANT enjoyed two BSFs this patrol. On 13 April, they
experienced several hours of Key West and on 27 April the VALIANT
crew got cultured with the opportunity to put their feet on
Panamanian soil in Colon (pictured). Exotic!**

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SWIM CALL

**But seriously!
VALIANT got a swim call!**

**Straying from uniformity was
difficult and though at first,
apprehensive...**



Look Out Below!

**...Crewmembers
soon took to the
water like- flying
lizards!**



**“If Coast Guard Life was
Easy, Everyone Would Do It”**

**ME3 Dings makes it look
effortless. I guess everyone
needs a break from being
tactical sometimes.**

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Everyday is a Tropical Vacation

Once again, the VALIANT crew gets the chance to enjoy the Caribbean as so few can... MK3 Hazzard, FN Hill, and FNMK Ruiz get some sun.



Once You Enter the Water, You're No Longer at the Top of the Food Chain

No one cares! More engineers surface to enjoy the opportunity... and lose the farmer's tans.



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Well, Maybe I Like My Farmer's Tan...

ET1 Willard watches over the crew as shark patrol. ENS Dubolsky stands the ever critical billet of Break-in Conning Officer.



BMOW, GQ

SN Tharp stands a taut watch as Boatswain's Mate of the Watch, ever enforcing VALIANT's secure for sea status. And, he looks so fly doing it.



SPORTS—You'll Be Good at Them

VALIANT's athletic prowess is undeniable. Blue water small boat football might be the next big thing.



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But the Fun Couldn't Last Forever...

**VALIANT pulled into Naval Station
Mayport to begin Tailored Ship's
Training Availability (TSTA).**

PART II



What Could be More Fun than TSTA?

I mean... well, per say...

LTJG Fulton was cool with it.



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Navigatin' Our Way to Success

LTJG Fulton is armed with binocs. ENS Vogel is armed with a great attitude. Let the games begin!



Did I Mention Pulling into Mayport? ...And Out?

...Aaand Then In...

VALIANT crewmembers became masters of mooring... and unmooring. They did it several times during TSTA. They were so good, the training team wanted to videotape it! Pro status? I think yes. YN3 Saldana might be catching a clip to post on Youtube. I mean, I would.

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GUNEX

Get EXTREME. VALIANT did it. They conducted a perfect GUNEX for the Afloat Training Group (ATG). OS3 Vaughan: This is my ME3, there are many like him, but this is my own. Ship, Shipmate, TSTA.



Mount 21

Caught in a moment of pristine excellence. GM1 Wolf looks on, clearly beaming with pride.



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TSTA Towing

Deck discusses exactly what is going to happen for the TSTA Towing evolution. Chin straps, hard hats, PFDs, and sheer anticipation are apparent.

Not Tow Happy...

However, the excitement may not have been across the board. SK1 Thomas would rather be playing with his budget spreadsheets!

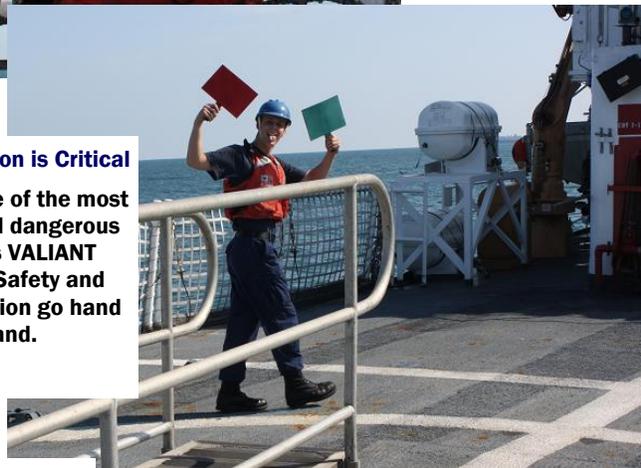
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Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign
SN Hickenbottom practices signaling for the tow.



Communication is Critical

Towing is one of the most complex and dangerous evolutions VALIANT conducts. Safety and communication go hand in hand.





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There She Is...

C-TRACTOR #12 was VALIANT's vessel to be towed.

Ready for This?

GM1 Wolf is ready to go with the line-throwing gun and gear. Get that line over.

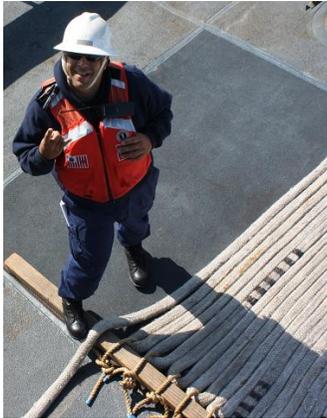
GET HIM!

VALIANT crewmembers chase down the C-TRACTOR's crew.

...just kidding, they run to catch the line. Hahaha- you would've believed it.



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Vessel in Tow

**BMC Tabar is pretty excited about the row rig.
C-TRACTOR #12 is behind VALIANT and its
about to get started.**



When I say...

**BM1 Crews watches as the line pays out. SNBM Ortega is
armed with the axe. "OK, when I say chop, chop... CHOP!"**



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15 Minutes Later...

VALIANT's crew reels in the tow line. HEAVE!

ALL YOU GOT!

Almost done, just the small stuff left. Deck force is exhausted...

And just then—ME3 Dings gets hectic on the line!



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Job Well Done
Mission accomplished.
Tow complete and all line back on deck.
Good spirit ME3!



Back on Deck

C-TRACTOR #12 comes alongside to transfer the VALIANT crewmembers. Careful, careful...

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Some Things Never Change

VALIANT once again excelled. She earned the coveted Coast Guard "Excellence" ribbon for operational readiness. VALIANT continues to embody the Coast Guard's Semper Paratus motto!



Some Things Do...

But the new trash policy set into place at the end of patrol is... problematic.

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Goin' South

VALIANT returned to beautiful Miami Beach on 28 May 2011.

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



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