



USCGC BERTHOLF

NEWSLETTER



Cadet 3/c Alejandro fires a popper to celebrate BERTHOLF's departure from Pascagoula.
Photo by PA3 Anderson

June 22nd, 2008 – Welcome aboard U.S. Coast Guard Cutter BERTHOLF (WMSL-750), the first of the Legend Class Cutters!



Since moving onboard a month ago, the crew has turned the cutter into an operational Coast Guard asset. We've recently received our ready for sea certification from the Pacific Area Commander allowing us to conduct Coast Guard operations and start our transit home. The crew conducted multiple drills to demonstrate proficiency in navigation, seamanship, and damage control. In between all of the drills we did find time to conduct fish call as well as a swim call.

On 14 June 2008, BERTHOLF departed Pascagoula for the last time and began our helicopter standardization visit. Over the course of the weekend, we conducted over 100 landings with both HH-65 and HH-60 helicopters. BERTHOLF is now on our return trip home, with stops on the East Coast for public tours and receptions.



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The daily routine is quickly becoming habit as the crew continues to learn about the cutter. We have shifted our attention from drills just focusing on emergency situations onboard to conducting drills that also prepare us for law enforcement or rescue scenarios.



We recently visited Naval Air Station Pensacola as our first port call. There our crew loaded over 8 tons of ammunition for our weapons systems onboard and also topped off our fuel tanks. After we finished with the ammo onload, the local Navy League and Pensacola Chamber of Commerce brought over pizzas for the entire crew to welcome us to Pensacola.

We have just left our second port call, Miami, Florida. The city of Miami rolled out the red carpet with a local fire boat leading the way to the pier. The crew was able to experience liberty in South Beach and had quite the enjoyable time. BERTHOLF hosted two receptions while in Miami to show off the capabilities of the cutter to local dignitaries and military personnel. We also gave tours to local school groups, families, and friends.

Over the next few days we will be conducting structural test fires of our weapons systems and prepping for our next big stop in Baltimore! BERTHOLF will be moored in the Inner Harbor and be open for public tours June 28-29th. If you're in the area we hope to see you!

In addition to this newsletter, several of our crewmembers will be writing blogs about their experiences on our trip home. If you are interested in following their day to day activities, please visit the website at: <http://www.uscg.mil/cqjournal/>

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"Legends Begin Here"

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