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FROM THE CO'S CHAIR

Friends and Families:

Despite having been deployed 3000 nautical miles from New England, our hearts and minds have never been far from families and friends. After a long, but extremely successful patrol, our efforts are now more focused on moving the cutter on a Northerly course in order to safely return SENECA to Boston once again. The crew's overall mission effectiveness this patrol promises to make our homecoming ever sweeter. We look forward to seeing many of you pier side when we moor in a few short days.

I want to welcome all our new families and friends whose SENECA crew member reported aboard this summer. I can attest that I have never seen a group of new crew members meld as quickly as I witnessed this summer - you would hardly notice that we overcame a thirty-percent turnover of key personnel. Thanks to the hard work of our new members and the dedication of those who trained them, we didn't miss a beat.

You each have good reason to be proud of your SENECA crew member. The stubborn drive of the crew saw us through many obstacles as the cutter tried to initially fight us from meeting our obligations. Our engineers and technicians systematically overcame each of those chal-

lenges, keeping SENECA at-sea where she is most effective. Their dedication to craft honored those who have served before them.

While a patrol may be deemed successful for many reasons, this one is easy to quantify. Your SENECA crew saved more than 100 Cuban migrants from the perils of crossing the sea in extremely unseaworthy vessels. Two of those rescued received critical emergency care onboard for traumatic injuries and were safely evacuated to hospitals. Additionally, the crew navigated nearly 15,000 nautical miles and patrolled waters from the North Atlantic, through the Caribbean to the Pacific and back. Between memorable transits of the Panama Canal, SENECA and her deployed helicopter crew interdicted five narco-trafficking vessels and stopped 3.5 tons of

cocaine from reaching our Nation's borders. The next time you visit, be sure to make note of the five new cocaine "bust" stickers prominently displayed just forward of the bridge wings. These may just be symbolic markings, but ask any crew member and I think you'll quickly understand that they are prized possessions which represent precision teamwork and operational excellence.

I am proud of this crew. It is humbling and an honor to be their Commanding Officer. We all look forward to being home soon.

"A Tradition of Honor, A Legacy of Action"

