

USCGC MOBILE BAY (WTGB 103 and CGB 12002)

Breaking the trail...



Marking the way...



Updated: 4 December, 2008 District 9

WELCOME TO COAST GUARD CUTTER MOBILE BAY!

PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS: (Your Name)
USCGC MOBILE BAY (WTGB 103)
PO BOX 287
STURGEON BAY WI 54235

SHIP'S PHONE #: (920) 743-2646 **FAX #:** (920) 743-7351

MOBILE BAY'S MISSIONS

Ice Breaking, ATON, Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement

HISTORY

MOBILE BAY is the third of nine 140 ft Ice Breaking Tugs built by the Coast Guard. The cutter was commissioned in 1978 and home ported in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Designed with icebreaking as a primary mission, we can break 27 inches of ice with 6 inches of snow at 3 knots. We can back and ram through ice up to 5 feet thick. Icebreaking is our mission from mid-December through mid-April. In 1992, MOBILE BAY received delivery of CGB 12002, a 125 ft Aids to Navigation Barge equipped with a 20 ton crane. This allows the cutter to work over 100 aids every year.

TYPICAL FA/FN JOB ASSIGNMENT

The highest priority of any non-rated crewmember aboard is to gain exposure to the Coast Guard in order to make informed career decisions (choosing a rating, etc.). Building on the basic knowledge received at recruit training you will qualify at both inport (watchstander and Engineer of the Watch) and underway (oiler) watchstations. In addition you will participate in buoy deck operations and small boat operations as a crewmember or engineer. Daily you can expect to be involved in training, learning or maintaining the engineering systems of the cutter including conducting preventative maintenance on the diesel engines and generators, hydraulic systems, air conditioning and refrigeration, outboard motors, and maintaining the engineering spaces aboard (cleaning, etc.).

INPORT WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR SA/SN

Until you are qualified as inport watchstander you will stand a "1 in 3", which means you will have duty (requiring you to stay aboard the cutter and stand watch) every 3rd day. You have 1 month from the day you report aboard to complete this qualification. Once qualified as a watchstander you will be placed in the regular duty rotation. This rotation is based on how many people are qualified (the more qualified watchstanders, the better the watch rotation). During your inport duty day, you can expect to stand watch two 4-hour watches.

INPORT WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR FA/FN

Same as for SA/SN except once qualified as inport watchstander you will remain on "1 in 3" duty until you complete your inport Engineer of the Watch qualification. You have 2 months from the date you report aboard to complete this qualification.

UNDERWAY WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR SA/SN

SA/SN stand helm/lookout watches on the bridge. You will be steering the ship and watching for other vessels and other contacts in the immediate vicinity of the vessel. The rotation is "1 in 3" until you are qualified. Once again the regular rotation is based on the number of qualified watchstanders. Underway "1 in 3" this means you will stand 4 hours on watch followed by 8 hours off watch.

UNDERWAY WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR FA/FN

FA/FN stand underway Oiler watches. You will be making hourly rounds of all machinery and throughout the spaces aboard the cutter taking readings and checking to make sure machinery is operating properly. The rotation is "1 in 3" until qualified. Once qualified as Oiler you will be placed in the regular watch rotation which varies depending on the number of qualified Oilers.

UNDERWAY ROUTINE

MOBILE BAY is underway between 1500-2500 hrs. per year. Underway periods vary from day trips to month long deployments. Each spring, you can expect to be underway from the first of April through mid-June for our spring buoy season. During this time, we'll remove the small, unlighted buoys used for the winter and replace them with large, lighted buoys, and then in the fall, from October to December, we pull all of the large lighted buoys and replace them with ice resistant winter hulls. While underway, in addition to your regular watches you can expect to be a direct participant in performing the Coast Guard's missions (acting as a lookout in the search for those in distress, launching the cutter's small boat, participating in buoy deck operations etc.). During the winter months the ATON barge remains moored at the pier. During this time, the enlisted personnel rotate who gets underway and who stays with the barge.

DIRECTIONS TO MOBILE BAY

MOBILE BAY moors at the Municipal Pier in downtown Sturgeon Bay. Directions: Take route 42/57 north from Green Bay, Wisconsin. Remaining on 42/57 for 45 miles, you will come to Sturgeon Bay. Remaining on 42/57, at the second traffic light (Neenah Ave.) take a left. Travel half a mile, and on your right you will see a sign for Sawyer Park; we are moored at the park's pier.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING AFTER HOURS

Report in to MOBILE BAY's OOD (Officer of the Day).

IF UNIT IS UNDERWAY, WHERE TO REPORT

If the tug is underway, report to the barge OOD. If both the tug and barge are underway; report to the OOD at Coast Guard Station Sturgeon Bay.

HOW MUCH PERSONAL STORAGE SPACE (IN CUBIC FEET)

Not much on the cutter. You'll have a locker (like a gym locker) that's 6ft tall, 2ft deep and 14 inches wide. Also there is space underneath your rack. It works out to be just less than 20 cubic ft.

UNIFORM NORMALLY WORN DURING THE WORKDAY

Inport – ODU's with blouse except when involved in a work party. Work parties may remove the blouse or wear coveralls.

Underway- ODU's blouse is optional.

