

# Welcome to USCGC Boutwell

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## Boutwell Frees Sea Turtles

On the afternoon 16 February, Boutwell made a series of unusual at sea rescues. Boutwell was steaming along, preparing for an afternoon drill, when the look out spotted a ball of abandoned fishing line not far from the ship. Upon closer investigation, three large sea turtles appeared to be entangled in the line and struggling for a way out. Boutwell postponed the drill, turned toward the line, and launched one of the small boats. The boat, driven by BM2 Kyle Couture, was quickly on scene. Once along side, SNBM Randall Harris, and SN Daniel Steinmann made quick work of freeing the troubled turtles. MK2 McDuffie Herrod was also in the boat as the boat engineer, and in this case, photographer. After freeing the turtles, the small boat continued with the mission of environmental protection by cleaning up the plastic bottles used as flotation devices and line that was left behind. Once all the debris in the area was cleaned up, the small boat returned, and was recovered. Boutwell then resumed normal operations. Roughly four hours later, Boutwell again encountered a large sea turtle caught in abandoned fishing line. Once again, the ready boat crew quickly responded, launched and freed the turtle. In all, four turtles were freed. It is believed that the turtles were of the Olive Ridley species.



From Left to Right:

BM2 Couture, SNBM Harris, SN Steinmann, & MK2 Herrod

~*Ens Cole Morgan*

## Hello again Fred's Place Members and Readers,

BOUTWELL is on patrol again after a brief stop for fuel last week. During our half-day pit stop in El Salvador, we also picked up our helicopter and Aviation Detachment (AVDET) from Air Station Port Angeles, Washington. The 2 pilots, 4 mechanics, and their HH-65C helicopter had been packed together in a U.S. Air Force transport plane to bring them to BOUTWELL. The HH-65C helicopter has received new engines that are both more powerful and more reliable, increasing both flight performance and safety. Together, we've been doing a lot of "get acquainted" training and the AVDET has integrated smoothly with the crew. Speaking of pit stops, many of the crew enjoyed the exciting finish of the Daytona 500 race, which we were able to watch thanks to Armed Forces Network TV. Operationally, things have been a little slower than last patrol, so we're using the time to train and qualify new shipmates in both routine and emergency procedures. That training came in handy when we had a late night electrical fire in one of our switchboards. The crew responded promptly and properly, secured power, desmoked the space, and our electricians were able to repair the damage in short order. That capability to respond to and repair damage is one of the characteristics that puts the "High Endurance" in High Endurance Cutter, keeping us on patrol for several weeks at a time, like right now.



Captain Peter J. Brown

Until next time,

*CAPT Peter J. Brown*

Commanding Officer

USCGC BOUTWELL (WHEC 719)

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

## Welcome Port Angeles Aviation Detachment

Welcome Aboard Port Angeles Air Station Aviation Detachment! Port Angeles Air Station (PAAS) is the oldest operating air station in the Coast Guard. Air station Port Angeles was commissioned on June 1, 1935. It was the first permanent Air Station on the west coast. Normally the crew's primary duties are Search and Rescue, Escorts, Fisheries Patrols, and some LE. Counter Drug Operations, is a new mission for them and they are all very excited to be out here with us in the Eastern Pacific.

Our HH-65C crew met us in El Salvador a few weeks ago, and have adapted quickly to the lifestyle of being underway. Our aviation detachment is led by Senior Airman and prior U.S. Marine Corps, LT Jason Gelfand, he is very excited about the mission and is looking forward to learning something new, as well as helping out the Boutwell in accomplishing our mission. His partner in aviation expertise is LT Brent Schmadeke, a prior grade school teacher from Iowa, who is now responsible for flying multi-mission Coast Guard Aircraft, along with making sure his crew and helicopter is safe and ready to fly at a moments notice.

