



## Coast Guard Conducts Rescue and Recovery From Hurricane Sandy

### **Yard Quickly Responds To Needs Of the Fleet**

The October 2012 Hurricane Sandy was classified by the National Hurricane Center as the second costliest Atlantic hurricane in U.S. history, second only to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The deadly storm Sandy affected 24 states from Maine to Florida, claimed over 100 lives in eight states, caused tens of billions of dollars in lost and damaged property, and left millions of citizens without power for days. The Hurricane came ashore along the mid-Atlantic coast on Monday, October 29, with the eye of the storm centered on Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Coast Guard responded to scores of search and rescue cases throughout the days of the hurricane and continues to participate with many federal and states agencies on recovery efforts resulting from Sandy's devastation.

This article highlights two significant contributions made by the men and women of the Yard towards the Coast Guard's search & rescue and recovery efforts during Hurricane Sandy. These examples provide significant credence to the shipyard's motto:

***The U.S. Coast Guard Yard  
Since 1899, Servicing the Fleet  
That Guards Our Coasts***

#### **SEARCH & RESCUE**

The 225' seagoing buoy tender ELM, homeported in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, came to the Yard in March 2012 for a routine availability that included overhaul and upgrades of major equipment. The visit was followed by two emergency dry-docks for

See **Hurricane**, pg 3



***CGC ELM at Yard for routine & emergency repair availabilities***



***CGC JUNIPER at Yard for emergency repair availability***

# The Commanding Officer's Column

by Captain Richard K. Murphy



Welcome to 2013! I hope you and your families had a very joyous and safe holiday season and New Year celebration.

The start of a new year is always an excellent opportunity for a bit of self reflection and new starts. It's traditionally a time to break away from tired habits and go after life with a fresh new sense of energy and perspective. Improving personal health (better diets, more exercise) is the classic focus - but what about your professional health? With that in mind, I ask that you take a few minutes to consider your job here at the Yard. Do you feel that you are contributing your best each day? Do you feel that you are challenging yourself, improving your skills, and growing professionally? Or have you fallen into a routine where you have become satisfied with what you've already achieved? Do you contribute to a positive work environment? Are you someone your co-workers reach out to because you are knowledgeable, respected and reliable? The reality is you spend a tremendous amount of your life on the job. I truly want everyone here at the Yard to feel a sense of accomplishment each and every day. I want that sense of accomplishment to come from

knowing that your individual efforts contribute to the success of the Yard and ultimately to the success of the Coast Guard mission. So, as you kickoff 2013, please consider how you go about your job each day. Maybe now is the time to shake things up and bring a fresh outlook and attitude to your career.

As I said when I assumed command - you, the workforce, are the Yard's most important asset. Future Yard success can only be achieved through mutual respect and by maximizing everyone's collective ingenuity, resourcefulness, creativity and technical talents. I want to ensure we maintain an environment that enhances everyone's opportunity to maximize their individual talents. Individual efforts absolutely do make a difference. Each and every member of the Yard team is a Yard ambassador - the individual effort you put forth and your results are known collectively by our customers as "what the Yard did." The quality of our workmanship is the Yard's calling card - please keep that in mind as you start your work each day.

The Yard's fleet support continues at a busy pace. Recently completed availabilities include: JUNIPER'S 3-week unplanned dry docking; SLEDGE's 5-week unplanned dock-side, and EAGLE's \$3.3 M dock-side conducted in Groton, CT. A special note of thanks goes out to this team for tackling this challenge which included extended periods away from home and family. MEP work continues on the CGC CAMPBELL, TAHOMA and HARRIET LANE. Regular dry-dockings continue on STATEN ISLAND (WPB, Atlantic Beach, NC), KENNEBEC (WLIC, Ports-

mouth, VA), and BELUGA, (WPB, Virginia Beach, VA). Work also began on JEFFERSON ISLAND's (WPB, Portsmouth, NH) 14-week unplanned dry docking.

