



# The Heavy Hitter Times

November 2022



## CO's Corner

Friends, family and loved ones! Welcome to the November edition of the Heavy Hitter Times!

I'm proud to announce that after an unprecedented and **HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL** Sail Around, your Sailors and USS COOPERSTOWN have safely arrived at Naval Station Mayport!

You should be **EXTREMELY** proud of your Sailors for what they just accomplished. This crew just successfully completed a 3,500 nautical mile Sail Around with over 730 miles and 85 hours of restricted waters transits. There is **NO HARDER** navigational voyage on earth than the one this crew just completed. There are over 330 million people in the United States and less than 700 have executed this voyage through the Great Lakes, The Welland Canal, the St. Lawrence River, out to the Northern Atlantic Ocean and down to Mayport. This was a true, all-hands team effort – well done, **HEAVY HITTERS!**

Lastly, it is with a heavy heart that I write the last newsletter while serving as your Commanding Officer. On November 29th I will turn over Command to CDR Daxton Moore, who is an **OUTSTANDING** Naval Officer – this crew will be in good hands!

I can't imagine another experience more challenging, more rewarding or more fun than commanding this ship. And like any major life event, I will leave forever changed by this ship, this crew, and this experience with you. Shipmates, thank you, each and every one. You are truly the best our nation has to offer and I'm proud to have been your Captain!

Fair Winds and Following Seas!

Very respectfully,

Evan



# XO's Corner

Hello Family and Friends,

Congratulations to our Sailors selected for the next paygrade!

GM1 Andrews and STG2 Wu

Congratulations to our Sailors of the Year!

SSOY – CS1 Matthews

SOY – OS2 Brown

SOY – CS2 Day

BJOY – BM3 Lindteigen

Congratulations to the Heavy Hitter of the Month!

EN2 Smith

Fair winds and following seas to our amazing Commanding Officer, CDR Evan Wright. Under his vigilant leadership, Cooperstown successfully came to life establishing a culture that will outlast the life of the ship. He trained the first crew of Heavy Hitters through initial certification, crew move aboard and the most complex Sail Around a naval ship will ever transit.

Throughout the month of November the Heavy Hitters were hard at work finally operating Cooperstown at sea, transiting through 4 Great Lakes, 730 miles of restricted waters, and out in the Atlantic safely arriving at our Homeport in Mayport, FL. Additionally, the crew completed a Force Protection Exercise in Norfolk, VA, well ahead of any ship in its life cycle, receiving one of the highest scores a Littoral Combat Ship has ever received!

Outstanding Job by all for your efforts this past month!

CDR Patrick Earls



# SEL's Corner

## Hooyah Heavy Hitter Family and Friends!!

We made it!! The crew of COOPERSTOWN is finally moored alongside our fellow Warships in the Mayport basin! We are excited to see what is next for this highly trained crew of Sailors!!



Moreover, we are back just in time for the holidays and some much needed family time with our loved ones! We thank you all who have supported us during the last four months, we couldn't have done it without you!

## Let's talk Navy!

Did you know?... VA benefit Advisors are available to provide One-on-One assistance to help you understand how to navigate the VA and the benefit services you've earned through your military career. The naval Station Mayport Rep. can be reached at (904) 270-6289 x1302

Lastly, be a good Officer, Chief, Sailor and human...where there is no standard... You set it!!

LCS 23

## Celebrations and Salutations

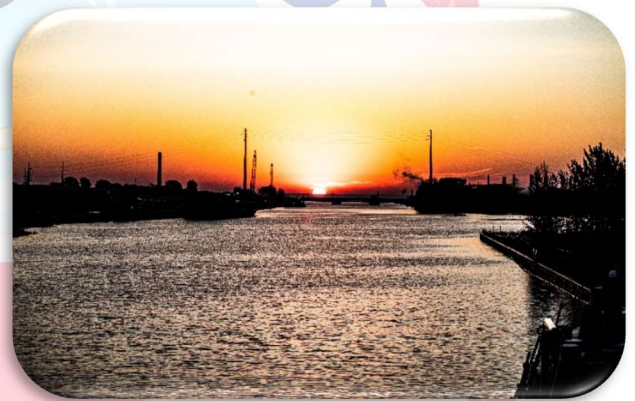
### Combat Systems Department

- BZ to FCC Grissom and LT Krause for leading COOPERSTOWN through our unprecedented Force Protection Exercise certification
- BZ to the GMs and FCs for coordinating a 9,900 round crew-served weapons shot while underway to ensure the future safety and certification of COOPERSTOWN
- BZ and Thank You to LT Gutierrez for your commendable leadership of Combat Systems department leading up to and through a challenging Sail Around. Good luck as you Fleet Up for your next tour as COOPERSTOWN's Operations Officer!



