

Coast Guard



January
2004

Shield of Freedom



A DEPARTING LEGEND

The CGC SassafRAS, the Coast Guard's last seagoing, 180-foot buoy tender, leaves the Service to begin a new life in the Nigerian navy.

Football victory



Guarding GITMO



Big brother

Heroes

The world's best Coast Guard

BM1 JACOB CARAWAN, MK2 RUSTY SINK, BM2 MICHAEL FREEMAN

Three Coastguardsmen from Coast Guard Station Oak Island, N.C., were honored Sept. 16 for their heroism in pulling an elderly woman from a submerged vehicle and providing lifesaving first aid.

BM1 Jacob Carawan and MK2 Rusty Sink were awarded the Coast Guard Medal, and BM2 Michael Freeman was awarded the Coast Guard Commendation Medal.

Carawan, Freeman and Sink were on a patrol May 10 when they received a call via radio that a car had just driven into the water and had struck a boat moored to the pier.

When the crew arrived at the scene, Carawan and Sink dove into the water to attempt to pull

Lillian McMillan out of the submerged car.

Carawan and Sink used their expandable batons to break the windows of the car and used a knife from a bystander to cut her seatbelt.

Carawan and Sink brought McMillan to the surface and onto the dock. Freeman immediately began cardiopulmonary resuscitation on her because she was not breathing and had no pulse. After a few minutes of CPR, McMillan began to breath and regained consciousness.

Adm. Sally Brice-O'Hara, Fifth District Commander, presided at the ceremony along with Norman Holden, mayor of Southport, N.C.
Lantarea



LANTAREA

Coast Guard

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



January 2004

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www.uscg.mil/magazine



ON THE COVER

Seaman Apprentice Ryan Hope stands by to strike the SassafRAS' ship's bell for the last time at the cutter's decommissioning.
Lt. Jackie Brunette,
14th Dist.



Homeland
Security



UP FRONT



UP FRONT

FLYING ON WATER

Fireman Joshua Fritzingler conducts a Homeland Security patrol in the New York Harbor as a British Airways Concorde makes its way to the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum Nov. 25.

PHOTO BY PA2 MIKE HVOZDA, PADET NEW YORK



UP FRONT

HELP FROM ABOVE

AMT2 Mike Richardson, from Air Station Cape Cod, lowers a basket from a helicopter to the waiting 47-foot rescue boat from Station Merrimack River, Mass., Dec. 4 as part of his re-qualification training required when reporting to the station.

Photo by PA2 Amy Thomas, D1



UP FRONT

SUNNY SIDE UP

A crew from Coast Guard Station Burlington, Vt., patrols Lake Champlain in a 41-foot rescue boat Sept. 11.

PHOTO BY PA3 MIKE HVOZDA, PADET NEW YORK

Secretary Tom Ridge participates in festivities

CG Academy Bears win Secretary's Cup

NEW LONDON, Conn., Nov. 13 — The Coast Guard Academy Bears defeated the Merchant Marine Kings Point football team during the annual Secretary's Cup game here today.

The Bears defeated Kings Point 9-7 during the first home game win for the Bears. The game marked the 31st meeting between the academies as they played for the recently re-named Secretary's Cup.

Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, Secretary

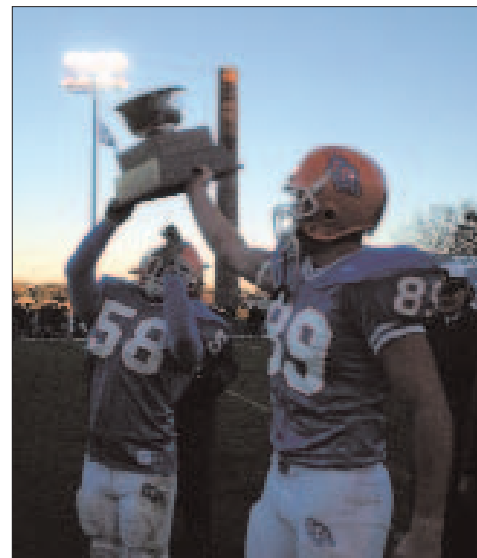
of Transportation Norman Mineta and Coast Guard Commandant Thomas H. Collins were all in attendance to watch the teams battle it out on the field.

During Ridge's visit to the academy he also met with the corps of cadets and academy staff, toured the academy's facilities and served as the reviewing official for a cadet regimental review.

Compiled by G-IPA-1



The CG Academy Bears face off against the Merchant Marine Academy team.



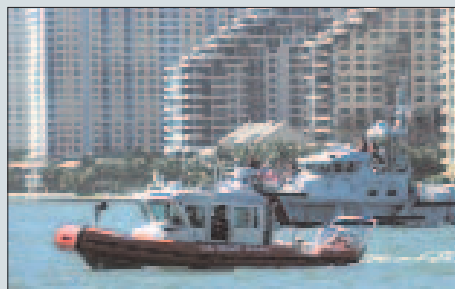
Cadets John Oscar (left) and Kevan Hanson hold the prized Secretary's Cup.

CG helps keep Miami safe

MIAMI, Nov. 15 — The Coast Guard in the 7th District teamed up with other local, state and federal agencies to protect the city of Miami during the Free Trade Area of the Americas summit held at the Intercontinental Hotel here this week.

Protesters from all over the nation exercised their freedom of speech to demonstrate against the summit, which was held to discuss the possibility of free trade among 34 countries in the Western hemisphere.

More than 40 agencies teamed up to prevent riots and disruption to the meeting.



A 7th Dist. smallboat patrols the Port of Miami to safeguard a summit held here.

The waters around Miami were closely guarded by a flotilla of joint-agency waterside assets.

Security zones were established around the Port of Miami. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team 91108 from St. Mary's, Ga., provided support to the unified command during the summit, and Station Miami Beach provided boats

and law enforcement crews around the clock. In addition, dozens of FWCC, ICE and Coast Guard helicopters patrolled the skies.

The 225-foot CGC Oak, homeported in Charleston, S.C., was designated as the Maritime Operations Center.

Throughout the week, more than 230 FTAA-related arrests were made by Miami PD and the County PD. Charges for the arrests included felonies and misdemeanors.

The summit closed successfully one day early. Miami's waterfront remained quiet. A working relationship among 40 law enforcement agencies progressed as a significant step into the future of homeland security.

Story and photos by PA3 Sandra Bartlett, 7th Dist.

