



## Welcome Aboard, OAK: First 225' ISVS Program Cutter

The Coast Guard Cutter OAK (WLB 211) arrived at the Yard on June 23, 2015 and made history as the first 225' seagoing buoy tender to enter the Coast Guard's In-Service Vessel Sustainment Program (ISVS). OAK's overhaul is scheduled for 14 months and is designed to assist cutters in need of mid-life renovation to meet their intended service life. The Yard's work on OAK will include a recapitalization of targeted hull, mechanical, electrical, and electronic systems.

As ISVS begins, the Yard partners with the Engineering Service Division and Product Lines of the Surface Forces Logistics Center to develop engineering designs, procure materials, and make production specifications. As-built drawings are developed and prototype design changes are implemented. During ISVS, routine maintenance of the vessels is also accomplished such as dry-docking, painting, plate renewal, etc., and renewal of worn-out machinery parts and rusted steel.

The ISVS program provides critical vessel overhauls for the long term sustainability of select classes of Coast Guard cutters. The Yard will soon conclude ISVS work on the Cutter MORRO BAY, a 140' icebreaking tug that entered the shipyard in June 2014, kicking off ISVS at the shipyard. And the second phase of an intended six-month Service Life Extension Project on Barque EAGLE will begin in September 2015, also part of the ISVS program.

Commissioned in 2003, OAK is equipped with a single controllable pitch propeller, a bow and stern thruster that gives the vessel the maneuverability it needs to tend buoys offshore and in restricted waters. The cutter services floating aids to navigation, conducts homeland security operations, clears waterways impacted by Atlantic coast hurricanes, assists oil spill clean-ups, and conducts search & rescue missions. At the conclusion of ISVS at the Yard in September 2016, OAK will be homeported in Newport, Rhode Island, to conduct Coast Guard missions along the New England coast.



*The Cutter OAK arrives for overhaul under the In-Service Vessel Sustainment Program at the Yard. (Photo by LTJG Kyle Warner, LSSU)*



*OAK gets a birds-eye view of the Yard's waterfront as the 225' buoy tender sails into the Yard. The 210' Cutter RELIANCE, undergoing a four-month planned maintenance, is pictured in the ex-USS OAK RIDGE at left. (Photo by LCDR Daniel Eustace, LSSU)*

## U.S. Coast Guard 225th Anniversary

The U.S. Postal Service commemorated the Coast Guard's 225th anniversary by issuing a Forever Stamp in August 2015 to honor the Service. The stamp has an image of Barque EAGLE and an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter. Admiral Paul Zukunft, Commandant of the Coast Guard, commented, "Stamps tell America's story, and it is a great honor for the Coast Guard to be memorialized on our 225th anniversary in the Forever Stamp collection. For 225 years, the Coast Guard has proven its enduring value to our nation. We warmly welcome this tribute and the opportunity to share our story with the

nation we serve."

Barque EAGLE arrived at the Yard on August 31st to begin the second phase of a four phase Service Life Extension Project. Part of the Coast Guard's In-Service Vessel Sustainment Program, the project provides life-cycle repairs for long term sustainability of the historic sailing ship. Over the next 6 months, the Yard will concentrate on rehabilitating EAGLE's berthing, providing structural repairs, and inspecting the mainmast. Work will be conducted pier side during the availability.



*The U.S. Coast Guard celebrates 225 years of service to the country on August 4, 2015. For over two and a quarter centuries, Coast Guard missions have grown from enforcing revenue laws to ensuring maritime safety, security and stewardship along the nation's shores and across the globe. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Paul Zukunft comments: "The Coast Guard is more relevant today than at any time in our 225-year history. Transnational criminal organizations use drug profits to destabilize governments in our hemisphere. Our nation's resurgence in American energy production has increased the flow of maritime commerce on our waterways. There is increased human activity in the Arctic, and cyber threats endanger our digital systems. We are evolving to meet these challenges and invest in a 21st century Coast Guard that will continue our service to the nation that is 225 years strong." The Coast Guard's missions may have changed over the years, but one thing has remained constant: the selfless service of each and every person that takes the oath to protect their country as part of the United States Coast Guard.*

