
ARCTIC
PATROL
2015
PART ONE



ARCTIC OPERATIONS



The Press Visits
ALEX HALEY



**RADM MIDGETTE
MEETS ALEX HALEY'S
CREW**

THE BULLDOG



ALEX HALEY PATROLS THE
EXTRAORDINARILY CALM
ARCTIC OCEAN

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

"Bulldogs", Family, and Friends,

Greetings from the Arctic Ocean! I can't believe that we've already completed 2 weeks of our Arctic Shield 2015 patrol. The busy schedule, the beautiful scenery, and stunning sights have made it go by very quickly. We've had the unique opportunity to patrol the Arctic region and project the Coast Guard's presence in this remote and delicate area that has seen increased maritime activity over the past several years. Although this mission has been very different from those "The Bulldog" has completed in the past, we continue to be "Semper Paratus" to execute all of the Coast Guard's statutory missions in the Arctic.

We thoroughly enjoyed hosting news teams from national media outlets such as NBC (Cynthia McFadden and Jake Whitman) and New York Times (Steven Myers and Ruth Fremson), along with a special visit from RADW Midgetto, the Gold Ancient Mariner and the next Deputy Commandant for Operations. We've patrolled the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea, explored the ice edge, maneuvered through ice field and around ice floes, and monitored Arctic wildlife. Additionally, we've conducted training to remain proficient in damage control and other mission areas, and completed flight operations with our embarked helicopter and aircrew from Air Station San Francisco. Borcas Rex also welcomed 47 crewmembers into the Realm of the Arctic Circle, changing them from Blue Noses to Polar Bears.

This edition of "The Bulldog" has been an excellent collaborative effort by the entire crew. Enjoy!



All the Best,
Seth J. Denning
CDR Seth J. Denning
Commanding Officer
USCGC ALEX HALEY (WMEC 39)
"Bulldog of the Bering"

Arctic Patrol Snapshots



The icy blue waters of the Arctic call ALEX HALEY! For many members, it was a lifetime first, and for some, their first patrol out of basic training.

CDR BRIAN CHAMBERS (XO) BIDS FAREWELL TO ALEX HALEY



CDR Chambers may be leaving ALEX HALEY, but will not be far from "home", as he will be transferring to Base Kodiak.



PHOTOS: LCDR Brian Chambers becomes CDR Brian Chambers, advancing as he departs ALEX HALEY.

RIGHT: Cynthia McFadden of NBC NEWS interviews Operations Officer LT Matthew Saldivar , asking questions about Maritime Navigation.



BELOW: NBC interviews HSC Castillo about her role as ALEX HALEY'S Health Services Technician.



The situation in the Arctic is, without a doubt, a hot topic of conversation in the news today. Due to the new territories being approached in the Arctic, NBC'S Cynthia McFadden and Jake Whitman and THE NEW YORK TIMES' Steven Myers and Ruth Fremson visited ALEX HALEY to ask questions about ALEX HALEY'S role in the Arctic. The crew of ALEX HALEY explained their respective duties and how they were connected to ALEX HALEY and the Coast Guard's mission of Maritime Stewardship. It is ALEX HALEY and the Coast Guard's job to make sure that laws are followed, safety is assured and the environment is protected in this new territory. By OS3 Kristofferson



Ms. McFadden takes a photo with the crew!



CDR Denning discusses Arctic Operations with Steven Myers of THE NEW YORK TIMES over an Arctic seascape.



LEFT:
Mr.
Myers
arrives
via small
boat!



XO answers Ms. Fremson's
questions as they take in the
scenery.

SN Neaves weathers the cold during lookout on a grey day.



ALEX HALEY crewmembers swim in the calm but frigid Arctic.



Photos by EM3 McCormack and OS3 Kristofferson

ALEX HALEY crewmembers practice damage control techniques on a "broken pipe" using Arctic Ocean water.

