

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay GAZETTE





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GUANTANAMO BAY GAZETTE

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USCG Cutters at NSGB to Prepare for Hurricane Irma Disaster Relief

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class John Philip Wagner, Jr., NSGB Public Affairs

As a 21-gun salute sounded in the distance, patriotism was on full display at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NSGB) piers on Patriot Day as a flotilla of United States Coast Guard (USCG) cutters began to make their way into port.

Between September 11-13, NSGB would resupply and refuel 25 USCG ships, including eight 87-foot cutters, 13 fast response cutters, one 210-foot cutter, and three 270-foot cutters, so that they could continue on their mission to provide Hurricane Irma disaster relief. Most of the ships had been evacuated from their homeports of Miami and Key West, Florida, due to Hurricane Irma and were making their way back to assist with relief efforts and to check on their own homes.

NSGB chaplains, port operations, supply, and security departments dedicated many hours to ensuring all logistical requirements of the ships were met and that all movements were conducted safely. NSGB has not supported this many ships in port simultaneously in recent history, so coordination was of utmost importance to ensuring the port visit was executed without issue.

“The scheduling portion wasn’t bad since they all came in at the same time,” said Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class (BM1) Arren Halfacre, port operations dock master. “The difficulty was in coordinating all the services required for the vessels; each one needed different services.”

During their stay, the ships coordinated with the base supply department for their replenishment needs.

“NAVSUP supplied 309,688 gallons of F-76 and

JP-5 fuel, more than 7,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, and 13,650 pounds of dry, frozen and chill food items during the ships’ visits,” said CDR Shane C. Dietrich, NAVSUP Site Director.

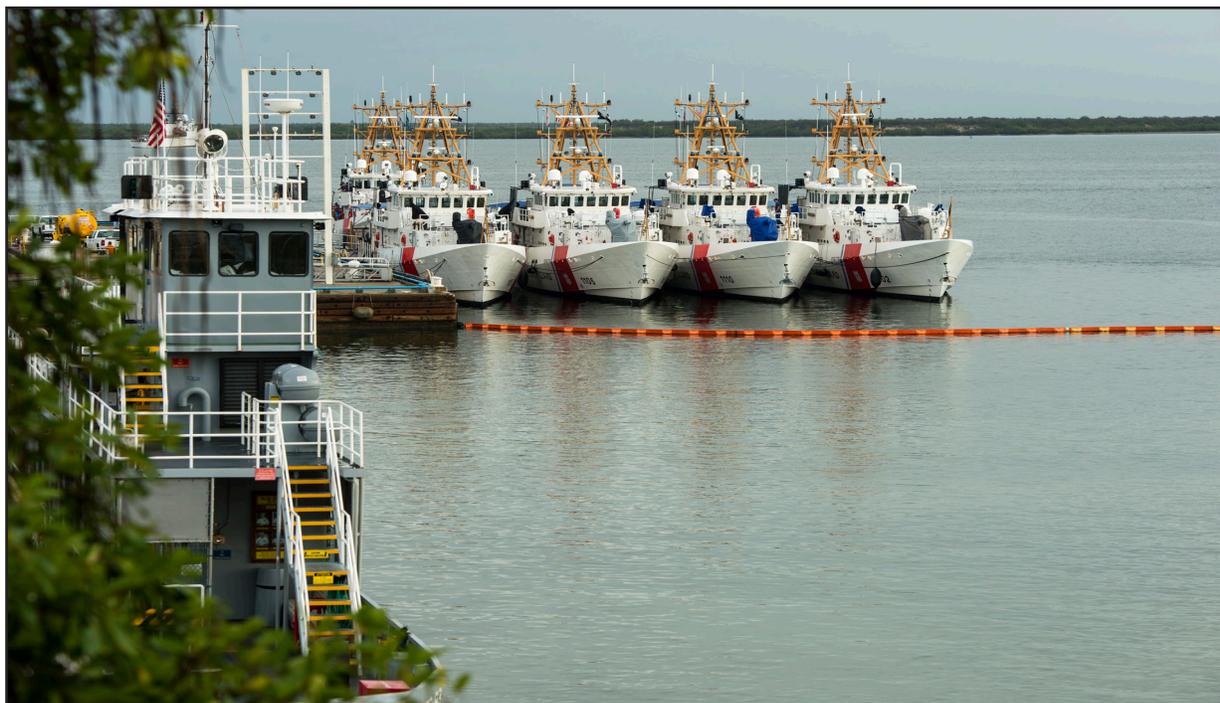
The USCG Aviation Detachment (AVDET) plays an important role in visits like this by coordinating all contact with NSGB for any and all services that the ships need.