**“We’re Working On It!”**



*CGC KINGFISHER (WPB 87322) - Panama City, FL (Photo by LCDR Miles Randall)*



*CGC TAMPA (WMEC 902) - Portsmouth, VA (Photo by Charles Wilson)*



*CGC NORTHLAND (WMEC 904) - Portsmouth, VA*



*CGC ALBACORE (WPB 87309) - New London, CT (Photo by LT Kenneth Au)*



*CGC WILLIAM TATE (WLM 560) - Philadelphia, PA (Photo by Charles Wilson)*

## Yard Road Team Troubleshoots SAPELO Discrepancy Report

Two employees of the Yard Engine Shop – Henry Vernacchio and Matthew Dudley - traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico in late March to diagnose and repair the main engine of the 110' island class patrol boat SAPELO. When they arrived at the cutter's homeport, they diagnosed three separate casualties of defective or broken parts requiring an immediate fix. Work was quickly completed and under estimated budget.

Engine Shop Foreman Eric Hughes commented, "The initial discrepancy report was to help diagnose one casualty. When the scope of the work

grew, Henry and Matt stayed with SAPELO to complete the job, returning to the Yard two weeks later than scheduled. All repairs were accomplished with satisfactory results!"

A review of Coast Guard mission accomplishments by SAPELO while stationed in Puerto Rico is proof of the necessity to have the patrol boat in top notch sailing condition. For example, in January 2013, SAPELO interdicted 1.3 tons of cocaine off the coast of the Dominican Republic, disrupting a maritime illegal drug shipment estimated to have a wholesale value of more than \$34 million.

While responding to another incident on a routine patrol, a deployed Coast Guard Air Station Miami helicopter detected a suspicious vessel and observed suspected smugglers. They jettisoned objects into the sea as they fled at a high rate of speed from law enforcement authorities. SAPELO, patrolling the area at the time, was notified to interdict the suspect vessel.

The SAPELO crew recovered 43 bales of contraband that had been thrown overboard by the suspects aboard the fleeing vessel. Further inspection and testing of the suspected contraband revealed cocaine.

SAPELO's work kept nearly 2,800 pounds of cocaine from reaching an on-shore destination, helping secure the borders of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands against illegal drug smuggling.

SAPELO entered the Yard eight months after this drug interdiction case for a repair availability, successfully returning to San Juan in March 2014. The cutter called on the Yard's maritime expertise again this year when the boat experienced its engine casualty.

SAPELO recently departed Puerto Rico for a new homeport assignment in Homer, Alaska. There, the 110' cutter will support the mission areas of environmental protection, fisheries patrol, maritime law enforcement, and search & rescue in the Seventeenth Coast Guard District.



*The Yard dry-docks the Cutter SAPELO (WPB 1314) on the shiplift, concluding a successful repair availability of the patrol boat at the Yard in March 2014.*

### Yard Enlisted of the Quarter



*SN Brittani Stewart, MWR  
FY 15, Second Quarter*

### Yard Civilian of the Quarter



*Jacob Kawecki, Yard Material Handling Shop  
FY 15, Second Quarter*

## Welcome Aboard, CDR Christopher Wolfe, Yard XO

CDR Christopher Wolfe graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1998 with a Bachelor's Degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. His first assignment was as an Engineer Officer in Training and Damage Control Assistant on board CGC *POLAR SEA* (WAGB 11) in Seattle, WA from June 1998 to May 2000. He then attended the University of New Orleans, where he graduated in May 2002 with dual master's degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering and Engineering Management.

CDR Wolfe was assigned to COMDT (CG-452) as the Naval Engineering Representative for the design and construction of CGC *MACKINAW* (WLBB 30) from June 2002 to May 2006. He followed with the assignment as Engineer Officer on board CGC *TAHOMA* (WMEC 908) in Portsmouth, NH from June 2006 to July 2009.

CDR Wolfe served as a rotating military faculty member at the Coast



*CDR Christopher Wolfe*

Guard Academy in the Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering Section from August 2009 until May 2013. His next tour was the Naval Engineering Department Head at CG Base Cleveland from June 2013 until May 2015. CDR Wolfe reported to

the Coast Guard Yard as the Executive Officer in June 2015.

