

CAPTAIN HOPLEY YEATON SUPERIOR CUTTERMAN AWARD

The Hopley Yeaton Awards, which honor the Coast Guard's legendary sea-going forbearer, Capt. Hopley Yeaton, are given to celebrate and recognize cuttermen and cutter crews who best exemplify what it means to be a top-tier Coast Guard Cutterman in spirit and in action.



LCDR DANA PREFER, USCG *CGC DEPENDABLE (WMEC 626)*

LCDR Prefer is serving as the Executive Officer of CGC DEPENDABLE. Her most recent assignments are at TRACEN Petaluma, Post-Graduate school at Indiana University, and as Commanding Officer on CGC ISAAC MAYO. Previous afloat assignments include CGC BERTHOLF and CGC HARRIET LANE. She joined the USCG in 2007 and graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 2011. ESS is attached to the submission write-up with additional information.

LCDR Prefer helped lead DEPENDABLE through extensive operations during 3 Migrant Interdiction Operations (MIO) patrols amidst a historic wave of illegal migration from Cuba and Haiti. While supporting Operation Vigilant Sentry, DEPENDABLE interdicted 431 migrants and provided care to over 950 migrants, most certainly saving the lives of many of those embarked on unseaworthy craft. During each case, LCDR Prefer supervised the bridge and migrant processing teams, ensuring all CG procedures were followed while also safeguarding the safety of the crew and migrants.

As a superior shiphandler, LCDR Prefer coached the bridge team for five moorings with only one operational engine, twice without using available tug assistance. In addition, she completed the underway portions of TSTA on the edges of Hurricane Ian, riding out 60+ knots of wind at anchor and coaching junior officers through the night. She used these opportunities to coach junior members through essential ship-handling techniques, including casting, twisting, and using the elements to maneuver appropriately.

The cutter also conducted a SAR case with five lives saved and notably interdicted 1100 lbs of marijuana out of the Bahamas, proving the existence of a previously undocumented smuggling vector.

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BM1 RYAN PROS, USCG
CGC JUNIPER (WLB 201)

BM1 Pros serves as the Deck Department Lead Petty Officer on CGC JUNIPER. His most recent assignments are at CGC AQUIDNECK, CGC DORADO, and STA Fort Lauderdale. Previous afloat assignments include CGC HOLLYHOCK and CGC BRISTOL BAY. He joined the USCG in 2009.

During CGC Juniper's participation in Op BLUE PACIFIC, BM1 Pros played a crucial role in building international partnerships and deterring Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing (IUU-F) throughout strategic and remote areas of the Pacific. Working alongside members from PACIFIC TACLET and a Marine Corps linguist, BM1 participated in four boardings of foreign fishing vessels. Furthermore, BM1 Pros worked alongside four shipriders from Fiji to conduct a joint boarding, strengthening the United States' partnership with Fiji.

Additionally, during a gap in the BMC and BOSN billets on board, BM1 Pros fulfilled the role of Deck Department Head for 10 months, including the 42-day out-of-hemisphere patrol. He selflessly stepped into the position, filling a significant leadership gap and assuming all duties, including AToN patrol planning, ordering equipment and supplies, and supervising evolutions.

Upon receiving tasking during the devastating Lahaina, Maui wildfires while on routine AToN patrol in August 2023, BM1 quickly and efficiently organized and led the offload of all AToN equipment, expertly developed a plan and on loaded two RBS-II with trailers for transport to Kahului, Maui. The careful execution of this non-standard evolution allowed the delivery of essential assets to establish and maintain the crucial safety zones around Lahaina Harbor.