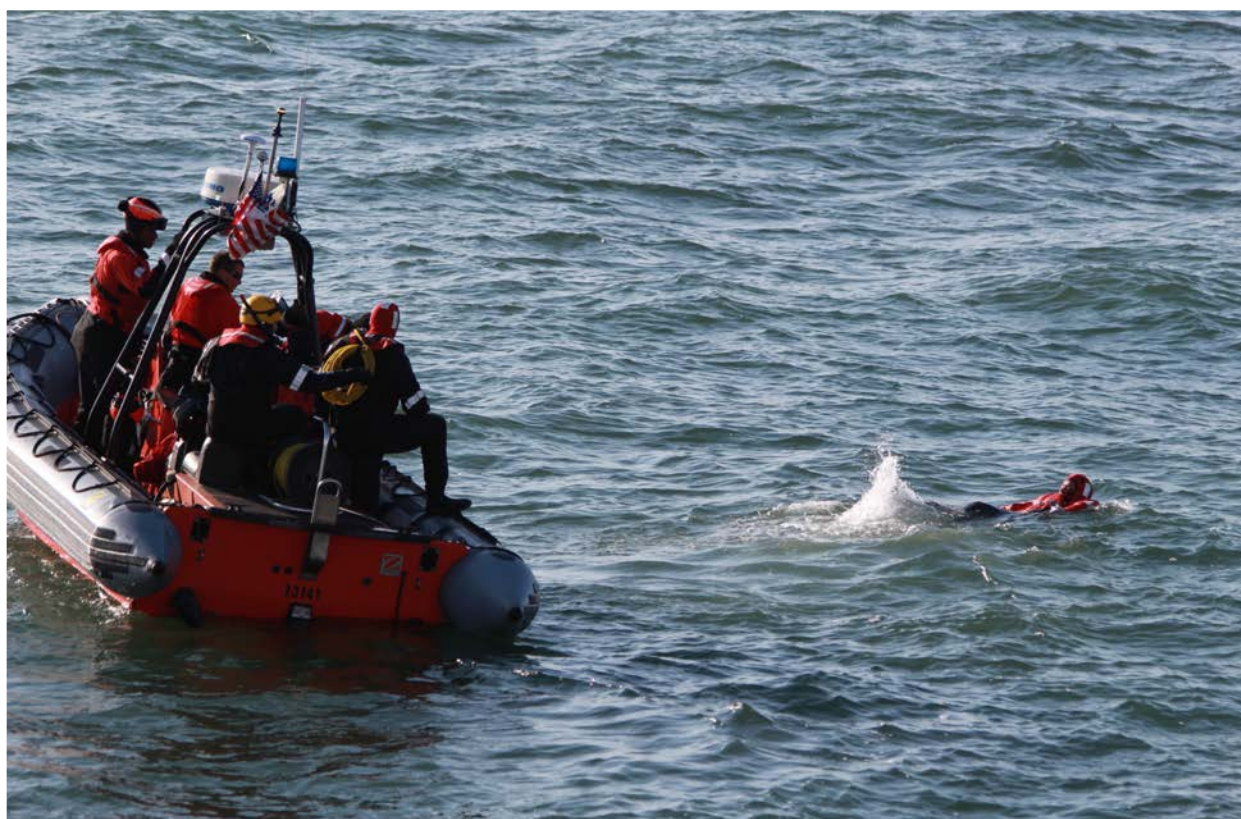


BM3 Wall, MK3 Moorer and SN Brown watch over shipmates swimming in survival suits in the Arctic Ocean from a small boat. In the event of emergency, Cutter Swimmer SN Brown would pull crewmembers from the water while BM3 Wall and MK3 Moorer, the Coxswain and Boat Engineer, would operate the Small Boat.



A glimpse of the silent seas above the Arctic Circle.

Photo By OS3 Kristofferson



Cutter Swimmer Training



CG 6563 Facilitates the arrival of the press.



RADM MIDGETTE VISITS ALEX HALEY



TOP: BMC Bradshaw sounds the Bos'n whistle as Rear Admiral Midgette arrives. LEFT: RADM Midgette visits ALEX HALEY'S engineering department. RIGHT: The Rear Admiral takes time for a photo with select members of Deck Force chosen to welcome him aboard.

RADM Fred Midgette, Deputy Commandant for Operations, visited ALEX HALEY to engage the crew and answer fleet wide questions.



MORE TRAINING!

MK3 Sandrelli using a thermal imager to locate "hot spots" in the smoke.



MKC Harper on a fire team during training.



ENS Cheney and ENS Saylor plot during training.



Cannonball? BM3 Blackwell plunges into the Arctic for survival suit testing.



DC3 Zylawy at the front of a training team.



When underway, ALEX HALEY constantly keeps busy training the crew for damage control and emergency situations. Pictured here are a few of those. Note the fog machine !

