



SAFETY LINE

KEYSTONE MANAGES THE T/S KENNEDY

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Due to the COVID pandemic, there has been a great reduction in cadet billets with shipping companies for obvious safety reasons. Every student from each of the Maritime Schools is greatly affected by this, specifically those upperclassmen who are due to graduate, but may not have enough sea days in order to do so. The Maritime Administration (MARAD) devised a plan to provide sea days to as many cadets as possible, while doing so safely and in accordance with CDC and Company guidelines.



T/S Kennedy Outbound Long Island Sound

Lead by Paul Gilmore of the Strategic Sealift Office, MARAD planned to use the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Training Ship, T/S Kennedy, to sail from the shipyard in Mobile, AL back to her home port of Buzzards Bay, MA. MARAD chose Keystone as the Ship Manager for this mission and decided to man the vessel with up to 50 cadets as well as the full Keystone crew required to sail the vessel. In order to be fair to all Maritime Academies, the cadet billets were divided up among various schools.

A total of 48 cadets made the voyage. 14 Maine Maritime Cadets, 7 Kings Point Cadets, 14 California Maritime Cadets and 13 Great Lakes Maritime Cadets. Along with the Cadets, three of the Academies also sent a faculty representative to act as a mentor to their respective schools.

The Senior Officers and Galley crew were the first crewmembers to join the T/S Kennedy on the 8th of June. This gave our Senior Officers a good chance to get acclimated with the vessel and all the systems they would be required to use. The rest of the Officers arrived in the following days in order to get the engine plant up and running. By the 15th of June the entire Keystone crew was onboard followed by all of the Cadets joining between the 19th and 22nd of June.

With the challenge of the COVID virus in mind, Keystone took numerous additional safety measures both before and during the voyage. Every single crewmember and Cadet was required to fill out a COVID pre-boarding questionnaire which was thoroughly reviewed in order to ensure all were healthy and without any known contact with the virus leading up to joining. Each crewmember received a COVID PPE kit at their home before traveling to the vessel. This PPE kit was worn by all while in transit and for use while onboard the vessel. There were numerous rounds of COVID testing once all were onboard. Once it was determined that the vessel was free of the virus, MARAD mandated a 14-day gangway up order prior to departure to make certain the virus could not make its way onboard. Lastly, on the day before the vessel's departure, another round of testing confirmed that all onboard were negative.

The T/S Kennedy departed Mobile, AL at 1400 on Thursday, July 2nd. Throughout the voyage the vessel conducted many training opportunities for cadets, such as anchoring and maneuvering, as well as extensive navigation exercises, in order for cadets to work on their sea projects. On the afternoon of July 22nd, the T/S Kennedy docked at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, where all cadets disembarked and the crew demobilized the vessel.

Thank you to all those that made this a productive and safe voyage, specifically Captain Cal Chapman and Chief Engineer Hank Cole! Keystone was honored to be chosen by MARAD for such a unique voyage and it was a pleasure to assist in the training of future Merchant Mariners!

“T/S KENNEDY CAPTSTAN CHRONICLES” - CADET BLOGS

During their time onboard the T/s Kennedy, cadets created daily blogs, giving a summary of the day along with pictures. Below are a number of the blogs submitted.

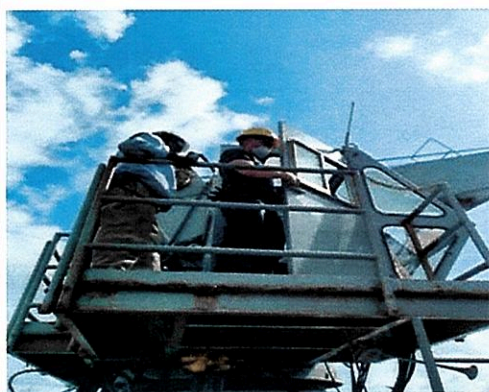
Thursday 2 July, 2020

The T/S Kennedy departed Mobile, Alabama on a mini training cruise that includes Cadets from, Maine Maritime Academy, Great Lakes Maritime Academy, California Maritime Academy and Kings Point. The vessel will dock at Massachusetts Maritime Academy on or about July 22 and we expect the Cadets to be released the following day. Due to the limited number of Cadets embarked we expect this will be an exceptional learning experience with lots of hands on training from the crew and the three Academy Instructors.

MARAD has contracted with Keystone Shipping Company to provide a professional crew for this exercise, I can say without exception, the crew is delighted to be here and welcomes the opportunity to participate in this project.