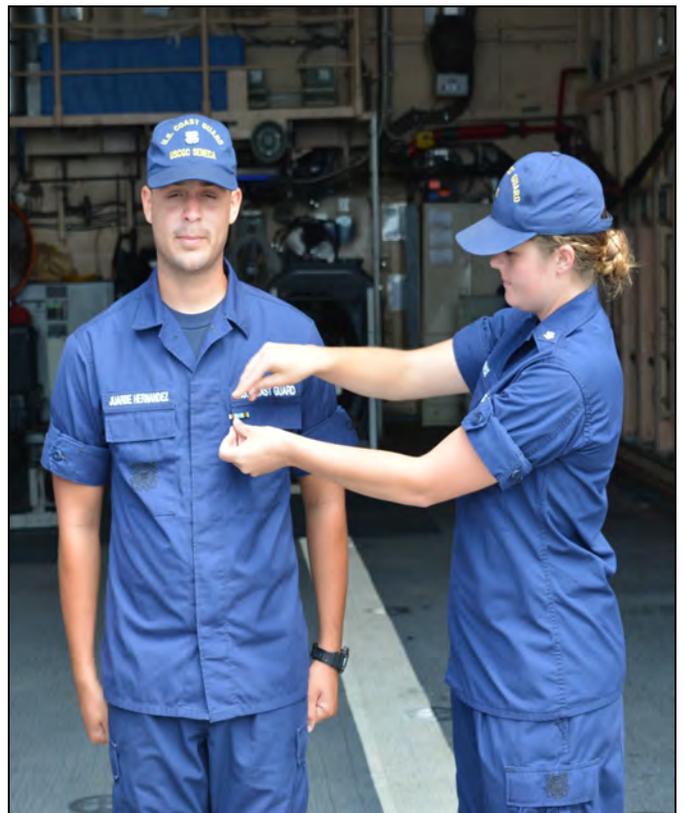
Jason A. Brennell
Commanding Officer



NON-RATE OF THE PATROL: FN Juarbe Hernandez

SENECA is excited to announce its JIATF Summer 2015 Non-rate of the Patrol: FN Juarbe-Hernandez! FN Juarbe-Hernandez is commended for his hard work and dedication to SENECA and the execution of the Coast Guard's missions. While standing watch as a lookout, FN Juarbe Hernandez spotted a migrant vessel five miles away in heavy seas. His competent and proactive watchstanding ultimately led to the interdiction and rescue of 12 Cuban migrants. While not on watch, FN Juarbe Hernandez acted as the primary translator between migrants and watchstanders, ensuring the proper care and treatment of all migrants. Additionally, FN Juarbe Hernandez leveraged his language abilities to assist SENECA's Intelligence Specialist in interviewing 108 migrants. Finally, FN Juarbe Hernandez broke down communication barriers as an interpreter for SENECA's boarding team during a 15 hour boarding of a cargo vessel suspected of drug trafficking. FN Juarbe Hernandez's actions are a shining example of what it means to be a Coast Guardsman! Bravo Zulu!

He received the Commandant's Letter of Commendation with Operational Distinguishing Device.



Permanent Cutterman's Pin

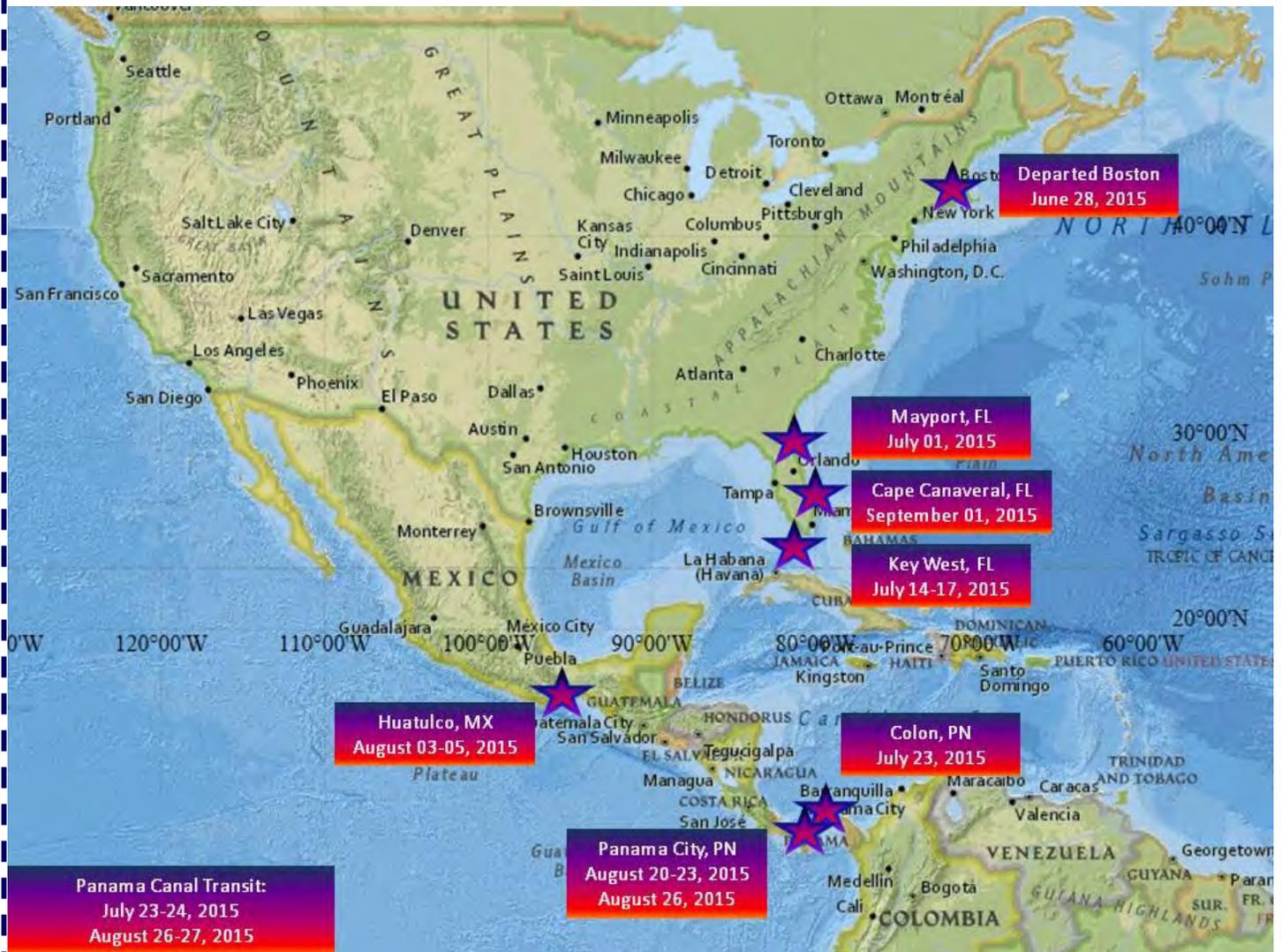
This patrol, SENECA was honored to recognize five of its crew in achieving a major milestone in their Coast Guard careers. Each of the five was awarded the Permanent Cutterman's pin in recognition of completing five years of sea duty.

