



## ISVS: A Year In Review



A snapshot of the Coast Guard's In-Service Vessel Sustainment (ISVS) Project throughout 2015 is featured with four ISVS cutters on the Yard's waterfront. Left to right on the shiplift are: 140' BRISTOL BAY; 225' OAK; 140' PENOBSCOT BAY. Barque EAGLE is pictured pier side in the background (center). The Yard com-

pleted ISVS overhaul on the first selected 140' icebreaking tug, MORRO BAY, in August 2015.

To sustain mission effectiveness, the Coast Guard's near term ISVS projects at the Yard include Service Life Extension repairs and dry-docking on 140' icebreaking tugs; major maintenance availability of 225' seagoing

buoy tenders, and a Service-Life Extension on Barque EAGLE, now in its second phase of a four phase project. The ISVS program allows the Yard to provide expertise and best value to the Coast Guard for cutters in need of mid-life renovation and service life extension.

### Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations Fund Yard Top Projects

The President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 into law on December 18, 2015 following passage of Congressional legislation that funds the federal government through the end of Fiscal Year 2016 (September 30, 2016). Appropriations for key programs at the Yard are included in the law, specifically continuation of the In-Service Vessel Sustainment Project (see article above) and replacement of the OAK RIDGE dry-dock.

The latter project will involve removal of the World War II era, 71-year-old OAK RIDGE to allow expansion of the Yard's shiplift rails for continued support of dry-docking needs. The OAK RIDGE arrived at the Yard in 2002 to temporarily supplement planned maintenance and emergency repair projects, but after 13 years of use, it has surpassed its service life. The shiplift expansion will take over the needs provided by this loyal, historic floating dry-dock.

"We appreciate the support of Congress, the department and the administration which is reflected in the fiscal year 2016 budget. The CG will use this funding judiciously in renovating our cutter and boat fleet to extend the service life and lower operating costs to accomplish their many missions," commented Captain Leshner.

These and other projects continue the Yard's 116-year-old tradition of "Service to the Fleet."

# Happy Holidays!

# The Commanding Officer's Column

by Captain George A. Lesher



Greetings, Shipmates! Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and took some well deserved time off to be with friends and family. My family and I once again enjoyed the Yard holiday party celebration, and I hope you all did as well. By the time you read this, we will have started the New Year 2016, so as is the tradition, let's take a look back at some of the highlights of the year past.

2015 featured completion of 31 availabilities, an all time record for the Yard; Service life extension projects on 140' WTGB MORRO BAY and EAGLE (phase I of IV); 12 - 87' CPBs under the "Bow to Stern" program; four emergency drydocks; a drydock of the 160 year old USS CONSTELLATION, and a dockside of the NOAA ship FERDINAND HASSLER. The remaining 11 were regularly scheduled drydocks.

We continue to work on improving our process efficiency each and every day. The 87' CPB project has realized the actual efficiencies projected in the planning of the project. It has saved the CG \$2.2M/yr and returned 336 fleet operational days. We maintained the 12 month schedule through all 12 cutters and delivered several days earlier than the typical commercial

facility. This year, we will concentrate on improving on the first 140' WTGB SLEP delivered under the In Service Vessel Sustainment Project. With the engineering design complete and many production lessons learned, we look forward to delivering the remaining vessels, each one better than the last.

Thanks for all you do,

Semper Paratus!



### 'Twas The Week Before Christmas

'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the Yard  
Employees were hustling and bustling and working very hard.

The Yard began its annual Christmas Basket Drive  
In hopes that the spirit of generosity would be kept alive.

The baskets, seated in their usual spots,  
Were waiting for goodies for adults and tots.

Each container would hold canned goods intended to feed  
Those affiliated with the Baltimore Coast Guard community  
most in need.

The drive had been conducted for the past 65 years  
By Yard employees who wished to prevent many fears  
That others would go without a Christmas meal  
Such a hurt would take many years to heal.

So throughout the work days the baskets began to fill  
Nothing lessened the Yard's spirit of good will.

Various organizations donated money  
To buy fresh produce, making Christmas Day more sunny.