2012 was a year filled with great accomplishments for the Yard resulting from your hard work, dedication and teamwork. Your efforts have proven the vital importance of the Yard to the Coast Guard. I'm looking forward to an exciting and productive 2013. Wishing you all the best in the New Year!

As always thanks for all you do to keep the Coast Guard's surface fleet Semper Paratus!

**The Yard - Proud History...  
Bright Future!**

# Happy New Year

## YARD NEWS

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## “We’re Working On It!”



**CGC CAMPBELL** Homeport: Portsmouth, New Hampshire



**CGC BELUGA** Homeport: Virginia Beach, Virginia



**CGC STATEN ISLAND** Homeport: Atlantic Beach, North Carolina



**CGC HARRIET LANE** Homeport: Portsmouth, Virginia

### Hurricane, cont from pg 1

correction of the cutter’s bow thruster breaker and vibrating propeller blade. ELM departed the Yard for the final time on September 17.

Six weeks later on Monday, October 29, ELM was the first surface asset on scene for high profile search & rescue support of the HMS BOUNTY. The vessel was a wooden tall ship that had sunk in Hurricane Sandy’s path off the coast of Hatteras, North Carolina. The rescue efforts for the BOUNTY’s missing Captain encompassed over

10,000 square miles using 22 search patterns. Along with Coast Guard air assets, the Cutter GALLATIN joined ELM for the case lasting four days.

### RECOVERY

The 225’ seagoing buoy tender JUNIPER, homeported in Newport, Rhode Island, arrived at the Yard for an emergency availability on November 6<sup>th</sup> for correction of its Controllable Pitch Propeller. The Yard responded quickly to JUNIPER’s needs allowing

the cutter to set sail in three weeks. JUNIPER joined other First and Fifth District surface assets to correct hundreds of displaced and damaged aids to navigation along the Atlantic coast, particularly the Jersey shoreline, supporting continued safety of mariners at sea.



## Yard Welcomes Home CGC KENNEBEC

The 160' foot inland construction tender KENNEBEC arrived at the Yard in mid-October to begin a 14-week dry-dock availability. The work

package includes inspections and repairs of the propellers, shafts, rudders, sewage piping, and tanks. KENNEBEC will receive extensive

preservation including the underwater body, freeboard, bilges, tanks, and construction deck.

KENNEBEC returned to its birthplace, as the Yard built the ship and christened it on December 11, 1976. It is one of four 160' inland construction tenders constructed at the Yard between 1974 and 1977. **(See feature article below).**

KENNEBEC is homeported in Portsmouth, Virginia, and is responsible for maintaining a variety of marine navigation aids including buoys, lighted buoys, day beacons and unmanned lights in its area of responsibility. The 160' foot inland construction tender fleet is tasked with building (or re-building, if destroyed) those fixed aids to navigation used by mariners to safely navigate the inland waters of the United States.



*Yard-built CGC KENNEBEC celebrates its 36<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 11, 2012 while undergoing repair on the shiplift.*

### **A LOOK BACK**

#### **YARD LAUNCHES CGC KENNEBEC - DECEMBER 11, 1976**

The Yard sent the 160' Cutter KENNEBEC down the shipways at 12:30 p.m. on December 11, 1976 after completing construction on the third of four steel-hull inland construction tenders. KENNEBEC and its sister ships – PAMLICO, HUDSON and SAGINAW - were built at the Yard in the mid to late 1970's. Miss Susan Downing, daughter of former U.S. Congressman Thomas Downing of the First District of Virginia, christened KENNEBEC while the United States First Army Band provided musical accompaniment.

KENNEBEC is named after the Kennebec River in Maine. The Cutter's first homeport was Fort Macon, North Carolina, and it relocated in 1980 to its current homeport in Portsmouth, Virginia. Today, KENNEBEC's operating area is

from Washington, D. C. through the southern half of the Chesapeake Bay, including the Atlantic inter-coastal waterways south to Roanoke Island, North Carolina.