The Cutterman's Insignia was instituted in 1974 to recognize those that have performed the responsibilities of their rank/rate while enduring the rigors and dangers of sea duty. It signifies that they have exhibited the requisite professionalism and dedication to duty expected of seagoing Coast Guard personnel. The insignia is a visible means of recognizing their qualities and identifies the wearer as a professional mariner. The design can be divided into three basic areas. The wheel and the waves represent the heritage of the sea, the five point star represents five years of sea duty, and the shield in the center represents the Coast Guard and its seagoing tradition.

Congratulations to LT Brendan McKinnon, BMC Adriano Agostino, EMC Steve Craig, MKC Joshua Jenness, and IT2 Edwin Li! Your dedication to this sea-going service is appreciated and we thank you for your sacrifice!



Where in the world has SENECA gone?



This patrol was one to be remembered, every department has had their challenges and overcome them, we transited the Panama Canal twice, completed the Coast Guard missions, and had some pretty awesome port calls. The entire crew is proud of our accomplishments and cannot wait to finish the transit home to be reunited with our family and friends.

Division Spotlight: Weapons Division

The weapons division consists of Gunners Mates and Electronics Technicians. Led by ENS Frederickson, the division is split into two primary functions: weapons/ammunition and the MK92 fire control radar. The weapons and ammunition side is run by GMC Bacewicz, GM2 Fisher, and GM3 Guinn. They are responsible for the maintenance of all of SENECA's weapons from the large 76mm gun down to the .40cal pistols. It is their job to make sure all of SENECA's weapons are ready for operational use. The MK92 side is run by ET1 Gessner and ET3 Clay. They are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the MK92 radar. The MK92 is has the ability to track and lock onto targets with the 76mm gun. Together, the GMs and ETs work to ensure SENECA is mission capable for our Defense Readiness mission.

This patrol has been busy for the Weapons Division. They conducted 16 gunnery exercises, firing more than 15 different types of ammunition for training and operational purposes. The Weapons Division was responsible for sinking seven navigational hazards, using five different types of ammunition to complete these tasks. This has been a successful patrol for SENECA and the hard work put forth by the Weapons Division was one of many reasons why.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