1400LT Kennedy Last Line Mobile. Cadets have acclimated to sea watches since 30 June and assist in all evolutions of getting underway on the bridge, engine room, and deck. 34 Crew on board, 48 Cadets and 3 Faculty depart for Mobile Anchorage. All crew and cadets received negative COVID results on Wednesday 1 July.

1800LT let go port anchor Mobile Anchorage. Cadets maintain engineering and deck sea watches.



Friday July 3rd, 2020

0200 Ship advances clocks to ZD +5 EST

0800 Faculty and Senior officer meeting. 0830 Commence Heaving Port Anchor with Cadet Detail.

0848 Anchor aweigh. Vessel proceeding towards Tampa anchorage for training and drills ETA 0900 July 4th. Cadets resume daily training/maintenance including lifeboat inspections, COVID Sanitary, deck washdown, and drills.

1530 Fire and Boat drill. Cadets assemble at boat stations and review duties. Cadets assemble at Emergency Gear Locker 2 and 3 and assign fire fighting response duties. Review abandonment procedures. Review launching of davit launched life rafts.



“T/S KENNEDY CAPTSTAN CHRONICLES” - CADET BLOGS

Saturday July 4th, 2020

0800 LT Faculty and Senior officer meeting. 0900 Arrival.

0900 LT Arrival to TS Kennedy's first anchorage, located off Tampa, Florida. Cadets are gaining experience and beginning to get more comfortable with anchoring procedures.

1450 LT Anchoring training evolutions were completed, after switching to the final anchorage for the day.

Cadets are continuing to build their skills in watch standing, anchoring, equipment testing, safety equipment, LSA and drills. Many of our cadets have been completing celestial navigation tasks such as star fixes and azimuths of the sun. The weather has been great for observations!

Engine cadets received valuable training on maneuvering.



Sunday July 5th, 2020

0800 LT Faculty and Senior officer meeting.

0900 LT Heave Anchor Tampa to commence anchoring exercises. More cadets were given the opportunity to lead the anchoring detail. After multiple drops and heaves, the vessel proceeded North West to give the cadets some real hands on practice in coastal nav, engine room maneuvering, creating a compass deviation card and, ship handling exercises with cadets conning the vessel.

1600 Training evolutions were completed, after switching to the final anchorage for the day. Cadets continue to assist the crew with Lifesaving equipment inspection and maintenance, daily sanitary, and watch standing duties.



Monday July 6th, 2020

0800 LT Faculty and Senior officer meeting.

0914 LT Heave Anchor Tampa bound for Port Canaveral, ETA currently 8 July 1400LT. More cadets were given the opportunity to lead the anchoring detail. After anchor aweigh, vessel proceeded due west paralleling the Tampa Safety fairway for about 20 miles then turned south for Dry Tortugas then sailing along the keys to Port Canaveral. Weather looks good in the three day forecast with east winds 5-10 Kts. Seas 1-2 feet with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

“T/S KENNEDY CAPTSTAN CHRONICLES” - CADET BLOGS

Wednesday July 8, 2020

0800 LT Faculty and Senior officer meeting.

1312 L28D 18.4°N Long 080D 26.3°W Arrival Port Canaveral . Vessel anchors off Port Canaveral Tower bearing 297@4.2nm. Cadets gain more experience in Pre-Arrival checklists, maneuvering, and anchoring evolutions. Vessel plans to continue voyage heaving anchor around 1000LT on July 9th and turn south along the Florida coast for coastal navigation, celestial, and watch standing and COLREGS training.

After approximately 24 hours steaming South and North along the Florida coast the vessel will proceed offshore Charleston and execute MARAD required speed runs and engineering tests.

Weather continues to be pleasant with light southwesterly winds and slight seas.

Morale seems high (especially as the vessel is back in cell phone range) as cadets continue to integrate well with the ships crew and gain valuable hands on experience due to the smaller cadet contingency and higher faculty/crew/cadet ratios.

Saturday July 11, 2020 ZD+4

0800 Faculty and Senior Officer meeting.

0900 Enclosed Space Entry training conducted by Faculty Stephen Tarrant with Cadets.

1200 Noon Position L 31-53.3N Long 075-48.5W approx. 150 nm east of Charleston, SC. Cadets continue MOB training on bridge executing Williamson turns and continue with Enclosed Space Entry training.