The most unusual feature of KENNEBEC is the "spuds," four upright square steel piles that can be raised or lowered at will. When lowered into the sea bottom, they prevent movement of the vessel and provide a stable platform for the ship's crane and pile driver to maintain aids to navigation. When underway, the spuds are raised. KENNEBEC's crane has a 70 foot boom and is capable of lifting loads up to 10 tons.

Today, KENNEBEC carries a 15-member crew.



*Launching of Coast Guard Cutter KENNEBEC at the Yard on December 11, 1976*

## MEP Return On Investment

### Cutter BEAR Seizes 1,851 Pounds of Cocaine During a Counter Drug Patrol

The 270' WMEC BEAR, homeported in Portsmouth, Virginia, entered the Yard in October 2011 under the 270' Phase II Mission Effectiveness Project (MEP). In May 2012, the Yard completed 54,000 hours of work throughout the seven month, \$6 million modernization project. BEAR's MEP was jointly funded by the Coast Guard acquisition, maintenance and operation communities and was completed 8% under budget.

In November 2012, six months after completing MEP, the Mission Effectiveness Project received a return on investment as BEAR assisted in recovering 42 bales of cocaine with a wholesale value of more than \$22 million. Accomplished during a counter drug patrol in the Caribbean Sea and joined by a Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment and members of the Royal Netherlands Navy, BEAR's drug bust kept 1,851 pounds of cocaine off America's streets.

The interdiction was carried out as part of Operation Martillo, a partnering nation effort targeting illicit trafficking coastal routes along Central America. More than 80% of cocaine destined for U.S. markets is transported via these sea lanes. Fourteen countries participate in the Operation including the United States, Belize, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Spain, and the United Kingdom. In 2011, international and cooperative efforts resulted in the disruption of 119 metric tons of cocaine, with a wholesale value of \$2.35 billion, before the drugs could reach destinations in the United States.



*ME3 Tim Suraci, crew member of CGC BEAR, stands watch during an off-load of cocaine at Coast Guard Base Miami Beach, Florida, following the Cutter's drug bust in the Caribbean Sea. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by PA3 Sabrina Elgammal)*



*The Cutter BEAR dry-docks on the Yard's shiplift in December 2011 while undergoing the 270' Phase II MEP. BEAR is one of six 270' cutters overhauled at the Yard to date under the modernization project that is designed to replace aging systems on board select ships to improve reliability, reduce operating costs, and meet required mission hours.*

## Yard Police News

By SN Lauren Funicelli, Yard Police Department

The Coast Guard Police Department (CGPD) would like to recognize Officer Tom Labarre on his graduation from the United States Army Civilian Police Academy at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Officer Labarre's extensive training will be an extremely valuable asset to the Police Department. The CGPD would also like to recognize Officer Gillespie on her completion of Radar and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training. Officer Gillespie's new expertise will be greatly beneficial to the Police Department.

The CGPD has had a heightened number of cases this month and last month. There have been six vehicle collisions in the last two months. We strongly recommend that everyone be aware and cautious of their surroundings. Be vigilant, and we will see fewer accidents that occur while on base. As always, if you see something, say something.

With the holiday season upon us, the Police Department would like to encourage everyone to be careful and drink responsibly. If you do choose to drink, and do not feel comfortable to

drive, we strongly recommend you always have a designated driver. If a designated driver is unavailable, call for a ride. Officers on and off-base will be vigilant during the holiday festivities. For military and civilian personnel, the Yard has a zero tolerance policy. We ask that you do not drive off base while intoxicated. If you require a ride after attending a base function, the Police Department will gladly call a taxi. This will ensure your personal safety and the safety of others. Thank you and enjoy your holidays!

## Department of Defense Honors DCC Dennis Amerson As “Military Fire Officer of the Year-Coast Guard”

By LTJG Stephen Henderson, Yard Facilities Management Department

The Department of Defense (DOD) honored Chief Dennis Amerson as the “2011 Military Fire Officer of the Year-Coast Guard” during ceremonies held at Coast Guard Headquarters on September 27, 2012. Chief Amerson is a Damage Controlman Chief (DCC) and Fire Chief of the Yard Fire Department.