Yard personnel were eager to strive  
To keep the holidays joyous and alive.

The Yard family agreed that being charitable was  
not so hard  
They were happy to help others in need and ex-claimed,

Merry Christmas From the Coast Guard Yard.

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The former Yard Employees Activities Association began the annual food basket drive in 1950, with the project being taken over by the Chaplain's Office in recent years. In 2015, over 34 food baskets were prepared and delivered during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Thank you, Chaplain Fowler and team!

**“We’re Working On It!”**



*Barque EAGLE (WIX 327) - Baltimore, MD*



*CGC TARPON (WPB 87310) - St. Petersburg, FL*



*CGC OAK (WLB 211) - North Charleston, SC*



*CGC ANVIL (WLIC 75301) - Charleston, SC*



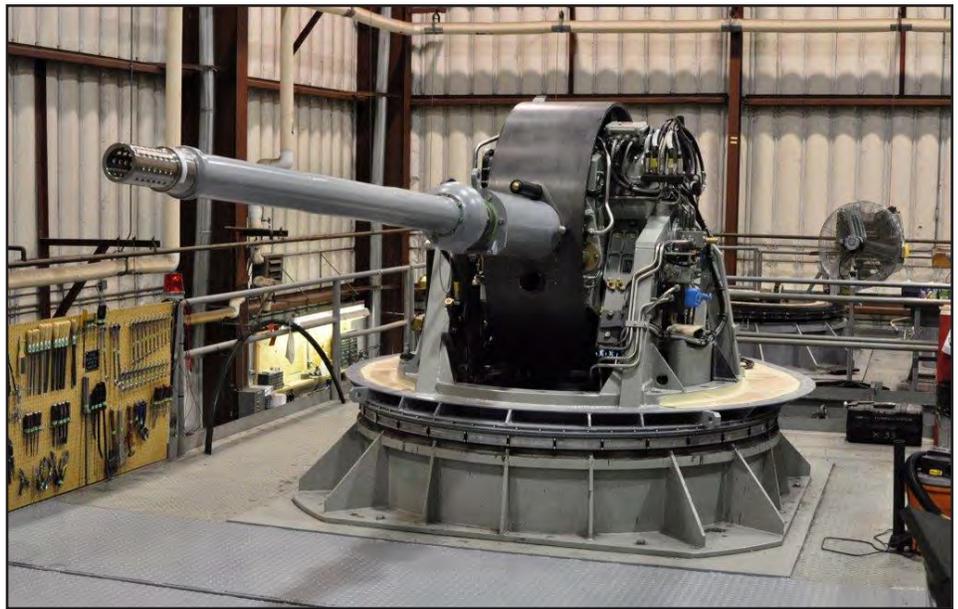
*CGC BONITO (WPB 87341) - Montauk, NY*

### Yard Repairs International Weapons System

Under an international ordnance repair agreement with Naval Sea Systems Command, the Yard repairs a MK75 76mm gun (pictured top right) for the Polish Navy. Ordnance Shop employees repaired two Polish Navy weapons systems during 2015. *(Photo by CWO Kristopher McGhee, Yard Clinic)*

The Yard is the sole source for the majority of repairs of naval weapons systems used in the Coast Guard fleet, including the MK 75 weapons system (270' and 378' cutters); MK38 weapons system (210', 110' and 378' cutters), and overhaul of the MK53 antennas for the 270' and 378' fleets. The Ordnance Shop overhauls and delivers two MK75 guns and accompanying fire control antennas to the Coast Guard 270'/378' fleets each year. A team of four ordnance mechanics consume 5600 man-hours on the overhaul of each gun.