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Vice Commandant

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Letters to the editor: Please limit remarks to 150 words or less. No names will be withheld. Provide rank, first and last name, phone number and unit. Letters may be condensed because of space. Not all letters will be published.

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USCG signs MOI with Peruvian coast guard



LETICIA H. BROWN, SR., G-IPA-1

Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Thomas H. Collins signs a memorandum of intent regarding maritime cooperation with Peruvian coast guard Director General Juan Sierralta Fait.

Washington D.C., Oct. 23 — Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Thomas H. Collins and Director General of the Peruvian coast guard Juan Sierralta Fait signed a Memorandum of Intent on Maritime Cooperation at Coast Guard Headquarters here today.

The MOI finalizes an agreement between the two nations to promote cooperation on maritime safety, security and environmental initiatives.

Both countries recognize the advantages of international cooperation and intend to work together to promote that cooperative spirit to combat multinational worldwide threats in the maritime environment. The

agreement provides a venue for discussions between both nations on international cooperative search and rescue.

A Coast Guard International Training Division team recently was deployed to the Peruvian Riverine Training Center in Iquitos. The ITD is training the Peruvians in engineering, small boat handling and law enforcement.

In addition, a Coast Guard representative, Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Zamary, is attached to the Narcotics Affairs Section of U.S. Embassy Lima.

Story by Clare A. Wilson, G-CI

WEBHOT!



<http://www.uscg.mil/d11/airstationsf/index.htm>

Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco's Web site is one of the latest and greatest in the Coast Guard. This newly renovated site combines eye-catching graphics with pages that download in seconds.

This comprehensive site gives its customers access to PCS and transient crew



information, as well as a place where customers can shop for station merchandise. There are links to public affairs and points of contact.

For the history and aviation buffs, the history link allows browsers to take a blast into the past as they surf through antique pictures showing the aircraft used by the Air Station since 1941.

So, whether you're just cruising the net or preparing to transfer to Air Station San Francisco, this is the site for you!

Think your Web site is unique?

E-mail the URL to jzettles@comdt.uscg.mil

True Colors

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J., NOV. 23 — The Coast Guard flags fly on the field and on the giant screen before the start of the New York Jets vs. the Jacksonville Jaguars Military Appreciation Game at Giants Stadium here today.

Photo by PA1 Tom Spurduto



Around the world, around the clock

The CGC Polar Sea departed from Pier 36 in Seattle Nov. 17 for Antarctica. The Polar Sea is taking part in Operation Deep Freeze 2004, an annual mission in escorting resupply vessels to McMurdo Station, Antarctica. Polar Sea's crew will assist National Science Foundation scientists in oceanographic research while in the region. The Polar Sea will operate jointly with the CGC Polar Star, already in Antarctica.

Congressman Paul Ryan presented Coast Guard Station Kenosha with unit and individual awards for Law Enforcement excellence at a formal ceremony at Kenosha, Wis., Dec. 4. In support of Coast Guard Group Milwaukee's law enforcement initiative, Operation Last Call, Station Kenosha conducted 329 law enforcement boardings and issued 13 Boating Under the Influence citations this past summer.

The crew of the CGC Escanaba, a 270-foot medium endurance cutter homeported in Boston, rescued 361 Haitian migrants Dec. 6, approximately three nautical miles off the coast of Great Inagua, Bahamas. The migrants were repatriated to Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, Dec. 9.



The CGC Steadfast, homeported Astoria, Ore., offloaded 31 bales of cocaine weighing 1,600 pounds and turned it over to U.S. Customs in San Diego Nov. 4.

The Coast Guard in the 8th District, local police and good Samaritans coordinated efforts to rescue two men who fell into the water in the vicinity of Bayou Chauvin, about 50 miles southwest of New Orleans Dec. 11. Search and rescue coordinators with the Coast Guard and a rescue aircrew from Air Station New Orleans helped Terrebonne Parish sheriffs and good Samaritans find the two men near a frequented duck blind.

FY'04
By the numbers
compiled Dec. 15

- LIVES SAVED: 956
- SAR cases: 7,902
- Marijuana: 6,304 pounds
- Cocaine: 25,904 pounds
- Migrants: 744

Source: G-IPA-2

CG Air Stations help rid area of drugs

MICHIGAN, Dec. 1 — Coast Guard Air Station Detroit and Air Station Traverse City, Mich., continue to aid in hemp eradication efforts for Michigan.

The Coast Guard joined the effort in 1998 when Col. Dennis Hull of the Michigan Army National Guard and Capt. Robert Birdie of the Michigan State Police formed the multi-agency Michigan Aviation Cooperative. The joint effort involves the Michigan State Police Aviation Team, Michigan National Guard, Drug Enforcement Administration, Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Coast Guard.

This year, Air Station Traverse City spotted 504 plants, and Air Station Detroit spotted 62, with an estimated value of \$1,000 per plant.

Under the Help Eliminate Marijuana Planting Program, air crewmembers receive thermal imaging training and work with a trained observer from the Michigan State Police Aviation Section.

“Various narcotics units around the state depend upon “spotting” from the aircraft to warrant their entry on private property,” said Lt.j.g. Paul LaRoche, law enforcement officer for Air Station Detroit.

Once a field is spotted, state and local law enforcement agencies are notified. The agency then obtains a court-ordered warrant, which allows them to enter the property, seize the marijuana and prosecute the responsible party, when applicable.

While other states have joint operations, Michigan is the only state that has a year round cooperative to keep all agencies up to date with missions and information, said Michigan National Guard Sergeant 1st Class Michael Morgan, aviation operations sergeant and MAC coordinator.

“The joint effort has been effective. The number of fields being spotted has decreased over the years,” said Morgan.

“While some of the decline is due to hot and dry summers or late frost and cold springs, there are still many growers who have been prosecuted and are either in jail or have gotten out of the business,” said Morgan.

“It gives you a real sense of mission accomplishment,” said Lt.j.g. Winston Wood, air crewman,

Traverse City. “You find it; you bust it; you keep drugs from getting out onto the streets. It’s a good feeling.”

The success of the MAC goes beyond finding marijuana fields, though.

“It works well both long and short term,” Ensign Wade Hedinger, law enforcement officer, Traverse City, said. “Short term, we team up to provide each other with assets to complete the mission. Long term, any opportunity we have to work with other agencies increase our efficiency on future missions through familiarity.”