1530 Fire and Boat Drill. Cadets lead Fire Teams 2 and 3 and simulate a fire in the aft house 02 Level laundry.



"T/S KENNEDY CAPTSTAN CHRONICLES" - CADET BLOGS

Tuesday July 14, 2020 ZD+4

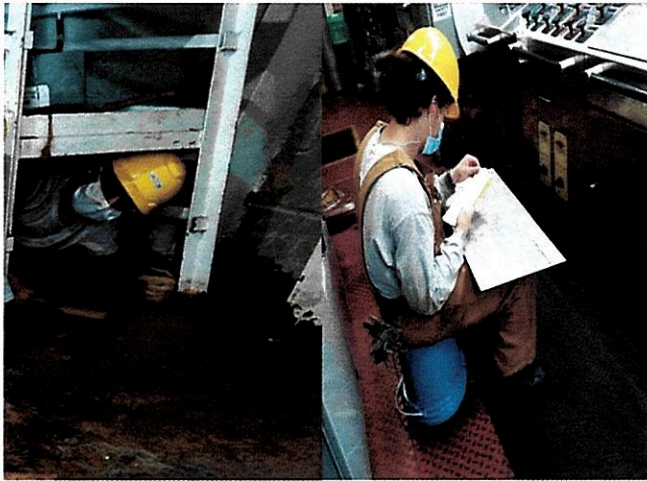
0800 Faculty and Senior officer meeting.

1030 Stability Lecture by CM McGourthy Classroom 62

1200 Noon Position L 32-41.8N Long 079-41.7 W approx. 50 nm east of Charleston, SC. 1300 Resume Pilot boarding training and water tight door training.

1430 2 nm west of Charleston Pilot Station A vessel on Dead slow bell for opportunity for cadets to get cell phone coverage.

1800 Vessel increases to 60 RPM to Charleston offshore training box.



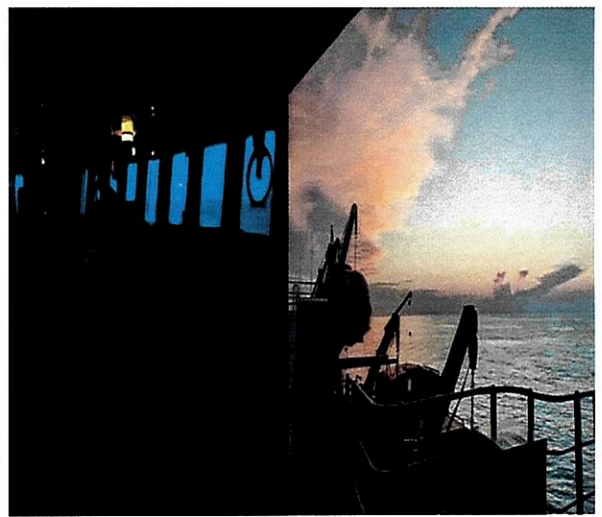
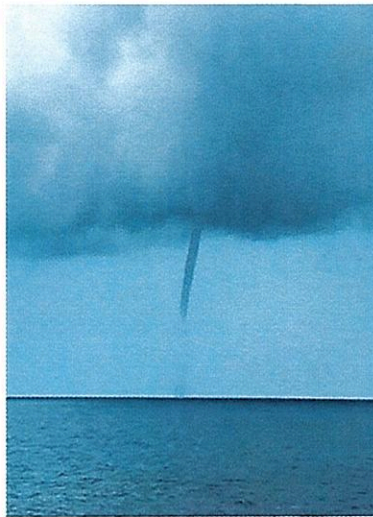
Thursday July 16, 2020 ZD+4

0800 Faculty and Senior Officer meeting.

1000 WTD and Pilot boarding operations lecture by Kevin Calnan.

1200 Noon Position L 39-25.9 N Long 073-34.6 W bound for New York. ETA Pilot Station Ambrose 1000 7/18/2020. Wind NNW at force 4

1300 Ship Stability lecture by Chief Mate McGourthy



"T/S KENNEDY CAPTSTAN CHRONICLES" - CADET BLOGS

Monday July 20, 2020 ZD+4

Hells Gate Transit

0536 Anchor Away! We are currently underway and Big Apple Bound—both the crew and cadets are very excited to get a unique view of NEW YORK CITY!! Next stop: HELLS GATE to Long Island Sound. Vessel scheduled to arrive Cape Cod Bay anchorage at around 1800 on the 21st. Then home to MMA around 1200 on the 22nd.



Thank you to all cadets for your hard work and dedication throughout the voyage and for a phenomenal job on your "T/S Kennedy Capstan Chronicles" blogs!!!