The Yard Fire Department is responsible for providing fire protection and prevention services for the Baltimore Area Coast Guard Commands. Over 1700 personnel are located on the Yard’s 113-acre facility. Fire Department members provide emergency medical, environmental, and hazardous material response services for operations taking place within the campus. Their work is directly related to the Yard’s mission of repairing ships as the department performs all atmosphere testing for individuals engaged in the hazardous environment of ship repair.

Chief Amerson is the Incident Commander of emergency/environmental scenes and manager of the Shipyard Competent Person Program that enforces safe hot-work and confined space entry procedures. Since 1910, the Yard Fire Department

has been staffed by active duty Coast Guardsmen. Chief Amerson currently supervises 12 Active Duty, Reserve & Auxiliary members.

“DCC Amerson is an outstanding Chief Petty Officer and Damage Controlman,” remarked CDR Patrick Dozier, Yard Executive Officer. “The job he performs daily as Fire Marshall and manager of the atmosphere testing program for cutter confined and enclosed spaces is vital to the success of the Yard’s ship repair/construction operations. His nomination and selection by DOD as top among all Coast Guard Fire Officers is testimony to his professionalism, leadership and technical savvy.”

The Armed Forces Fire and Emergency Services community is on duty 24-hours a day, every day, sometimes putting their own lives on the line while protecting those who defend America. Most go unnoticed, but each year the U.S. Department of Defense recognizes outstanding accomplishments and honors fire departments, fire fighters, and heroes through the annual DOD Fire & Emergency Services Awards Program. These awards are presented during the DOD Fire and Emergency Services Conference. At

this year’s conference, not only was DCC Amerson honored, but the Coast Guard Yard Fire Department won “2011 Fire Prevention Program of the Year – Coast Guard.”

“DCC Amerson truly exemplifies the best qualities we seek in a Chief Petty Officer,” commented CDR John Barresi, Chief, Yard Facilities Management Department. “He’s an exceptional leader and a committed professional who has earned the respect of the command and crew for his dedication supporting industrial operations as well as for his enthusiasm training his team. His excellent outreach efforts and strong relationships with the City of Baltimore and Anne Arundel County Fire Departments have also been incredibly influential in reinforcing mutual aid, joint training, and incident response. It is fitting he’s been selected for this prestigious award.”

DCC Amerson enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1998 and spent his first duty assignment serving aboard the Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) BOUTWELL in Alameda, California. In 2000, Amerson graduated from Damage Controlman ‘A’ School in Yorktown, Virginia, and then reported aboard CGC WILLOW in Newport, Rhode Island. Amerson had a prior assignment at the Yard working at the Coast Guard Sector Baltimore Prevention Team from 2003 to 2007. Before returning to the Yard in 2010 as the Yard’s Fire Chief, DCC Amerson was stationed aboard the CGC ACUSHNET in Ketchikan, Alaska. Chief Amerson is a native of Fort Collins, Colorado.

*DCC Amerson communicates by radio with the fire team during a recent drill at the Yard. (Photo by PA2 Jonathan Lindberg, Public Affairs Detachment Baltimore)*





## Baltimore Area Coast Guard Commands Welcome New Chaplain

The Yard campus welcomed the new Sector Baltimore Chaplain, LT Kevin Norton, USN, on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Chaplain Norton replaces Chaplain Jason Ulven who had served as the Yard/Sector Baltimore Chaplain since 2009. The Navy reassigned Chaplain Ulven to Virginia to work with the U.S. Navy Seals.



*LT Kevin Norton  
Chaplain Corps, United States Navy*

Before coming to Sector Baltimore, Chaplain Norton served as Battalion Chaplain to the 1800 Marines and Sailors of the 7th Engineering Support Battalion. Prior to this, he was the Deputy Command Chaplain at NAS Jacksonville, Florida. He has served as the Director of the Spiritual Fitness Division – CREDO Southeast. Prior to the CREDO, Chaplain Norton served aboard the USS PELELIU (LHA 5). He has been assigned for duty with NIOC – Hawaii and 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 10<sup>th</sup> Marines.

