

Welcome to USCGC Boutwell

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN

On Halloween, some crewmembers participated in a costume contest. The overall winner was ET3 Ramirez, as Superman.



Greetings Fred's Place members and readers,

This will be the final installment of our newsletter for this patrol. As I write this, BOUTWELL is about 5 days from getting home to Alameda just in time for Election Day. We had a very successful and busy patrol, interdicting 4 drug trafficking vessels, detaining 16 smugglers for prosecution, and taking over 11 TONS of cocaine, valued at about 300 million dollars, off the market. We also did plenty of training, welcomed over a dozen new crewmembers, and had some fun along the way. Motivated sailors, like the crew of BOUTWELL, will find a way to extract enjoyment out of ordinary, day-to-day events. Some examples include: Price is Right - like guessing on the amount of fuel needed to fill the helicopter each day (closest without going over wins!), scary movies on the flight deck for Halloween (complete with popcorn), and birthday dinners for those celebrating their special day away from home. We also got to see examples of nature's majesty that we sometimes take for granted: dolphins, whales, sea turtles, meteor showers, and unforgettable sunsets. In our 3 months together during this patrol, the men and women of BOUTWELL have become members of that tightest of fraternities - more than co-workers, closer than friends - we are shipmates, and I thank and congratulate each of them for their dedicated service to our great nation.

CAPT Peter J. Brown
Commanding Officer
USCGC BOUTWELL (WHEC 719)



Captain Peter J. Brown

[Underway in the EastPac . . .](#)

Greetings from the Combat Information Center Division (CIC)

Remember the game telephone you played as a child? Sure you do. You get a group of people to stand in a line, you whisper something on one end of the line, and the goal is to pass it down by whispering to the person next to you. At the end of the line, the person is supposed to say out loud what the message was. Usually what is passed in the end is completely wrong, ridiculous, and hilarity soon erupts. The lesson of this game is how easily information gets distorted and misinterpreted. It is important for Boutwell to receive and disseminate information quickly and effectively through a number of different channels. Members in the Combat Information Center (CIC) are responsible for passing information to a number of people aboard Boutwell from sources from all around the country! This is especially important during law enforcement cases when the rate at which information is acquired, processed, and transmitted can mean the difference between catching the bad guy or not. This relatively young shop is responsible for being the eyes and ears for Boutwell. Their duties include but are not limited to taking photos for law enforcement, migrant, and search and rescue cases. Maintaining communications with our helicopter when it goes on patrols. And keeping an eye out for ships and aircrafts while Boutwell is underway. At the end of the day, CIC's primary goal is to ensure that the natural barriers in communication never affect our operations in keeping our nation and its waterways safe.



Greetings from the Communications Division (Radio)

The Communications Division is responsible for maintaining communications between Boutwell and "the rest of the world", including other armed services, federal agencies and various civilian organizations. The Communications Division is comprised of Ensign Cole Morgan (Communications Officer), OSC Kent Lee, OS1 Laura Alcon, OS2 Matt Henry, OS3 Caroline "Dee Dee" Kasting, OS3 Dave Lebrecht, OS3 Justin Peeler, and SNOS Shane Nolan. Each person is responsible for a multitude of tasks that need to be accomplished throughout the day. Some of these tasks include standing the Radio watch, which is maintained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week while the ship is away from homeport. A radio watchstander has the responsibility of monitoring various circuits, satellites, and frequencies which keep Boutwell ready to handle any mission at any point in time. Other duties include transmitting and receiving all of the ships classified and unclassified messages, sending and receiving all of the ship's mail, loading encryption codes in the ships radios, small boats, and helicopter, as well as troubleshooting equipment problems, and performing various other administrative duties. Although much of the work is behind the scenes, and behind locked doors, the Communications Division plays a vital role in the operational success and continued mission readiness of the ship.



Reception on the HMS Chatham

While in Ecuador, several of the Boutwell Officers were invited to a reception on the Royal Navy's HMS Chatham. While their ship is very similar some of the facilities were slightly different. We were all surprised to see fully stocked bars in the Wardroom, Chief's mess and crew lounges. The crew is allowed to drink alcohol underway and they were fairly surprised themselves to find out all US ships are dry. The reception itself consisted of light h'orderves, cocktails, and mingling with Officers and Chiefs of the British Royal Navy, British and American Embassy staff, The British Ambassador, and other foreign liaisons and nationals. Those Brits can throw a heck of a party.

~ENS Koch



(L-R) Captain Brown, HMS Chatham's Principal Warfare Officer, and BOUTWELL's Executive Officer; Commander McKinley.



(L-R) ENS Mora, ENS Koch, and ENS Smith.



Changing of the Colors

HITRON (MILITARY AND CIVILIANS WORKING TOGETHER)

HITRON started as a "Proof of Concept" unit with the intention of fighting the war on drugs through the use of airborne force. This means that when a vessel has been suspected of smuggling drugs the HITRON helicopter is used to interdict the vessel and stop it by means of force. HITRON became an operational unit in 2003.

