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# THE WAYPOINT



# Captain's Corner

By Captain Robert Hendrickson  
Commanding Officer



Where does the time go? It seems like it was just yesterday that I exchanged salutes with my good friend John McKinley in Honolulu and took command of WAESCHE. Now I find myself on my last patrol. And I have a hunch it will be a busy one. We are already digging-in and getting down to business.

Shortly after leaving home, we started a week of work-ups with the US Navy. The purpose of the mission was to demonstrate the ability of US Navy helicopters to operate from a US Coast Guard cutter. That's not as easy as it may sound. It's sort of like getting married – we both have our own little quirks and our own way of doing things. Neither way is wrong, it's just different. We had to iron out a lot of those little differences in how we do things related to helicopter controlling. Fortunately we had some great professionals on board –not just from the Navy, but also from the Coast Guard, including the WAESCHE crew. These folks made ironing out those little things very easy.

We did what a lot of people said couldn't be done – we routinely hangared a Navy MH-60S helicopter and conducted the full spectrum of drug interdiction exercises with them. The helo crew left the ship fully confident in the Coast Guard's ability to control their helicopter and in their own ability to be a key part of the Coast Guard's interdiction mission.

That's important. Having the ability to inter-operate with a Navy helicopter, crew, and maintenance group gives the Coast Guard another available resource to help execute our mission. It also gives the Navy another resource to do theirs. We all know how the Coast Guard utilizes helicopters to detect drug smugglers and then employ airborne use of force – when necessary – to stop go-fast vessels. It's a natural fit. But being able to inter-operate with Navy helicopters also provides the DoD a resource – a Coast Guard cutter – if necessary.

Two of the Coast Guard's eleven statutory missions are Homeland Security and National Defense Readiness. Should the need arise; we are now more ready and even more capable to protect and defend. This ability to work Navy helicopters from a Coast Guard cutter is a game changer in a number of ways. BRAVO ZULU to the crew for playing such a vital role in bringing this capability to fruition!

# Captain's Corner Continued

So as you can see, we are underway and keeping very busy. The good thing about a busy patrol is that the time goes by quickly. Before you know it we will be heading home for the summer. While we're gone, however, there are a couple of very special people who have stepped-up to be there if you need them; our Ombudsmen.

As you may know Rebekah DuVall just stepped-down as one of our Ombudsmen, and I want to thank her for her outstanding work – especially with our social media program. Rebekah was in the Coast Guard and actually a member of my crew aboard USCGC MOHAWK when we responded to the 2010 Haiti Earthquake. I put her in charge of social media and much of her work wound-up in the national spotlight. We're going to miss her.

For now, Nadja Espinosa and Laura-Ann Phillips comprise our Ombudsman Team. Nadja and her husband, Miguel, will be leaving us this summer for Seattle. Fortunately, Laura will be here for one more year to keep the team continuity. We are looking forward to welcoming Treneka Ingram to the team to replace Nadja. These ladies have a great deal of military spouse experience and I sincerely appreciate all they do.

March 26th is Ombudsman Appreciation Day, but I believe EVERY day should be Ombudsman Appreciation Day – I know it is for me! Please drop your Ombudsmen a note, give them a virtual hug, and tell them how much you appreciate what they do for us all.

I look forward to next month's newsletter and telling you about all of the great adventures we are having stopping drug-runners! Until then, thank you all for your outstanding support of the ship and crew and for keeping the home fires burning while we're doing the Nation's work. We'll be home soon.

