

USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC 722)

Deployment News, 25 May 2007



FROM THE BRIDGE:

Welcome Family & Friends,

Well, we're back underway heading for the drug lanes in the Eastern Pacific. How time continues to fly on board MORGENTHAU. It seemed just yesterday that I was writing about the outstanding job by the crew in completing a very exciting and busy counter drug patrol and extremely successful training period in San Diego. Well, just two and one half short months later, we're heading back for more.



This past inport was very productive from many different fronts and I'll just highlight a few of them in this first newsletter. First, we completed a fast and furious emergency dry dock in San Francisco to correct a



leaking propeller blade seal on our starboard propeller. The culprit was a small piece of nylon fishing line that got wedged into the propeller seal area and was causing a very (very) slight drip of hydraulic oil that left a small

sheen along our fantail. The repairs were completed without a hitch thanks to excellent planning, coordination and support by our crew and the MLC Pacific Naval Engineers.

We also managed to knock out some needed maintenance and upgrades on some of our other equipment and spaces, including major repairs or replacement of our CIWS, HF / DF antenna, Air Search Radar, MK92 Fire Control Radar, Oily Water Separator, both Main Gas Turbines, both Main Diesel Engines, the Evaporator, the #1 Fire Pump, our Small Boat and our hydraulic Power Take Off Units. And that's just a partial list mind you. Deck Force, once again, did an outstanding job sanding, priming and painting just about everything that was steel or aluminum over the inport and they also received, inspected and tested our brand new Mod 3 Over-the-Horizon small boat, the most capable boat in the cutter fleet at the moment.

Amongst other things, our intrepid DC's fabricated and / or repaired many different piping runs and installed new foundations for our newly outfitted Law Enforcement staging area, which looks great! In fact, it's the best of it's kind that I've seen in the fleet. I don't want to leave out any of the Divisions as they all were extremely busy and productive all inport and did a great job, once again, preparing MORGENTHAU for our current mission.

The crew also got a chance for some much deserved R&R over the inport. I know a few babies were born and marriage vows exchanged, so I think it was equally productive for everyone on the home front, or at least I hope so.

The MORGENTHAU crew assisted in the offload of more than 20 tons of cocaine from our sister ship CGC SHERMAN who executed the largest maritime cocaine seizure in U.S. History in March. The crew also hosted many visits and tours on MORGENTHAU over the inport, including hosting about 200 kids during the annual Auxiliary Safe Boating week for kids. One of the highlights of the inport for me, that's for sure.

VADM Wurster also visited the crew and presented MORGENTHAU with it's second Unit Commendation in less than 12 months for our work last summer in Alaska overseeing the successful salvage work aboard the stricken motor vessel Cougar Ace. Two Unit Commendation awards in a 12-month period is a remarkable accomplishment for any unit, believe me, and well deserved by this outstanding crew.

In addition to saying goodbye to many outstanding crew members who are off on their next tour of duty, we also got a chance to say goodbye to our long standing Ombudsman Mrs. Sarah Dorsey and say hello to our newest Ombudsman, Mrs. Ramona Gittings. I can't thank these two selfless ladies enough for volunteering to help serve in this critical role in supporting our families back home. We all wish Sarah, her husband and family the best in their future and welcome Ramona and her family aboard with open arms.

We are about 6 days and 1,000 miles into our current patrol, and, so far, so good. We've got a number of new crew members, 13 Coast Guard Academy cadets and a few new officers and Chiefs aboard, many of whom are sailing on a "big white one" for the first time. Everyone seems to be getting their sea legs and figuring out where to be and what to do during our various training evolutions. We'll keep working and training to ensure we're fully ready for our upcoming counter-drug mission, you can bet on that.

Okay, that's my first message. Perhaps a bit longer than the Newsletter editors wanted, but I wanted to be sure to cover a few things to bring you all back up to speed and acknowledge all the hard work by this outstanding crew. As always, and most importantly, I thank you all on behalf of this crew for all your love and support. We absolutely, positively could not do it without you.

Best Regards – Captain Kevin O'Day

"Semper Paratus" – Always Ready Decus Pacifici" - Pride of the Pacific

FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

Hello everyone from the MORGENTHAU Newsletter Team. Here in the MORG newsroom (actually we work out of whatever open space we can find), we are preparing to give you insight into yet another exciting MORGENTHAU patrol, as we set up to once again ply the warm waters of the Eastern Pacific.

MORGENTHAU has been import for several months now, and the Newsletter Team has been quiet, but don't let the silence fool you, we have certainly been busy! This import was a complicated one to be sure...starting with the discovery of a very small oil leak coming from our Starboard Controllable Pitch Propeller only days before we pulled back into port back in March. In case you were wondering, MORGENTHAU is powered by two 13-ft diameter Manganese-Nickel-Bronze propellers that spin up to 235 rpm, capable of pushing MORG through the water at speeds in excess of 27 knots (31 mph). These props have hydraulically controlled blades that each turn individually to increase

or decrease speed, it was the first military ship in the world designed with this capability.