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello families and friends of ALEX HALEY! The first leg of our journey past the Arctic Circle has come to an end, and we have already taken in once in a lifetime sights. I can say on a very personal level that this patrol has already been exactly what I envisioned when I received orders to a Coast Guard Cutter out of Alaska.

Our mission in the Arctic is very important for many reasons, but first and foremost it is important due to the increased traffic in the Arctic Ocean. Because the Arctic is suddenly opening so rapidly, many media outlets and businesses are taking interest in how laws and regulations will be enforced, how safe the transit of mariners will be, and how the environment will be protected in the future. While we may still be developing strategies to answer these questions, it can be said that ALEX HALEY and the Coast Guard will make sure that it maintains a presence in the Arctic for the safety of mariners and the environment.

On a personal level, and speaking for my shipmates on ALEX HALEY, I can state that we are all pretty blown away by how beautiful and still the Arctic is. It has been a far cry from the "rough and tumble" of the Bering Sea that "The Bulldog Of The Bering" is used to, and we look forward to the second half of this patrol. Thank you all at home for your support.



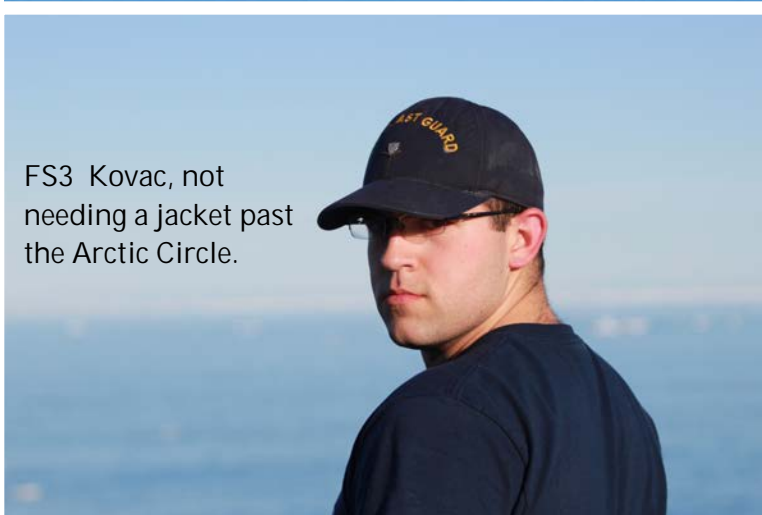
OS3 JESSE T. KRISTOFFERSON

(PHOTO By EM3 Connor McCormack)

Background: Walrus lounge on sea ice. Photo By SK1 Daniel Mitchell



FS3 Kovac, not needing a jacket past the Arctic Circle.

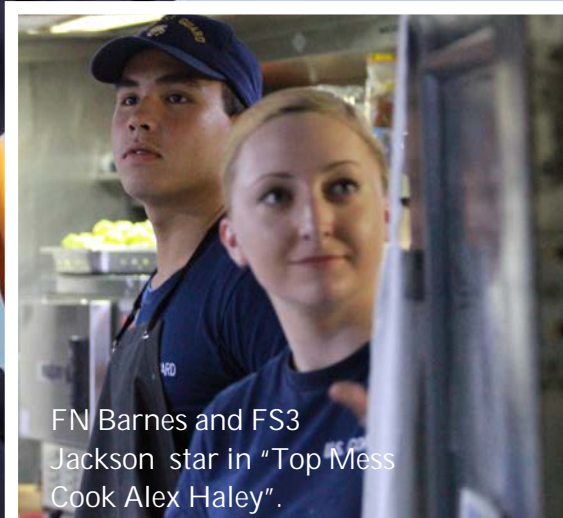


Above: BM2 Rones, FN Rich, SK3 Skidmore smiling on a rare sunny and calm day at sea.

BULLDOG CANDIDS!



FS2 Vernon and BM2 Rones: "I'm Flying!!!"