LT Paul and Katherine Alexander- 3 years
 ET2 Brian and Rica Armstrong- 7 years
 GMC Neil and Hannah Bacewicz- 1 Year
 FS3 David and Irene DeMarzio- 5 years
 MK2 Joshua and Nicole Gomez- 4 years
 IS1 Whitney and Scott Graham- 1 Year
 LT Brendan and Sarah McKinnon- 3 Years
 LCDR Christian and Virginia Medick- 19 years
 BM2 Michael and Ashley Pugh- 7 years
 MK1 Javier and Hilda Rodriguez- 10 years
 MK3 Sean and Susan Small- 8 years



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



DC1 Husband 9/12
 IS1 Grimes 9/16
 BM3 Southard 9/21
 ET1 Goodwin 9/22
 ET3 Isleib 10/4
 FN Juarbe-Hernandez 10/5
 ET3 Clay 10/5
 BM3 Amabile 10/14
 FN Morrow 10/19
 ENS Lamphere 10/19
 GMC Bacewicz 10/27

MEET THE XO: LCDR MEDICK



This issue's interview features our new XO: LCDR Christian Medick. Read below to find out more about the XO!

BM1 - What was the highlight of your enlisted time in the CG?

XO- It was as a 1st class in Maine. I was able to be in charge of the crew of a 56ft cable boat. We brought cable around for the lighthouses from Maine to Rhode Island. It was fun to just take a small crew out for a few days.

BM1- How was it going from your enlisted career to your Officer Career?

XO- I say my enlisted career was looking at things in a micro sense and the officer world is that of a macro world. I mean that as an enlisted member we knew what our mission was and what we had to do to complete it. On the officer world you need to make sure you know not only the mission but the routes and impacts that mission takes. For example what happens once the crew finishes a boarding and the paperwork makes its way through the channels.

BM1- What has been the highlight of your officer career so far?

XO- It was being the CO of CGC George Cobb in Los Angeles. There is a great challenge in trying to develop your vision for a unit and working as a team to make it come to fruition. There is a great pride I took in getting the team to come together in your vision and accomplish all that we did.

BM1- What is the best place you have been with the CG, be it stationed or visited?

XO- The southern California area. I had serious doubts about it in the beginning but I liked the fact that you can do just about anything at any time. You can be at the beach one day and ski the next.

BM1- If you could give the crew and their families one piece of advice what would it be?

XO- Create quality times with your families as much as you can. We are gone a good portion of the year and we need to spend time together. Enjoy what time you spend in the CG regardless if you are the career sailor or the one that gets out after four years. Take advantage of all the opportunities that are given to you.

BM1- If you could be any animal what would it be?

XO- I would be a lion. It is a powerful animal that takes care of its family and friends. It always stands the watch on the group as a whole.



MESSAGES HOME



"Hannah, Jack & Nate: I hope you have a great first week-back at school.
See you soon! - Dad"



Mrs. Tara, Kyle, Ha-Boy and Scooter. I miss you more than any words can describe.
I'll be home soon F.E.L ~Me



Brittney, Thanks for being a strong women and a
amazing mother, miss you and love you.



Hi Melissa, Thomas, and Nicholas
Miss and Love you guys, wish I could be home spending the
summer with you, for your first day of school and your hockey
games GO CHIEFS! But Daddy's on his way home. I will see
you soon :) Love Nick



To the Degnan's & Zack Achstetter: Thanks for supporting me
during my first patrol I can't wait to come home and see you guys! -Lexi



Hello Jessica and Jack! Dad will be home soon and cant wait to
see you two! Love, Steve

EVENTS IN BOSTON

BELOW ARE JUST A FEW OF THE AMAZING ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE IN AND NEAR BOSTON THIS FALL!

Boston's Annual Beerathon is being held on September 12th. Join the fun on a 26 bar tour throughout Boston! Check in is on the 12th from 12-3 at either Bell in hand, Wild Rover, Sissy K's or NIX's Mate. Hurry, tickets are selling out fast online at www.bostonbeerathon.com. Ticket prices are at the low cost of \$32.64! **This is a 21 or older event.**

There is also plenty to do at the South Boston Street Festival on September 19th from 11 to 4. Fun for all ages, there will be live music from 100 artists, local vendors, food, and children's activities. This is a free event for all!