In the bottom right photo, the Yard Ordnance Team changes out a MK75 gun on the 270' medium endurance cutter THETIS while in homeport in Key West, Florida. Yard weapons overhauls are accomplished both in the Shop and "on the road," providing a unique Service to the Coast Guard Fleet. *(Photo by LCDR Shane Bridges, EOPMB)*



#### Yard Enlisted Member of the Quarter



*YN3 Melissa Lakotish, SPO  
FY 15, Fourth Quarter*

#### Yard Civilian of the Quarter



*Steve Moon, Paint Shop  
FY 15, Fourth Quarter*

**Commandant Features Andrew Dove, X20, During Remarks On Coast Guard Human Capital Strategy**

Andrew Dove, Yard Marine Machinery Mechanic, was one of two Coast Guard civilians along with four active duty military personnel recently recognized by the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Paul Zukunft, for outstanding service. The Commandant addressed an all-hands audience at Coast Guard Headquarters on December 17<sup>th</sup> about the value of Coast Guard Human Capital Strategy. Such an initiative highlights the commitment and expertise of the military and civilian workforce to provide critical products and services that fulfill the missions of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Human Capital Strategic Plan looks at vision and direction to maintain and develop a world-class workforce and, in doing so, recognizes outstanding employees who have typified the Plan's goals.

Admiral Zukunft's remarks are printed below:

*"Mr. Andrew Dove – Yard*

*One of the many people who will benefit from this new Human Capital Strategy is Mr. Andrew Dove, a Coast Guard civilian employee at the Coast Guard Yard.*

*Too often our personnel efforts are focused predominantly on our Active Duty workforce. But, as I've been saying since day one on the job, our workforce is made up of a team of Active, Reserve, volunteer auxiliary, and civilians. We can't complete today's missions without the entire team.*

*Andrew Dove is a Machinery Mechanic at the Yard. This year, he's worked on the Controllable Pitch Propeller systems of two dry-docked Medium Endurance Cutters, as well as on steering systems, main propulsion controls, and keel coolers, and he's performed new equipment installations on multiple vessel classes – from 65 foot harbor tugs to major cutters. He is a trade student at the Yard, and he has been commended by Yard management*

*and tech reps alike for performing work at a level way above his pay grade and at all hours – days/nights and weekends to keep our cutters on schedule.*

*I highlight that last point because he typifies our modern civilian workforce! He's not a 9-5 employee, and he obviously doesn't work at a desk. He's working in and under our cutters to keep aging ships operational while new ones come on line. He's exactly the kind of person our Human Capital Strategy needs to include! I'm proud to serve alongside civilians like Andrew, and I*

*want to keep him on our team!"*

*ADM Paul Zukunft  
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard*

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The below photo of Andrew Dove served as the background slide for Admiral Zukunft's remarks. The Yard family congratulates Andrew on this high-profile recognition from the Commandant of the Coast Guard.



**Yard Facilities Management Department Receives Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation**



The Commandant of the Coast Guard honored members of the Yard Facilities Management Department with a Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation on November 12th for exceptional meritorious service from June 2014 to Oct. 2015.

The team accomplished one of the largest building reconfiguration projects in recent Yard history. They converted over 11,000 square feet of underutilized

**Milestones**  
**Retirements**

Jeffery Isaac  
Painter  
12 Years

Rex Shaver  
Structural Supervisor  
25 Years

Kenneth Raber  
Quality Assurance Specialist  
40 Years

Rodger Pugh  
Structural Group Supervisor  
25 Years

Norman Scharff  
Rigger  
17 Years

**Advancements/Promotions**

Sharon Walston, Sheetmetal/Joiner Mech,  
WG-4701-10

Kenneth Brown, Painter Helper,  
WG-4102-5

Karen Bruno, Travel Program Specialist,  
GS-340-11

Bryan Martin, Sheetmetal/Joiner Leader,  
WL-4701-10

Adam Cole, Structural Group Supervisor,  
WS-3820-18

**Barque EAGLE Selects Keith Hare, X30, "Yard Worker of the Month"**

The crew of Barque EAGLE recently selected Yard Electrician Keith Hare as the "Yard Worker of the Month" for his outstanding performance on the successful completion of an electrical panel upgrade. This was a massive initiative critical to continued operation of the 79-year-old training vessel of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Keith led the Yard Electric Shop in the removal and installation of electrical wire and up-grade of systems to low smoke cables and new transformers. He met with EAGLE's crew to discuss the impact on the ship, defined the impacted areas, and

offered solutions to provide temporary power solutions to support habitability and daily on-board work. He worked night shifts (7 p.m. to 7 a.m.) with his crew to minimize impacts on the ship, limit interferences, and maximize productivity.