A native of Vancouver, Washington, CDR Wolfe and his wife, Camila, are the proud parents of two daughters.

Welcome Aboard!

### Milestones

#### Advancements/Promotions

ME2 Reymond Pejera, Security Department  
HS2 Dante Hurst, Health Services Department  
LCDR Todd Fowler, Chaplain  
Brian Covington, Toolroom Mechanic, WG-4740-9

Christopher Meyers, Sandblaster, WG-5423-7  
Robert Phillips, Sandblaster Leader, WL-5423-7  
Thomas Clyburn, Machinist Leader, WL-2414-10  
Weldon Legg, Painter Supervisor, WS-4102-0



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Captain George Leshner  
Commanding Officer

Dottie Mitchell  
Editor

Jennifer Walter  
Collateral Duty Graphic Designer

## Yard Crane Supervisor Represents Coast Guard Civilian Workforce At Coast Guard 225th Anniversary Capitol Hill Reception

Mike Thomas, Yard Crane Supervisor, represented the over 8000 civilian employees of the U.S. Coast Guard at a reception on Capitol Hill July 15, 2015, honoring the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Service. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Paul Zukunft and Master Chief of the Coast Guard Stephen Cantrell joined 12 members of Congress, congressional staff, and invited guests recognizing Mike Thomas and two other recent Coast Guard award winners at the ceremony. The reception took place in the historic Hearing Room of the U.S. House of Representatives Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC. Festivities included a toast to the Coast Guard, cutting a birthday cake, and playing the Service song, "Semper Paratus."

Also honored were LCDR Staci Brown, recipient of the 2015 Navy League Jarvis Award, cited for her inspirational leadership as former Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Cutter RICHARD ETHERIDGE. BM3 Karen Hesson received public congratulations at the reception as the current Sailor of the Quarter at Station Washington DC.

Mike Thomas is a 41-year federal employee. Serving in the U.S. Army



Coast Guard Commandant Paul Zukunft (right) congratulates Mike Thomas (left), Yard Crane Supervisor, as the Coast Guard civilian workforce representative at a Capitol Hill reception on July 15th that honored the U.S. Coast Guard 225th Anniversary. (USCG photo by PA2 Patrick Kelley)

for two years, he started at the Yard in 1976. He epitomizes the exceptional level of technical knowledge and dedication of the Coast Guard's industrial work force. On an annual basis, he oversees the safe and successful land-based movement of 25 to 30 ships which equates to 20% of all depot level maintenance executed by the Coast Guard. He is responsible for the operation and maintenance of a multi-million dollar fleet of heavy lift equipment, shiplift, and tower cranes that are critical to the missions of the

Yard.

His exemplary leadership has directly resulted in the safe and effective operation and sustainment of the 3,550 long ton capacity shiplift system over the past 16 years. He skillfully oversees the intricate process of longitudinal and lateral transfers on the shiplift rail grid system, positioning cutters ranging in length from 110 feet to 378 feet.

Mr. Thomas demonstrated exceptional technical expertise in the successful conversion of three waterfront tower cranes from diesel to electric power saving more than \$100,000 per year. He oversees the operation, training, maintenance and repair of over 47 vehicles that include five 38 ton tower cranes, mobile cranes, forklifts, and other heavy lift machinery. Successful operation of this equipment is absolutely vital to the daily operation of the Yard and successful depot maintenance for the cutter fleet.

