

The Bulldog Newsletter

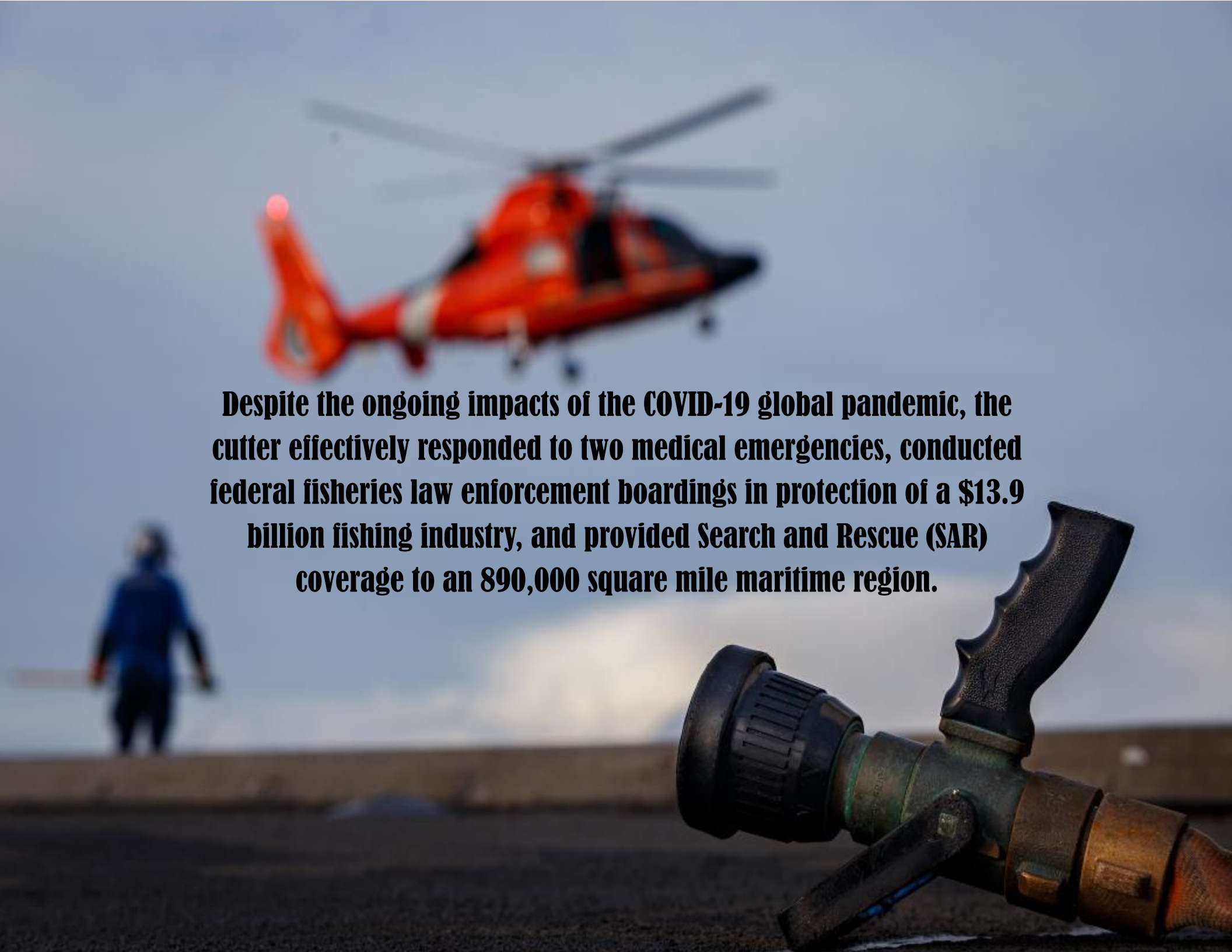
December 2020 - January 2021

A photograph of a snowy mountain slope. In the lower center, a small wooden cabin is visible, partially covered in snow. A sign on the cabin reads "ALEX & HALEY" in large, bold, black letters. The sign has a red diagonal line through it. The background shows a vast, snow-covered mountain range under a blue sky with some clouds.