This familiarity with the other agencies has

already aided the Coast Guard in other missions.

“For example, the Michigan State Police participated in our Integrated Border Enforcement Team Operations this year for the first time with Operation Channel Watch. Had there not been a MAC or HEMP program, these contacts would not have been made and IBET operations would be fewer in assets,” said LaRoche.

Flight hours for 2004 have been set and both air stations plan to continue providing aircraft assistance in the ongoing effort.

Story by PA3 Cindy Marshall, 9th Dist.



AMT2 TONY WARNOCK, AIR STATION TRAVERSE CITY, MICH.

Left: A hemp field located on a small island just off the Garden Peninsula, southeast of Escanaba, Mich. Below: (From left) Cmdr. Bruce Jones, Cmdr. Randall Shick, Lt. Marshall Branch and AMT2 Tony Warnock, from Air Station Traverse City, pose with hemp plants they help eradicate.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 9TH DIST.

JUST ANOTHER DAY AT 'THE OFFICE'

ANT Miami Beach services Fowey Rocks Lighthouse

Miami, Oct. 21 — Aids to Navigation Team Miami Beach per-



Fowey Rocks Lighthouse at Biscayne National Park.

formed its yearly service on Fowey Rocks Lighthouse at Biscayne National Park today.

The steel and white structure, familiar to Florida mariners, has an exterior forever marked by the wind and surf.

Fowey Rocks Lighthouse has been in operation since 1878, obtaining its name from the British warship HMS Fowey, which wrecked on the reef

in 1748. The team has been caring for the 110-foot structure since 1976, providing routine maintenance by replacing lamps that have burned out, checking the charge level on the batteries, cleaning the solar panels and making sure that overall, the structure is in working order.

This seemingly tedious mission has a rich history dating back about 200 years. Lighthouses provide safe passage for mariners. And, ATON teams provide the dedicated link between those mariners and their safe arrival at a destination.

Their work results in safer waterways.

"The best part of the job is, at the end of the day, looking back at the



Seaman Apprentice William Mason tests the lighthouse's batteries.

ATON we just serviced and knowing you have given your best," said Chief Eddie Lawrence, officer-in-charge at ANT Miami Beach.

Story and photos by PA3 Carleen Drummond, 7th Dist.



Orange Alert

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 23 — BM2 Brent Desirey from Cape Cod, Mass., patrols Logan Airport, located in Boston harbor. With the increase of the homeland security alert level to orange (high), the Coast Guard has stepped up patrols using small boats, cutters and aircraft.

Photo by PA3 Andrew Shinn, 1st Dist.

CG team holds MIO seminar for Unitas sailors

PUERTO BELGRANO, Argentina, Oct. 10 — The Coast Guard's International Training Division held training here to teach boarding techniques to sailors from six different nations.

When naval or coast guard personnel conducting maritime interdiction operations climb up the side of a suspicious vessel, they enter an unknown terrain with hard-to-access voids, narrow passageways and unpredictable dangers.

Despite their risks, boarding operations are in increasing demand as a mean to ensure the security of nations and to protect their citizens against sea-borne threats like arms smuggling, drug trafficking and terrorism.

"The seminar consists of interview and tactical procedures that will provide the greatest amount of protection for the boarding team, allowing them to move quickly and safely through a vessel," said Lt. Steve Magaro.

In total, more than 120 personnel from Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and the United States participated in the training seminar, not only learning the techniques presented by the U.S. Coast Guard instructors but also introducing some of their own. A Peruvian special operations unit demonstrated techniques to enter and gain control of spaces, while all those present learned different facets of boarding operations.

"This training familiarized us with techniques used to board merchant ships when enforcing sanctions,

which is a new thing for us since we normally board fishing vessel violating fishing regulations " said First Corporal Marcelo Ortiz, an operations specialist aboard the Argentine corvette ARA Rosales.

For the sailors of U.S. guided missile frigate USS Robert G. Bradley, the training helped them prepare to better support the U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement detachments that embark on their ship during counter-drug deployments.

"Here [at the seminar], we learn from different navies and get to observe different procedures," said BM3 Darkemn Camnu, from Robert G. Bradley's deck division. "We can apply these techniques when we're assisting interdictions of suspected drug-smuggling vessels."

Headquartered in Yorktown, Va., the Coast Guard International Training Division has actively participated in Unitas since 1981. A team of ITD instructors deploy for each phase of Unitas to facilitate training in a variety of areas including firefighting, search and rescue and environmental responses.

"This type of training can have a force-multiplying effect," said Lt. Cmdr. Bob Iddins, ITD's division chief. "It gives the basic background on law enforcement procedures plus incorporates a safety focus, that can help save lives, empowering each nation to assume a greater role in patrolling and protecting the waters around the Americas."

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command



BMC Keith Endicott demonstrates and practices search and seizure techniques with members of the Peruvian navy.

THREE CHEERS FOR *Sassafras*

The last seagoing 180-foot buoy tender leaves the Coast Guard to begin a new life in the Nigerian navy

Story and photos by Lt. Jackie Brunette, 14th Dist. Public Affairs

Nearly 60 years old and a survivor of World War II, it waited patiently in the early morning sunlight of Apra Harbor, Guam, in anticipation of the day's events. The American flag flew proudly from the stern as the crew embarked the cutter for one last time. October 31 marked the end of an era as CGC *Sassafras*, the Coast Guard's last

seagoing 180-foot buoy tender, was decommissioned and transferred to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to continue her proud naval history as the Nigerian naval ship *Obula*.

The *Sassafras* was built in 1940 by the Marine Iron and Shipbuilding Company in Duluth, Minn., and commissioned May 23, 1944. It was immediately sent into action in World War II and deployed to the Philippines. Following the war, the *Sassafras* returned to traditional Coast Guard missions including aids to navigation, search and rescue, law enforcement and homeland security. Throughout the years, the *Sassafras* has been homeported in San Francisco, Cape May, N. J., Governor's Island, N. Y., twice in Honolulu, and in Apra Harbor, Guam.

"Today the *Sassafras* joins the ranks of cutters such as *Bear*, *Campbell* and *Tamaroa*, search and rescue units such as *Pea Island*, and a host of other legendary Coast Guard units," said Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Meilstrup, *Sassafras*' commanding officer. "Her time is past, but this day is still a time for celebration."

