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# THE WAYPOINT



# Captain's Corner

By Captain Robert Hendrickson  
Commanding Officer



How times have changed.

Well, all things must end. WAESCHE and the crew are starting to wind down our current patrol. I am winding-down my last patrol. It's bittersweet for me. Shortly after we return from this deployment, I will relinquish command of WAESCHE and be relegated to a desk. In the interest of transparency, that desk will be located in Honolulu with an amazing view of Waikiki and Diamond Head – there are definitely worse desks to be relegated to! But a desk nonetheless.

I have been doing this “go-to-sea thing” for a long time and, as I look back, I am amazed at how much our cutter fleet and our Cuttermen have changed. I reported aboard my first ship in 1983. Go ahead... I hear it all the time... “I wasn't even born yet.” Back in 1983, I reported to a ship that only had men on the crew. Women were not allowed to go to sea on major cutters. We changed that a couple years later. My first ship, a 210 foot medium endurance cutter, was considered “new” (it was only 14 years old) – we still had ships in service that had been involved with the battle of Pearl Harbor. Now that ship, DECISIVE, is over 40 years old – but still in service. And the way we go about fighting the “War on Drugs”, has taken on a whole new paradigm. We don't chase after old rusty converted shrimp boats loaded with 70 tons of marijuana at seven knots anymore.

The more things change, the more some things stay the same.

A ship is merely a vessel. The crew is the lifeblood of the ship. Together we form a family – albeit a tad dysfunctional at times – but a family nonetheless. The ship cannot function without the crew nor can we accomplish our mission. Thank you for lending to WAESCHE your husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, and your friends and loved ones to form that crew. You are the anchor that we all hold fast to when we go to sea. You are the extension of our crew with arguably the hardest job; keeping the home fires burning until we return from sea. You are the reason we do what we do. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I hope you are able to come to our change of command on July 22nd at 10:00 am. I look forward to meeting each of you and thanking you in person. See you soon.

# Welcome Aboard XO!



Commander Roy R. Brubaker, a native of Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, entered the Coast Guard at Recruit Training Center Cape May, New Jersey, in February 1992. During his six years of enlisted service, he advanced to Quartermaster First Class and served in four cutters: CGC CONFIDENCE, a 210' Medium Endurance Cutter home ported in Cape Canaveral, FL; CGC NAUSHON, a 110' Patrol Boat in Ketchikan, AK; CGC POINT EVANS, an 82' Patrol Boat in Lihue, HI; and CGC STATEN ISLAND, a 110' Patrol Boat in Atlantic Beach, NC. In October 1997, he was selected to attend Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, Virginia.

His afloat assignments as an officer include: CGC GENTIAN, a 180' Buoy Tender in Atlantic Beach, NC; he was a member of the commissioning crew (also known as "plankowners") of CGC ELM, a 225' Buoy Tender, also in Atlantic Beach, NC; "plankowner" Commanding Officer of CGC KINGFISHER, an 87' Patrol Boat in Mayport, FL; Commanding Officer of CGC HENRY BLAKE, a 175' Buoy Tender in Everett, WA; and Commanding Officer of USCGC ASPEN, a 225' Buoy Tender in San Francisco, CA. He has over 16.5 years of sea service.

His ashore assignments were: Senior Training Liaison Officer, Afloat Training Group Mayport, Florida; Branch Chief, Seventh Coast Guard District Office of Waterways Management in Miami, FL; Deputy, Cutter Forces, Coast Guard Pacific Area, and Maritime Forces Allocation Section Chief, Coast Guard Pacific Area in Alameda, CA.

His military awards include two Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and three Commandant's Letters of Commendation. He also wears the permanent Cutterman's Pin signifying more than five years of qualified sea service.

He resides in Novato, CA with his wife, the former Kristi Ann Ward of Santa Maria, California. Kristi is a registered nurse and mother of their 25-year old son, Devin who resides in Hawaii.

# A Word from the Command Senior Chief



We are rapidly coming down the home stretch of the patrol. I think I can speak for everyone onboard when I say we are ready to get home and spend the summer with family and friends. This has been a very challenging and rewarding patrol. As I am sure you have heard we have had many logistical hurdles to overcome as far as port calls go, but we all have done our best to enjoy our well deserved down time. Operationally we have had a very successful patrol, from the Navy Helicopter Proof of Concept Trials, to eight (and counting) narcotics interdictions, and countless detainee and contraband transfers. We have also overcome helicopter casualties, a main diesel engine casualty, small boat casualties, weapons casualties, and countless smaller issues that were all met effectively and professionally by the crew. On top of all of the work we have accomplished, we have also qualified multiple new Underway and Inport and Officers of the Deck (OODs), Engineers of the Watch (EOWs), Quarter Masters of the Watch (QMOWs), Machinery Watch Standers, Boarding Officers, Coxswains, Boatswain's Mates of the Watch (BMOWs), CIC Watch Standers, CIC Watch Supervisors, a Fuel Oil and Water King (FOWK), and qualified countless crewmembers in Basic and Advanced DCPQS.