### Operations Department

- BZ to the deck team for their tireless efforts across 3,500 miles traveled, 15 locks, 25 Sea and Anchor details, and 5 ports calls to get us safely home!!
- BZ and Thank You to LCDR Buchan for your excellent leadership as the first underway Operations Officer! We wish you Fair Winds and Following Seas on your upcoming tour at Commander, Fourth Fleet



### Engineering Department

- Congratulations to LTJG Jobe, our Main Propulsion Assistant, on his promotion!!
- BZ to the entire team for their flawless performance in transferring nearly 300,000 gallons of fuel and over 7,000 gallons of oily waste in 5 vastly different port setups without incident!!

### Supply Department

- Welcome to Supply team LSC Apgar, CS1 Barnes, and CS2 Gibbons
- BZ to the entire department on a flawless Change Of Command.

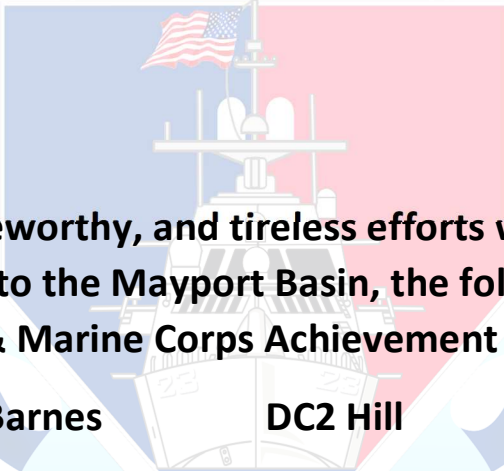


## Heavy Hitter of The Month



**EN2 Darryl Smith, is the Heavy Hitter of the Month for November 2022. EN2 Smith is a phenomenal self-motivated Sailor that continuously performs at an accelerated level. As one of only three qualified Oil Kings onboard, he has been a vital driving force in the safe flawless execution of seven fuel onloads totaling 298K gallons of fuel oil. He coordinated two Hazardous Waste offload evolutions totaling 7K gallons of oily waste with zero mishaps, solidifying Cooperstown's ability to succeed in a successful sail around. He has persistently shown a passionate level of ownership for the ship's engineering plant from day one arriving in Marinette, throughout the completion of Damage Control Mission Assessment, Light Off Assesemnt, and the sail around. His motivation to succeed through challenging times has been contagious throughout not only engineering department but the entire Heavy Hitter Team. Always willing to learn, assist, train, and take the lead, EN2 Smith is the Engineering Department's undeniable choice for Heavy Hitter of the Month for November 2022, onboard USS COOPERSTOWN. Congratulations on a job well done!!**

# COOPERSTOWN Recognizes Excellence!!!



For their significant, noteworthy, and tireless efforts which resulted in the safe arrival of COOPERSTOWN to the Mayport Basin, the following sailors received the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal:

**EM1 Andrews**

**STG2 Barnes**

**DC2 Hill**

**EN3 Walker**

**EM1 Chavez**

**EM2 Cross**

**EN2 Jules**

**CSSN Albright**

**GSE1 Green**

**ET2 Davis**

**DC2 Mitchell**

**CSSN Delaosa**

**FC1 Jarman**

**ET2 Dawkins**

**STG2 Nguyenlam**

**LT Krause**

**FC1 Kenison**

**HT2 Denton**

**HT2 Parson**

**FCC Grissom**

**ET1 Stull**

**LS2 Estrella**

**EN2 Smith**

**STG1 Tipler**

**IT2 Gilmore**

**GM2 Trafton**

**BM1 Trevino**

**BM2 Goranov**

**STG3 Torres**

# USS COOPERSTOWN CHANGE OF COMMAND



# HEAVY HITTERS AT WORK





