

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact:
Coast Guard Public Affairs
Haiti Relief Operation
305-415-6680

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Illinois native assists in Haiti Relief Efforts

MIAMI—The San Diego-based Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton recently transited through the Panama Canal to support the ongoing humanitarian efforts in Haiti.

Seaman Christopher K Scales, 26, an Oglesby, Ill., native and crewmember of Hamilton, was aboard the cutter as it transited the canal and is now part of the ongoing Coast Guard Haiti relief effort. Scales is seaman and is participates in general deck operations aboard the ship, and he has been in the Coast Guard for four months.

The 378-foot cutter was already underway for a scheduled patrol when an earthquake devastated Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 12, 2010. By Jan. 13, 2010, Hamilton's orders had changed and it began to steam towards the Canal Zone.

"Hamilton's crew responded to the news of our re-tasking in support of disaster relief with professionalism and flexibility, working overtime to ensure the cutter was ready to respond to any mission at any time. They are a true example of the Coast Guard's multi-mission culture," said Cmdr. Douglas Goodwin, Hamilton Executive Officer.

The Hamilton is currently off the coast of Haiti and the crew is now providing logistical and command support to relief operations currently underway.

One of two Secretary Class High Endurance cutters homeported in San Diego, Hamilton is the first of twelve such cutters and routinely patrols the Eastern Pacific Ocean interdicting narcotics smugglers attempting to transport drugs within the maritime domain.

To learn more about Hamilton's progress in the Haiti relief efforts, please visit the Coast Guard's District 7 public affairs website at:

<http://www.d7publicaffairs.com/go/site/586/>

To view a short video of Hamilton transiting through the Panama Canal visit:

http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php?g2_itemId=762918

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