The *Sassafras*' legacy includes scores of challenging rescues from the cold waters of the North Atlantic to the warm waters of the South Pacific, within the Coast Guard Marianas Section's 1.9 million-square-mile search and rescue area of responsibility. The *Sassafras* serviced thousands of aids to navigation over the past 60 years, was responsible for the interdiction of over 700 undocumented migrants over a four-month period in 1998 and has filled a critical role in the security of Guam and Micronesia.

"The ship's storied history does not end today," said Rear Adm. Charles Wurster, commander of the 14th District. "May the Nigerian naval ship *Obula* serve your country as well as *Sassafras* has served ours."

The cutter was a welcomed friend to the remote island nations of the region, often delivering books, water and medical supplies in support of Operation Handclasp. It filled a critical role in Guam following the recent devastation of Typhoon Chata'an and Super Typhoon Pongsona. The *Sassafras*' past even includes a visit from Tom Selleck for the filming of an episode of "Magnum P.I."

"Today is a bittersweet day," said Capt. Johnson Olutoyin, commanding officer of NNS *Obula*. "There must be a feeling of sadness in the hearts of the *Sassafras* crew and the people of Guam, Commonwealth



SIGNING OVER Rear Adm. Charles Wurster and Nigerian navy Capt. Johnson Olutoyin sign the official transfer certificate.



NEW COLORS Above: The Nigerian flag flies proudly over the newly-commissioned NNS Obula.

HIP, HIP HOORAY! Left: The new crew salutes the United States and Nigerian governments and the NNS Obula.

of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia that your dear old Sassafras has ceased to be.”

“On the other hand, there is a feeling of excitement in the hearts of the Nigerian crew for that another vessel has been added to the fleet of the Nigerian navy,” said Olutoyin. “I assure the U. S. Coast Guard crew and the people of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia that NNS Obula will continue to be a ship you will have pride in.”

Even the sudden rain during the

ceremony couldn’t dampen the excitement and anticipation of the Nigerian crew.

Following Olutoyin’s remarks, the Nigerian crew took off their hats to the United States and Nigerian governments, and the NNS Obula with three enthusiastic rounds of “Hip, Hip Hooray!”


“On behalf of the Sassafras crew, we thank you for your friendship, patience and camaraderie,” said Meilstrup. “We look forward to our invitation to Obula’s decommissioning in 60 years!”

Following the ceremony, the Nigerian crew was out in full force

with cameras and video recorders to document the events of the day and to get photos with Wurster and members of the decommissioning crew.

CGC Sequoia, a 225-foot buoy tender launched August 23, will replace Sassafras sometime next year.

Most Sassafras crewmembers will be transferred to the Sequoia for training and the three-month transit back to Guam.

Once in Nigeria, NNS Obula’s primary responsibilities will include combating illegal oil trade, and search and rescue. 

Getting pinned

Story and photos by Sgt. Jolene Staker, USA,
Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay



COAST GUARDING

Members of the Pacific Area Port
Security Unit Detachment.

ed at GITMO



Racing across the water at high speeds in a boat may be only a recreational activity for some, but for the Coast Guard unit responsible for providing 24/7 waterborne anti-terrorism and force protection for the Joint Task Force and Naval base operations in Guantanamo Bay, this is an important part of their tactical training.

The Pacific Area Port Security Unit Detachment is an ad hoc unit the Pacific Area of the Coast Guard put together specifically for this mission. Of those people assigned to the unit, one storekeeper stayed back in Alameda, Calif. They had from four to 14 days notice of their assignment. They staged in San Diego where most of them met for the first time.

The detachment members will soon complete their Guantanamo mission, and one of their many accomplishments is that about 50 percent of them have earned their PSU Qualification Pin while here.

"The PSU Qualification is a unique and challenging opportunity for the PACAREA PSU members. Only 1 percent of the United States Coast Guard has the ability to achieve this award," said Lt. Cmdr. Jim Andrews, PSU commanding officer.

The pin is earned by only a small number of Coast Guard members and is primarily a Coast Guard Reserve decoration. A member not only has to be assigned to one of the six PSU units in the Coast Guard, but must also deploy overseas with that unit. He or she must also complete a comprehensive task list known as the personnel qualification standard.

"A member is given the book and assigned an instructor, but the student has to seek out those training opportunities and be persistent in getting those tasks signed off," said Lt. Richard Evans, PSU executive officer. "This has to be done on the job. It was voluntary and required a

lot of off-duty time."

A few of the topics on the checklist include safety, security, supply, communications, first aid, engineering and electronics support. It involves a lot of memorization as well as practical exercises. Members rotate through all crew positions. Some went as high as tactical action officer, a position responsible for observing and coordinating PSU missions. The process normally takes from three to six months to complete.

Earning the PSU pin is a particularly unique opportunity for those who come from non-PSU units. BM3 Lisa Griffith came from a ready boat unit and would like to work with search and rescue in the future.

"This is the only opportunity I would have to earn this. Volunteering for this mission gave me the chance," she said.

The four active duty Coast Guard members assigned to this mission also were given a rare opportunity to earn this pin. All four chose to seize the opportunity.

"This is extremely unique for the active duty members, I don't know of any other active duty members that have earned it because all the port security units are reserve," said Evans. "They'll go back to their units and some of their colleagues and shipmates may be seeing the pin for the first time."

Earning this award gives the members a sense of pride and accomplishment. "It's a great honor to receive this award," said EM2 Kris Goland. "It takes a lot of work, determination and motivation to complete."

MSTCM Bill Orton, PSU operations officer, who also earned the PSU pin, said, "Our crews are highly motivated and focused and are extremely precise in the performance of their duties."

Unit members may have provided the motivation and com-

mitment, but the knowledge and experience brought by Andrews and others are what made earning the PSU pin possible.

"He [Andrews] is one of the most experienced port security officers in the Coast Guard," said Evans. "That is why he was chosen for this mission."

The mobile training team out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. also played an important role with a rigorous two-week program that they brought to Guantanamo.

"Our members knew how to drive boats, run boats and all their seamanship; but they didn't have the tactical boat maneuvering and the gunnery," said Evans. "That is what we picked up here at Guantanamo."

Tactical boat maneuvering requires being stealthy, keeping a low profile and responding with high maneuverability anywhere in your operating range, according to Evans. Learning to avoid detection, how to come in under the radar and working without radar are also important.

"Training in tactical boat operation is one of the ongoing tasks that are performed daily by our members," said Orton. "This skill is the foundation for all of the other elements that the mission demands."

