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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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Post-Delivery Availability: Doors of Opportunity

By CWO Keith Jarvis



Above: The 1141-Sentinel-Class Patrol Boat Fast Response Cutter, the 415-Legend-Class Maritime Security Cutter large National Security Cutter, and the Maritime Security Cutter Medium Offshore Patrol Cutter.

“To position the CG Yard for another century of service to the fleet...”

The opening line to the Coast Guard Yard’s Vision Statement is a familiar phrase to most who call the CG Yard “home.” It is built on the premise that our sure footing as a service provider TODAY is not guaranteed to us TOMORROW, and that FOCUSED ACTION is required to remain relevant to the needs of the fleet. It is a call to look beyond our fence line and develop the skills, training, technology, and infrastructure we will need BEFORE they are fully needed. The diversity of our project portfolio and our growing reputation within the acquisition and sustainment communities are yielding opportunities to stay on the leading edge of preserving and expanding our position executing one of the largest fleet recapitalizations in Coast Guard history. One related business line that has seen significant growth in the last nine years is the Yard’s involvement in Post-Delivery Availabilities (PDAs) for the Coast Guard’s newly commissioned cutters.

Design changes and equipment replacement during vessel construction are inevitable. Oftentimes executing these engineering changes in production are cost prohibitive, or would present schedule delays. The CG-9 Acquisition Program Offices seek alternative installation activities to perform work immediately after the cutter is delivered to the Coast Guard during PDA. Additionally, a host of other non-production activities are scheduled during this time such as ship familiarization and training for the crew, cutter outfitting, weapons and ammunition onloading, and engineering and combat system checks. Rigorous planning for each PDA starts at least a year in advance with a diversity of stakeholders working together to sequence all of the various activities to minimize interference with one another and avoid operational delays for the cutter.

The Commanding Officer's Column

Hello CG Yard Family,

Spring is upon us with hope for brighter days ahead! We have all been anxiously awaiting the COVID-19 vaccine to close the final chapter in the story that has dominated our lives for the past 13 months. CG Yard is using teamwork to make this dream reality. In late January, CG Yard and Maryland National Guard partnered to expedite COVID-19 vaccine delivery to the CG's civilian workforce in Baltimore. A seven member National Guard unit worked alongside CG Yard Clinic staff, vaccinating up to 180 people each day at Columbus Gym. This joint operation accelerated vaccine delivery and allowed the Clinic to continue providing some regular services to our active duty military members instead of shuttering. Over 1,300 military and civilian employees have been fully vaccinated. With nationwide vaccine production now over 3 million doses each day, soon any civilian employee, military member, or contractor that needs the vaccine will get it. We are grateful for the passion of all involved in the smooth running CG Yard vaccination operations.



With the pandemic's deceleration in our region and the improving weather, we have welcomed the opportunity to showcase CG Yard's expertise in socially distanced, face-to-face visits. We recently hosted senior Navy leaders including Mr. Sean Burke, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Sustainment. This was followed up by the Acting DHS Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Stacy Marcott, and RADM Kevin Lunday, our CG Deputy for Materiel Readiness. These visits gave valuable opportunities for others to learn about CG Yard capabilities and to share our vision for future infrastructure improvements. As you might remember, completion of the CG Yard Infrastructure Optimization Study is due out later this year. This study echoes the U.S. Navy's analysis approach and will be valuable in the Service's prioritization of our infrastructure investments to achieve major cutter shiphandling capability.

CG Yard might not have the best equipment and newest infrastructure, but it is the dedicated workforce, our people, who are the keystone to success. The resuscitated CG Yard Leadership and Diversity Advisory Council (LDAC) has been focused on our people. Our LDAC has hit the ground running with impressive results. MCPOCG Vincent Patton, USCG (Retired) was our Black History Month speaker and his recounts of life milestones inspired each of us to look within and ask, "How can I make my world, my workplace, a better place?" And, great news for Women's History Month, the LDAC lined up VADM Sandra Stosz, USCG (Retired) who spoke on 31 March. This is a high bar indeed for future speakers.