In December 2011, Chaplain Norton returned from deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He has also been deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in support of combat operations during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On August 21, 2001, Chaplain Norton accepted his commission. He reported

to Chaplain School at the Naval Education Training Command in Newport, Rhode Island in September 2001.

A native of Alexandria, Virginia, Chaplain Norton is a 1987 graduate of Killeen High School in Killeen, (Fort Hood) Texas. In 1991, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music (Voice Performance/Choral Conducting) with a minor in English Education from Stillman College. In 1998, he earned the Master of Divinity degree from Howard University School of Divinity. In 1999, the World Christianship Ministries of Fresno, California, bestowed upon him the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. In 2005, he earned a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Management and Leadership from Webster University. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Virginia University of Lynchburg – Virginia Seminary.

Welcome aboard!

## Local Chamber of Commerce Honors ME1 Lahey

By SN Anne Stadig, Yard Military Support Division

The Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce recently honored ME1 William Lahey, Deputy Chief of Police, Yard Security Department, as the Chamber's "2012 U.S. Coast Guard Police Officer of the Year." The Chamber bestowed the honor during its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Service Awards Ceremony on October 30<sup>th</sup> in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

The local Chamber of Commerce recognized ME1 Lahey for his outstanding professionalism and dedication while serving as the Yard's Deputy Chief of Police. Petty Officer Lahey is first line supervisor for 12 junior officers and responsible for maintaining safety and security on the Yard campus. In 2012, as the Yard's resident training expert, he maintained a positive learning environment by revamping the Department's field training program

and implementing mandatory weekly physical fitness requirements and Spontaneous Protection Enabling Assault Response training. The latter education strives to increase Yard police officers' reaction time and ability to focus during extreme use of force situations. The additional requirements have resulted in higher proficiency scores across the board, not only allowing the officers to safely carry out their assigned duties, but to do so with confidence in their abilities.

During a two month absence of the Yard Chief of Police, ME1 Lahey assumed his duties with superb leadership and managerial skills without loss of productivity or safety. He willingly worked long hours and on off-days to ensure all police programs and initiatives were properly executed.

ME1 Lahey's leadership was

See ME1 Lahey, pg 9



*ME1 William Lahey accepts his award as the "Chamber of Commerce, USCG Police Officer of the Year" and is joined by his daughter, Catherine.*

## Milestones

### Retirements

(Celebrating 228 Years of Combined Service)

Henry Davis  
Sheetmetal Joiner Leader  
23 Years

Bruce Youngbar  
Supervisory Project Manager  
37 Years

Michael Heil  
Marine Machinery Mechanic Leader  
29 Years

David Walker-El  
Structural Leader  
26 Years

Donald Hayes  
Sheetmetal Joiner Worker  
14 Years

Edward Miller  
General Foreman Electro Group  
23 Years

Fred Coleman  
Structural Leader  
25 Years

Eric Johnson  
Shipfitter (CNC)  
22 Years

Rod Williams  
Accounting Technician  
29 Years

### Promotions

Russell Cholewa, Mechanical Engineering Technician, to GS-10

Jeffrey Kaminski, Electrician, to WG-11

Dale Strucco, Ordnance Mechanic Leader, to WL-11

Carman Cullings, Accounting Technician, to GS-7

Robert Compton, Metal Forger, to WG-12

## Happy 60th Anniversary, Yard News!



*The first issue of the "Yard News" was published on December 23, 1952 as a four-page newsletter for employees of the Yard.*

In December 2012, the "Yard News" celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Premiering two days before Christmas in December 1952, the newsletter was produced semi-monthly or monthly until June 2001. The first bi-monthly publication was the July-August 2001 issue. The newsletter progressed from four to six to eight pages over the years and expanded to ten pages in 2007. The "Yard News" remains a ten page, bi-monthly newsletter today.