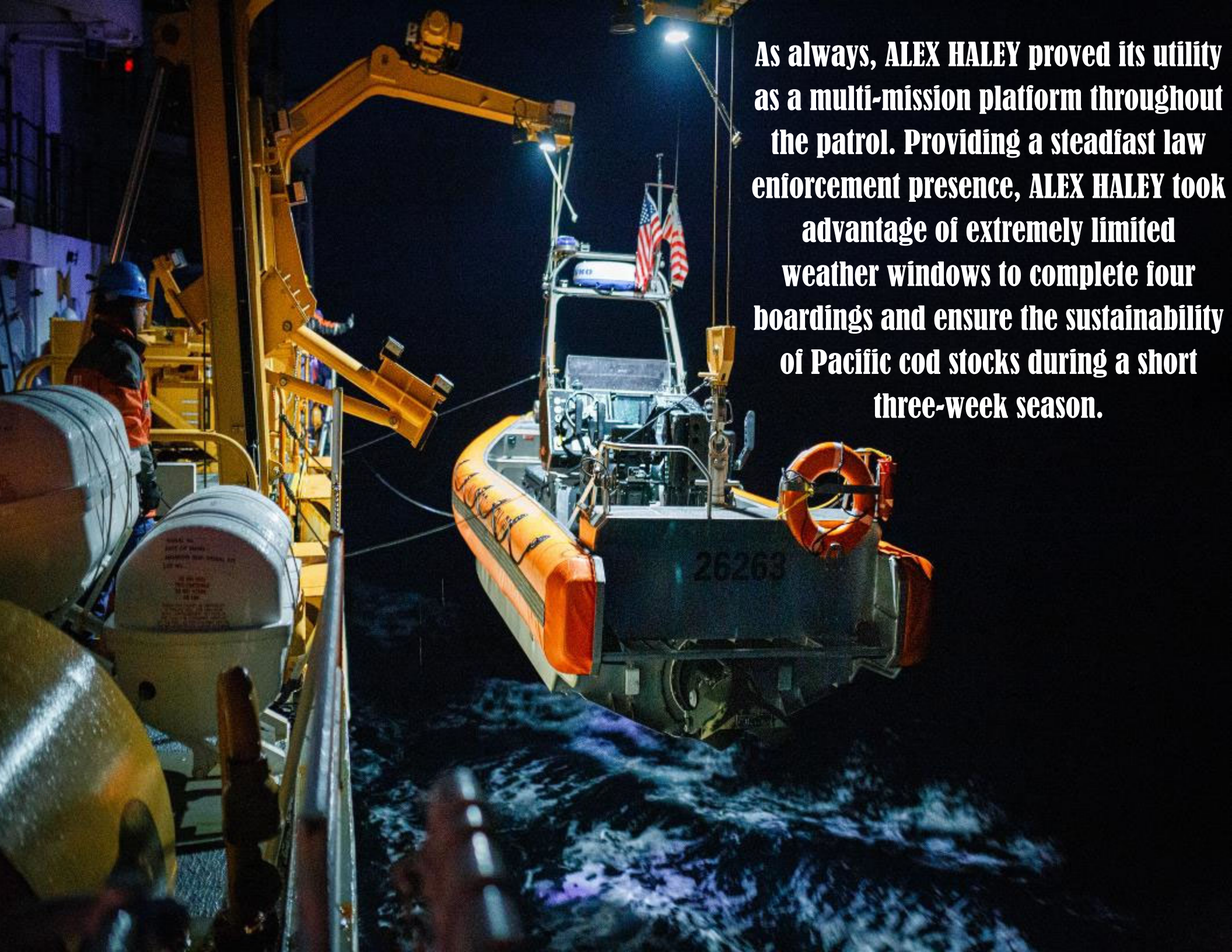
ALEX & HALEY

The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter ALEX HALEY returned home to Kodiak on Thursday afternoon following a successful 50-day winter Bering Sea deployment. A reassuring presence to Alaskan mariners during the Bering's harshest season, the cutter patrolled over 6,300 miles throughout the Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea.



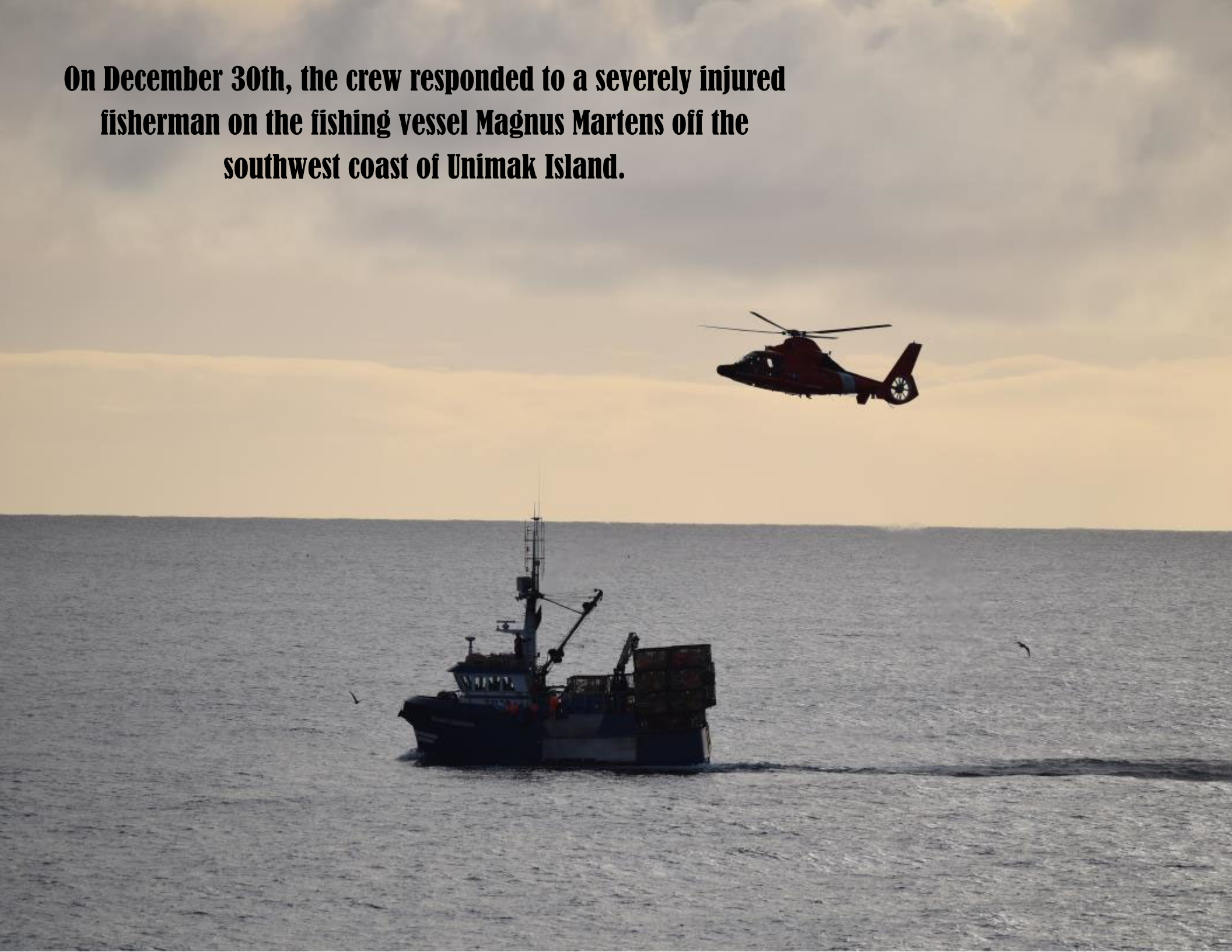


Despite the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the cutter effectively responded to two medical emergencies, conducted federal fisheries law enforcement boardings in protection of a \$13.9 billion fishing industry, and provided Search and Rescue (SAR) coverage to an 890,000 square mile maritime region.