Keith consistently worked with EAGLE personnel to ensure expectations were clear, and habitability on EAGLE was supported. He communicated well with Electrical Shop representatives to relay information passed in production meetings, and he kept EAGLE crew inspectors informed on work impacts to the ship, providing a

safe environment for all onboard. Keith displayed a cheerful and professional demeanor and can-do attitude.

In the photo at bottom left, CAPT Matthew Meilstrup (left), Commanding Officer of Barque EAGLE, congratulates Keith Hare (right) for receiving the honor of "Yard Worker of the Month." Congratulations from the Yard family!



**YARD NEWS**

Printed on Recycled Paper



The YARD NEWS is an authorized publication published bi-monthly for active and retired employees of the U.S. Coast Guard YARD and selected Coast Guard offices. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Homeland Security nor the U.S. Coast Guard. Address contributions and inquires to: Editor, YARD NEWS, U.S. Coast Guard YARD, 2401 Hawkins Pt Rd, Baltimore, MD 21226; Tel. (410) 636-7238; [dottie.e.mitchell@uscg.mil](mailto:dottie.e.mitchell@uscg.mil)

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## Yard Continues Maritime Tradition of “Stepping the Mast”

By SN Alexandria Preston, Yard MWR

The Yard made an exciting discovery on the Cutter PENOBSCOT BAY during a routine maintenance procedure in early December. Yard tradesmen removed the ship’s mast in order to perform critical repairs on the 140’ icebreaking tug while in dry-dock. When Structural Department tradesmen Eddie Regan and Joe Appolin removed the mast, they found a peculiar, rusted cup welded to the mast’s interior. The cup contained three coins - a bicentennial dollar dated 1776-1976; a 1979 Susan B. Anthony dollar, and a penny with an illegible date.

The coins coincide with the nautical practice of “stepping the mast,” a tradition going back hundreds of years, and there are several theories as to why. One theory is that the ship’s crew would place the coins under the mast so, in the event the ship sunk and the crew perished, they would be able pay the transportation fee to get to the

afterlife. This originates from Greek mythology in which a mythical ferryman named Charon requires a fee to transport souls across the River Styx to get to the Underworld. Other theories suggest that leaving coins under the mast is simply good luck for the ship’s voyage. Tradition has always been a strong suit for sea-bearing folk, and it’s evident by this discovery that the tradition lives on among today’s naval forces.

When PENOBSCOT BAY’s mast was scheduled to be lowered back onto the ship, the Yard fabricated a new cup and welded it to the inside of the mast to support a small plastic container to hold the coins. Yard personnel returned the original coins and added several new ones, including two new challenge coins before the mast was re-sealed. The Yard and its tenant command, the Legacy Sustainment and Support Unit, donated the challenge coins. Mr. Regan placed the original coins along with a penny, nickel, dime, and quarter - all from 2015 – into the container. He also included a note with a brief description

about the newly added coins and of his and Mr. Appolin’s discovery.