” We [AVDET] not only helped with logistical support,” said Chief Store Keeper David Knapp, AVDET supervisor. “We were also there to listen and understand what they [Coast Guardsmen and women] were going through. It’s never easy to leave your home during a storm and tell your family to evacuate.” During the ships’ visits, port operations had the 25 ships at six different piers, with 23 of the ships in port at the same time.

“With each ship needing fuel, we fueled at pier alpha and then shifted each ship to a more permanent location,” said Halfacre.

NSGB went out of its way to help and ensure the cutters got everything they needed.

“Every time I come into contact with anyone on this base about a Coast Guard concern or for assistance, I am met with an almost immediate yes,” said Knapp. “Everyone wants to help and everyone is so positive to assist the Coast Guard accomplish its mission.” Knapp added that he wanted to thank all the different departments and divisions on the base for their assistance during the cutters’ visits, but he wanted to give a special thanks to BM1 Halfacre and Quartermaster 2nd Class Anna Garce for their hard work and the long hours that they put in.







NSGB Welcomes Five New Chiefs into the Mess

Story By Chief Mass Communication Specialist Monquic Meeks, NAVSTA Public Affairs
photos by MCI John Philip Wagner, Jr. and Sargeant First Class Jerry Saslav

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay welcomed five new chiefs into the Chiefs Mess during a chief petty officer (CPO) pinning ceremony in the Windjammer Ballroom, September 16.

HMC Katherine Kahele, HMC Steven Moore, MAC Brian Speight, ITC Christopher Strysick, and MAC Daniel Wiggs pinned their anchors on and donned the combination cover of a chief petty officer for the first time after a strenuous, seven-week induction process known as CPO365 Phase 2, which culminated with an 18-hour Final Night event. "Making Chief was the greatest day of my naval career reflecting upon my perseverance, family sacrifice, and leadership capabilities," said Kahele. "I have been fortunate to have an inner circle of chiefs, officers and junior Sailors that have always motivated me to be the best version of myself."

During the ceremony, the new chiefs were reminded of the enormous responsibility that now fell directly on their shoulders, as well as the reason for the process through which they'd just passed.

"During the course of this day, you have been caused to humbly accept challenge and face adversity," said Chief Builder Gerry Macias, while all past and present chiefs in attendance stood proudly at attention for the reading of the CPO Creed. "This you have accomplished with rare good grace. Pointless as some of these challenges may have seemed, there were valid, time-honored reasons behind each pointed barb. It was necessary to meet these hurdles with blind faith in the fellowship of chief petty officers. The goal was to instill in you that trust is inherent with the

donning of the uniform of a chief."

"During my season, I was faced with many challenges that demanded both physical and mental endurance," said Kahele. "The support from my brothers and sisters within the mess allowed me to persevere by building upon self-confidence, stamina, and understanding challenges as a Chief."

The reading of the CPO Creed was one of many time-honored traditions on full display in the Windjammer Ballroom on Saturday. Each moment of the ceremony, from the presentations to family members, the reading of "The Anchors" and the reading of "The Donning of the Cover," to the piping of the newly pinned and covered chiefs into the Mess has significant meaning to those who wear the anchors of a chief petty officer.

"By experience, by performance, and by testing, you have been this day advanced to Chief Petty Officer," said Macias. "In the United States Navy – and only in the United States Navy – the rank of E7 carries with it unique responsibilities and privileges you are now bound to observe and expected to fulfill. Your entire way of life is now changed. More will be expected of you; more will be demanded of you. Not because you are an E7, but because you are now a chief petty officer."

After the completion of the reading of the CPO Creed, more than 50 Navy Chiefs were led by the newest chiefs in singing "Anchors Aweigh," which as always in the chief realm, concluded with a very loud and proud, "Navy Chief, Navy Pride!"