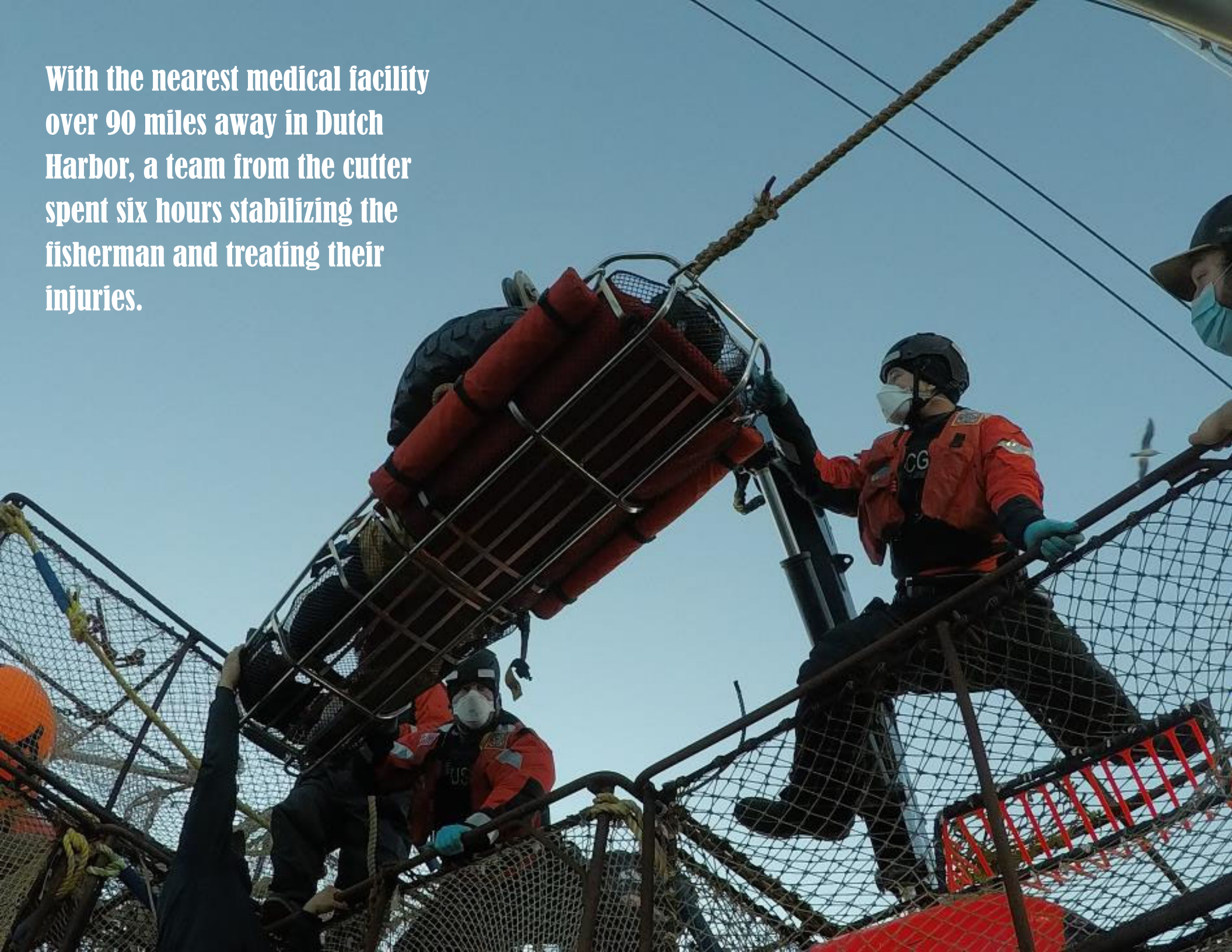


As always, ALEX HALEY proved its utility as a multi-mission platform throughout the patrol. Providing a steadfast law enforcement presence, ALEX HALEY took advantage of extremely limited weather windows to complete four boardings and ensure the sustainability of Pacific cod stocks during a short three-week season.

On December 30th, the crew responded to a severely injured fisherman on the fishing vessel Magnus Martens off the southwest coast of Unimak Island.