Another unique part of earning the pin is that members become ground qualified, which means they can augment with any unit to provide defensive fighting positions. Some of the tasks that cover these skills include: preparing range cards, planning squad-sized security patrols, moving squad and fire teams, reacting to enemy fire and many more.

"It was a unique career opportunity," Evans said about personally earning the PSU pin. 🇺🇸

PROUD MOMENT

Lt. Cmdr. Jim Andrews awards BM3 Lisa Griffith her PSU pin.







A LITTLE HELP FROM FLIPPER

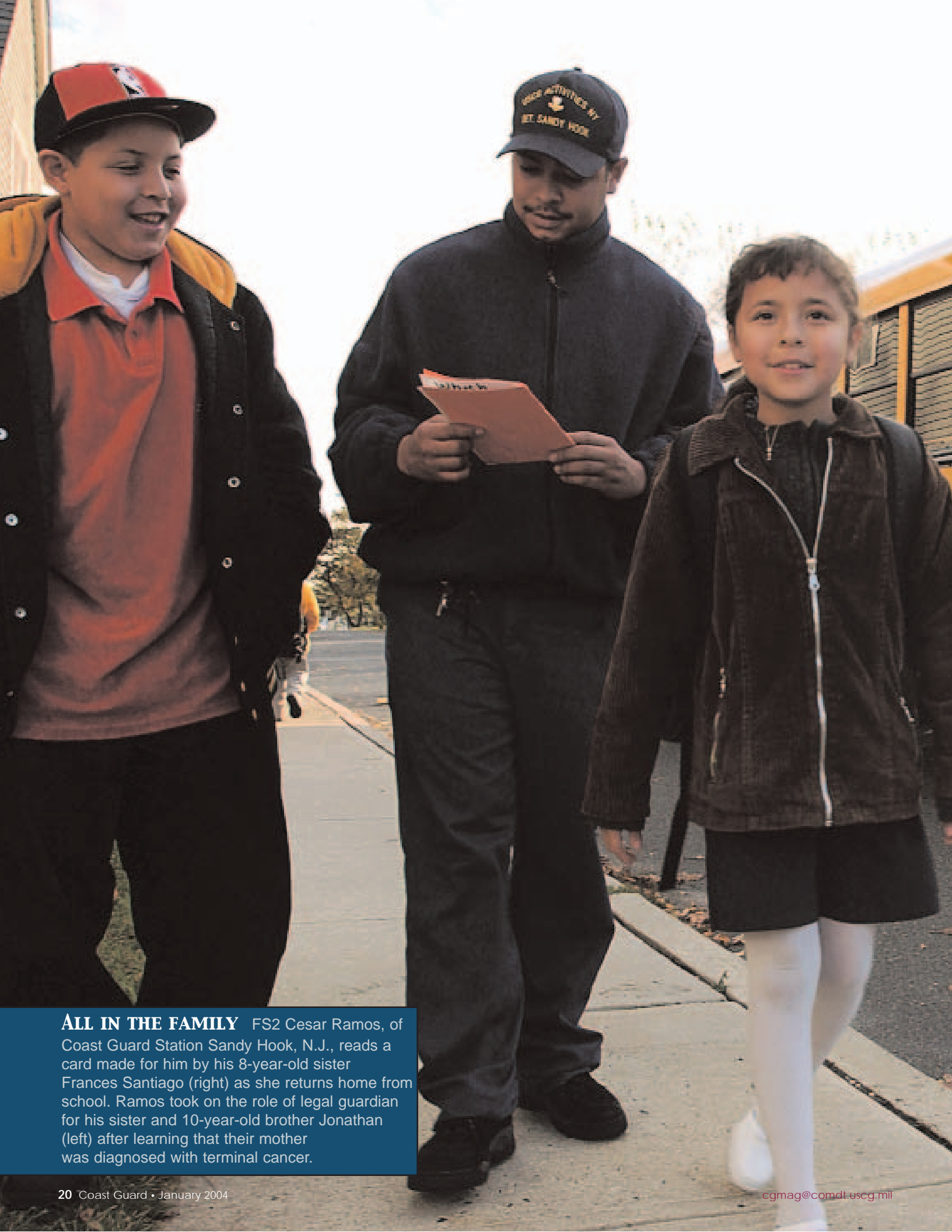
The CGC Resolute gets a little help from friends while patrolling the waters off Guantanamo, Cuba.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo

The Joint Task Force Guantanamo mission is to detain enemy combatants and develop operational and strategic intelligence to help the United States and its allies win the ongoing Global War on Terrorism. To find out more about our mission and troops, visit our website at www.nsgtmo.navy.mil/JTFgtmo/index.html.

Pacific Area Port Security Detachment

The Pacific Area Port Security Detachment was formed in San Diego in May. Its crew includes both regular and reserve members selected from coastal search and rescue stations, cutters and other shore units from the entire Pacific Area, including Guam and Hawaii. Unit members were selected for their expertise in seamanship, small boat operations and gunnery. During their six-month deployment at Guantanamo Bay, the PACAREA PSU DET stood up a 24-hour tactical port control radio and observation watch, responsible for monitoring vessels engaged in harbor defense. The PSU provided a direct communications link between the Joint Operations Center Battle Captain and on scene assets. PSU Viper boat crews logged over 4,360 underway hours, providing a 24-by-7 patrol coverage of the waterside approaches to Guantanamo Bay and completed 160 U.S. and 61 Cuban vessel escorts.



ALL IN THE FAMILY FS2 Cesar Ramos, of Coast Guard Station Sandy Hook, N.J., reads a card made for him by his 8-year-old sister Frances Santiago (right) as she returns home from school. Ramos took on the role of legal guardian for his sister and 10-year-old brother Jonathan (left) after learning that their mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer.



A DIFFERENT KIND OF RESCUE

FS2 Cesar Ramos pursued an opportunity for a better life and joined the Coast Guard. Now he's offering that life to his 10-year-old brother and 8-year-old sister by rescuing them from a life he knew all too well.

Story and photos by PA1 Tom Sperduto, PADET New York

Drug dealers on the corner, rats in the apartment and a cousin murdered with a bullet to the head in the “candy store” next to his home are vivid childhood memories for 24-year-old Cesar Ramos, a food specialist second class, assigned to Coast Guard Station Sandy Hook, N.J.