Finally, I want to recognize the professionalism of the CG Yard Family. Through 57 weeks of pandemic response, the CG Yard civilian and military workforce, supported by contractors here and dependents at home, have accomplished incredible feats of naval engineering. The CG Yard Family working around the clock in all conditions at the shipyard and around the globe have kept the CG (and our partners) operational. I am honored to serve alongside you.

Thank you and Semper Paratus!

CAPT Vincent Skwarek

Commanding Officer, United States Coast Guard Yard

(Cont'd from page 1)

The CG Yard is currently involved in three separate PDAs for the Fast Response Cutter (FRC), the National Security Cutter (NSC), and planning for the future Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC), each with a strong focus on modernizing each asset's Command and Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber and Intelligence (C5I) infrastructure as part of the Commandant's long-term strategic plan. The CG Yard's involvement in PDAs had humble beginnings, but as time has passed, we have assumed greater roles and responsibility as we continue to demonstrate the value we provide as a flexible alternative for delivering new capabilities to the fleet.

March of 2012 saw the CG Yard's first FRC PDA project in Key West, Florida. The scope of work for CGC William Trump's PDA consisted of five standard workstation drops, a printer, and four electrical receptacle upgrades. 31 cutters later, the scope has significantly grown and now includes: power upgrades to SIPRNET, installation of the Long-Range Acoustic Device, installation of a Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System on select cutters, and provision of a CG Yard-overhauled machine gun for the FRC's primary battery. What began as a two-person, five day Electro Group road show has evolved into separate teams comprised of multiple trades over a four-week period.

The following year, after CGC William Trump, CGC Stratton became the first of the CG Yard's NSC PDA projects at the shipbuilder's facility in Pascagoula, Mississippi which entailed a two week install of the cutter's KU-Band SATCOM connectivity system. KU-band SATCOM is the cutter's primary means of long-range communications and vital to maintaining maritime domain awareness. Since CGC Stratton, the worklist has grown to include installation of the Electronic Charting System, Automatic Identification System antenna, and 50 safety handrails, or "hand grabs," within the skin of the ship for crew safety. The NSC Program Office, CG-9321, has reached out to the CG Yard again in recent months to request two additional HM&E modifications for NSC-10.



Above: Radar platforms aboard the National Security Cutter 1.

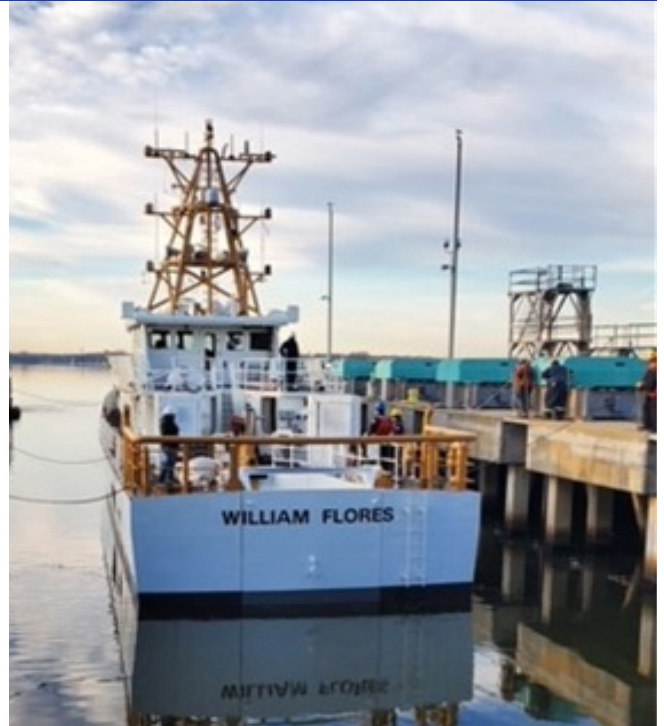
In 2020 the CG Yard assumed yet another role: design work and planning for a yet-to-be delivered cutter class. The CG Yard's prospective installation activities during the developing OPC PDA eclipse those of FRC and NSC combined in terms of scope and technical complexity. The CG Yard is taking steps to address material storage, installer certifications, installer training, and proposed installation timelines for new command, control, communications, and sensor systems.