As you can see, it has been a very busy and demanding patrol. As we head home we look to spend as much time with our family as we can. We will also say goodbye to a lot of shipmates heading to other units, three that are retiring, and multiple crewmembers making the transition to civilian life. I personally would like to thank you all for your service to WAESCHE and the Coast Guard; your efforts will be missed. As with every transfer season we will also be saying hello to approximately 40 new shipmates reporting during this inport. We will make them feel welcome and do our best to assist all personnel to ensure they are prepared for our demanding schedule and the next patrol.

I look forward to meeting as many families and friends as I can during the tiger cruise from San Diego to Alameda. I hope you will all enjoy seeing your loved ones as we sail home, and come to understand what it is that we do while underway.

If anyone needs anything from me please feel free to email ([Daniel.p.bolen@uscg.mil](mailto:Daniel.p.bolen@uscg.mil)) or call (510) 437-5902 ext 7511.

# Junior Sailor of the Month



Congratulations to DC3 Elizabeth Scarborough on being selected as the April Junior Sailor of the Month. During the month of April, DC3 Scarborough devoted countless hours to training break-in Machinery and Security Watchstanders and teaching basic and advanced damage control to numerous newly reported crewmembers. Taking her commitment to training to the next level, she went above and beyond by qualifying as an Engineering Training Team (ETT) member, a position typically held by more senior Petty Officers. As an ETT member she made significant contributions by training watchstanders in initial actions during basic engineering casualty control exercises and carrying out detailed drill debriefs to ensure Machinery Watchstanders and Engineering Casualty Response Teammembers learned from any mistakes made during drills. Showcasing her welding prowess, DC3 Scarborough fabricated a special wrench with a 45 degree angle that enabled the Main Propulsion Division to effect repairs on one of the ship's main propulsion diesel engines. In keeping with the Coast Guard core value of Devotion to Duty, DC3 Scarborough volunteered her personal time to lead an Machinery Watchstander evaluation board during holiday routine resulting in the qualification of one new Machinery Watchstander. Through her tremendous work ethic and dedication, DC3 Scarborough has distinguished herself as a leader within her peer group and contributed greatly to the success of the Engineering Department and CGC WAESCHE as a whole. Bravo Zulu DC3 Scarborough!

# Operations Department



Congratulations to Lieutenant Junior Grade Evin Moses on promoting to Lieutenant!



Congratulations to Seaman Apprentice Aidan Thorpe on advancing to Seaman!



Congratulations to BM3 Daneel Burkett on advancing to BM2!



CG-26225 underway - congratulations to BM3 Harrison Rabalais for qualifying as coxswain.

# Engineering Department



LTJG Scott Pratz demonstrating the flag for simulated flooding in preparation for an all hands damage control drill.



DC1 Bianca Witkowski smoothing the edges on a bracket for the messdeck whiteboard.



FN Augustus Renfroe checking for leaks during his basic engineering casualty control exercise evaluations.

# Combat Systems Department



The .50 caliber gun crew sighting in on their target during a gunnery exercise.



IT1 Ryan Wheeler and IT2 Alex Henson troubleshooting a communications issue.



GM3 Rebecca Rogers conducting the armory round.



Congratulations to IT2 Ryan Wheeler on advancing to IT1!

# Support Department



YN3 Katelyn Stewart has done a great job keeping up with administrative work despite being slightly short handed in the Ship's Office.



FS3 Lajuan Godwin breaking out ingredients in the galley.



YN1 Syreeta Steward will be helping out in the Ship's Office until we return to homeport.



FS3 Scott Geyer has done a great job in the galley since reporting last month.

# Navy MH-60R Helicopter Operations



IT1 Jeremy Ringpis (Landing Signals Officer) directing the helo in for landing.

## Putting Training into Practice

During the month of May CGC WAESCHE had the opportunity to conduct operations with USS LASSEN's MH-60R helicopter. During the evolution the crew of WAESCHE successfully landed, fueled, and launched the helicopter further demonstrating the capability of the National Security Cutter to work effectively with deployed Navy assets that was tested during proof of concept trials off the coast of San Diego in the month of March.