Another is the Food Festival on September 19 from 12-4. This is an indoor and outdoor event where you will have the opportunity to sample 60 different kinds of food. The event is taking place at Phantom Gourmet Food Festival near Fenway Park. The entrance will be near Game On at 82 Lansdowne Street. **This is a 21 or older event.**

As we move into Fall, there is plenty to do for the whole family at Connors Farm! Their annual corn maze is held from September 5th through November 1st. Located 22 miles north of Boston at 30 Valley Road in Danvers; the corn maze is on sale on Groupon for \$25. For more information, visit www.connorsfarm.com.

Connor's Farm welcomes Hysteria every Friday and Saturday in October from dusk to 11pm! Not for the faint of heart, they feature zombie paintball, a haunted farm, and a flashlight maze! The ticket prices vary for events starting from \$14.99 to \$44.99. Package deals are available. Find out more at www.connorsfarm.ticketleap.com.



CAUGHT ON CAMERA!

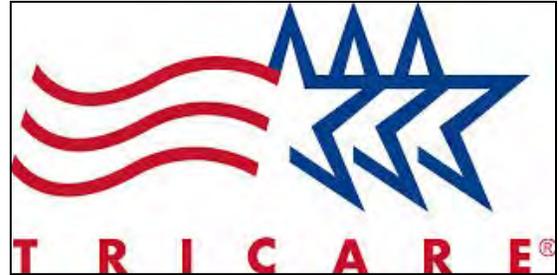


TRICARE: Prescription Policy Changes for Dependents

A significant change is occurring in regards to brand-name chronic medications dispensed for Dependent and Retiree TRICARE beneficiaries. Right now, TRICARE subsidizes all covered brand-name medication at IN-NETWORK, RETAIL pharmacies. Users pay \$20 for a 30 day supply, while Tricare covers the remaining cost. But the new rule will force users who buy "maintenance" drugs at those locations to pay the entire cost out pocket. As of 01Oct15, Dependent and Retiree beneficiaries can continue to receive chronic, brand name medications from Military Treatment Facility (MTF) pharmacies that dispense to these populations or TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy. Mail-order brand-name drugs will continue to cost users \$16 for a 90-day supply. All drugs filled at a military treatment facility (MTF) will continue to be free. Please see links and notice below for additional specifics. The 2nd link provides a list of brand name medications affected. The change goes into effect as of 01Oct15.

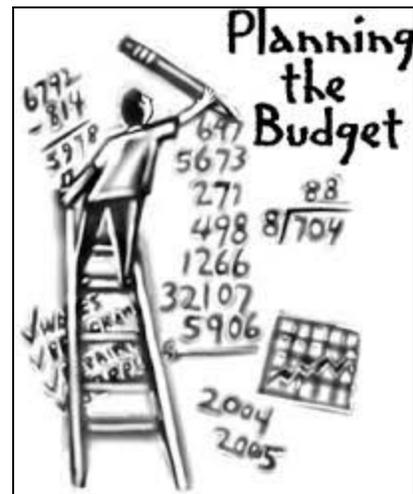
<http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/Pharmacy/FillPrescriptions/NewRules.aspx>

<http://www.health.mil/selectdruglist>



A Note from your Command Financial Specialist...

SENECA Families- There will be a FINANCIAL WELLNESS class held at Base Boston on Sept. 17th. The topic for the class is healthy holiday planning/spending, so it is a great way to get a jump start on holiday shopping (and budgeting!). The class will begin at 0900 and last one hour. By attending, you will also be in the running to win an APPLE TV! Base Boston will be sponsoring financial classes once a month, so keep an eye on future newsletters if you are interested!
V/R, ENS KELLY GRILLS, CFS



HAVE A FAMILY EMERGENCY?

