The Coast Guard Cutter MAPLE (WLB 207) (foreground) arrived at the Yard on the morning of August 29th to become the 4th 225’ buoy tender to undergo the In-Service Vessel Sustainment (ISVS) project’s mid-life maintenance. Like its predecessors in the program – OAK, WILLOW, and KUKUI – MAPLE will receive a 12-month overhaul of targeted hull, mechanical, electrical, and electronic systems. Upon completion, the buoy tender will be homeported in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

ISVS provides critical vessel overhauls for the long term sustainability of select classes of Coast Guard cutters. Specific work items on the 225’ fleet involve overhaul of deck equipment and weight handling gear; updates to the machinery control system, HVAC systems and propellers; topside preservation, and stability assessment. Routine maintenance includes dry-docking, painting, plate renewal, and renewal of worn-out machinery parts and rusted steel.

The Yard completed the Cutter OAK in September 2016 as the first 225’ buoy tender overhauled under ISVS. OAK now operates in its homeport of Newport, Rhode Island. The second 225’ ISVS Cutter WILLOW entered the Yard in May 2016, underwent ISVS repair and departed in August 2017 for its homeport in Charleston, South Carolina. Completion of the 12-month overhaul of the third ISVS Cutter KUKUI is anticipated in March 2018 when the buoy tender will report to its new homeport in Sitka, Alaska.

The 225’ seagoing buoy tenders were commissioned between 1996 and 2004 and are planned to spend 30 years in service. The Yard’s renovation work at their mid-life supports the buoy tenders intended service years. The 225’ cutter class is equipped with a single controllable pitch propel- ler and a bow and stern thruster that gives the vessel the maneuverability it needs to tend buoys offshore and in restricted water. The cutters service floating aids to navigation, conduct homeland security operations; clear

See MAPLE, pg 3
In 1949, Congress gave the Yard the authority to operate as a “non-profit business” through the establishment of an industrial working capital fund. As a business, we are responsible for generating enough revenue through sales of our services to offset all the costs associated with operating and maintaining the Yard – including salaries, benefits, training, utilities, equipment, and maintenance. We recover the cost of these overhead expenses by selling our services to the Coast Guard and other government agencies. When we sell our services, we charge our customers an hourly composite labor rate for work performed. This is much different from the rest of the Coast Guard, in which costs are covered by Congress through annual appropriations.

As a public “non-profit” business we are responsible to our exclusive “shareholder” – the U.S. Coast Guard. Our shareholder expects the Yard to put “service to the fleet” at the forefront. This means delivering quality services as efficiently as possible to achieve fleet readiness. In this regard, I am proud to say that Yard performance is the best that it has been in decades.

In FY2017, we achieved the highest workforce productivity rates in more than two decades. We lowered our composite labor rate by 4% (saving our customers $4.2 million), and we expect to keep this labor rate constant through FY2018, despite a more than 3% shipyard market inflation rate. We also performed 858,956 production hours – the highest levels since 1998. This coming year, we expect to perform nearly 918,000 production hours – the highest levels since 1993. Of note, the Yard has achieved this higher production output with a smaller workforce than we had in 1993 – 1998.

The Yard achieved this high output through significantly improved efficiency, accountability, and a stronger, more proficient workforce. This was made possible by a number of factors. First, we began our three-year effort to restructure our workforce – increasing our ratio of junior to senior graded employees and selectively hiring personnel to match the requirements associated with our “booked” work. Secondly, we ensured that the work performed by the Yard matches our competitive advantage, making best use of our highly experienced workforce. This work includes the cutter renovation projects that are part of the In-Service Vessel Sustainment project and our other government agency work, and the 87’ Coastal Patrol Boat Recurring Depot Availability Program. Finally (and most importantly), this achievement is about shop-level leadership. I continue to be amazed by the ingenuity, stamina, and motivation of our supervisors, work leaders, and employees – they are the ones that are responsible for these amazing achievements. They are also responsible not just for the financial successes summarized above, but also for the tremendously valuable services we provide to the Coast Guard and our Nation every day.