The tie-down crew attaching chocks and chains to secure the helicopter to the deck.



The fuel team and helicopter crewman fueling the helicopter.

# Look Who We Found!



We had the unique opportunity during the month of May to take a photo of the Captain's previous command, CGC MOHAWK (WMEC 913), and his current command, CGC WAESCHE (WMSL 751) steaming in formation during an at-sea-transfer.



# Crossing the Line



In the course of conducting operations CGC WAESCHE crossed the equator into the Southern Hemisphere and the Royal Domain of King Neptune. In keeping with time honored seagoing tradition, all honorable shellbacks (sailors that have crossed the equator) helped to initiate the slimy pollywogs (sailors that haven't crossed the equator) as they endured the rights of passage and stood trial before King Neptune.

MK3 Robert Scales standing trial before King Neptune (DC1 Bianca Witkowski) and her Royal Court.



Command Senior Chief, Dan Bolen, after the rights of passage.



SN Sheridan Lewis, the winner of the Golden Fleece and immunity from the rights of passage, went through the rights of passage anyway. What a good sport!



Even the XO wasn't immune from the rights of passage.

# Swim Call



The crew of CGC WAESCHE enjoying a swim call in nearly 10,000 feet of water on an exceptionally calm day at sea.



BM3 Harrison Rabalais, one of the cutter's rescue swimmers, getting some practice.



ENS Matthew Marcenelle demonstrating his patented "back flip to belly flop."

# Living Marine Resources



The crew of the CG-26225 had a unique encounter with a whale shark that swam right up to the boat! The whale shark is a filter feeder and feeds almost exclusively on plankton. They have been known to grow to lengths of 42 feet or more, making them the worlds largest non-mammalian vertebrate.



BMC Ash Davidson and MK2 Danny Chi freeing sea turtles caught in tangled fishing line. Although the primary mission of the current deployment is counter drug operations the cutter still makes time for the protection of living marine resources.

# From Our Ombudsman

Bon Voyage... We would like to take a moment and thank Captain Hendrickson and Commander Michael Cilenti for everything that they have done for the Ombudsman program over the last two years. You have provided us with countless resources and hours of support, making this a truly enjoyable experience. We appreciate everything you have done for us, and the time and attention you have dedicated to making the Ombudsman program successful. We have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work beside you, and serve the WAESCHE family. We wish both of you the best of luck in your new endeavors. You will be missed!

*-Nadja Espinosa, Laura Phillips & Treneka Ingram*

Change is inevitable and it is something we grow accustomed to living this nomadic military lifestyle we are part of. After 3 years, 5 patrols, 1 dry dock and countless months of waiting for homecomings my family approaches the end of our last WAESCHE patrol. I always thought I would look upon our final patrol with excitement and happiness but I find myself quite emotional. I am saddened to be leaving the friends we have made that have become part of my extended CG family and the life that we had here. Life here would not have been the same without their encouragement and friendship. Laura and Treneka are amazingly strong women who will continue to help our WAESCHE families during their time onboard, you ladies are the best! Miguel, Sebastian and I will soon embark on our next adventure to Seattle where we are headed to CGC HEALY. We are very excited to make our time with the HEALY as memorable as possible. California has stolen my heart and someday I'm sure we shall return but for now I must say Goodbye to the Bay Area and our WAESCHE Friends and Crew.

Warmest regards to all,

*Nadja Espinosa*

It is often said that all good things must come to an end. I've never agreed with that, but I have yet to figure out how to stop change from happening! As this patrol winds down and we prepare to welcome our Coasties home, I would like to take a minute and thank Nadja Espinosa for embarking on the Ombudsman journey, and navigating these uncertain waters with me. I am certain that the Ombudsman program would not have been as steady and successful if she wasn't my partner. Her tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I am eternally grateful for everything that she has done. I wish you and Miguel all the best in Seattle. The HEALY is lucky to have you!

But, as we must turn over a new leaf, I am excited to work with Treneka Ingram! I look forward to seeing how far we can take this program, and working alongside such a passionate person. We are eager to keep serving the WAESCHE family, and continue to improve the Ombudsman presence and program.

As always, please contact us via phone, email, or Facebook if you have any needs, even while the WAESCHE is in home port.

Happy Summer!