## Thank you to our Ombudsman Team!



**Rebekah DuVall**



**Nadja Espinosa**



**Laura-Ann Phillips**

# A Word from the Command Senior Chief



For the past three years, I have had the honor and privilege of serving as the Command Senior Chief for the men and women aboard CGC WAESCHE. Without question, this has been the most rewarding tour of my career. I have had the unique opportunity to work closely with senior members of the command as they set out to strike a balance between “People, Ship, and Mission.” I was afforded the opportunity to voice my concerns and the concerns of the crew to see that we remained focused and our priorities were steadfast. More importantly, I had the opportunity to work with the amazing crew of WAESCHE. They impressed me every single day. Times have changed dramatically since I joined the Coast Guard in 1988 and I am glad to have been able to witness it here on WAESCHE.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the singular moment on WAESCHE that forever changed me and many many others. On Veterans Day, 2013, we lost BM3 Travis Obendorf while rendering assistance to the crew of the Alaskan Mist in the Bering Sea. Since his passing, the Coast Guard has made significant changes to prevent this tragedy from ever happening again. What we do is dangerous. What we do requires courage and strength. Travis had all of that. He is missed every day and his legacy will forever be a part of who WAESCHE is. Know that your loved ones are safer for Travis’ sacrifice.

As I approach retirement this summer, I am passing the torch to MKCS Dan Bolen. Having had the chance to work with Dan over the past several months, he is absolutely the right leader for this position. He will undoubtedly continue to put our men and women first and hold senior leadership on WAESCHE to the same standard.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you and thank you for taking care of the home front while we were at sea. Without you, wearing the Command Senior Chief Badge would be infinitely more difficult. Thank you.

In Service,  
OSCS Gary R. Reed

# Sailor of the Quarter



Congratulations to OS1 Kevin Hoxworth for being selected as the Sailor of the Quarter for the first quarter of fiscal year 2016. As WAESCHE conducted operations in the harsh Alaskan environment followed by an extensive dockside availability period in Alameda, CA, OS1 Hoxworth consistently demonstrated exceptional initiative, work ethic, and dedication to duty. Showing unparalleled initiative, he volunteered to serve as the Leadership and Diversity Advisory Council (LDAC) Vice Chairman and the Assistant Master at Arms (AMAA), time consuming but important jobs in providing for the well being of the crew and other members of the community. As the LDAC Vice Chairman, he selflessly dedicated over 40 hours of liberty time while in Dutch Harbor, AK in order to organize numerous community service events including serving lunch at the community's senior center, working with the local school to clean the boiler room, helping upgrade the local fish hatchery, and assisting in the set up, operation, and break down of a Halloween haunted house attended by over 100 children from the community. His efforts brought credit upon the Coast Guard and WAESCHE and helped to strengthen the relationship with the community - recognized formally in a personal letter of praise from the Mayor of Unalaska, AK. As the AMAA, OS1 Hoxworth worked tirelessly to ensure that crew members were given adequate berthing despite multiple challenges posed by scheduled maintenance projects. His flawless efforts in shuffling crew members from berthing area to berthing area were instrumental in allowing the completion of the \$240,000 maintenance project. Again showing tremendous initiative, he spearheaded a Toys for Tots donation drive onboard WAESCHE, and through the donation of over 30 toys, brought much needed joy to children during the holiday season. Bravo Zulu OS1 Hoxworth!

# Junior Sailor of the Month



Congratulations to SA Sheridan Lewis on being selected as the February Junior Sailor of the Month. Throughout the month of February SA Lewis showed exceptional drive as a galley messcook. Her contagious enthusiasm and positive attitude significantly improved the preparation of WAESCHE's meals. When one of her shipmates was unable to perform their messdeck duties, she selflessly took on additional responsibilities and worked with the cooks to avoid any interruption or delays in meals. Prior to getting underway SA Lewis sacrificed valuable stand-down time to assist in onloading 2,500 pounds of refrigerated stores. Her willingness to help out when the galley staff was short-handed was vital to maintaining the crew's morale. Despite having limited free time she set the example for her shipmates by aggressively pursuing her basic and advanced damage control and GPOW and Security qualifications. Bravo zulu SA Lewis!

# Operations Department



BM1 Dennis Phillips and MK3 Bryan Comandini underway in the small boat for a personnel transfer (left). BM3 Burkett plotting a fix on the chart as the Quartermaster of the Watch (middle left). Deck force launching the cutter boat for pursuit training with the Navy H-60 helicopter.



OS3 Kyle Webb preparing to toss a heaving line (right) during a mooring evolution. The Operations Department, especially Deck and Navigation Divisions, kept busy this month with multiple transits in and out of San Diego.