The Helicopter is maintained by a team of elite Aviation Maintenance Technician's, (AMT's) where attention to detail is the name of the game. The responsibility of all the helicopters maintenance belongs to these gentlemen: AMT1 Pat Barber has been on seven Cutter deployments and the majority of his 17.5 year career has been in the Pacific Northwest. AMT2 Mike Sterrett is responsible for maintaining secure communications onboard the helicopter, which is vital to our operations out here in the Eastern Pacific. He works closely with our team in radio to make sure all communications checks are loud and clear. AMT2 Mike Cook is our first Aussie onboard Boutwell. He is originally from Canberra, Australia, and will be transferring with his family, to HITRON Jacksonville, FL this summer. There, he will learn more about the fascinating world of drug interdiction from the sky. This trip will be a preview of what is to come in our ever growing mission of Counter Drug Operations. AMT3 Shawn Pugmire has been in the Coast Guard for five years, he is a family man that loves the outdoors. He has fit in quite well with the crew on board Boutwell.

well.

All of these Coast Guardsmen have sacrificed time away from their families in order to help not only the Mighty Boutwell and her crew members, but to help the Coast Guard achieve it's many missions. We are extremely grateful for their commitment and Esprit de Corps.

*~OS1 Laura L. Alcon*



From left to right:

LT Gelfand, AMT2 Cook, AMT3 Pugmire, AMT2 Sterrett, LT Schmadeke, & AMT1 Barber

### Marine Mammal Officer

ENS Jantzen stands focused next to a window on the bridge and stencils a dolphin. While an artist he never claims to be, the drawing is just one of his duties as Boutwell's "MAMO." As the Marine Mammal Officer onboard, ENS Jantzen reports to the bridge at any marine mammal sighting and documents it. This effort is then forwarded to NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration), an organization that keeps records of such sightings for future study. Since 1979, Coast Guard vessels have forwarded data from over 2,900 marine mammal sightings to the Platforms of Opportunity database, maintained at the National Marine Mammal Laboratory. Marine Mammal sighting data helps determine the distribution and behaviors of marine mammals throughout the world. This is just one of ENS Jantzen's many collateral duties, and just one of the many things the United States Coast Guard does while at sea.



*~SN Joe Klemencic*

### Boutwell Morale Skeet Shoot

On Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, Boutwell conducted a morale skeet shoot off of the fantail. This event allowed for around 40 crew members to have the opportunity to try their hand with the morale 12 gauge. The event was set up by ENS Ryan Ramos, Gunnery Division Officer, along with the help of GM1 Tommy Mantopoulos, GM3 Phil Kahl, and GM3 Daniel Jackson. ENS Ramos and his worthy team of GM's not only set everything up, but acted as the event's safety supervisors. They also decided that SA Johnathan Abkes be given the event's "Top Gun Award" for his precise work with the shotgun. Although only SA Abkes gets top honors, the event was a good time for all participants.

*~ENS Morgan*



SHOUT OUTS!

*Hi Andrea, Arianna, Edward & Evan, I miss you guy's! Kids, take great care of mom while dad's away ok, I'll be back home before you know it. I love ya's!*  
*Dad / Hubby*

*Mom, Dad,, Pierre, Lisa, and Allison, miss you guys bad,, can't wait to get back and see all of you again. Thinking of you all,*  
*Love,*  
*Ryan*

*Thinking of everyone, back home, can't wait to see you all again.*  
*Love,*  
*Cole*

*Hello everyone, im missing a lot of you. How you doing Juana, keep hanging in there I'll be home soon. Love you all!*  
*J*

To Our Readers:

We thank you for your continued support, and appreciate your interest in BOUTWELL'S activities. If you have any ideas/suggestions, please email our Public Affairs Officer, ENS Cole Morgan, at [cmorgan@boutwell.uscg.mil](mailto:cmorgan@boutwell.uscg.mil). Also, if you would like to be emailed whenever we make a new posting on Fred's place, please email ENS Morgan at the above address.

OMBUDSMAN CORNER

Hello my name is Heather Stapley and I am filling 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](mailto:Stapley1hc@yahoo.com), Thanks!!