The Yard Civilian Personnel Office composed the "Yard News" until 1979 when it became a Yard Public Affairs Office product. It is published for active civilian employees and military personnel, retirees, Yard customers and partners, and selected nationwide Coast Guard offices. The purpose of the newsletter is to establish open communication between the Yard Commanding Officer and family and friends of the shipyard. The ultimate goal of the "Yard News" is to provide balanced publication of personnel news for the Yard's internal readers and present news of mission accomplishments for the Yard's external audiences.

In 1952, Captain Charles Dean was the Yard's Commanding Officer. Topics in the inaugural issue of the newsletter included safety tips, employee retirements, savings bond drives, and personnel awards. The "Yard News" content today still covers personnel news and features, but focuses on industrial achievements that link the Yard's work to Coast Guard operational missions.

In 1952, the "Yard News" editor wrote: "This paper will be successful in direct proportion to the interest and contributions of the Yard employees. If this issue does not measure up to your expectations, bear with us; it is bound to improve."

Over the past six decades, we thank you for your contributions and readership. We will continue to publish "all the news that's fit to print," and as it says in the Volume 1, Number 1 edition, "We hope you like it!"

*Editor, "Yard News"*



## Runners & Walkers Benefit 2012 Holiday Food Basket Drive

The Yard Chaplain and MWR sponsored the annual two-mile Fun Run/Walk to benefit the “Helping Our Own For The Holidays” (HOOFTH) food drive program on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Over 50 runners and walkers maneuvered the course throughout the Yard campus. Sponsors collected generous amounts of canned goods to prepare food baskets for those in need during the upcoming holidays.

Captain Murphy won first place in the men’s category. LTJG Maria Stiefel, Sector Baltimore, was the best female runner. Dorothy Dietrich-Rivera, Group 10 Administrative Assistant, captured “Best Costume” for her rendition of a Christmas tree.



*Dorothy Dietrich-Rivera, (center), X10, in holiday costume.*



*The 2012 HOOFTH runners gather for a group “victory” photo.*

**ME1 Lahey**, cont from pg 7  
instrumental in the success of the Yard’s many special events throughout the year; among them, the 1812 Sailabration and host of several high ranking Coast Guard and congressional visits. Petty Officer Lahey’s efforts allowed the Yard Security Department to fully meet, and many times, exceed, the safety and security standards at the Yard.

ME1 Lahey has served in the Coast Guard for 17 years, including an overseas deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. He came to the Yard’s Security Department in 2011. During his leisure hours, he enjoys spending time with his daughter, running, cycling, and cooking.

### Local CFC Honors Chuck Seekford, Electro Group



*Captain Murphy congratulates Chuck Seekford*

The Chesapeake Bay Regional Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) recently bestowed special recognition on Chuck Seekford, Information Security Specialist, Electro Group, for his outstanding record as a Key Worker soliciting shop donations over the past six years.

Seekford’s fund raising efforts resulted in contributions totaling over \$75,000 among employees in the Group’s Electric, Electronics and Ordnance Shops. His personal dedication to the Campaign ensured a 100% participation among each shop each year.

In the photo at left, Captain Murphy presents the CFC Certification of Appreciation to Chuck Seekford for his years of hard work that have helped the local community as well as CFC recipients around the world!

## School Mural Features Yard's Role In Community



Students and guest artists of the Chesapeake Arts Center at Brooklyn Park Middle School in Brooklyn Park, Maryland, painted a five-panel mural featuring local maritime heritage and included the Coast Guard Yard (see Panel #4-left to right\_ left bottom corner). The project titled, "Reflect On Our Heritage" took over a year to complete and tells the story of the people and industries that built Brooklyn Park and the surrounding communities. The artists selected images that reflected aviation, technology, education, agriculture, marine life, and Maryland state themes. The Yard shares the spotlight with such local industries as Westinghouse, Northrop Grumman, BWI Airport, and Bethlehem Steel. The 15' x 5' paintings are on the outside wall of the Arts Center and visible from major highways and interconnecting streets to the school.

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

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