

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

© 2014 Stephen Decatur Chapter #4, U.S.C.S.
Richard F. Hoffner, USCS # H-4456, Chapter Cachet Director
415 Moyer Road, Souderton, PA 18964-2319

Phone: 215-721-8606

e-mail: pauscg@gmail.com

Early February 2014
Deposit Balance \$ _____

BNS Somudra Joy F28 arrives from United States

Diplomatic Correspondent "The Star"



ex-USCGC JARVIS, now BNS Somudra Joy F28 arrives in Bangladesh

The newest addition to the naval fleet of Bangladesh is the former U S Coast Guard cutter JARVIS WHEC-725. Jarvis was decommissioned on May 23, 2013 and the cutter was turned over to Bangladesh the same day. She arrived "home" on December 13, 2013. The ship was transferred to the Bangladesh Navy under the Excess Defense Articles program in May, and after an extensive program for training and new equipment installation in California, the 167-man crew has successfully conducted a six-week transit of the Pacific Ocean.

USCGC POLAR STAR WAGB-10 to help free Chinese and Russian vessels in Antarctica



USCGC Polar Star off Seattle

After nearly two weeks of International drama and news of scientists and tourists on a Russian flagged vessel, M/V Akademik Shokalskiy (Russian: Академик Шокальский) caught in Ice off Antarctica, a Chinese icebreaker MV SNOW DRAGON (Chinese: (雪龙, pinyin: Xuělong), attempted to free the vessel but failed as the icebreaker could not get close enough to free the vessel due to the thickness of the ice. A French was vessel enroute (L'Astrolabe) but turned back because it was not

capable of handling the thickness of the ice.



MV Akademik Shokalskiy

An Australian icebreaker, *Aurora Australis* also tried to assist but also could not get close to the stranded vessel.



MV SNOW DRAGON (Chinese: 雪龙, pinyin: Xuělong)

A helicopter off the SNOW DRAGON rescued the tourists and scientists, and took them to the Australian ship. China, Russia and Australia have requested the US Icebreaker POLAR STAR assist in freeing both the research ship and the Chinese icebreaker. The USCGC POLAR STAR was enroute to resupply the US base at Ross Island, so it will divert to assist the two vessels by request of the Australian government. Reports on January 7 indicate both vessels freed themselves and the POLAR STAR probably won't be needed.

Coast Guard Cutter USCGC HOLLYHOCK struck by ore carrier MASABI MINER on Great Lakes.



What could have become a tragic accident, turned out to be mainly structural damage to the two ships. The USCGC HOLLYHOCK was breaking ice in northern Lake Michigan and encountered heavier

ice and slowed, behind her the MASABI MINOR, a 990 foot ore carrier could not stop and struck the stern of the small cutter.



Damage to the cutter included a puncture to the hull and other structural damage. The ore carrier suffered a nine inch crack in her bow. The ore carrier completed her voyage to Gary Indiana and unloaded her cargo. The HOLLYHOCK was escorted to St. Ignace by the USCGC BISCAYNE BAY. After an inspection, the HOLLYHOCK was returned to duty breaking ice during the cold spell.

USCG fires on drug smugglers

U.S. Coast Guard | Jan 28, 2014

MIAMI — The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter USCGC Sitkinak WPB-1329, 110-foot patrol boat homeported in Miami Beach, Fla., offloaded 2,500 pounds of cocaine Tuesday, worth an estimated \$37 million wholesale value, seized in a multi-national counterdrug operation south of the Dominican Republic. This drug interdiction marks the first time an armed U.S. Coast Guard helicopter embarked on a foreign flagged military vessel in support of counterdrug operations. On Jan. 22, a U.S. Coast Guard HC-144 Ocean Sentry aircraft detected a 25-foot go-fast boat with four individuals and suspicious packages aboard moving at a high rate of speed. The U.S. Coast Guard launched its helicopter from the British Royal Fleet Auxiliary RFA Wave Knight (A389) to intercept the suspected drug smugglers. The Coast Guard helicopter arrived on scene and fired warning shots in an attempt to get the vessel to stop. The suspected smugglers were observed jettisoning multiple packages overboard during the pursuit. The helicopter employed airborne use-of-force and disabled the vessel.