As a testament to his exceptional knowledge, responsibility and experience, Mr. Thomas supervised the off-load of the Coast Guard's 110 foot Patrol Boats in Sicily and Bahrain to support the Coast Guard's overseas contingency operational mission. He has supervised over 60 lifts



Master Chief Steven Cantrell (at podium), Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, joins Admiral Zukunft in recognizing the three Coast Guard representatives during the Coast Guard anniversary reception on Capitol Hill. The Master Chief is senior enlisted member of the Coast Guard and advisor to the Commandant. (USCG photo by PA2 Patrick Kelley)

## Congratulations, Tenant Commands!

Commander Jonathan Bates assumed command of the Legacy Support Sustainment Unit (LSSU) during ceremonies at the Yard on July 10, 2015. He took over command from Commander Christopher Webb who had led the LSSU team since 2012. Rear Admiral Michael Haycock, the Coast Guard Director of Acquisition Programs and Program Executive Officer, presided over the service held in the Columbus Recreation Center. The Coast Guard created the LSSU nine years ago to act as the Coast Guard's representative for the Mission Effectiveness Project that was completed at the Yard last year. Now, the LSSU oversees the Yard's In-Service Vessel Sustainment program.



*CDR Bates (left) accepts command of the LSSU from RDML Haycock (center) while CDR Webb (right) looks on during the LSSU Change of Command ceremony. (Photo by PA2 Luke Clayton)*



*Captain Harrison (left) and Captain Kiefer (right) ceremoniously cut a cake during the Sector Baltimore Change of Command ceremony. (Photo by Mr. John Leben, Coast Guard Auxiliary)*

Captain Lonnie Harrison relieved Captain Kevin Kiefer of command of Coast Guard Sector Baltimore on July 10, 2015, during Change of Command ceremonies held at Baltimore's World Trade Center. Captain Kiefer served as the Sector Commander since 2013. CAPT Harrison, a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy and Tulane University, has been in the Coast Guard for 24 years. His assignment before reporting to Baltimore was Chief of Prevention, Fifth Coast Guard District, Portsmouth, VA. Coast Guard Sector Baltimore and its small boat stations support the northern Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Missions include search & rescue, port security, vessel documentation, commercial licensing, ice breaking, and servicing aids-to-navigation.

The Station Curtis Bay crew is pictured at right after receiving awards for their response to a Curtis Creek boating accident in May, saving two lives. Pictured in the front row (left to right): BMCS Brian Kastner and BM3 Samuel Cleveland; back row (left to right) MK3 Dillon Helms, BM2 Christopher Little, BM3 Gustavo Luna, and MK2 Steven Bursell. Not available for photo: MK3 Alexander Klebart. (Photo by PA3 Jasmine Mieszala) See story on page 8.



## Yard Hosts 2015 Summer Youth Camp



The Baltimore Area Coast Guard Commands held the annual Summer Youth Camp at the Yard on June 22-26. One hundred fifteen dependents of Baltimore Coast Guard military and civilian personnel enjoyed five days of fun-filled activities including crafts, scavenger hunts, swimming, science workshops, soccer games, ship visits, and the traditional cardboard regatta competition on the last day. It was a week-long event of special Coast Guard memories for the littlest members of the Coast Guard family! Many thanks to Chaplain Todd Fowler, Chaplain, Sector Baltimore, and his team for the organization of this year's special event.

*The 2015 Coast Guard youth campers attended morning corners at the Main Administration Building on June 23rd. (Photo by PA3 Jasmine Mieszala, PADET Baltimore)*

**Crane Supervisor**, cont from pg 6 throughout the U.S. and overseas for replacements of the MK 75/MK 92 weapon systems installed on WHECs and WMECs.

Mike Thomas has received continuous praise from Yard management and ships' crews for his technical knowledge, resourcefulness, diligence, and stamina for over four decades. He is an example of the Coast Guard Yard at its best and is an outstanding Coast Guard employee worthy of recognition during the Service's 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**Station Curtis Bay**, cont. from pg 7

Seven members of Coast Guard Station Curtis Bay received high level recognition from the Service for saving the lives of two recreational boaters on May 3, 2015. Responding to a nighttime boating accident on Curtis Creek, the Coast Guardsmen heard yells for help near the Station and got underway on a 45' utility boat. Using an infrared camera, the crew located one victim in the water, pulled him aboard the Coast Guard boat, and administered first aid. A Station crewman jumped into the water and rescued the second boater who was clinging to the railroad bridge near the Baltimore Beltway. Both injured boaters were taken to a local hospital for emergency medical treatment.

**Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Coast Guard Yard**

Mail Stop #5  
2401 Hawkins Point Road  
Baltimore, MD 21226-1797

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