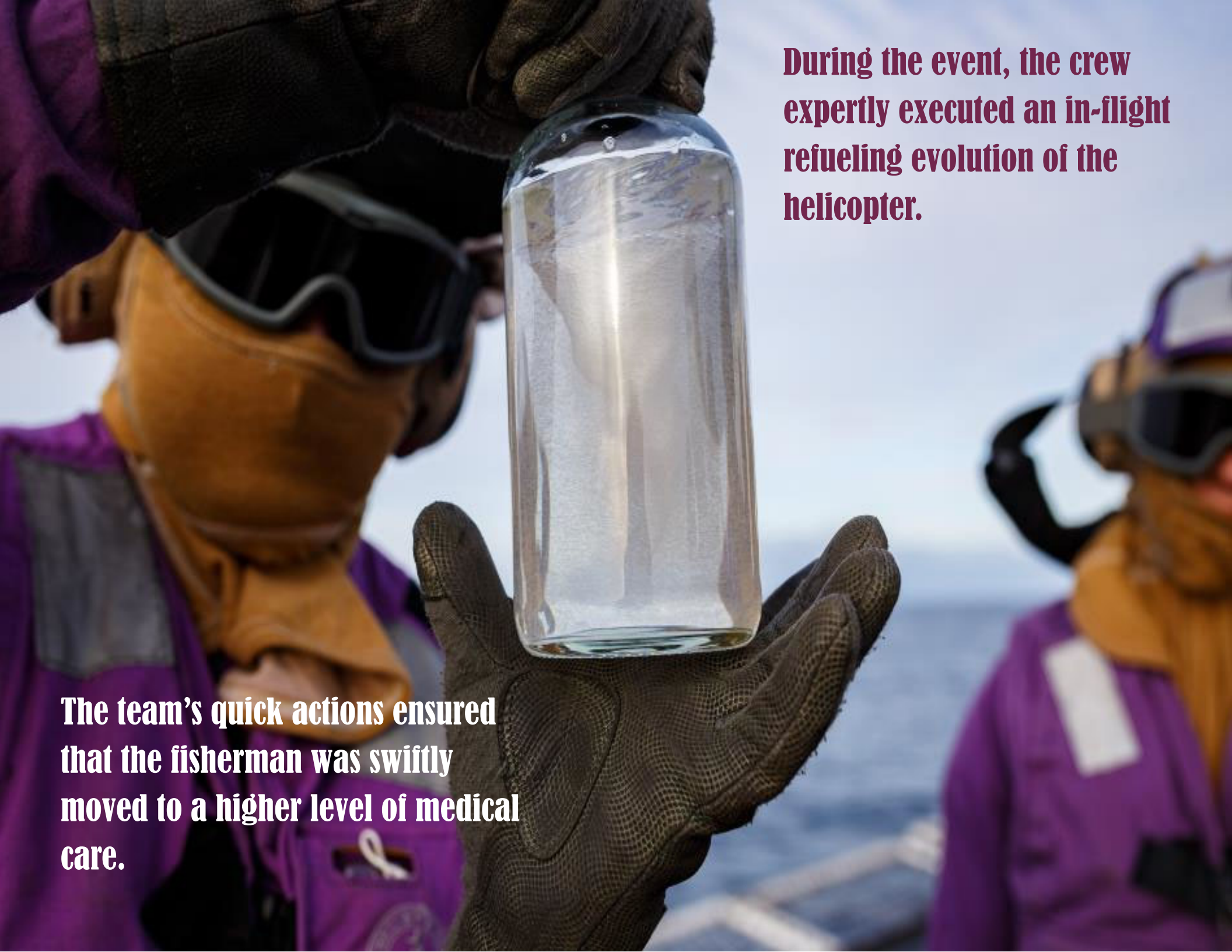


With the nearest medical facility over 90 miles away in Dutch Harbor, a team from the cutter spent six hours stabilizing the fisherman and treating their injuries.





ALEX HALEY worked with Coast Guard District Seventeen and Air Station Kodiak to bring a Coast Guard helicopter from Dutch Harbor to hoist the fisherman to safety.

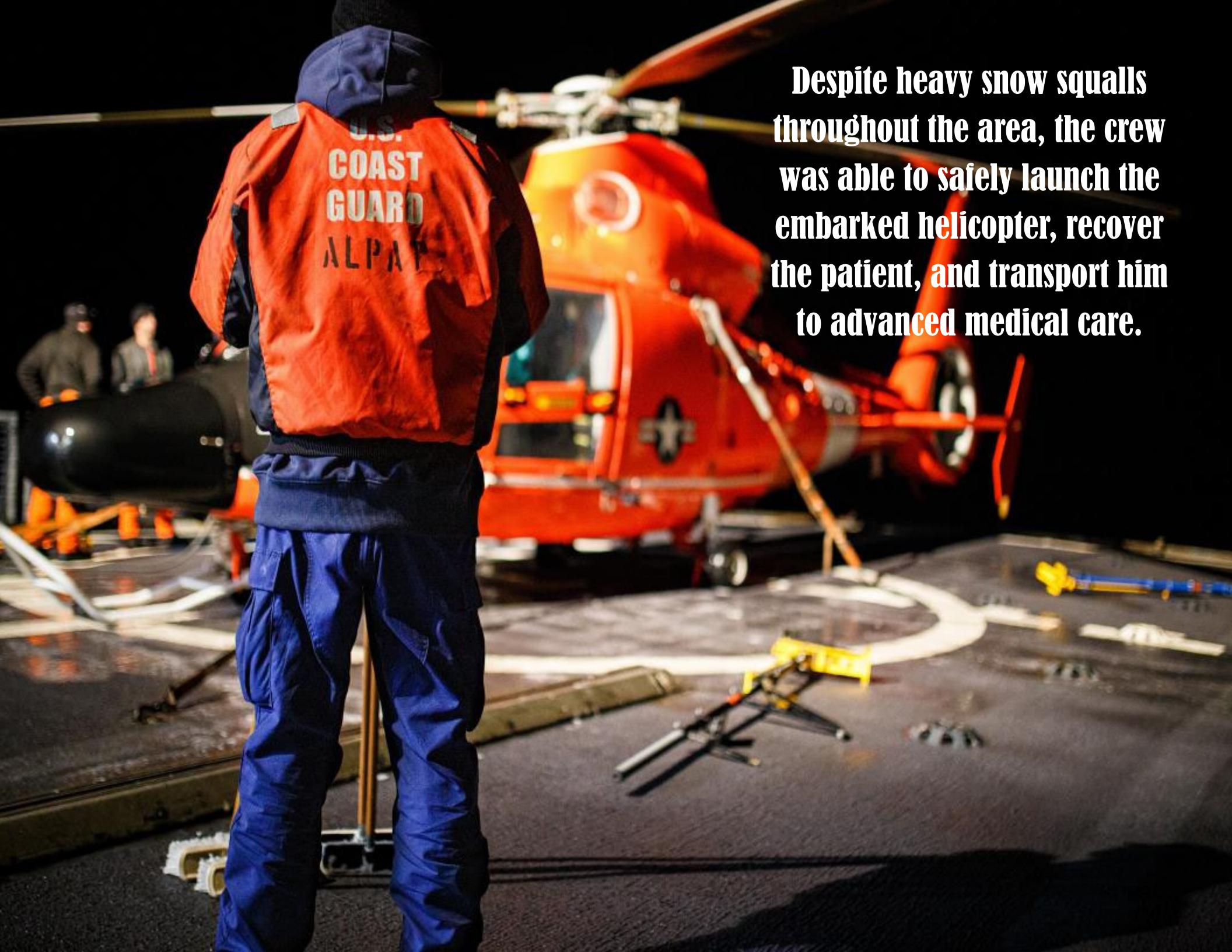
A close-up photograph of a person wearing a purple jacket and brown gloves, holding a clear plastic bottle filled with a white, foamy substance. The person is also wearing a brown hood and goggles. In the background, another person in a purple jacket and goggles is visible, and the ocean is in the distance.