PDA work has opened multiple doors of opportunity to ensure our technicians have hands-on experience on the next generation of Coast Guard cutters that we will see at CG Yard in the years ahead. With congressionally appropriated funding in hand and planning underway for a permanent FRC RDAP building, momentum to explore and develop dry-docking capability for NSCs and OPCs is building. The CG Yard is positioning itself for another century of service to the fleet, ensuring another generation of cutters and Coastguardsmen are equipped to safely and effectively execute their missions, building on the CG Yard's 122-year legacy of excellent service.

OPS Spotlight- CGC William Flores

CGC William Flores recently returned to operations following the completion of a dry dock availability at the CG Yard from September 2020 – January 2021. The cutter has since completed a successful patrol under the TACON of Sector Key West and Sector St. Petersburg.

After a brief week in Charlie to get the cutter ready for operations again, CGC Flores sailed to Tampa to participate in the annual Blackthorn Memorial Ceremony. The ceremony is held in memory of the 23 lives lost in the collision between the SS CAPRICORN and the Coast Guard buoy tender CGC Blackthorn on January 28th, 1980, including SA William Ray Flores, the cutters namesake. During the collision, SA Flores distinguished himself during the tragedy with his selfless sacrifice, ultimately giving his life in an attempt to rescue shipmates trapped on the sinking cutter. CGC William Flores had the honor of serving as a backdrop for the ceremony while anchored near the site of the collision. A ceremonial wreath was placed next to the cutter in memory of SA Flores and the lives lost that day.



Above: CGC William Flores in the CG Yard ship lift after repairs.

Following the ceremony, CGC Flores patrolled under the TACON of Sector Key West, providing Maritime Domain Awareness and search and rescue response in the Florida Straits. During the cutter's time in the Florida Straits, the crew focused extensively on training and remastering the myriad of skills required onboard while training newly reported personnel. CGC Flores qualified a new Underway Officer of the Deck and one Junior Inport Officer of the Deck. In preparation for an upcoming Ready for Operations Inspection, extensive damage control drills such as toxic gas, flooding, main space fire, and loss of steering were conducted. The crew also participated in a DC Rodeo, showing off their newly refined damage control skills!

During the final day, CGC Flores conducted a gunnery exercise that would also serve as the MK-38's first operational test fire. Everything went smoothly, and everyone enjoyed the chance to see the cutter's armament in action.

LT John Giovanni, the Commanding Officer of CGC William Flores, had this message for the CG Yard: *"Thank you all for your tireless work. Flores has never looked better, and the hull preservation work done will ensure our Cutter is ready and able to serve the Coast Guard for years to come. Any drydock is a complex, multi-month project, and operating in a COVID environment has added countless new challenges, but your work ethic, focus, and dedication to task were instrumental in a successful project! Thank you, and Bravo Zulu"*

Embracing Diversity



The past few months have been full of positive activity from the CG Yard Leadership and Diversity Advisory Council (LDAC)!

On February 10th the CG Yard welcomed retired Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Vincent Patton III as the guest speaker for African American History Month. MCPOCG Patton spoke about some of his experiences throughout his 30 year career and shared how far the Coast Guard has come in regards to diversity and inclusion. MCPOCG Patton shared that although the Coast Guard has come a long way since he enlisted in 1972, he believes there is always room for improvement. MCPOCG Patton encouraged listeners to find their OWN core values

that complement the USCG Core Values. Ask yourself, how can I make my workforce a better? And, understand, diversity is about understanding and embracing our differences, so we can support those differences.

On March 31st Vice Admiral Sandy Stosz (ret) was the CG Yard guest speaker for the Women's History Month event. Admiral Stosz began her career as an ensign serving on polar icebreakers, conducting national security mission from the Arctic to the Antarctic. She finished her Coast Guard career as the first woman assigned as Deputy Commandant for Mission Support (DCMS). Admiral Stosz shared leadership lessons learned throughout her 36 year career. She suggests we each find opportunities to make the work place better and to help others achieve their potential by creating occasions for cooperations rather than challenges.