Updates to Career Management System and Career Waypoints

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist Monquic Meeks, NAVSTA Public Affairs

NAVADMIN 231/17, released Monday, September 18, announced two fundamental changes in the Career Management System-Interactive Detailing (CMS-ID) timeline, as well as changes to the Career Waypoints timeline.

The order negotiation window will start 12 months before projected rotation date (PRD), vice nine, so Sailors can begin negotiating orders sooner, and the application cycle will be every two months, vice monthly. This will increase the number of advertised jobs each Sailor may apply for during a given cycle. To support this new timeline, Career Waypoints-Reenlistment (C-WAY-REEN) applications will start 16 months before PRD.

The Manning Control Authorities (MCA) will identify jobs to advertise/fill in order to optimize Fleet manning. These are the only jobs available for detailing, and they are must fills in order to support operational readiness. Detailers will attempt to find a match using the desired selections of the Sailor first. However, Fleet readiness will ultimately be the guiding factor and detailers may have to select Sailors who have not applied for an assignment or are early in their orders negotiation window, if they are the best fit.

In order to maximize opportunity to find win-win assignments, changes to the CMS-ID orders negotiation window and cycle will increase the number of advertised jobs Sailors can apply for, providing Sailors with greater choice and variety; provide greater time for Sailors and their families to prepare for PCS transfer; increase the number of Sailors applying for jobs, including personnel in special distribution categories, such as dual military couples and Sailors with exceptional family members, to ensure equitable distribution and career management opportunities for all Sailors; and will also enhance enlisted assignments by giving detailers more time to match the skill sets of the Sailor with job requirements to fill the jobs that are advertised.

The two-month CMS-ID cycle will begin in October 2017 and personnel with PRDs of October 2017 through June 2018 will be in their final negotiation cycle. Personnel with PRDs of July 2018 and August 2018 will be in the second negotiation cycle, and September 2018 and October 2018 PRDs will be in the third negotiation cycle. A new CMS-ID cycle calendar for the two-month cycle is available on the CMS-ID homepage at <https://www.cmsid.navy.mil/jass/index.action>.

As a reminder, Sailors entering their CMS-ID orders negotiation window should submit five applications for advertised jobs to ensure their desires are taken into account. Detailers may write orders directing the detachment or transfer of Sailors up to six months prior to their PRD, or as late as six months after their PRD, in order to fill anticipated Fleet vacancies on-time, with a fully trained and qualified relief.

Beginning October 2017, C-WAY-REEN application processing timelines will also be adjusted to better align with the new CMS-ID window. Soft end of active obligated service (SEAOS) and PRD applications will pre-populate at 18 months vice 15 months. SEAOS-based reenlistment applications may be submitted 16 months prior to SEAOS vice 13 months, and PRD-based applications may be submitted 15 months prior to PRD vice 12 months. A new C-WAY calendar is posted on the C-WAY homepage at

<http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/career/careercounseling/Pages/C-WAY.aspx>.

The continued success in detailing Sailors is contingent upon active leadership involvement at all levels, including proactive communication of these changes, thorough Career Development Boards, and detailed command management of C-WAY-REEN applications and CMS-ID using the Enlisted Distribution and Verification Process.

NSGB Port Operations Inspected by INSURV

By Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class John Philip Wagner, Jr., NSGB PAO

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NSGB) port operations department conducted its Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) inspection of all the base's water craft starting Sept 18.

INSURV, established by Congress in 1882, is a thorough inspection that examines ships against Navy standards to determine readiness in a myriad of areas.

"We are not like a ship where we have the phases, its just an INSURV every five years we go through an INSURV here," said Shaun Stacy, Port Operations Contracting Officer Representative. "This is the first year out of the last five they came down with 17 people. It was a full INSURV team"

During the visit the team inspected the three tug boats, the two ferrys, the YC barge, the LCU and the two Mike eight boats.

"During the inspection we did have some discrepancies that we were hit on and we expected a few of those, but

they were not major hits," said Stacy. "Overall we did very well."

During the inspection the INSURV team is looking at all aspects of the service crafts to include material condition, habitability, navigation, radios, non-skid, radars, mooring lines and anchor tests.