Within 2 weeks of our return to Alameda, MORGENTHAU was high and dry in Drydock, as our friends in Maintenance and Logistics Command Pacific had found an open Drydock and arranged for repair of our starboard prop. This Drydocking gave the crew a chance to see the bottom of MORG for the first time in almost 2 years, something many people never get to see



The rope that was lodged in the seal, that caused the oil leak, that led to the Drydock.

during their entire tour. MORGENTHAU's hull looked great, and after some paint touchups, repairs to minor fairwater damage and resolution to that pesky oil leak (caused by a thin, 8-inch long piece of rope in a propeller blade seal), she was looking better than ever.



Engineering Junior Officers inspect the propulsion gear while pondering which is more powerful; a 13 ft propeller driven by an 18,000 HP Gas Turbine, or LTJG George Hall.

After the successful Drydocking, we were refloated and headed back to Alameda, where we began working on our significant list of maintenance and repairs as the CO described in his section; work that was vital to prepare us for this patrol. Many shipmates traveled across the country on orders to far flung schools, and many others headed to far flung vacation spots, or simply went home to enjoy some slow (or sometimes very fast) family life that they had missed for the last few months.

In addition to patrol preparations, we said a lot of hellos and goodbyes this import, with the summer transfer season upon us. It's always tough to say goodbye to a shipmate, and here is the list of great shipmates who departed MORGENTHAU during the import:

- LTJG Ryan "WEPS" Waters
- LTJG Miles Jenkins
- LTJG Kyra Van Echo
- LTJG Peter Hsu
- LTJG Erin Pigors
- CWO Pat "MPA" Barron
- OSC Brian Dorsey
- EMC Alan Gieb
- SKC Keith Johnson
- MK1 Eric Arwood
- SK1 Brent Buchholz
- OS1 Wendy Perdue
- BM1 Sean McMullen
- OS1 Kim Hawkins
- OS2 Pascal Fraise
- DC2 Dave Martin
- MK2 Jesse Ridgeway
- ET2 Dismuke Jonathan
- ET2 Finstad Scott
- MK2 Darrell Ryan
- MK3 Jason Costley
- FS3 Alejandro Alonso

- HS3 Timothy Marshall
- BM3 Matthew McCoullough
- SK3 Clifton Wolfe
- FN Jason Gregg
- FN Charles Jeter
- FN Kyle Riddle
- SA Kevin Shore

Fortunately, the Coast Guard is made up of many great sailors, and here is the list of the new people who reported aboard MORGENTHAU and are now part of our crew as we aim to give those drug runners another serious tail whoopin this patrol!

- LTJG Josiah Starr
- ENS Christie Hawn
- HSC Rocky Gipson
- BMC Michael Haley
- EMC Christopher Knizeski
- SK1 Brian Sorrenson
- MK2 Michael Miller
- HS3 Barry Pittman
- DC3 William Kreutzkamp
- SK3 Matta Fausto
- OS3 Francisco Rodriguez
- SN Mickiel Myler
- SN Julio Espinal
- SN Nathan Hoyt
- SN Carlton Sanders
- SA Bryce Peterson

And for this patrol, as is typical every summer, we received a group of cadets from the Coast Guard Academy. Their timing was just right, and they will be acting as part of the crew for the entire patrol, giving them a unique 'from-beginning-to-end' view of a patrol on MORGENTHAU. There is a lot for them to learn, and they bring their boundless energy and positive attitude to the ship. It should be a great summer for them. The cadets will have their own small section in the newsletter, to give everyone their perspective on life aboard MORGENTHAU. We look forward to reading what they have to say! Their names are as follows:

- 1/C Brandon Aten
- 1/C Tenely Barna
- 1/C Lauren Tumulty
- 3/c Ann Dolinar
- 3/c Rebecca Gentile
- 3/c Christopher Grabe
- 3/c Kristopher Lopez
- 3/c Douglas Neumann
- 3/c Timothy Olah
- 3/c Jackie Ramirez
- 3/c Daniel Sorby
- 3/c Adam Stanek
- 3/c Frankie Temple



CG Academy Cadets pose in San Diego on a rare cloudy day, before MORG heads off to the Eastern Pacific. Wait, we are already IN the Eastern Pacific... Hooray for OPSEC!



LTJG Vincent Escobedo gets a close-up view of MORGENTHAU's paparazzi as the bridge crew prepares to enter San Diego Harbor.



I/C Cadet Tenely Barna is instructed on the bridge by ENS Chad Conrad on proper use of the SPS-73 radar.



BM3 Brandon Hewitt debates how to respond to what he is hearing on the Sound Powered Phone, while BM3 Jonathan Sains gives him "the look".

