Ham-Bone Issue 2
August 2006

Greetings HAMILTON family and friends,
I hope the sun is shining as bright wherever you are as it is out here on the Pacific Ocean. This may be your first issue of "The Ham-Bone" and I welcome you to see an inside glimpse of the HAMILTON crew and daily life. This southern patrol has proven to be an adventure in itself. Almost half of the crew is new including all of the department heads as well as the Commanding Officer, CAPT Lee. That means that a lot of our friends and shipmates have gone to different units however the replacements quickly rose to the challenge and all the hard work can be seen throughout the ship.

The morale committee has been busy at work making sure the crew is happy, even when they do not want to be. ENS Matt "Johnny" Nakagawa challenged everyone onboard to a hot dog eating contest. Each of the dozen contestants had to eat Panamanian hot dogs with the bun. I was told that they tasted like hardboiled eggs. Most sane people would not eat one, much less 8 ¾ like our winner, Seaman Alberto Sermini did in 15 minutes. IT1 Bryan Goff was a close third after Mr. Nakagawa. IT1 could not keep his hot dogs down, so a plastic bag was readily available. This gross finale was the highlight for the crew.

Winner: SN Sermini Challenger: ENS Nakagawa Honorable Mention: IT1 Goff

Here is all the information I can tell you about our drug seizure a couple weeks ago. USCGC HAMILTON recently interdicted a Peruvian fishing vessel with 6 suspected smugglers onboard. The vessel was first sighted by radar and then visually, running without navigation lights during the night. HAMILTON snuck up on the vessel during darkness and pounced at first light. The boarding team could see suspected contraband piled in plain sight. They boarded the vessel and the sighted contraband tested positive for cocaine. Cutter HAMILTON detained the 6 suspected smugglers, seized over 5 tons of cocaine, worth $520 million, and left the craft adrift as a derelict vessel.

Aside from our huge drug bust since I wrote to you last, there is still tons of other cool stuff that we do aboard HAMILTON on a daily basis. We rendezvoused with the USS Groves, a navy frigate out of Mayport, FL and gave them our drugs in order to prosecute the smugglers that we detained from our first bust. Their court date has been set.

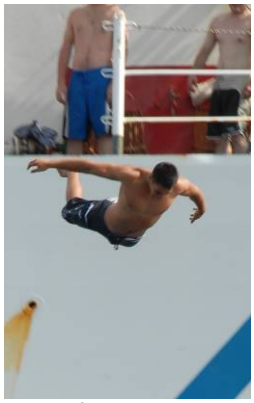
Tensions ran high on the crowded mess deck Saturday night as the "No-Limit Texas Hold'Em Tournament" took place. Over 55 Hamilton members, sporting hats and sunglasses, competed head-to-head to see who would be the last man/woman standing. It took three hours of play to reach the final match, but the wait was well worth it. Once a few players broke their guns out of the armory, blood was shed all over the mess deck floor. The winner was GM1 Keating followed by MK3 Bauers then SN McClain. GM1's first place prize was a DVD player from the morale committee. The best hat award was presented to OS3 Telfer for his hand-crafted foil creation.

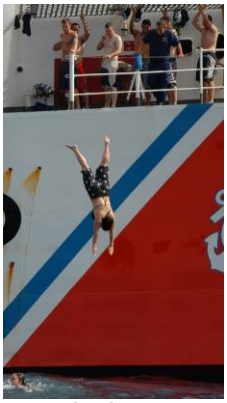
OS3 Telfer and Viking hat

Final Table from L to R: MK3 Bauers, SN Edwards, ENS Love, SN McClain, OS3 Carter, HS3 Garcia and GM1 Keating

On one gorgeous Saturday while we were waiting for drug runners, we were granted a swim call. The small boat provided security against the potential sharks and other dangers. Officers and crew alike showed off their best moves whether it be perfect dives, belly flops or front flips off the side of the ship. For some the 30' drop did not prove worth a refreshing swim at the equator. Others climbed down the ladder, put on their water wings and floated for relaxation.

"Civilian" Steve


SN Kahana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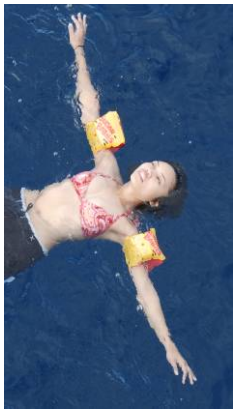
YN2 Comon-Pearce

Our last port call was Panama City, Panama and we pull back in today to visit again. We take the town by storm by going horseback riding in the mountains, peacock bass fishing, surfing on the Caribbean side, visiting Casco Viejo, lounging by the side of the pool, shopping in a five story mall, watching movies in English with Spanish sub-titles, touring the world-famous canal and enjoying the vibrant night-life. The crew also volunteers for community relations projects. One day of last port call was spent painting a medical clinic and cleaning the surrounding area. We left Panama City more beautiful than we found it, and the high bar is expected to be kept this time too.

When we are patrolling at a slow enough speed, occasionally a pipe is heard over the loudspeaker from the bridge announcing, “Now fish call, fish call, up up all fish, out out all poles!” This is our only opportunity to fish off the stern of the ship. There were a few bites on the lines but none compared to the fish that SN Sanchez, SN Gray and SN Rodgers caught. The chiefs looked on with awe as the seamen caught the biggest mahi-mahi. CAPT Lee killed it and gutted it, ENS Velasco sliced it, and SN Shimonaka and FS3 Legnetti baked half of it and sashimied the rest.

SN Sanchez, SN Rodgers, SN Gray

Until next time, fair winds and following seas!

All photos taken by our Public Affairs petty officer, PA3 Mary-Larkin Jones