The Yard and SFLC hosted Admiral Charles Michel (on stage) for his first official visit as Coast Guard Vice Commandant on August 15th. The day included SFLC/Yard briefs, tours of the Yard waterfront and warehouse, and an All-Hands gathering in the Yard Fabrication Shop. During the all-hands event, Admiral Michel presented five Yard/SFLC employees with “Commitment to Excellence” awards. Award recipients included Saa Banaci, Sr. and Levonia Witherspoon (Yard); MKCS Joshua MacKenzie, Ann Seale, and Brenda Taylor (SFLC).

Welcome aboard!
Departing Annapolis Harbor on Friday, August 18th, Barque EAGLE returned to the Yard to begin Phase IV of a four-year Service Life Extension Project (SLEP) under the Coast Guard's In-Service Vessel Sustainment program. Planned maintenance work is designed to extend the service life of the 81-year-old historic training vessel, essential to its long-term sustainability. EAGLE’s fourth phase will involve mechanical, electrical and structural repairs and inspections while the historic cutter is dry-docked in the ex-USS OAKRIDGE. The Yard plans to conclude the SLEP in spring 2018 to prepare the ship for its summer ports of call.

Over 100 guests rode EAGLE from Annapolis into the Yard for the 4-hour sailing trip. Riders included Coast Guard Headquarters personnel, Congressional staff and Navy League members, friends and family of the EAGLE crew, Yard & SFLC employees, representatives of the Baltimore City School System, and students/faculty from the New Era Academy public school.

Cutter MAPLE made a unique voyage beginning July 12th and transited through the Northwest Passage to reach the Yard in late August. The Northwest Passage is a series of passageways through the complex archipelago of the Canadian Arctic Ocean, flowing into the North Atlantic Ocean.

The summer of 2017 marked the 60th anniversary of three Coast Guard cutters and one Canadian ship that were the first to convoy through the Northwest Passage. From May to September of 1957, the crews of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutters STORIS, SPAR and BRAMBLE, along with the crew of the Canadian ice breaker HMCS LABRADOR, charted, recorded water depths, and installed aids to navigation for future shipping lanes. The cutters’ crews became the first deep-draft ships to sail through the Northwest Passage. MAPLE’s trip to the Yard commemorated the anniversary by following the historic path.
The Third Dozen

The Yard lifted the first patrol boat under the 87’ Recurring Depot Availability Project (RDAP) (formerly Bow-to-Stern Project) in November 2014 and throughout the past three years has successfully completed repairs on three dozen cutters. As with the first and second dozen, the third dozen boats have been completed well under budget. The highly successful project has reduced lifecycle costs and improved readiness. RDAP performs a 60-day planned maintenance on select cutters of the Coast Guard Atlantic Area 87’ patrol boat fleet. The third dozen vessels are pictured below in chronological order of completion (top to bottom; left to right). (See September-October 2015 "Yard News" and September-October 2016 "Yard News" for photos of the first and second completed dozen RDAP boats at the Yard, respectively.

"87' RDAP - Innovative, Efficient and Adaptable with Proven Results"

CGC FLYINGFISH

CGC AMBERJACK

CGC BELUGA

CGC MORAY

CGC SKIPJACK

CGC SHRIKE

CGC PELICAN

CGC SAILFISH

CGC HAWK

CGC STURGEON

CGC COCHITO

CGC STEELHEAD
Coast Guard Commandant Recognizes Superior Accomplishments of Yard Civilian Employees

Admiral Paul Zukunft, Commandant of the Coast Guard, recognized four Yard civilian employees during ceremonies held at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC on July 24th. The Commandant provided congratulatory certificates to the winners of the U.S. Coast Guard Civilian Employees of the Year. Honorees in their respective categories included Adam Cole, X10, Coast Guard Civilian of the Year (Senior Level); Rick Hare, X60, Coast Guard Civilian of the Year (Mid-Level), and Jann Blevins, X42 Coast Guard Civilian of the Year (Junior-Level). (See background information on employees and specific award achievements in July/August “Yard News,” pages 3 & 6).

In addition, Admiral Zukunft recognized several Coast Guard civilian employees celebrating 50 years of federal service; among them, Melvin Dash, Yard Mechanical Group Shop Planner, who celebrated his Golden Anniversary on August 27, 2017. Melvin served in the U.S. Air Force before beginning his employment at the Yard in 1971.

Congratulations to all from the Yard family!