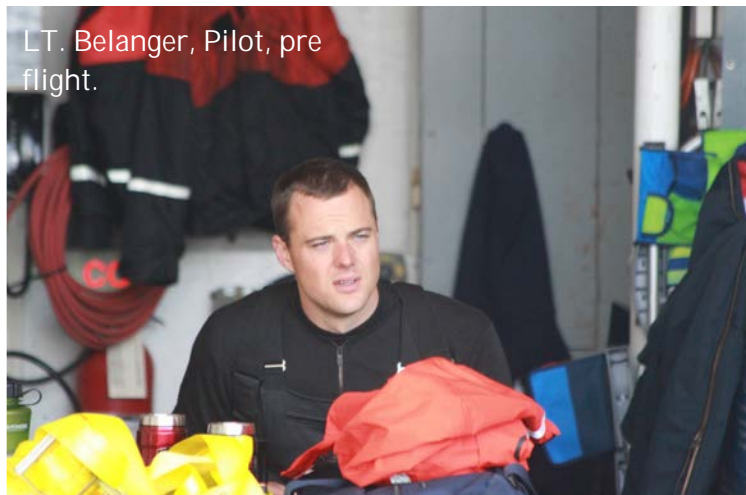
FN Barnes and FS3 Jackson star in "Top Mess Cook Alex Haley".



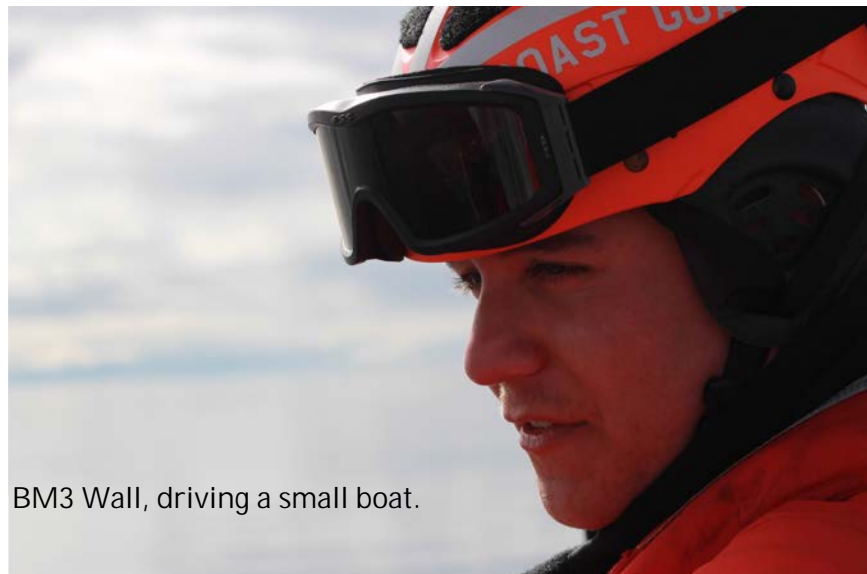
EM2 Fadeley and MK3 Sandrelli in a totally not staged study buddy photo.



OS2 Southwell watches over the OS3s as they load a small boat with radio codes.



LT. Belanger, Pilot, pre flight.



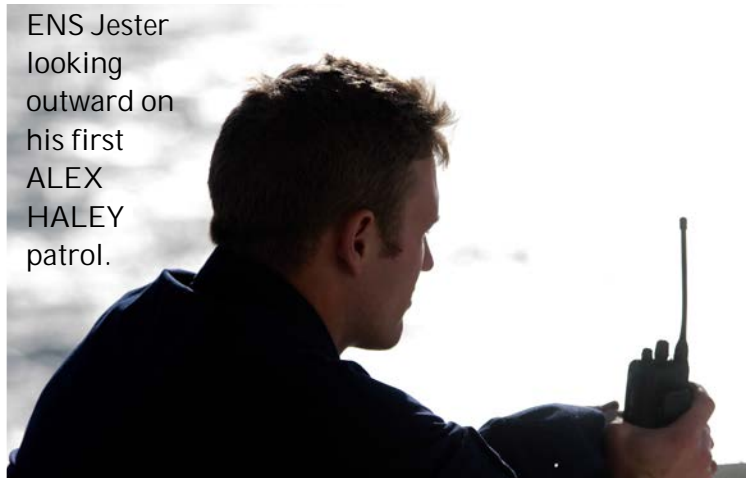
BM3 Wall, driving a small boat.