HITRON is based out of Jacksonville Florida, where Agusta Westland Inc, currently leases the eight Coast Guard helicopters used in this mission. With this lease Agusta supplies a full time civilian staff to carry out all maintenance on these aircraft. When a HITRON helicopter is deployed to a cutter it is manned with two pilots, one aerial gunner and an Agusta employed civilian mechanic. All personnel are in a rotation for the respective departments for which they work; therefore, it means that usually there is a different combination of personnel for each deployment.

Typically on an East Coast deployment, the Hitron helicopter flies out to the cutter. On West Coast deployments the helicopter goes through a teardown of certain components allowing it to be loaded on a specially built dolly. This dolly allows the helicopter to be placed low enough to the ground to allow it to be loaded onto a C-130. Typically C-130's are provided by the Marines, National Guard, and when available Coast Guard C-130's. It is approximately a four hour flight from Jacksonville to El Salvador. In El Salvador there is a small US Navy operating base where the HITRON Helicopter is reassembled and then flown out to the cutter. Reassembly of the helicopter takes between four to six hours depending on whether a second mechanic is sent for this task.

While deployed, the Agusta mechanic is responsible solely for the maintenance of the aircraft and any repairs needed. Technical support needed for any problems is usually provided by other deployed Agusta mechanics or Agusta technicians back at Jacksonville via e-mail.

A typical day back at Jacksonville for enlisted personnel involves weapons training at the range as well as airborne weapons training. When not training each enlisted is person is provided collateral duties to fill their time. Officers' daily routine includes training flights for proficiency as well as weapons training both at the range and airborne. Collateral duties are also required for the officers.



An Agusta Technician's daily routine consists of providing support for the daily training flights as well as routine maintenance on the aircraft not deployed. There are three eight hour shifts each day providing 24 hour maintenance during a 40 hour work week.

The Coast Guard is working toward implementing the re-engined HH-65C into the HITRON fleet to replace the Agusta MH-68A. The implementation is scheduled to start FY 07 as the Agusta lease ends in January 2008. It has been a successful alliance for both Agusta and the Coast Guard.

Story by: Russ Jones, USCG, Retired

THANKS AGAIN TO OUR HITRON PERSONNEL

HOLIDAY PARTY UPDATE

The BOUTWELL Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, 9 Dec from 1730 to 0100 on Coast Guard Island (Pt Welcome Room). Prices are as follows: E-7 and above \$20.00, E-6/E-5 \$15.00, E-4 \$10.00, and E-3 and below \$5.00. This will include dinner, open bar, dancing, and raffle prizes. HSC Funke needs confirmation and payment NLT 17 Nov 2006, so he can get a final number to the caterer. Guests are welcome but they pay the same rate that you do. I'm currently trying to coordinate child care at the party so members with children can bring them and enjoy the party.

HSC R. Funke

SHOUT OUTS!

Boutwell Crew

Thanks for a memorable deployment, It felt good to be back "serving" with the Coast Guard family after being retired from it for a year.

Russ Jones

Paige,

Almost there babe. When I get home I will tell you all about port and starboard. Can't wait to see Lana. Miss her so very much.

Keep dinner warm for me.

Love ya,

John Valby

To the Hinson family. I love and miss you all. I am sorry for being crabby.

Love John

"Neng, Jessie and Nanay. I love and Miss you all. I'll see you in a few days".

Love,

Boss/Daddy/Noel

To Joe (Barney Fife)

Malley,

The DAMA still hates you, only you can PREVENT FORREST FIRES JOE. Keep serving the Summons.

From,

Boutwell ET/IT Shop

Janelle,

I have missed you and can't wait to be home in your arms.

Michael

Alicia,

I love you honey. Even though I go away for months at a time, I'll never leave your side! Kiss Erykah for me and tell her daddys around da corner!

Love Johnny

Kristina and Kenzie,

I miss you guys and I will see you soon

Cant wait to give you a big hug and kiss

Love Daddy

AKA Bubs

As this will be the last Boutwell Newsletter of the patrol, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize the Newsletter Committee. A special thanks are in order for the hard work of ENS Andy Serb, ETC Melvin Lock, FS2 Devon May, IT2 Benjamin Rosen, HS3 Curtis Munsey, and SN Joe Klemencic. There was considerable contributions from many others in the crew as well. We hope we were able to deliver something that family and friends were able to enjoy. The committee has done a great job of putting this project together quickly, and we look forward to continuing with newsletters next patrol.

ENS Morgan, Public Affairs Officer

OMBUDSMAN CORNER

Hi, my name is Jennifer Waggoner. I am one of your unit ombudsman. Please feel free to contact me for questions or concerns you may have. Email: ombudsmanboutwell@yahoo.com, jlwagg2003@yahoo.com, waggoner37@comcast.net

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Hello my name is Heather Stapley and I work with Jennifer Waggoner in the Ombudsman role for the ship. I am excited about the serving in the position and look forward to meeting all of you.

Heather Stapley Ph#: 925-687-2481, Stapley1hc@yahoo.com, Thanks!!