Ramos was fortunate to say goodbye to the streets of Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn when he departed for Coast Guard basic training in August of 2000. The Coast Guard was his opportunity for a better life, and in June of 2003, he offered that life to his 10-year-old brother Jonathan and his 8-year-old sister Frances by becoming their legal guardian and rescuing them from a life he knew all too well.

“Me having nothing when I was growing up makes me want them to have what I didn’t have,” said Ramos, while basting barbecue chicken for the noon meal at Station Sandy Hook. “Technically, I have been on my own since 12,” he said. “That’s when I started house hopping.”

Ramos would find a safe place to sleep and then make plans on where to go next.

“I stayed in different places, wherever I could do my homework, rest and take a shower. But I always ate at my aunt’s house,” said Ramos.

He stayed with his aunt on occasion, but with three children already living in the small apartment, he didn’t want to be a burden.

Life was hard for Ramos, and he remembers the embarrassment he felt due to his hardships.

“I would wear a pair of jeans for two or three days and then try to borrow clothes from my friends,” he said. “I was embarrassed to go to my friend’s house because if I had to take my shoes off, my socks weren’t smelling too good... I didn’t have a lot.”

Without many options following high school gradua-

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *Below:* FS2 Ramos, his sister Frances and his brother Jonathan enjoy dinner together in their Sandy Hook, N.J., home.

FAMILY TIME *Right:* Ramos and neighbor Jennifer Moran, whose husband is deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, carve pumpkins while Frances looks on.



tion, Ramos remembered the words his grandfather spoke to him for years before he passed away: "Join the Coast Guard, that's a good place for you to be." According to Ramos, it was this advice that became one of the best decisions he ever made.

After graduation from Coast Guard basic training, Ramos began his career aboard the CGC Munro, a 378-foot high-endurance cutter homeported in Alameda, Calif.

While assigned there, he experienced a life full of new opportunities. His first taste of his chosen career path came while mess cooking. After much grappling with the decision of what to pursue, and almost a year underway, Ramos set his sights on becoming a food specialist.

Ramos remembers the advice given to him by the FS1 assigned to the Munro. He told me, "Make sure you want to do this job because this is a stressful job. It's hard in the beginning, but every job is hard in the beginning."

His decision was made, and he went to school a month later.

Ramos's first assignment following school was a challenging one. Growing up in Brooklyn was difficult, but he felt accepted there. Life in Sheboygan, Mich., was another matter.

Though Ramos enjoyed his new shipmates and assignment on the CGC Mackinaw, he did not feel accepted by his new community, and he constantly worried about his siblings back in Brooklyn. His close friends remember how difficult it was for Ramos to adjust.

"All he ever talked about was his brother and sister. He spoke of his mother and her situation and how he needed to get the kids away from that environment," said Lizbeth Winslow, close friend and wife of MST3 David Winslow, Ramos' best friend stationed with him on the Mackinaw.

To make matters worse, being Puerto Rican in Sheboygan, according to Ramos, was like stepping back in time before the civil rights movement.

"It was tough being a minority there," he said. "I'd walk into the Wal-Mart and everyone would look at you like you were going to rob something."

Near a restaurant close to his apartment, Ramos remembers his first encounter with racism in the Michigan town. "I was called a 'wet burrito,'" he said with the same shock as if it happened yesterday. Even more appalling, the ethnic slur came from the restaurant owner.



RULES OF THE HOUSE *Left:* Eight-year-old Frances Santiago explains the rules of the house Oct. 29. Ramos took on the role of legal guardian for his sister and 10-year-old brother Jonathan after learning that their mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

HAIRY SITUATION *Above:* Ramos brushes the hair of his sister Frances in their home in Sandy Hook, N.J.

It was not long after the incident that Ramos had an altercation with his neighbor who lived in the apartment above him. Loud music all night prompted his visiting cousin to ask the neighbor to lower the volume. The request quickly escalated, and Ramos ran upstairs to intervene. He tried to calm the situation, but he was called a derogatory name and punched in the face.

A few days later, Ramos requested a transfer. He'd had enough of Sheboygan.

Ramos was re-assigned to Station Sandy Hook, N.J., soon after the incident. Brooklyn is about an hour and half away, and this closeness allowed Ramos to re-unite with his brother and sister.

"They were living with mom, who is dying of cancer,"

said Ramos. "They were sharing a room in a railroad apartment, and the conditions weren't very good."

The two children had a bunk bed in the small flat. It was not uncommon to see rats and roaches scamper across the floor, said Ramos. Not much had changed since his childhood, but they had a place to sleep.

With his mother's blessing, Ramos began the custody process, and on June 26, his little brother and sister left Brooklyn and moved into the three-bedroom town house the Coast Guard provided on Sandy Hook.

Though it's difficult to be apart from her youngest children, their mother is pleased they have found a home with her oldest son. She battled an addiction to cocaine for most of his childhood and lived next door to what appeared to be a local candy store but was actually a crack house.

"I want to give them a better life," Ramos said. "My mother is happy. She doesn't have to worry... anymore."

The adjustment from life in Brooklyn to the quite friendly streets at Coast Guard housing in Sandy Hook is a big adjustment for both of the children. For Ramos, the change is life altering. The freedoms he had as a 24-year-old bachelor are gone, and life now revolves around raising his siblings.

"Everyday is a different challenge," said Ramos, who admits he now has about one hour and fifteen minutes a day of private time. "I am always with them, unless I am working."

When asked what has been the most difficult challenge so far, his answer may be surprising to some, considering what it takes to be a single parent or guardian raising two young children. "Frances likes her hair brushed a certain way," he said. "I don't want to let her down."

Jonathan, who hopes to be an architect one day, misses his family in Brooklyn, but he feels the move was for the best.

"My mother is sick, and she didn't want us to see her die," he said during a break from his homework. "He [Ramos] took us here because things are bad — people fighting and guns and stuff — he took us here because he wants us to be safe."

The family is settling into a routine, and Ramos is adapting into his new role as guardian while still being a big brother.

"When I used to visit them [in Brooklyn], we would wrestle, laugh — I'd give them 20 bucks and be on my way," said Ramos. "Now things are different, but we still find time to wrestle."

Ramos makes sure to still be a big brother, but it is understood by both children that he is responsible for them, and both are accountable for household chores.