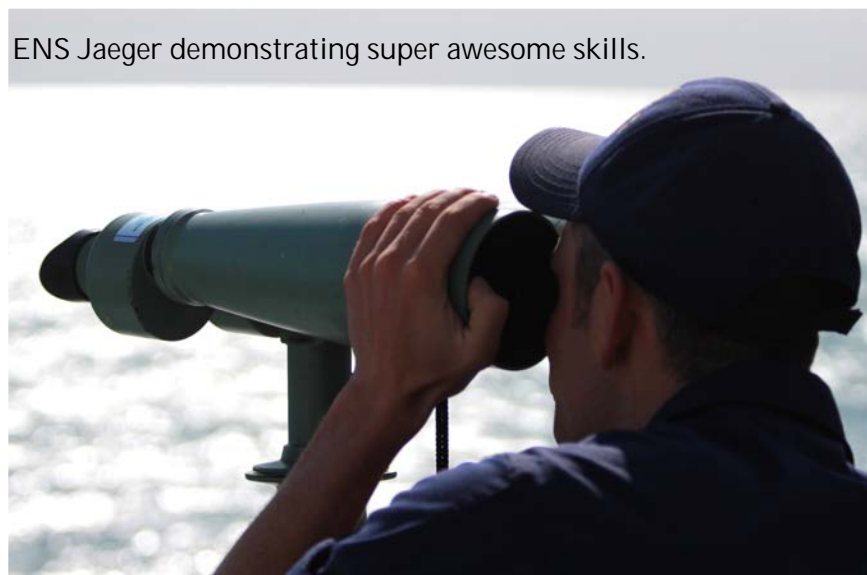
SN Garcia and SN Griggs happy to be on lookout without snow or rain!



BM3 Diaz and MK2 Rivera during a boat brief.



ENS Jester looking outward on his first ALEX HALEY patrol.

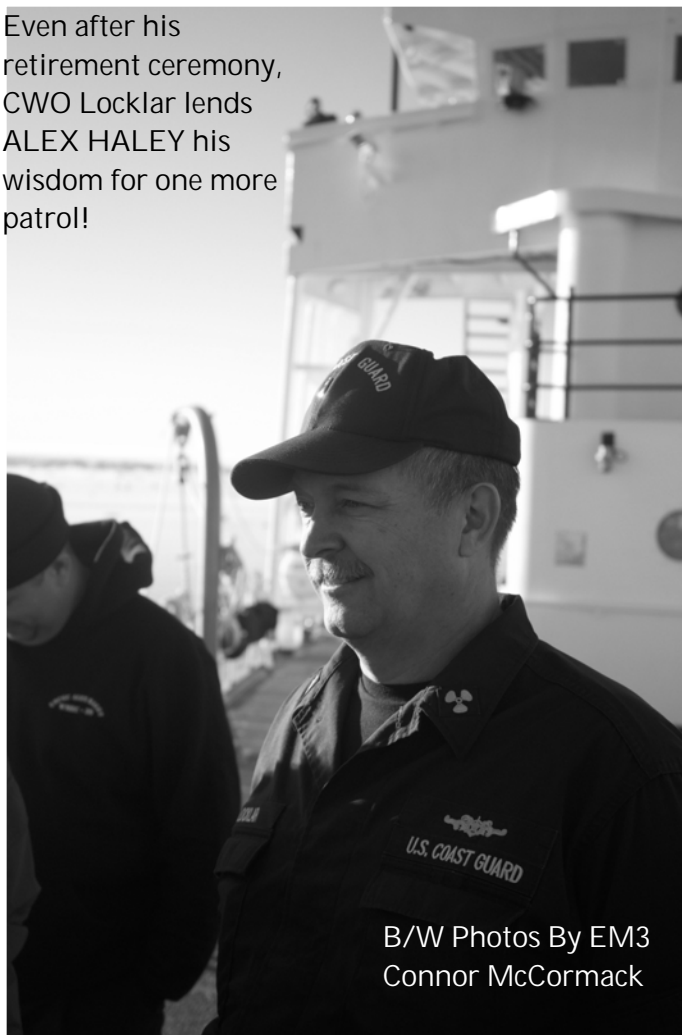


ENS Jaeger demonstrating super awesome skills.



GM3 Godie and YN1 Fomby talking about gloves---?

Even after his retirement ceremony, CWO Locklar lends ALEX HALEY his wisdom for one more patrol!



B/W Photos By EM3 Connor McCormack

FN McKeen, fire team.



MK3 Kline in the heart of the ship.



SN Garcia Medina working "Deck Force Level" hard.



ALEX HALEY receives support from a JAYHAWK.

Photo by OS3 Kristofferson





Stand by for the next
Arctic edition of THE
BULLDOG!

Photo By ENS Andrew Jaeger