RECOMMENDED UNIFORM ITEMS IN ADDITION TO SEABAG ISSUE

You may want to bring long underwear for the winter months as temperatures regularly drop below 0°F. You may want to purchase extra uniform items as there is no exchange with a uniform center nearby.

RATINGS PRESENT AT UNIT

- BMs (BMC, BM1(2), BM3 (3))
- MK (MK1(2), MK3 (2))
- EM (EMC, EM3)
- SK (SK2)
- DC (DC2)
- FS (FS1, FS3)

NAME OF NEAREST CITY AND DISTANCE

The nearest large city is Green Bay, Wisconsin, approximately 45 miles south of Sturgeon Bay.

NAME OF NEAREST MILITARY FACILITY AND DISTANCE

The nearest military facility is the Naval Reserve Center at Green Bay Wisconsin.

The nearest large military facility is Great Lakes Naval Training Center near Chicago, Illinois.

LOCATION OF NEAREST EXCHANGE AND COMMISARY

The nearest exchange is located at Sector Lake Michigan in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

COMMON DESTINATIONS OF DEPLOYMENTS

Green Bay, Lake Michigan, the Straits of Mackinac, St. Mary's river

UNIFORM TO REPORT IN

Tropical Blue Long (“trops”) in the summer
Service Dress Bravo (“SDB’s”) in the winter

IF SPONSOR NOT AVAILABLE, MEMBER SHOULD ASK FOR

The cutter’s OOD.

ANY OTHER INFORMATION A NEWLY ARRIVING MEMBER SHOULD KNOW

The MOBILE BAY has a small tight-knit crew of only 30 individuals. Due to the small size of the crew, nearly all evolutions are “all-hands evolutions.” On board the MOBILE BAY you will have the unique experience of serving on one of only two 245’ tug and barge combinations in the Coast Guard. If you are interested in a career in ATON this is an excellent starting point.

THE TOWN OF STURGEON BAY

The town of Sturgeon Bay, located in Door County, WI, has a population of just over 9,000 people. It is a seasonal resort community, with the summer population approaching 75,000. The nearest large city is Green Bay, approximately 1 hour’s drive. Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin are both approximately 3 hours south, and Chicago is 4 hour drive. Sturgeon Bay offers a variety of recreational opportunities throughout the year. The City of Sturgeon Bay website can provide you with more information about the town and what all it has to offer: <http://www.sturgeonbaywi.org/>

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

- SUMMER: 60s to high 80s
- WINTER: 10s to 20s

UNIT MUTUAL ASSISTANCE REP and PHONE

Unit Admin Officer 920-743-2646

WHAT TYPE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION IS AVAILABLE IN THE AREA?

Although cutter duty does not make it easy to attend college classes in the traditional way you may be used to, MOBILE BAY crewmembers have had success in taking advantage of the programs allowing you to gain college credit by testing out of specific subjects (most commonly known as CLEP or DSST tests). These are self-paced, no cost tests. Some members also utilize tuition assistance to take online college courses. The Coast Guard Institute provides degree-planning assistance to all members and our dependents. More information is available through the unit Education Services Officer.

WHERE DO MOST PEOPLE BANK?

Bay Lake Bank or North Shore Bank

IS THERE A CREDIT UNION IN THE AREA?

Yes. Pioneer Credit Union

IS THERE A MALL IN THE AREA?

No, there isn’t. There are several larger malls in Green Bay and Appleton. In Sturgeon Bay, we have a Target, Wal-Mart, Dunham’s Sports, and two Grocery Stores. Anything you may need, you can find here in town.

MEMBERS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS

IS MESSING AVAILABLE?

Yes. MOBILE BAY'S FS's (cooks) make breakfast, lunch, and supper while underway. Inport they prepare breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday. All other times we have "open galley" which means you prepare your own meal from food purchased by the FS staff.

WHERE WOULD A SINGLE NON-RATE MORE THAN LIKELY LIVE?

If unmarried, you will be assigned Unaccompanied Personnel Housing unit at CG Station Sturgeon with other non-rates from the MOBILE BAY. Confirm with your sponsor and the Unit Housing Officer whether or not housing is available.

MEMBERS WITH DEPENDENTS

COST OF AVERAGE TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN THE AREA

The average rent is \$450 - \$650. However, utilities can be as high as \$100 a month depending on the season. The availability of housing in the area is all dependent on the time of year you join the unit.

2008 BAH RATES FOR E2s and E3s (WITH DEPENDENTS)

\$784 per month

<http://www.defenselink.mil/militarypay/pay/calc/index.html>

IS GOVERNMENT OWNED HOUSING AVAILABLE?

There is government housing in Sturgeon Bay, however, it is not always available. Speak with your sponsor to find out if it is available and to be put on the list. You will need to complete a housing application and submit it to the Housing Officer or Dave Keymon at Sector Lake Michigan.

WHERE DO MOST DEPENDENTS LIVE AND GO TO SCHOOL?

They live in Sturgeon Bay and attend Door County schools. The local newspaper, The Door County Advocate, has classifieds with listings of local apartments and rental properties:

<http://classified.doorcountyadvocate.com/>

IS IT ADVISABLE TO BRING DEPENDENTS ALONG WHEN REPORTING?

It may be easier to move your family here after you report in and locate suitable housing. This would give you a better idea of the area (communities, driving distances, etc.). Our schedule should also factor into your decision. Ensure your family is taken care of. We will do all we can to help you and them.