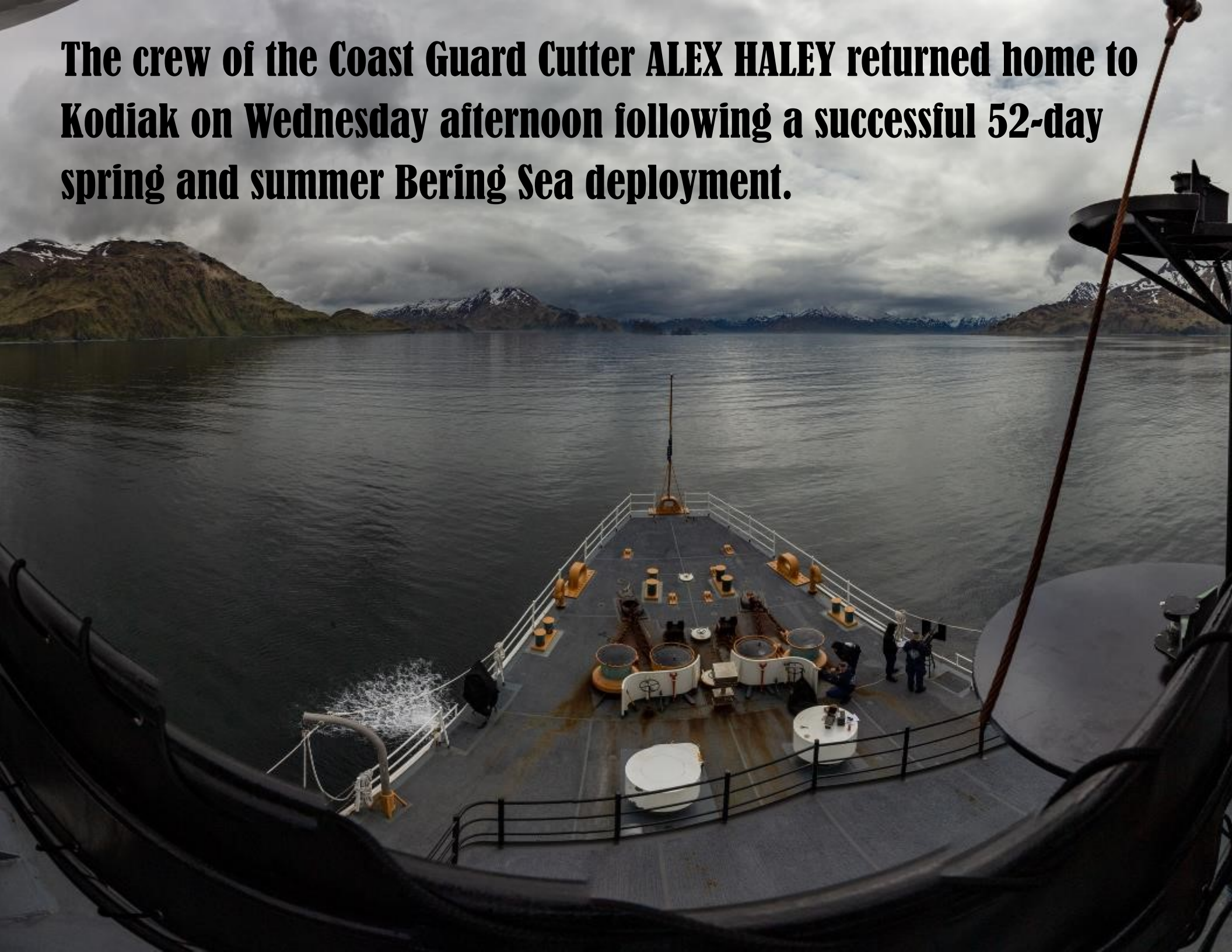


The Bulldog Newsletter

May-June 2021

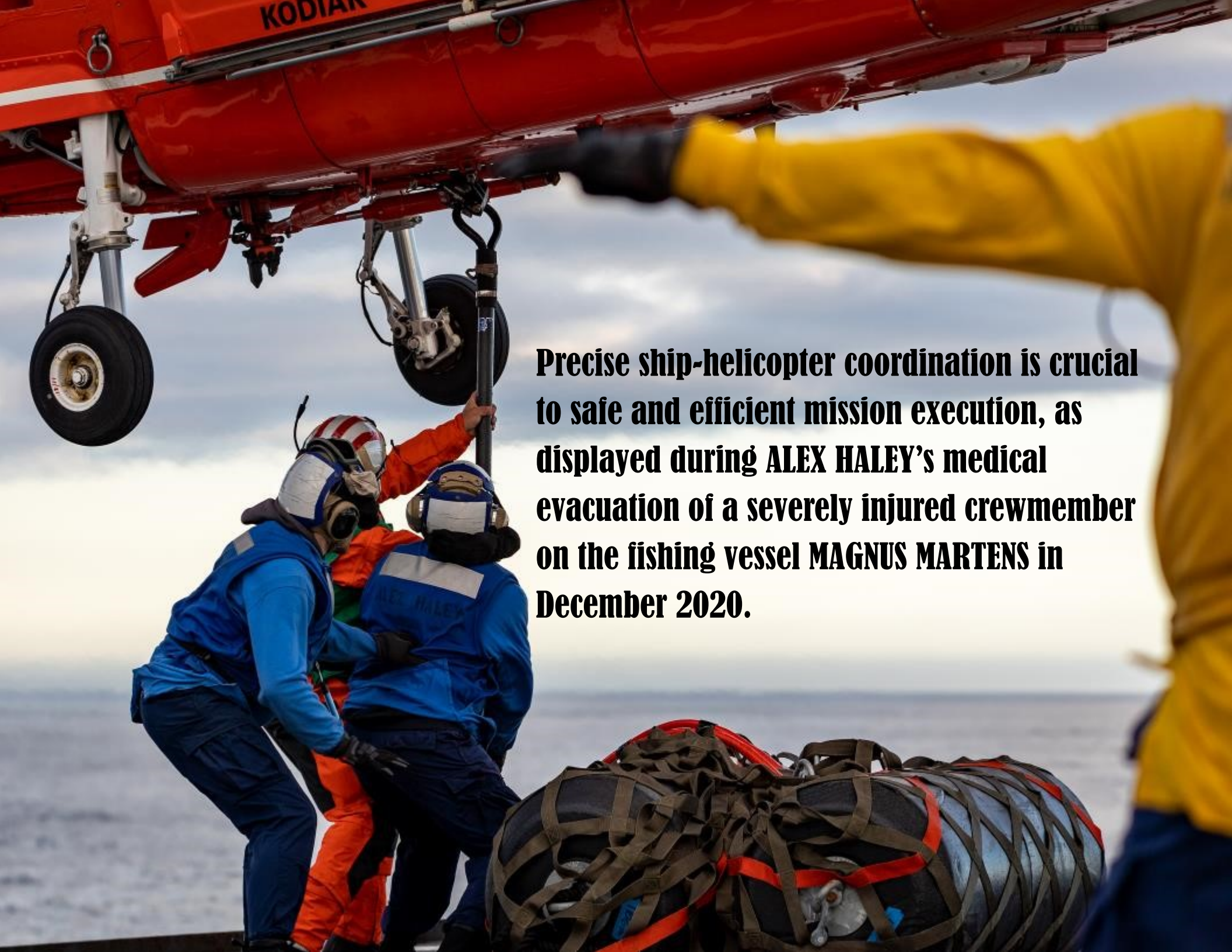


The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter ALEX HALEY returned home to Kodiak on Wednesday afternoon following a successful 52-day spring and summer Bering Sea deployment.



Prior to departing for the Bering, the crew completed their triennial Aviation Standardization (AVSTAN) inspection, ensuring the cutter maintained its certification for conducting flight operations.






Precise ship-helicopter coordination is crucial to safe and efficient mission execution, as displayed during ALEX HALEY's medical evacuation of a severely injured crewmember on the fishing vessel MAGNUS MARTENS in December 2020.

Training for in-flight refueling, hoist operations, underway supply replenishment, and crash-on-deck emergencies ensured optimal readiness in support of the Kodiak-based MH-65 Dolphin helicopters that embark ALEX HALEY and visiting cutters in Alaska.