Service members can rest assured that the Red Cross will deliver notification of an emergency such as the death or serious illness of an immediate family member, as well as the good news of the birth of a service member's child or grandchild. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, the Red Cross relays urgent messages containing **accurate, factual, complete and verified descriptions of the emergency to service members stationed anywhere in the world, including on ships at sea** and at embassies and remote locations. If you or a loved one needs to utilize this service, call (877) 272-7337 or visit www.Redcross.org.

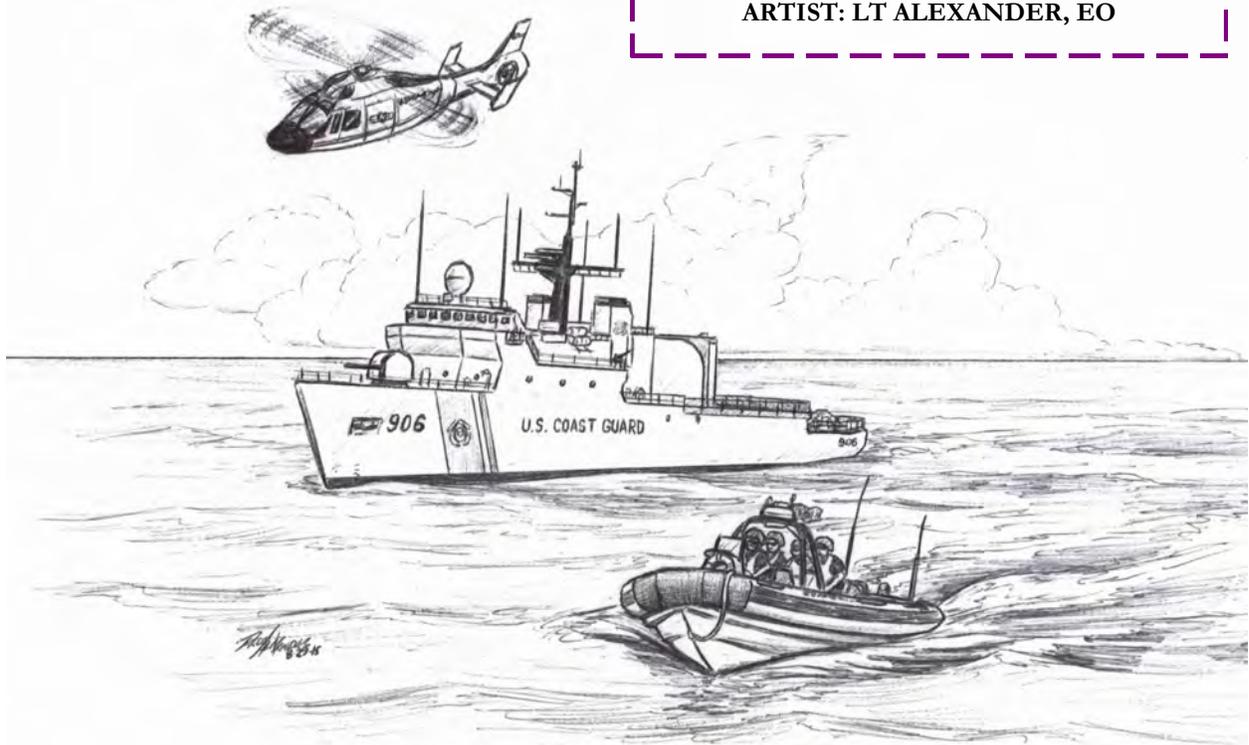


Do you have something or someone you would like to see featured in the SENECA Sailor, or any questions for our newsletter staff? If so, please submit a Letter to the Editor that will be featured in our next edition to...

Kathryn.R.Lamphere@uscg.mil



ARTIST: LT ALEXANDER, EO



MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SENECA SAILOR CONTRIBUTORS...

LT Alexander, BM1 Gercon, YN1 Nava, HS1 Perry, BM2 Liston, OS3 Wygand, SK3 Pierce, OS2 DeSalvo, ENS Fredericksen, and ENS Lamphere,