"We have rules of the house," said Frances while lying on her bed in her spacious room petting her dog Princess — a gift from Ramos to make her more comfortable in her new home. Tasks include walking the dog each day, cleaning their bedrooms before bedtime, and ensuring the bathroom is kept clean. In addition, both children must be showered by 8:30 p.m., and each must respect the other's space.

"We are a team," said Frances. "We have to take care of each other."

Though Ramos runs a tight ship, the children are learning to grow in their new environment. Ramos is learning to adapt also while juggling his home life and responsibilities at work.

With much more on his plate than the average 24-year-old, he is not alone when it comes to raising the children. Coast Guard families at Sandy Hook have helped out in every way — from dropping the kids off at school, cooking a meal, babysitting and even giving them part-time jobs walking dogs in the neighborhood. The children are dropped off at Carla Sandifer's house at 6:30 a.m. on school days. She cooks the children breakfast and makes sure they get to school. Sandifer is the spouse of FSC Marcus Sandifer, Ramos' supervisor.

"He's taken on a lot of responsibility, and he is handling it well," said Sandifer. "He doesn't get special treatment, but we have a good team here, if the kids need to go to the doctor or something, someone will cover for



WORKING IT Ramos helps his 10-year-old brother Jonathan with his homework Oct. 29. Ramos became Jonathan's legal guardian when their mother was diagnosed with cancer.



him.”

Ramos has received so much support from his shipmates and neighbors it has been overwhelming.

“I consider them my family,” said Ramos describing the relationship he has with his Coast Guard neighbors. “They love the kids and always ask about them.”

Jennifer Moran, who lives across the street, often spends time with the family and helps out whenever she can. Her husband, FS2 Eugene Moran, is deployed aboard the CGC Adak, a 110-foot patrol boat homeported in Sandy Hook, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“I think it's absolutely amazing,” she said when asked how she feels about Ramos taking custody of his siblings. “You don't see too many men taking care of their own responsibilities, to see him take on this responsibility... I have a lot of respect for him for doing it.”

Ramos feels the Coast Guard has given him more opportunity than he could ever imagine and plans on making the Service a 30-year career in return for all its done for him.

“I feel really appreciative,” he said. “If I was in the civilian world, there would just be no way... especially this beautiful apartment with a garage. Plus, I get

DOGGING IT Frances and her brother Jonathan spend time with their dog Princess outside their Sandy Hook, N.J., home.

medical benefits for the kids.”


Growing up like Ramos did, sometimes the little things are the ones most appreciated. A simple walk home from school can often remind him how life is different for his brother and sister.

“I feel great,” he said. “They can walk outside and nobody's shooting. They can ride their bikes here.”

The Coast Guard has given Ramos a future, and it has given Jonathan and Frances a safe environment and a brother to emulate. Yes, Ramos misses the life of a single bachelor serving his country and shipmates, but he has no regrets. His dedication, sacrifice and love for his family have given them a fighting chance.

The difference he is making, and the example he is setting, is already noticeable.

When asked, “In what way would you most like to be like your brother when you get older?” Jonathan's answer was short and sweet.

“In every way.” 

Shipmates

CGC Campbell Reunion

The USCGC Campbell W-32—W-909 Association is holding their 19th Annual Reunion May 20-24, 2004 at the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel, Valley Forge, 480 North Gulph Road, King of Prussia, Penn.

All hands who served on the CGC Campbell (W-32) during the 46 years it served the United States, as well as all current active duty and former crewmembers of the CGC Campbell (W-909) are welcome and are urged to attend.

For details, contact:

Gordon Bell, association vice president
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Story by USCGC Campbell W-32—W-909 Association

CHUCKLES



LUCKILY BOB WAS WEARING HIS HARDHAT.

Bravo

Zulu



Allen elected fellow of public admin academy

Vice Adm. Thad Allen, chief of staff for the Coast Guard, was elected a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration Nov. 24. The Academy is a non-profit organization chartered by Congress to provide expert advice and analysis to government leaders on issues of governance and management.

Allen is third in command of the Coast Guard and responsible for the policy, planning, budget and management functions of the service and was the operational commander for all Atlantic Area Coast Guard activities prior to this assignment. A leader in performance-based management and innovative practices, he has played a central role in the government's drive to control illegal narcotics traffic and illegal immigration, as well as in expanding the service's homeland and port security efforts.

Academy Fellows provide leadership and recommendations on projects commissioned by Congress, federal agencies, state and local governments and the private sector. Current and recent Academy panels have recommended strategies for containing wildfire costs, advised top

FBI leadership on reorganization efforts and offered recommendations for promoting environmental justice.

The Academy's 550 Fellows include current and former public managers, scholars, Cabinet officers, members of Congress, business executives, labor leaders, governors, mayors, state legislators and diplomats. The principle criterion for selection as a Fellow is a sustained and outstanding contribution to the field of public administration.

"Vice Adm. Thad Allen's contributions to the field of public administration are well-known and recognized on a national level," said Academy Fellow Timothy Clark, editor and president of Government Executive magazine and chair of this year's nominating committee. "The Academy is proud to welcome [him] as a Fellow and looks forward to the contributions his knowledge, experience and leadership will bring to our organization as we seek to make government more effective."

For more information, visit www.napawash.org.

Story by Lisa Trahan, National Academy of Public Administration

Old 8x10



COAST GUARD HISTORIAN

Coast Guard sub-busters

The original caption to this World War II-era photo reads:
"Executioners in appearance and action are these reserve cadets of the United States Coast Guard Academy who guarantee a violent and noisy death to all undersea outlaws within range of their depth bombs. These future officers must know the cruelties of winter on the North Atlantic before they are awarded commissions in the United States Coast Guard."

Caption courtesy of Coast Guard Historian

Small Stuff

Rear Adm. Benkert Award The Coast Guard is soliciting for applications for the bi-annual Rear Adm. William M. Benkert Marine Environmental Protection Award for Excellence.

The program recognizes corporations and businesses involved in marine facility or vessel operations that have shown sustained excellence and achievement in protecting the marine environment.

Applications are requested by Feb. 15. For more information, contact Lt. Alexis Tune at (202) 267-0426 or via e-mail: Atune@comdt.uscg.mil. G-MOR-1

Correction "Colombia" was misspelled on page 9 of the November issue of the Coast Guard magazine. We regret any inconvenience. Editor

Creation of CG-8 In an effort to create a more efficient and effective process of managing its resources, the Coast Guard created a new directorate Oct. 5: the Assistant Commandant for Planning, Resources and Procurement.