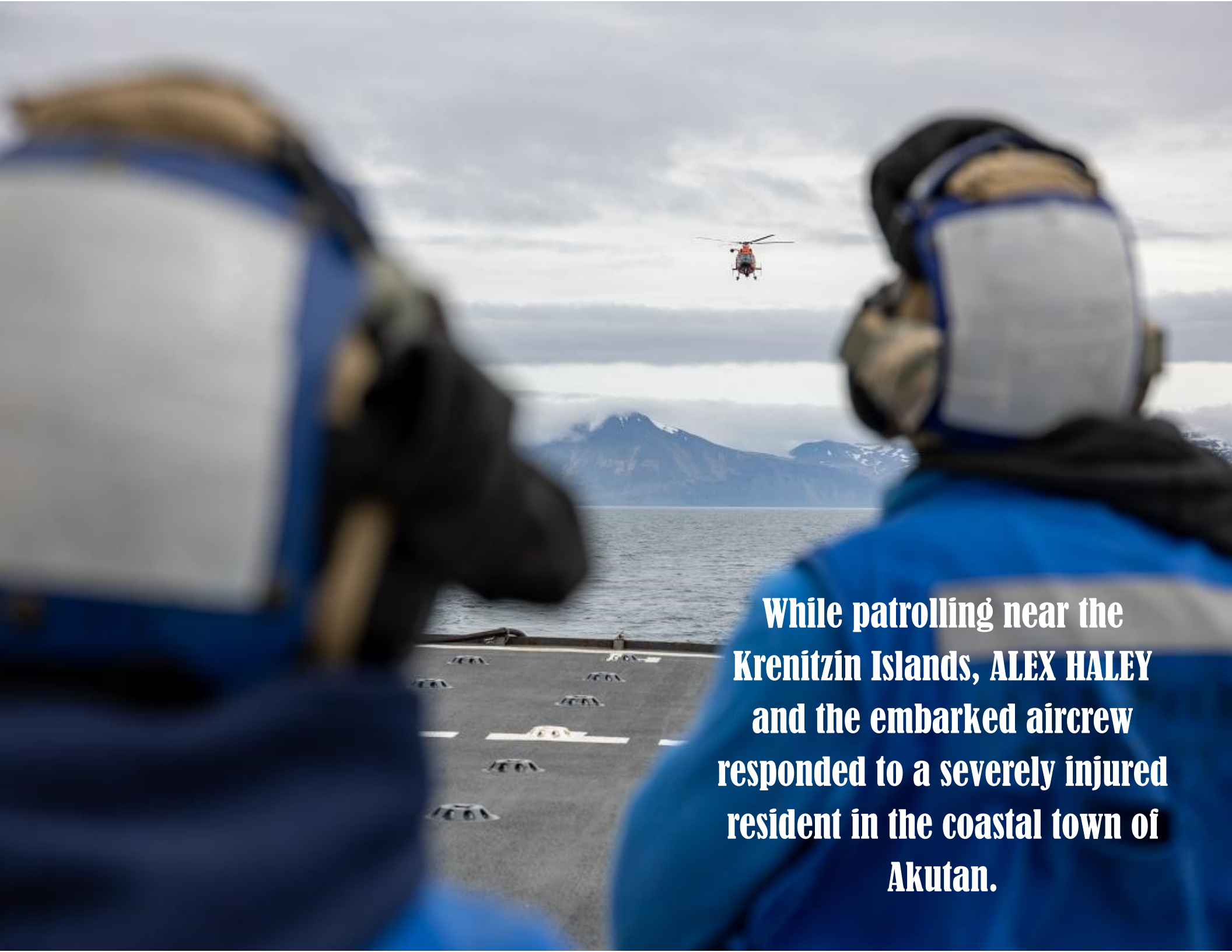
The beginning of the patrol was marked by one of the most formal ceremonies in sea-going service, the Change of Command. CAPT Benjamin Golightly completed his two-year command tour and was relieved by CDR Brian Whisler during a ceremony at Dutch Harbor's Grand Aleutian Hotel on May 19th.

A line of U.S. Coast Guard crew members in blue uniforms and caps, standing in a hallway. The crew members are looking forward with serious expressions. The caps have "U.S. COAST GUARD" written on them. The background shows a hallway with a door and some lighting fixtures.

In keeping with the traditional maritime transfer of authority, the entire crew was present as CDR Whisler became ALEX HALEY's 14th Commanding Officer. Despite a narrow three-day turnover window, both outgoing and incoming Commanding Officers ensured a seamless transition in leadership.

As the Bering Sea Cutter, ALEX HALEY maintained a law enforcement presence throughout the Aleutian chain, as well as providing search and rescue capability to the fishermen that ply the Bering's abundant fisheries. The cutter conducted 17 boardings on a variety of fishing vessels, ensuring compliance with federal regulations.





While patrolling near the Krenitzin Islands, ALEX HALEY and the embarked aircrew responded to a severely injured resident in the coastal town of Akutan.



Demonstrating a high degree of proficiency while engaging in a true ‘all-hands’ effort, the team expeditiously launched the helicopter and transported the patient to a higher level of medical care.

These swift actions were crucial in ensuring the patient received life-saving treatment.





The ALEX HALEY crew also trained aggressively to maintain proficiency in a number of areas, including anchoring, small boat evolutions, bridge navigation, gunnery exercises, and damage control.



Over 35 crewmembers received new qualifications during the cutter's rigorous training program, ensuring ALEX HALEY retained enough qualified personnel through a challenging transfer season.