During the event, the crew expertly executed an in-flight refueling evolution of the helicopter.

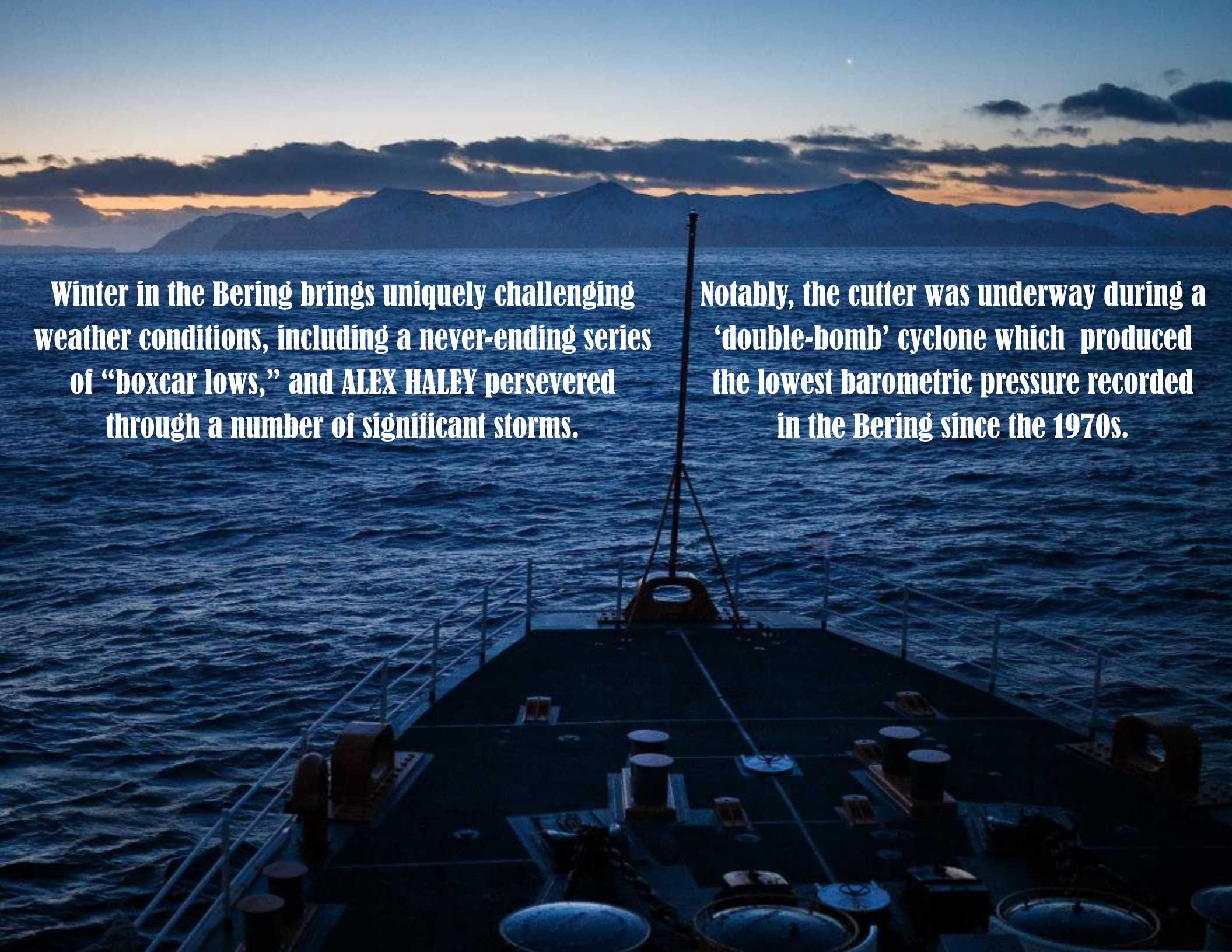
The team's quick actions ensured that the fisherman was swiftly moved to a higher level of medical care.



Eighteen days later, while patrolling south of Unalaska Island, ALEX HALEY received word of a patient experiencing cardiac arrest in Akutan.



Despite heavy snow squalls throughout the area, the crew was able to safely launch the embarked helicopter, recover the patient, and transport him to advanced medical care.