# Engineering Department



EM2 Scott Wozniak taking readings on one of the ship's service diesel generators while on a round as the Machinery Watchstander. While underway, the Machinery Watchstander conducts hourly rounds of the cutter's engineering spaces to ensure equipment is running properly.

MK3 Rachel Robbins (right) testing lube oil samples in the aft main machinery room. As a result of the long hours put in by the entire Main Propulsion Division, WAESCHE was able to complete major repairs to her number two main diesel engine while inport in San Diego.



DC1 Bianca Witkowski (blue mask) and DC2 Justin Critcher welding the engine compartment door to WAESCHE's Long Range Interceptor (LRI). Thanks to the efforts of DC1 Witkowski, DC2 Critcher, DC3 Micah Miller and DC3 EJ Scarborough the LRI is now fully mission capable.

# Combat Systems Department



ME1 Ryan Lewis (left) firing an M240B machine gun during one of several gunnery exercises that have kept the Combat Systems Department busy during the month of March.



GM2 Chad Brown (middle right) acting as the Mount Captain during a .50 caliber gunnery exercise. The mount captain relays commands to open and cease fire and is in charge of the overall safety of the gun deck. Maintaining the 57 mm cannon takes the efforts of the entire Gunnery Division (bottom right).



# Support Department



Welcome aboard to FS2 Megan Lotito (left) who will be attached to WAESCHE for part of this patrol. During the inport FS3 Justin Scott (middle right) attended baking school. Since his return he has been treating the crew to delicious freshly baked bread and sharing what he learned with other members of the galley like FS3 Grigorii Faizirakhmanov (middle left).



SK2 Sarah Rich (right) has been incredibly busy this month ordering and ensuring the delivery of mission critical parts and equipment to Central American ports. The Support Department has done an amazing job ensuring the completion of important clerical work while also assisting in keeping watch over detained suspected smugglers and helping out with the onload and inventory of seized contraband.



# US Navy H60 Helicopter Operations



During first week of March the crew of WAESCHE worked closely with US Navy personnel to launch, recover, hangar, and conduct numerous flight deck and non-compliant vessel (NCV) pursuit drills as a proof of concept for deploying US Navy H-60 helicopters on Coast Guard cutters to conduct counter-drug operations. Thanks to the efforts of the crew the proof of concept was a tremendous success.

# Launch and Recovery



IT1 Jeremy Ringpis directs the landing of a Navy H-60 helicopter



Navy H-60 on deck

## Hangaring



Captain Hendrickson supervising the folding of the H-60 rotor blades and tail in preparation for hangaring



The flight deck crew using a dolly to push the heavy helicopter into the hangar



# Crash on Deck Drill



LTJG Jake Krumb (green shirt) simulating a bravo fire (flammable liquid fire) during a crash on deck drill. Crash on deck drills enable the flight deck fire party to practice responding to a helicopter crash so that the ship is ready should an actual crash occur. The flight deck fire party is comprised of the on-scene-leader (in charge of overall response), hose teams (teams of four that handle the hose and fight the fire), and proxymen (in charge of evacuating the helicopter crew, removing ammunition, and removing flammable metals like magnesium).



One of two flightdeck hose teams



DC2 Justin Critcher and DC3 Micah Miller rescuing one of the pilots from the simulated crash

# Pursuit and Airborne use of Force Training



MEC Joseph Ruggiero from Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Team South (top left and bottom right) with a .50 caliber sniper rifle used to shoot the engines of non-compliant narcotics smuggling vessels.



BM2 Sam Kelton and MK2 TJ Nettles (middle left) underway for non-compliant vessel (NCV) pursuit training during the Navy H-60 helicopter workups. The cutter boats acted as pursuit assets and simulated NCVs for the airborne use of force drills.



# Look Who We Found



CGC WAESCHE rendezvoused with USS LASSEN (DDG 82 ) and our sistership USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL 750) to complete several at sea transfers during the month of March.