Stacy added that they look at every aspect of the service craft from stem to stern, from top to bottom, as well as reviewing administrative and auxiliary programs such as 3M, gauge calibration and electrical systems.

"If anyone has ever gone through INSURV on a ship they do the same inspections here," said Stacy.

INSURV gives installations like NSGB a fresh look at their programs and systems to ensure that things are not being overlooked and the service craft that are used on a daily basis continue to be sea worthy and ready to support the mission here.

JTF Troopers Participate in Basic Leadership Course

By Sgt. Clinton Glenn, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Public Affairs

Forty-eight Joint Task Force Guantanamo Troopers graduated from the Army Basic Leader Course on Sept. 14 at Buckley Hall auditorium here. The course is designed to prepare future noncommissioned officers to assume leadership responsibilities by providing the necessary tools and training over the course of twenty days.

Troopers participated in an army physical fitness test, drill and ceremony, land navigation and the writing of an operation order.

“The cadre did a good job of creating situations for us to develop,” said one JTF Trooper. “I feel like this course put me where I need to be in order to go home and become a leader.”

The 10th Mountain Division Noncommissioned Officer Academy Mobile Training Team is comprised of NCOs assembled from across the

Army that travel to various theaters of operation to conduct BLC courses.

When asked about the biggest take-away from being an instructor, Chief of Training Sgt. 1st Class Gary Moore said, “Instructors learn something new every day from their students. Everyone comes from diverse backgrounds and different situations.”

What made this class unique is that it was under the threat of Hurricane Irma, the strongest recorded hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean.

Despite setbacks due to the inclement weather, the instructors and Troopers were able to adapt and train to standard, graduating all 48 Troopers at the end of the course.

“It’s all about being flexible at the end of the day,” Moore said.



Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Community Remembers 9/11

By Sgt. Clinton Glenn, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Public Affairs

It was a calm and quiet morning on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NSGB), Cuba. The sound of the national colors softly rustling in the wind can be heard beneath the daily playing of the national anthem across the base.

Residents from across NSGB begin to fill the rows of pews at the base chapel for the memorial service to remember the events from 16 years ago.

The service began with the singing of the national anthem and the posting of the colors by the color guard. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, NSGB Firemen and residents all joined together in solitude to honor the lives of those lost on Sept. 11, 2001.

“We still mourn and remember the innocent victims who lost their lives in New York, Northern Virginia, and Pennsylvania,” said Rear Adm. Edward Cashman, Commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Almost three-thousand families would be forever altered on that sunny and seemingly normal Tuesday morning.

“It was a transformative day,” stated Cashman.

“Everyone remembered where they were and what they were doing that morning.”

First responders woke up and put on their uniforms for the day, not knowing that, for many of them, it would be the last time that they saw their loved ones. In the wake of true tragedy, true heroes ran toward the signs of danger.

“September 11th was the day the people of the United States fully understood that the world had changed,” Cashman said in closing.

The memorial service also featured a JTF Trooper who was among the firemen across the nation, bonded and united through tragedy, that came together to assist in the rubble removal in New York City.

“This was the most humbling task I have ever done,” said the JTF Trooper.

Construction workers, first responders and volunteers from across the country had come together during what would become a defining moment in our nation’s history.

The memorial service continued with the ringing of a bell six times. Each ring was significant of an event that happened on Sept. 11, 2001. The first and second ring signified the planes that crashed into the North and South World Trade Center towers in New York City. The third ring stood for the plane that crashed into the Pentagon. The fourth ring of the bell signified the collapse of the South Tower. The fifth ring was a memorial to the heroic actions of the passengers aboard flight 93 before it crashed in Pennsylvania. The sixth and final ring signified the collapse of the North tower.

Concluding the ceremony was the traditional 21-gun salute followed by the playing of Taps and the presentation of the folded flag to the JTF trooper who spoke at the service and volunteered in the wake of the attacks 16 years ago. The room was absolutely silent. Those in attendance thoughtfully remembered the lives lost and how the world has forever changed.

“Today is Patriot Day,” stated the JTF Trooper. “It is not a day of celebration, but a day of remembrance.”