*Laura Phillips*



**Nadja Espinosa**



**Laura-Ann Phillips**



**Treneka Ingram**

# 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



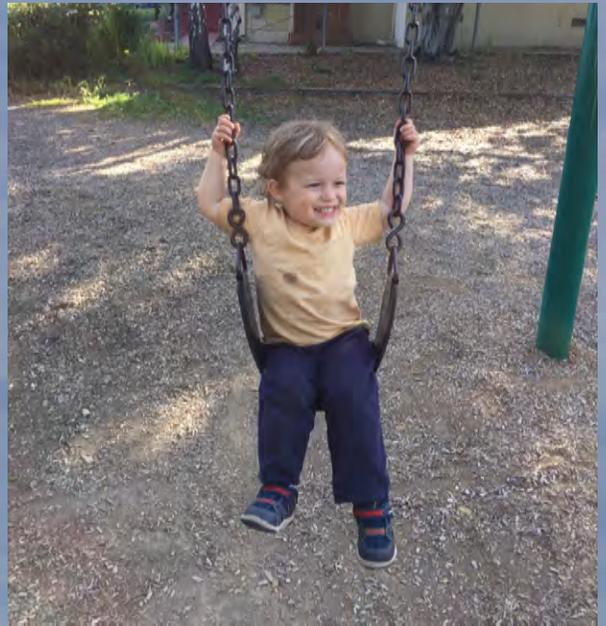
EM1 Espinosa's family enjoying a day at the pool.



DC1 Witkowski's son Oliver feeding a goat at the Tilden Park Farm.



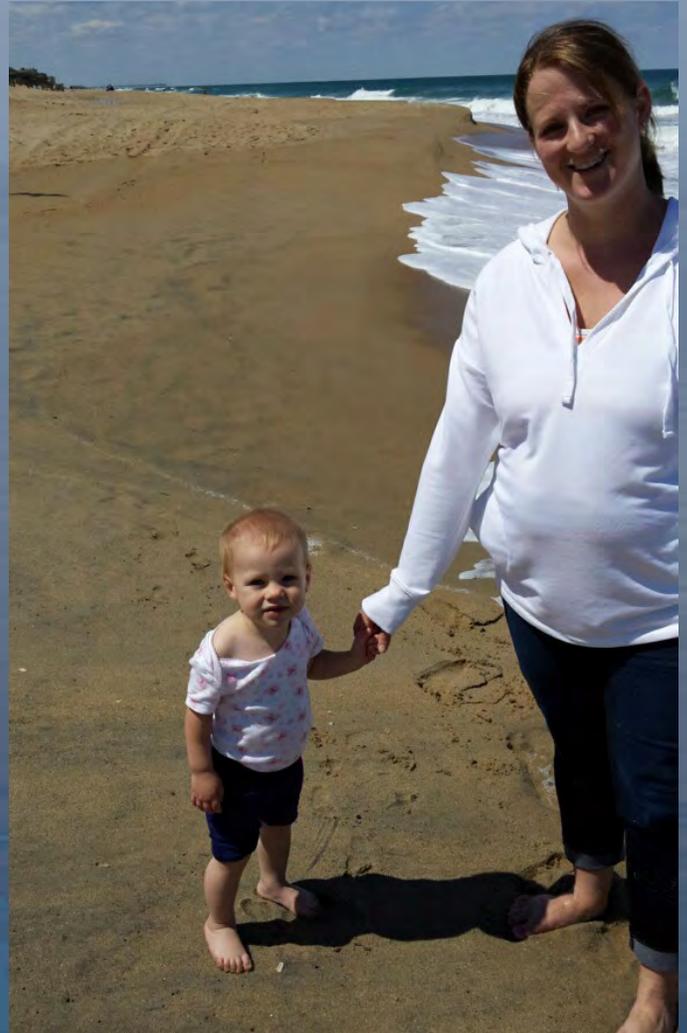
**IS1 Valentin's family on their son Rylan's field trip.**



**DC1 Witkowksi's son Oliver on the "big boy swing!"**



**LTJG Kramb's nephew, James, has been taking lessons from his uncle.**



**BM1 Phillips' daughter, Emily, and wife, Laura, enjoying a sunny day on the Outer Banks.**

# Congratulations!



**Congratulations to ME1 Ryan Lewis and his wife Brenda on the birth of their son Alexander Paul Lewis!**



**FN Jennifer Robinson's family is missing their "lake buddy."**



**LTJG Josh Gerry's father, Lester Gerry, showing his Coast Guard pride while on a hike.**



LCDR Corey Kerns' family at daughter Sophia's preschool graduation.



OS1 Alex Castonguay's daughters Emily and Laura with his niece Julie.



YN3 Katelyn Stewart's turtle Ella.