

Rest of 2/c Summer and USNA Beginning (Continued)

At the conclusion of our prep week, the majority of the *Eagle* cadre and I picked up the *Eagle* in Bourne, the site of Massachusetts Maritime Academy, a day before the swabs arrived. The intermittent time period gave us time to re-familiarize ourselves with the ship, complete several administrative tasks, and mentally prepare for the swabs. The preparation helped as the Saturday that the first phase of swabs arrived (Alpha through Delta companies) was well-managed by the cadre and *Eagle* crew alike and ran smoothly. It was definitely a chore ensuring that all the swabs properly moved in and stowed their gear, were run through administrative briefings and drills, and made their shore duties on time. It was also heart-warming to see many of the swabs reunited with their families for the first time since their summer training had begun. The next day, Sunday, was more of the same, with swabs being introduced to the concept of sailing on *Eagle* through "School of the Ship." That night we made preparations for sea, concluding a successful port-of-call in Bourne.

The next day we got underway en route to Rockland, Maine. While managing the swabs in port was definitely a good practice in leadership, being underway and training them was an experience I really appreciated and valued. As a Division Officer on *Eagle* I was assigned responsibility for six swabs, often from different companies who had never met before. My duty was to ensure that they made their watches on time and got accustomed to life underway on an operation Coast Guard cutter. As most of us will be serving in the fleet on cutters in some capacity, it was humbling to think that I was in charge of these future-officers during their first operational experience. Teaching them how to work as a team and watching them learn more about the Coast Guard and experience life afloat was defiantly a worthwhile memory and one I won't forget.

Besides learning valuable lessons on leadership, we 2/c also learned more of how officers lead on a cutter. We had the opportunity to do things that we hadn't done on *Eagle* before, such as standing officer watches, including conning while underway, giving navigation briefs to Captain and crew, and standing deck or shipping while pulling in or out of port. This part of the cadre experience I also appreciated, as I felt it made me a more knowledgeable and experienced 2/c. Furthermore, I truly believe that the skills I learned will help me down the road as a future officer.

After a week underway we arrived in Rockland just in time for Lobster Fest. The timing couldn't have been better as we all enjoyed a great port-of-call. Lobster Fest had a county fair type feel to it, with lots of free giveaways and, of course, lobster. In Rockland, we disembarked our first phase of swabs and welcomed aboard the second phase (Echo through Hotel), repeating the process we had done in Bourne. On Coast Guard Day (August 4th) we got underway on our 2nd week of training on *Eagle*, which passed similar to the first, making an all-together awesome experience.

After two weeks of cadre aboard *Eagle* my third week of cadre was spent training the swabs on the T-boats back on the campus. The T-boats provided a smaller platform where the *Eagle* cadre could show the swabs all the intricacies involved with getting a vessel underway, maneuvering while underway, and pulling back up to a pier, which they might have missed on the much larger *Eagle*. We also gave the swabs a basic course on the structure and the capabilities of the T-boats, giving tours of the pilot-house

and engine room. Lastly, we gave a brief overview of how to dewater a vessel using different types of pumps, to conclude the swab's basic damage control training.

As the week aboard T-boats drew to a close, my summer training at CGA concluded and I headed down I-95 to begin my academic semester at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. I moved into the Naval Academy a couple days before classes, and was very appreciative at how helpful the midshipmen were in helping me get situated. I was assigned to 16th Company, and was thrilled how the company welcomed me with open arms and treated me as one of their own. It was a lot easier than I expected getting adjusted to the campus and classes, and overall the first three weeks here have definitely been a fun experience.

Some of my highlights at USNA so far were watching Navy play Ohio State in the Baltimore Ravens stadium. It was definitely a different experience going to a Navy football game as compared to a Coast Guard game, with a much larger march-on and obviously a bigger stadium. I also got to attend a Dirks Bentley and Hot Chelle Rae concert that was put on exclusively for the Academy. Being five feet away from Dirks and only paying for a \$10 ticket was quite the deal!

As stated earlier, I hope that you are having a smooth transition from summer to fall. If you have any questions about anything in my blog, about the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Academy, and now about the Naval Academy, I invite you to email me at James.D.Engelhardt@uscga.edu. Until next time, Semper Paratus and Go Bears!