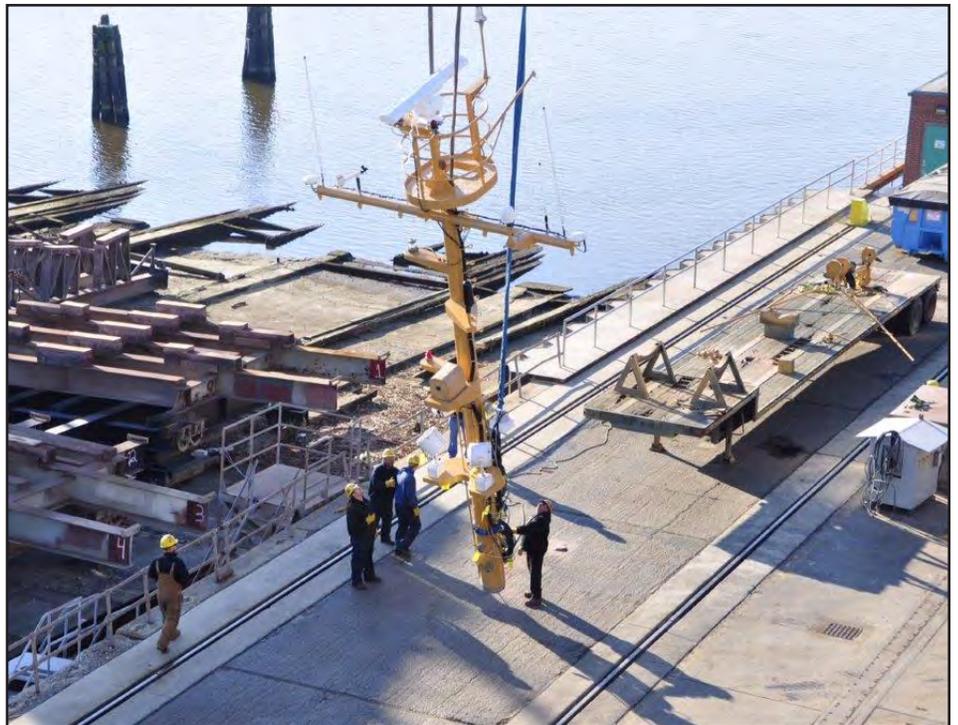
It was an honor for all Coast Guard Yard personnel to participate in the age old tradition of “stepping the mast” and to have the opportunity to become a part of PENOBSCOT BAY’s history in the making!

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The PENOBSCOT BAY (WTGB 107), commissioned in 1985, arrived at the Yard in February 2015 for an anticipated 14-month overhaul under the Coast Guard’s In-Service Vessel Sustainment Project (ISVS). Wrapping up ISVS repairs this spring, the icebreaking tug will return to its homeport in Bayonne, New Jersey. The cutter’s warm weather missions include law enforcement, search and rescue, aids to navigation, cadet training, and port, waterways, and coastal security. During the winter months, PENOBSCOT BAY conducts icebreaking operations on the Hudson River to assist commercial ship and barge traffic as far north as Albany, New York.



*Eddie Regan places the coins and a note inside the newly fabricated cup in the interior of the mast of the Coast Guard Cutter PENOBSCOT BAY, continuing the nautical tradition of “stepping the mast.” (Photo by CWO Kristopher McGhee)*



*Yard personnel lift the PENOBSCOT BAY’s mast to begin fitting. (Photo by CWO Kristopher McGhee)*

### X23 Employees Complete 2015 Marine Corps Marathon!



The Yard family congratulates Mike Handsom (left), Marine Machinery Mechanic, X23, and Tim Behan (right), Marine Machinery Mechanic Leader, X23, on their successful finish in the 2015 Marine Corps Marathon held Oct. 25, 2015 in Washington, DC. Mike's time was 5:01; Tim's, 5:56. Well done! *(Photo courtesy of Melvin Dash, X23)*

#### With Sympathy

The Yard extends condolences to the family of William Zaruba, former Yard Structural Group Superintendent. Mr. Zaruba passed away on November 25, 2015. He retired from the Yard in 1981 with 41 years federal service.

#### Inclement Weather Hotline

410-636-7910  
Option 1



#### Facilities Award, cont. from pg 5

storage/warehouse space in Building #31 lower level to a modernized office space for 75 military and civilian personnel of the SFLC IBCT product line. The team completed the project within budget and on schedule. Mr. Albert Curry, CG-4D, presented the Team Award to the Facilities Management staff.

Pictured in the photo on page 5, (left to right) are: George Harris, Shop Planner Maintenance; Sandra Parmer, Architect; Darryl Barnett, Construction Inspector; CDR Stephen Roncone, Chief, Facilities Management Department; Mr. Albert Curry, CG-4D; Dave Andrese, Mechanical Engineer, and LT Kristopher Kidd, Yard Facility Asset Manager. *(Photo by YN3 Krista Swinehart, SFLC)*

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