This new directorate is formed through the consolidation of the existing Resource Directorate and the Finance, Procurement, Internal Security Directorate. Its organizational code is CG-8.

Rear Adm. Richard Houck, with Robert Horowitz as his deputy, will lead CG-8. Lt. Matt White, CG-8

Civilian Employee of the Year Recognition Commandant (G-WPC-3) is soliciting nominations for the Civilian Employee of the Year and the Non-Appropriated Fund Employee of the Year awards for 2004.

These programs recognize outstanding achievements by Coast Guard civilians in any career field for the calendar year. Submissions are due April 1.

Superior job performance or significant contributions to the community or charitable volunteer programs are evaluated.

CEOY and NAF EOY awardees will receive a cash award, an award device, and other items.

For more information about the CEOY and NAF EOY awards, please contact either Shawn Lucas at (202) 267-0329 or Gregory Dykes at (202) 267-2747. G-WPC-3

Coney Island lightkeeper dies Frank Schubert, the last civilian lighthouse keeper in the United States, passed away in his home at the Coney Island Lighthouse in New York City Dec. 12, 2003. He was 88.

Schubert had kept faithful watch at the lighthouse since 1960.

He is credited for saving 15 sailors' lives during his 63-year career. PADET New York

Dental Premiums To Change TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) premiums will increase beginning Feb.

1, 2004; however, since premiums are collected one month in advance, enrollees will notice the change in their January 2004 billing statement, payroll allotment or deduction.

Additional information about 2004 rates is available on United Concordia's Website, www.ucci.com, or by phoning the TDP Enrollment & Billing Department at 1-888-622-2256. Beth Yosler, United Concordia

Coast Guard Essay Contest

The Naval Institute is now accepting submissions for the Coast Guard Essay Contest. Essays may be on any subject relating to the transformation of the Coast Guard, with a maximum length of 3,000 words.

Prizes for winning entries include being published in the August issue of Proceedings, and may receive a cash prize.

The deadline for submissions is May 1.

Please be aware that Coast Guard personnel may write and submit essays in either their official or private capacities.

If an author makes a submission as part of his or her official duties, he or she cannot accept any Naval Institute essay contest prize; if written in a private capacity, winners must consult CG legal counsel to determine if a cash prize can be accepted.

Naval Institute

Enlisted mutual transfer SWAP SHOP

Swap shop submissions should include your rate, first and last name, phone number, present unit — including city and state — and desired location. E-2s are ineligible. If multiple desired locations are listed, they will be printed in order of submission as space allows.

Submissions are published once and must be resubmitted to appear again. Mail to: ATTN: Swap Shop, *Coast Guard* magazine, Commandant (G-IPA-1), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 2nd St., S.W., Washington, DC 20593-0001.

Name	Unit	Desired Location	Phone
ET3 Matthew Hampton	ESD Portsmouth, Va.	Any land unit in D7 or D8	(757)483-8550



CWO RONALD WOLFE

Housing

There are 120 Coast Guard Family housing units in nearby Eureka and Ferndale, Calif. There are two-, three- and four- bedroom units available, as well as housing for single members. Boat and RV storage is also available.

Facilities

The air station offers morale gear, including kayaks, a bay boat, canoes and camping gear. Off-base, a sports complex with a pool is free to Coast Guard members and dependents. There is on-base medical care for active duty members.

Education

There are several area schools with all grade levels for members' families. Humboldt State University and College of the Redwoods offer degree programs.

Weather

Summer temperatures are cooled by breezes from the Pacific Ocean; temperatures are usually between 55 and 70. Spring and fall weather is clear, with temperatures in the 50's. Winter sees a mix of clouds and rain. The temperature seldom drops below the 40's.

Greetings from "The Lost Coast" Air Station Humboldt Bay

Air Station Humboldt Bay, located in northern California, maintains three HH-65A Dolphin helicopters and covers an area of responsibility from Fort Bragg in the south to Crescent City in the north. Missions include fisheries patrols offshore and around the coast, environmental patrols including oil pollution, cliff and mountain rescue, aids to navigation, and offshore search and rescues in the Pacific Ocean.

During the average year, the Humboldt Bay Air Station men and women respond to approximately 100 SAR cases, often with dramatic rescues.

Air Station Humboldt Bay is in McKinleyville, Calif., approximately 17 miles from the town of Eureka, Calif. Eureka is one of only five cities in the United States now designated as a "Coast Guard city." Eureka is the largest city in northern California and offers all the qualities of other cities similar in size, but with a northern California twist. South of Eureka is the town of Ferndale, which has numerous Victorian homes, beautiful flowers and approximately 56 Coast Guard housing units.

The air station is located in one of the most beautiful and wild places on the entire west coast. There are giant coastal redwoods within 20 minutes in either direction and numerous state parks set aside

for day use, camping, hiking, surfing, mountain biking, kayaking, canoeing and fishing (these parks were featured in background scenes in movies like "Jurassic Park" and "Star Wars").

With San Francisco five hours to the south and Seattle a day's drive to the north, a variety of recreational and historic events are available to enjoy.

Along the coastline, whale watching is popular during the migration season; the view from cliffside viewpoints covers miles of shoreline. If beachcombing is your hobby, the cliffs and beaches are full of colorful agates and quartz rocks, mixed with exotic driftwood. Elk are also a common sight along the coast, and viewing areas are easily reached.

With all of these activities and more available, it's no wonder this relaxing spot is a quietly kept secret.

Approximately three hours to the east of the air station is the city of Redding, Calif., home to Mount Shasta recreation area, which offers winter skiing and summer hiking and climbing. An hour further east of Mount Shasta is Mount Lassen National Park, which offers camping, hiking trails, volcanic remains, canoeing and fishing, all with breathtaking views of Mount Lassen, the world's largest active plugged volcano. Story by AMTCS Rod Bailey, Air Station Humboldt Bay

Check out Coast Guard career opportunities! Call 877-NOW USCG



GETTING PHYSICAL

BM2 William Dennis and BM3 Cleven Brown of LEDET 405 from Miami, demonstrate restraining techniques on Navy Lt. j.g. Jonathan Seavey while conducting a joint training exercise aboard the USS. Philippine Sea. The LEDET 405 is deployed to the Arabian Gulf to assist coalition forces in security and maritime interception operations.

Photo by PA2 Matthew Belson, PADET New York