So, now the inport is behind us and we are on patrol. As most of you know, we left port on 19 May, and after a brief stop in San Diego we have commenced doing what we have been trained to do. And training is the key word, after a few months ashore, it is all about building up our readiness for another action-packed JIATF patrol in the waters of.... The Eastern Pacific. You know the drill, we can't tell you where we are! But you can guess,

and we will provide hints. The first hint? The water here is warm & salty. OK, that narrows it down slightly & don't worry, we'll give you another clue next edition!

Like we said, training is coming fast and furious as we set up to run the ship like the well-oiled machine that it is... we held a man-overboard drill the other day that involved throwing OSCAR overboard. OSCAR is a person-shaped object that we toss over the side to make the situation more realistic. We also have someone hide so that there is an actual person missing. In this case, CWO Brooks was the missing person, for the second

time in a row. Evidently he likes to hide, but then again he just acquired a new X-box for his room... Anyway, our recovery was successful and our rescue swimmer, FN Inwood, was able to bring a waterlogged OSCAR



After using her rescue swimmer training to save "Oscar" during a Man Overboard drill, FN Jenny Inwood flashes her trademark 10,000-watt smile. Or as she would say in the Engineerroom, "ten kilowatts."

back on board after an aggressive swim. Other drills included Main Space Fire, Abandon Ship, Small Boat Ops and more. We have also started to see marine wildlife, with whale sightings, a curious seal during the man overboard, and several flying fish trying to keep up with us. Up next are more complicated small boat (we call it the CB-OTH, or Cutter Boat – Over The Horizon) workups, with BM3 McDonald chafing at the bit to get some stick time with our new boat... we received the newest, 3rd Generation CB-OTH on the last day of April, straight from the factory with an aluminum hull, shock mounted seats and.... cupholders! Yes, our boat crews will be enjoying that new boat smell as they travel in comfort during operations this patrol, and we plan to put it to good use.



The new CB-OTH has cupholders! Oh, and it's really fast, too...



Deck Force launches MORG 2 for a test run. The Auxiliary Division completely rebuilt the propulsion train, but declined to install the rocket engines that the Bos'nMates requested.



MK3 Byron Knepp (left) and BM2 Richard Spicer (right) bonk heads before driving around in the new CB-OTH.



In the Engineerroom, all major equipment is up and running, and we are watching the engine temperatures settle out after several days of steady operation. Small



MKC John Buckley shows us his happy face! He is smiling on the inside. ☺



FN Mickiel Myler is immersed in system drawings as he prepares for qualification as a Security Watchstander. He was raised in Dominica, and has said the 140 degree Engineerroom reminds him of home (we're guessing it's a little noisier, though.)

the various Departments, and the cooks have been churning out some pretty awesome food. Morale night this coming Saturday is the first of the patrol, with the Officers putting on "STADIUM NIGHT". We are guessing it will be a lot of hot dogs, chili, nachos and other ballpark-type foods. And it is too early in the patrol to report which newly released movies have become favorites on MORG, although it is gonna be tough to surpass the popularity of TALLADEGA NIGHTS or NACHO LIBRE last patrol, the tapes of which actually had to be hidden for a few weeks so that some other movies had a chance to receive some screen-time.



FN Cesar Nevarez & EM3 Theodore Compton man the Engineerroom with sound-cancelling headphones. Nevarez wants to see some ID from the cameraman...

repairs have been made, and the new Engineers have been burning the late night oil trying to get system drawings knocked out before the temperatures in the engine room get too much higher.

Other parts of the ship are also humming along, the SKs are spending our money as fast as we can find ways to legally spend it, the YNs are pushing through the enormous piles of paperwork that are generated by



FS3 Whitney White is surrounded by stainless steel while preparing a lunch of Homemade Chicken Pot Pie. Why do cooks love stainless steel so much? Who cares, the food is good!

As we said, this is a teaser newsletter, short and sweet, with more regular newsletters to follow. In them, we look forward to listing all the crew shoutouts to family and friends back home, and to telling you many more stories as we carry on the long tradition of going to sea for adventure, professional development, personal growth and to provide an important service to this great

country of ours. Enjoy the homefront, and we will be back soon enough. Until then, we hope you enjoy the upcoming patrol newsletters!

The Officers, Chiefs and Crew of
USCGC MORGENTHAU (WHEC 722)

“Decus Pacifici – Pride of the Pacific”

Visit us at:

<http://www.uscg.mil/pacarea/MORGENTHAU>



3/c Rebecca Gentile (right) and SA Austin Green (middle) show off their new tans as they steer MORGENTHAU, while OS2 Keener (lbackground) lies in waiting for a great sunset photo.



CWO Bigby (right) attempts to perform magic tricks with a snorkel as deck force secures from a Man Overboard drill. Hey Mr. Bigby! The Rescue Swimmer wants her snorkel back!