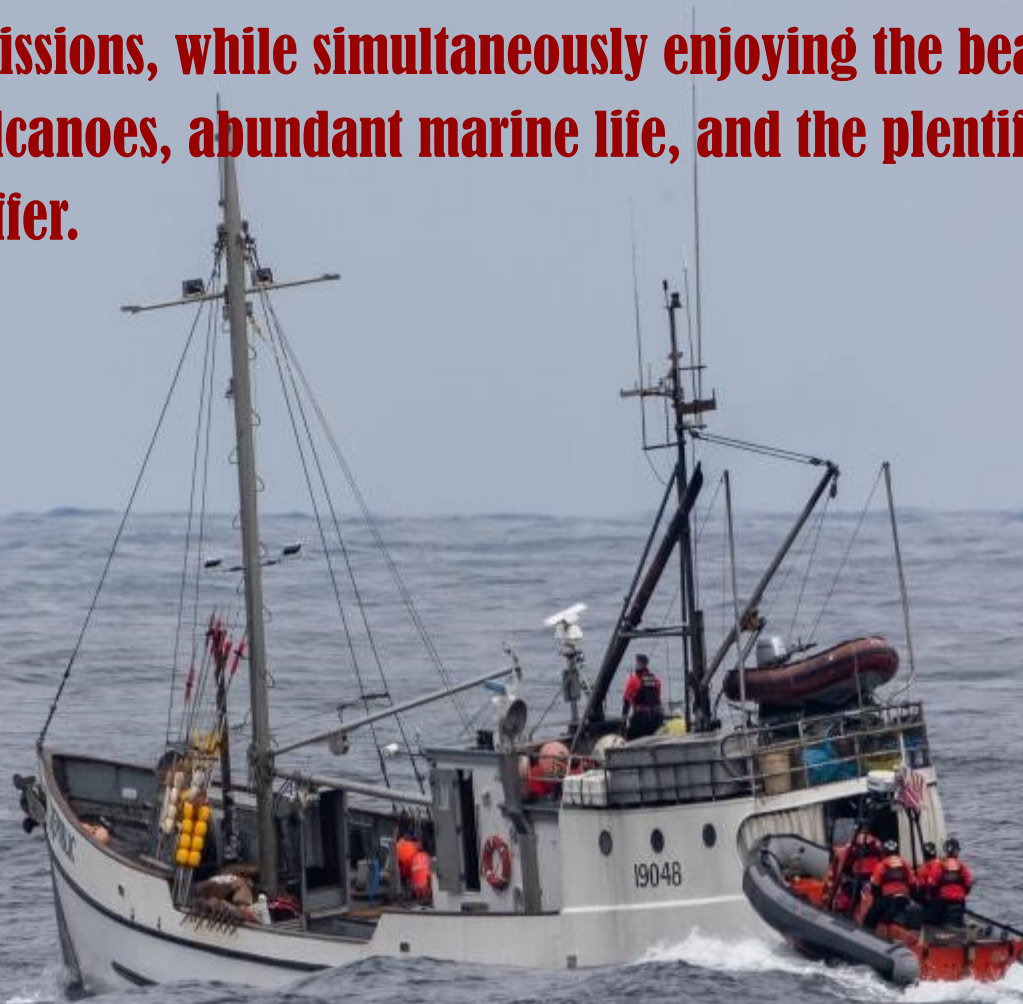


The crew also enjoyed some well-deserved down time during early summer in the Bering. With the spectacular snow-capped peaks of the Aleutian chain as a backdrop, crewmembers fished, hunted, and hiked in Unalaska and Adak.

A particular highlight of the trip was the ability to anchor off the southern coast of Adak and send shore parties in to enjoy the natural beauty of a remote, Aleutian Island and home to a former U.S. Navy Base.



CDR Whisler, following his first patrol as Commanding Officer of USCGC ALEX HALEY: I am honored to be in command of such a capable cutter and outstanding crew. This patrol proved to be an excellent opportunity to execute our primary Law Enforcement and Search and Rescue missions, while simultaneously enjoying the beautiful Aleutian landscapes, numerous volcanoes, abundant marine life, and the plentiful natural resources Alaska has to offer.



I am proud of the crew, the work we accomplished, the training we conducted, and I look forward to our next patrol. But in the meantime, we are all looking forward to spending some quality time back home in Kodiak with our family and friends!

Petty Officer First Class Louis Semerling and Petty Officer Second Class Robert Stocks demonstrate how to control flooding using a portable pump.



Petty Officer First Class Erik Bragan and Seaman Andrew Dennis review 50-caliber firing techniques during a day at anchor.






Petty Officer Second Class Erica Anderson (left) and Petty Officer First Class Curtis Conlee (right) perform hydraulic system repairs on ALEX HALEY's 26-foot small boat.

**Per his late father's wishes,
CAPT Benjamin Golightly renders a final
salute during a traditional burial at sea.**





**Chief Petty Officer Tyler Thomas
and Petty Officer Third Class Adam
Sparkes hard at work during a
trivia bonus round!**

**The MK-38 gun crew
prepares for batteries
release during a gunnery
exercise.**



ALEX HALEY's small boat crew launches during a Rescue and Assistance drill, where a simulated response to a vessel in distress was practiced.



The Flight Deck fire fighting team following a successful AVSTAN training day.



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.

**Photos by ALEX HALEY's Ship Photographer:
Petty Officer First Class Jasen Newman**