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Monday, July 24, 2017:
From the Desk of the Commandant of the Coast Guard:
To the Coast Guard’s Dedicated Civil Servants:

Today, I presided over the Civilian and Non-Appropriated Fund Employees of the Year Ceremony. In reflecting on this ceremony, I want to express my sincere gratitude for all that you do as civil servants in America’s Coast Guard.

Today, we are, hands down, the world’s best Coast Guard. We are the gold standard worldwide because of one thing: the caliber of our men and women. At all levels of our organization, you – the Coast Guard’s civilian workforce – are truly the bedrock of continuity and specialization for our men and women. Every success of the Coast Guard – every life saved, every vessel inspected, every smuggler halted – you’ll find a civil servant at the core of that success.

This year’s impressive award recipients are shining examples of the caliber of the 8,000 civilian men and women serving our Nation in the United States Coast Guard.

Additionally, I recently signed out seven congratulatory letters to Coast Guard employees recognizing them for achieving 50 years of civil service. Fifty years! Half a century committed to our Nation.

Day in and day out, I am inspired by all that you do. And I am forever grateful that every single day you put Service before self to protect our homeland.

Semper Paratus,
Admiral Paul F. Zukunft
New Era Academy Summer Students Complete Yard Internship

The Yard held a ceremony on August 11th celebrating the conclusion of a seven-week internship for the New Era Academy (NEA) Transportation Technology Program students. Before an audience of Yard employees, program organizers, family and friends, the students received certificates of recognition for the successful completion of their internship program during the summer of 2017.

NEA is a college and career-preparatory middle/high school in Baltimore City’s Cherry Hill neighborhood. The NEA student internships were part of the school’s Transportation Technology Program that prepares high school students for careers in the transportation and maritime trades. NEA interns at the Yard worked 20 hours per week in the shipyard from June 26 to August 11 to gain work experience and basic on-the-job skills for potential employment in maritime transportation industry, including the Yard.

A win-win opportunity, the Yard benefited from the program by increasing the base of well-qualified applicants for consideration of future entry-level positions. NEA students received exposure to the marine trades through classroom and hands-on training under the mentorship of Yard master technicians. The students program involved assignments in the Iron, Paint, Pipe, Sheetmetal, and Electric Shops.

The Yard conducted the NEA summer intern program under a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Baltimore Public School system. The shipyard is among nine federal government, Maryland state government and private sector organizations who employed over 40 NEA students this summer. The NEA student internships were funded through Baltimore City’s Youth Works program and supported by contributions from local private entities who seek to advance Baltimore’s economic development and the well-being of its citizens.

The New Era Academy students were among 100 guests who rode Barque EAGLE into the Yard on August 18th. EAGLE’s 4-hour trip sailed the Severn River, Chesapeake Bay, Patapsco River and Curtis Creek. EAGLE’s crew provided the students with a once-in-a-lifetime experience at the 81-year-old helm of America’s Tall Ship. EAGLE’s return to the Yard began Phase IV of a four-year Service Life Extension Project under the Coast Guard’s In-Service Vessel Sustainment program begun at the Yard in 2014. The Yard will conclude EAGLE’s Phase IV in spring 2018.
Milestones: Civilian Awards

Time Off

Linton, Eric
Falconc, Leonard
Blueford, James
Sames, Daniel
Crider, Christopher
Page, Lawrence
Mason, Michael
Lee, Darrell
Jones, James
Kuhn, Alvin
Bagshaw, James
Kozikiewica, Adam
Brown, Bryan
Martin, Bryan
Piper, Donald
Roberts, Richard
Walston, Sharon
Spicer, Dasean
Croxton, Bernard
Burnezky, Cory
Foca, Joseph
Haines, Timothy
Harrell, Richard
Johnson, Kenneth
Lee, Joshua
Mark, John
Schucker, Myles
Maxwell, Dawn
Washington, Fred
Baran, Gina
Vester, Aneisha
Roberts, Timothy
Means, Kevin
Funk, Steven
Kawecki, Jacob
Brown, Howard
Alexander, Dale
Haskins, Michael
Harris, Robert
Heminger, Sean
Rosemond, Teddy
Peacock, Russell
Wilson, Leon
Virtue, Michael
Kindig, Brian
Fricke, Victor
Meyers, Joseph

See On-The-Spot, pg 8