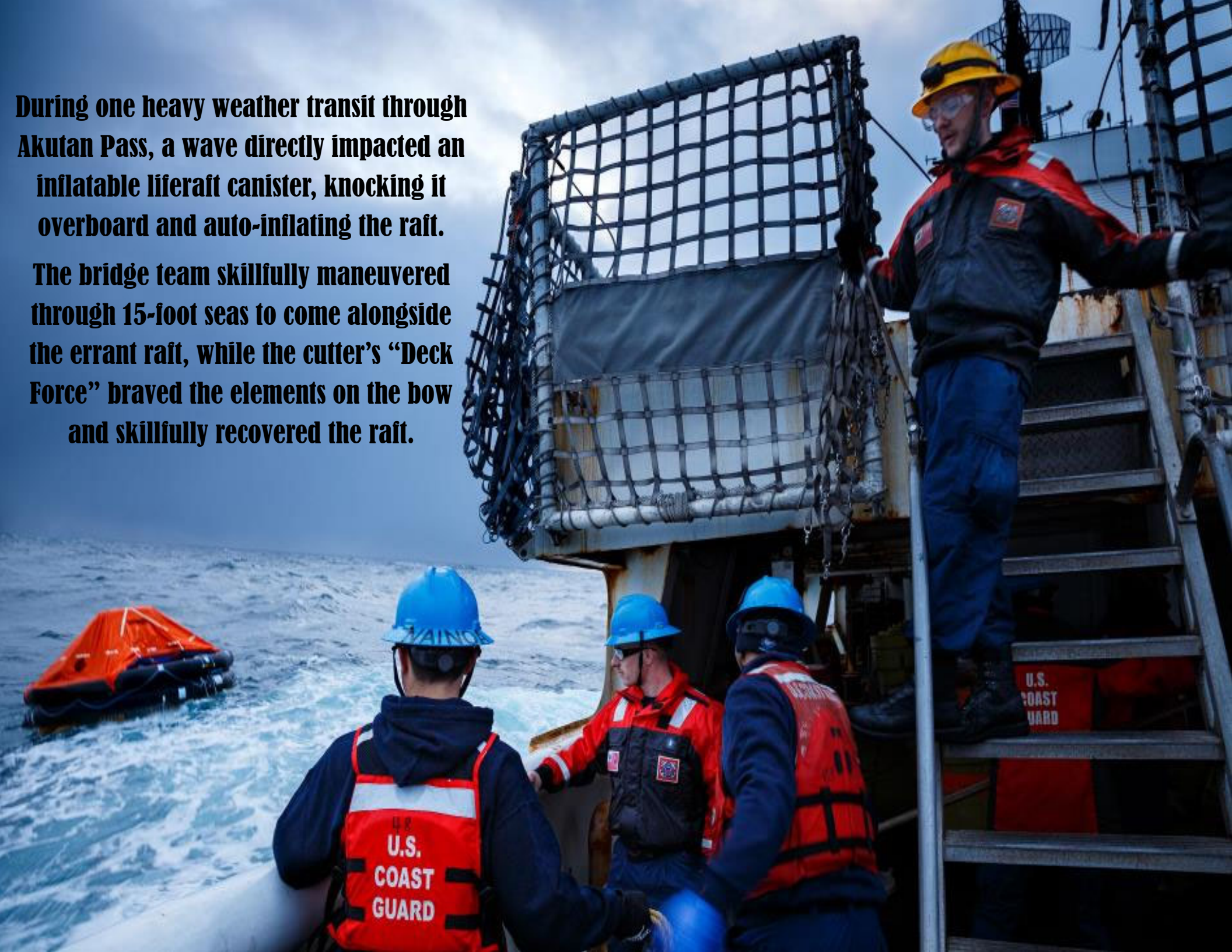
Winter in the Bering brings uniquely challenging weather conditions, including a never-ending series of “boxcar lows,” and ALEX HALEY persevered through a number of significant storms.

Notably, the cutter was underway during a ‘double-bomb’ cyclone which produced the lowest barometric pressure recorded in the Bering since the 1970s.

Thankfully, a sturdy design and substantial fuel capacity allows the ship to safely ride out heavy winds and seas, and the Aleutian Islands provide multiple lees from the prevailing elements.



During one heavy weather transit through Akutan Pass, a wave directly impacted an inflatable liferaft canister, knocking it overboard and auto-inflating the raft. The bridge team skillfully maneuvered through 15-foot seas to come alongside the errant raft, while the cutter's "Deck Force" braved the elements on the bow and skillfully recovered the raft.