Both presentations are available on the [CG Yard's Facebook page](#).

The LDAC aims to bridge the gap between CG Yard civilian and military employees and CG Yard leadership. In doing so, we can express concerns and opinions to leadership and make positive changes that foster an inclusive workforce climate. If you want to be included in the discussion and be a part of a solution, consider attending a bi-monthly meeting or becoming a LDAC member. Contact your supervisor first. You can email ideas and suggestions anonymously to the LDAC YardLDAC@uscg.mil or drop a note in one of the suggestion boxes located at the Galley, the Dry Dock, and the Waterfront Café. We hope to hear from you!

We're Working On It!

Right: Matthew Tepper, Robert Harris, and Steve Behan (not visible) change out the Spud lock on the waterfront's Tower Crane 4. The Spud Lock positively secures the crane's upper works against rotation caused by strong wind gusts, during periods of inactivity. Older crane designs normally have only one spud lock pocket and when it is engaged the crane is placed in its most stable position, with the boom parallel to the tracks. The Tower Crane 4 Spud Lock needed overhaul due to wear on internal gears which caused binding during normal operation. The Crane is now fully operational from inside operators cab.



Left: YP 683 is the 6th Naval Academy Training vessel to receive a Service Life Extension Project (SLEP) at the Coast Guard YARD. Pictured after it's dry-docking, this wooden-hulled vessel underwent a refurbishment of major shipboard systems including engine overhauls, shafting repairs, galley and habitability upgrades, among other work items. The YARD's partnership with the Naval Academy is growing, and other classes of vessels including the metal-hulled 703-class YP's, and rigging repairs have been made to Academy sailing vessels.

Right: CG Yard completed overhaul of another decommissioned 110' Island Cutter that was transitioned to a partner nation as part of the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program, where USCG partners with DOD and the Department of State. CG Yard stores these vessels and reactivates them when a partner nation agrees to accept the vessel as well as funds its reactivation. After reactivating onboard systems, staff from the Coast Guard Acquisition Directorate train servicemen and women from the partner nation. The vessel pictured here was transferred to the Ukrainian Navy in March, marked by a completion ceremony held at CG Yard.



Meet Ms. Danielle Tucker, Industrial Hygienist

Do you know what an Industrial Hygienist (IH) does? An IH identifies and assesses potential and actual environmental occupational health hazards and risks within the workplace. We are fortunate to have an experienced Industrial Hygienist here at the CG Yard who not only offers her expertise to the Quality and Safety Department, but is also a great resource to managers at all levels and across all functional areas to assist with understanding potential health and safety issues.

Ms. Danielle Tucker, having overcome health challenges of her own, pursued an education in health sciences and holds a B.S. in Biology from Morgan State University and a Certificate in Environmental and Occupational Health from Johns Hopkins, Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has 15 years of Federal service, having held positions in the Social Security Administration and the U.S. Army Public Health Command-Region North, prior to her position with the CG Yard.

Ms. Tucker will partner with supervisors to identify workplace health hazards that include, but are not limited to: chemical exposure, biological hazards, radiation, thermal stress, ergonomics, air quality, respiratory protection, lead, asbestos, mold, PCBs and noise pollution. She will then devise strategies to reduce the effects of these hazards on employee health and well-being, as well as provide reports and educate employees.

This is all done within the guidelines set forth by multiple state and federal governing authorities. Ms. Tucker may be contacted directly and is a valuable resource for supervisors, as we continually work to keep workforce safety a priority.



Photo of the Quarter



Photo of Quarter 1 taken by Jann Blevins from the CG Yard Services Group. Pictured is CGC Dependable at CG Yard for an emergency dry-dock repair to the Aft Starboard Bearing.

**Enlisted Member
of Quarter 4**



**CS2 Chrissie Edwards
Dry Dock Club**

**Civilian Employee of
Quarter 4**



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