# From Our Ombudsman



Treneka Ingram

We would like to introduce our newest member to the Ombudsman team, Treneka Ingram. Treneka will be replacing me (Nadja Espinosa) as the newest Waesche Ombudsman when my husband, Miguel, and I transfer to Seattle this summer.

*A word from Treneka:*

Hi everyone my name is Treneka Ingram and I have been an active duty spouse for 14 years and married for 17 years. Throughout my husband's career we have been stationed in Virginia, New York, Florida and we transferred to Alameda from New Haven, Connecticut. I have two children that keep me relatively busy but in my spare time I am an art docent at a local elementary school and a graduate student. I am excited to be part of the Ombudsman team and look forward to working with everyone!

Greetings from your Ombudsman Team!

The days are getting longer, the valleys are greener, flowers are blooming and the itchy eyes are in full swing; spring has officially sprung! April brings us warmer weather and PCS countdowns. Many of our local schools here have begun Spring Break and the kiddos were finally able to enjoy this nice weather we are having. With the warmer weather those of you who are new to the area may want to venture out to the many lakes, swimming holes, trails and parks the East Bay has to offer. If you aren't new to the area but haven't had a chance to explore the area, it is the perfect time to do so. We have included links to some of the more popular locations below.

Moving is a way of life for us and every spring those who are up for transfer need to begin the daunting process of preparing for their next adventure. We would like to remind anyone who may be PCS-ing this year that CG Support is available to help you with various options. Transfer season may be in the summer but we start purging excess items, scouting new locations, stressing out over every detail, and having mini melt downs well before the big move arrives. What neighborhood is the best option? Will I need a down parka in Florida? If you find yourself in this situation please feel free to reach out to us or CG Support. CG Support has many resources available to them that you may not have considered. Did you know that CG Support can help you with locating child or pet care? They will even help with recreation resources, relocation assistance, career transition or even relationship concerns. This valuable service is available to you 24/7.

As we move along with this current deployment your Ombudsman team would like to welcome to reach out to us for anything you need, even if it's just to hear a friendly voice. We are here to help in any way we can. Take Care!

Laura, Treneka, and Nadja

# Helpful Links from Our Ombudsman

## CG Support:

(855) CG SUPRT (247-8778)

<https://www.achievesolutions.net/achievesolutions/en/cgsuprt/Home.do>

## PCS:

<http://www.military.com/money/pcs-dity-move/pcs-checklists.html> PCS Checklist

<http://www.move.mil/>

## Great spots for sun lovers:

<http://www.7x7.com/oakland/where-go-swimming-east-bay>

<http://www.ebparks.org/activities/swimming> East Bay Parks for trails and swimming

<http://redtri.com/san-francisco/78-things-to-do-with-kids-in-san-francisco-this-summer/>

## USCGC WAESCHE Ombudsman Team:

Ombudsman email: [ombwaesche@gmail.com](mailto:ombwaesche@gmail.com)

Ombudsman phone (available 24/7): 510-847-1506

WAESCHE Families Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/USCGCWAESCHEFamilies>

## From the Home Front



SK2 Sarah Rich's Daughter Taylor on a Disney Cruise!



SA Sheridan Lewis' family sending their love from the Lone Star State



IS1 Roberto Valentin's son Rylan (age 5) receiving his yellow belt



OS2 James DuVall's son and SNBM David DuVall's nephew Paxton at the airshow



OS1 Brent Reid's son Logan



SK2 Sarah Rich's daughter Taylor getting some underway time of her own



BMs Daneel Burkett's dog Masha waiting for the family's sailor to come home



MKCS Dan Bolen's sons Shea and Finn sporting some green for St. Patrick's Day



BM2 Erik Voegtlin's "children" missing their Daddy



EM1 Miguel Espinosa's son Sebastián visiting the Easter Bunny



SA Sheridan Lewis' father William and sister Skyler running a 15k with their Coastie