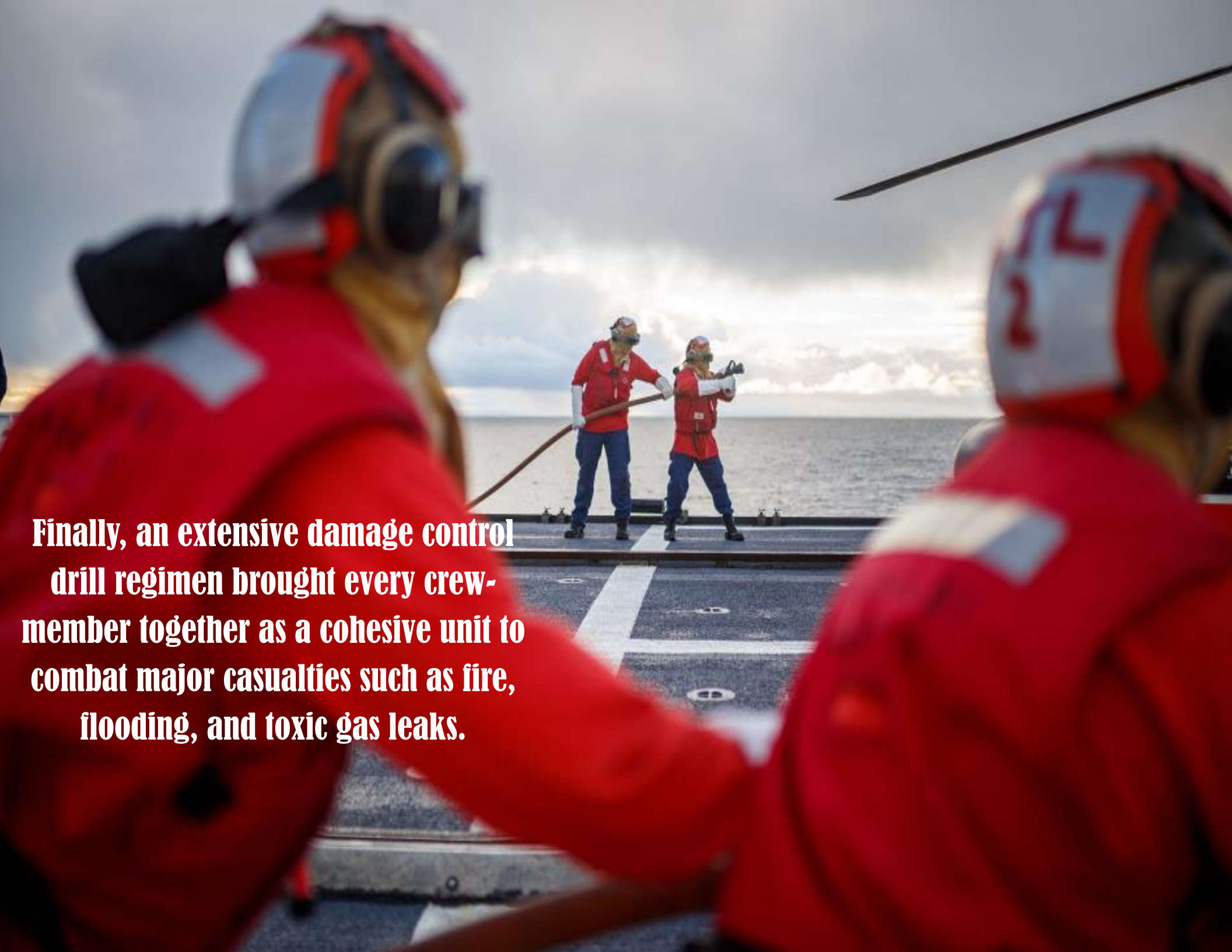


Due to limited boarding opportunities, this patrol was heavily focused on training. Navigation drills gave the pilothouse team a chance to hone emergency response procedures and seamanship during man overboard and abandon ship scenarios.



The engineering department rigorously trained for a multitude of potential machinery casualties, including emergencies on ALEX HALEY's 10 diesel engines.

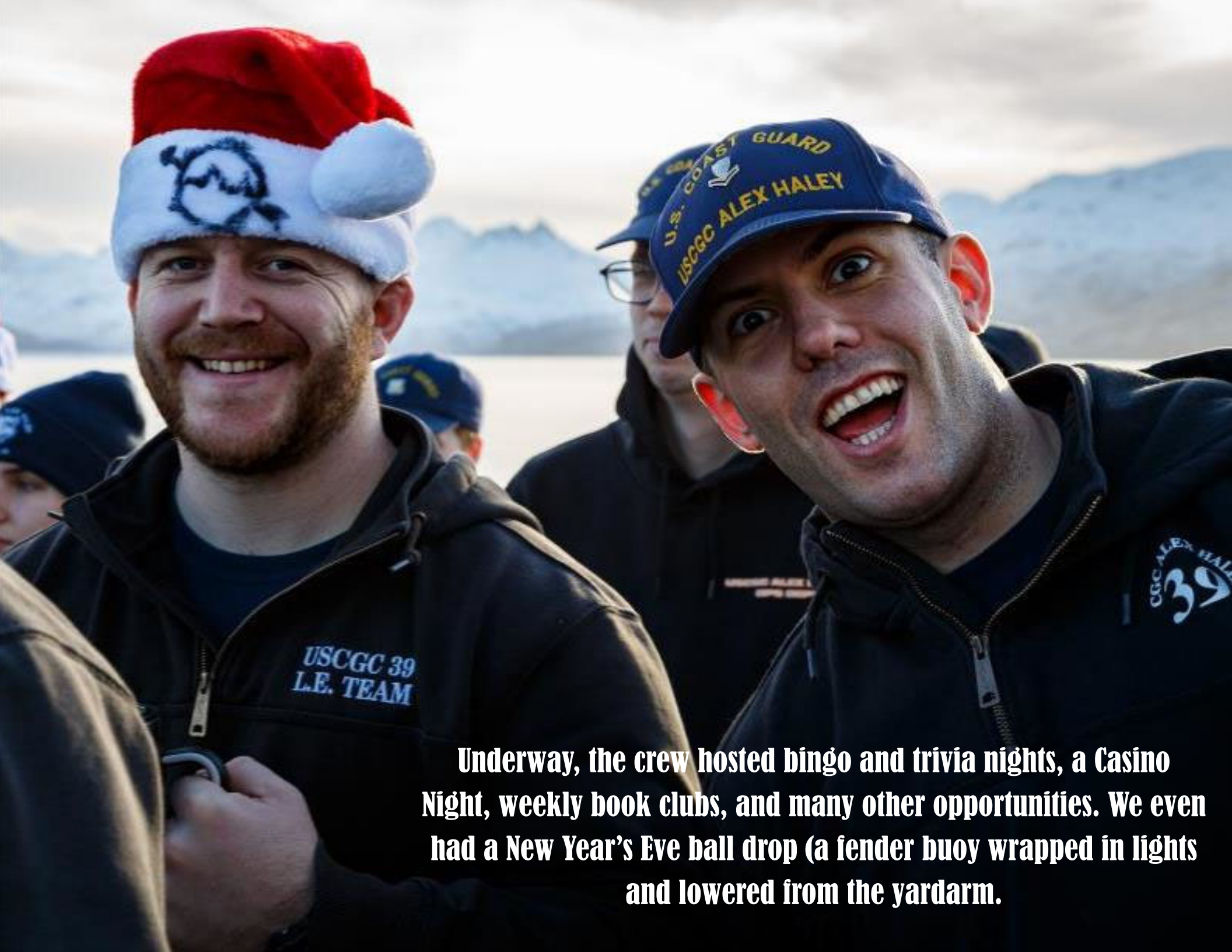




Finally, an extensive damage control drill regimen brought every crew-member together as a cohesive unit to combat major casualties such as fire, flooding, and toxic gas leaks.

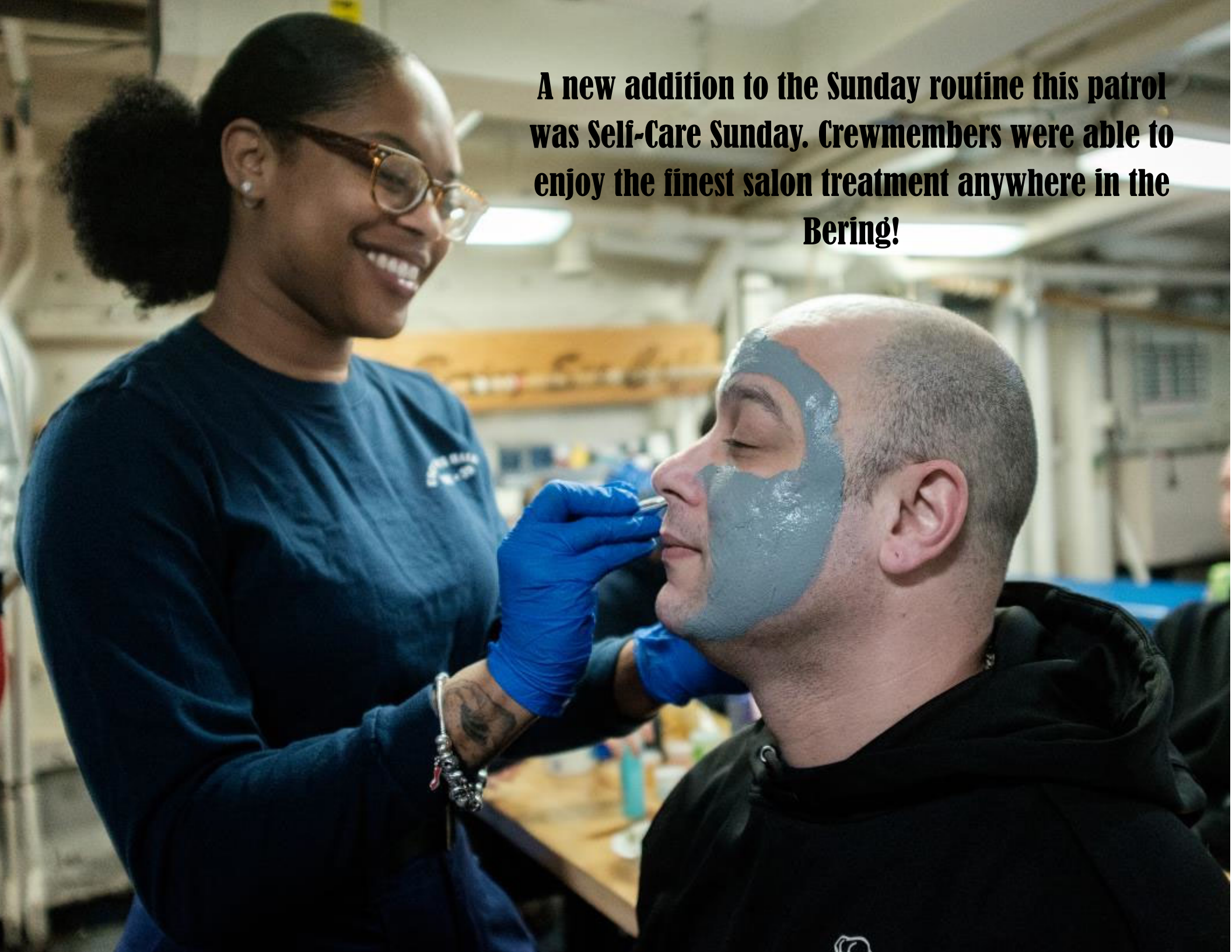


The crew also had multiple morale opportunities, both inport and underway. During a white and snowy Christmas in Dutch Harbor, everyone woke up to full holiday stockings, delicious brunch and dinner options, movie night in the hangar, and sports activities on the pier. Some crewmembers were even able to get out into the mountains for skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking.



Underway, the crew hosted bingo and trivia nights, a Casino Night, weekly book clubs, and many other opportunities. We even had a New Year's Eve ball drop (a fender buoy wrapped in lights and lowered from the yardarm).

A new addition to the Sunday routine this patrol was Self-Care Sunday. Crewmembers were able to enjoy the finest salon treatment anywhere in the Bering!



While short daylight hours are the norm this time of year, clear nights provided astounding views of different celestial bodies. The crew was even lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the 'Christmas Star' on the 21st of December!



Captain Benjamin Golightly, Commanding Officer of USCGC ALEX HALEY:

It is always difficult being separated from family during the holidays, but the crew did a great job of giving the cutter a festive makeover and found creative ways to stay positive during a stressful time. The crew of ALEX HALEY has remained diligent and devoted to mission success in all aspects, and continue to answer the call for Coast Guard presence during one of the most challenging seasons in the Bering Sea.



**ALEX
HALEY**

USCGC ALEX HALEY (WMEC 39) is a 282-foot Medium Endurance Cutter that has been homeported in Kodiak since 1999, routinely operating throughout the Bering Sea, Gulf of Alaska, and Pacific Ocean. The cutter's ability to operate in extreme weather conditions provides the mission flexibility necessary to perform search and rescue, fisheries law enforcement, and vessel safety inspections across Alaska. These operations occur under the tactical control of the 17th Coast Guard District in Juneau, which encompasses the entire state of Alaska, as well as the coastal and offshore waters seaward over several thousands of miles.



**Happy Holidays to all our friends
and family!**

**Thanks for reading, and stay tuned
for the next installment!**

**Pictures by MK1 Jasen
Newman, ENS Christopher
Jaques, and LTJG Benner
Geurtsen**