**OS1 Alex Castonguay's daughter's  
visiting the Easter Bunny**



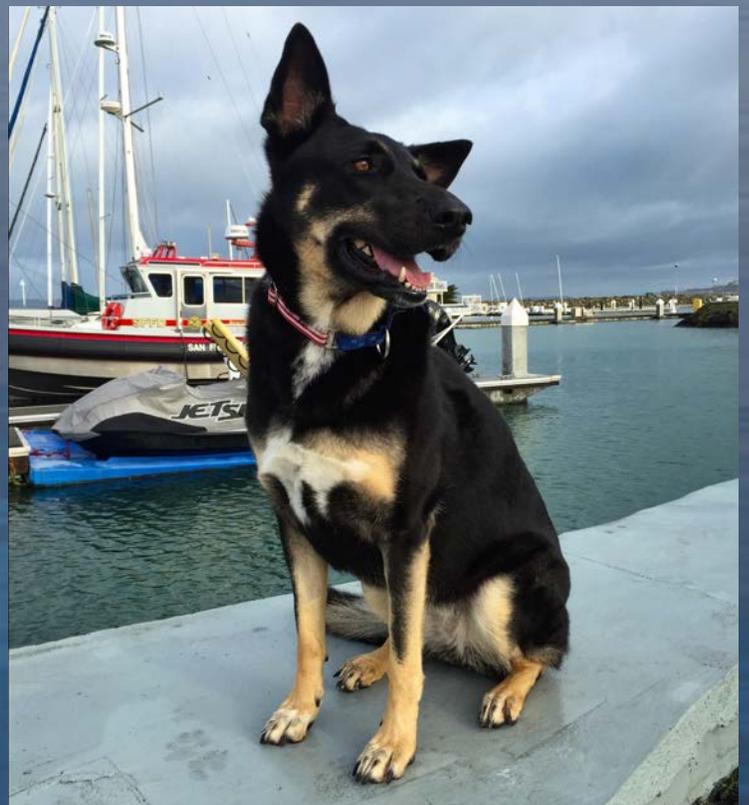
**MKCS Dan Bolen's son Shea playing catch**



**ME1 Ryan Lewis and his wife Brenda in  
homeport**



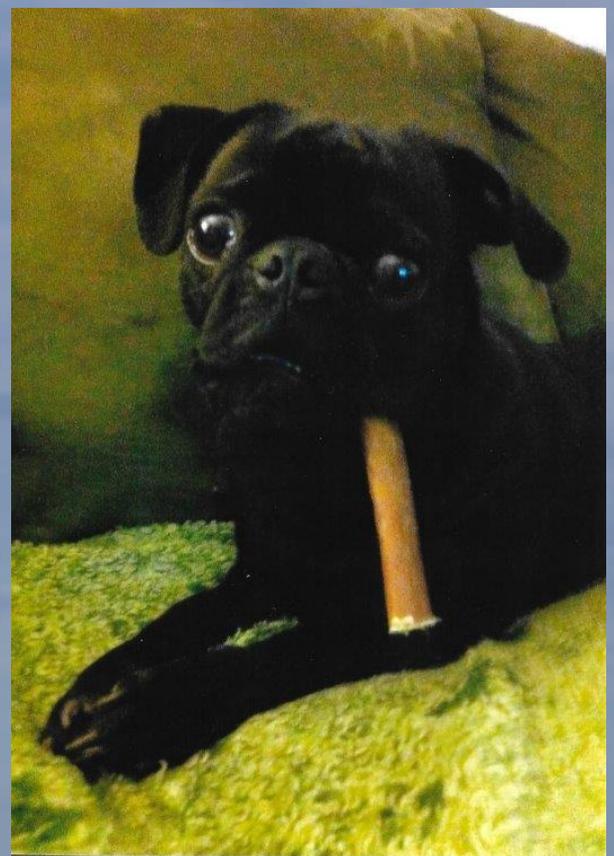
**MKCS Dan Bolen's little bunny Finn**



**ME1 Ryan Lewis' dog Lacy**



DC1 Bianca Witkowski's son Oliver on a hike



DCC John Travis' pup Fletch misses his best pal



BM1 Dennis Phillips' wife Laura and daughter Emily on Easter



DC1 Bianca Witkowski's son Oliver sporting a cupcake moustache