

## WELCOME ABOARD UNIT INFORMATION

DATE SHEET FILLED OUT: 02JAN25

District 9

UNIT NAME: **USCGC MACKINAW (WLBB 30)**

PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS:

Commanding Officer  
USCGC MACKINAW (WLBB 30)  
632 Coast Guard Dr.  
Cheboygan, MI 49721  
Attn: (Rank) (LastName)

**IN-PORT PHONE:** (231) 597-2030

**UNDERWAY PHONE:** (231) 375-7027

**E-MAIL:** You will be given computer access and an email account. You will be able to send and receive email underway.

\*Please note that some of these may change depending on the mission and command discretion.



**CUTTER MISSIONS:** The Coast Guard is required by law to maintain a heavy ice breaking capability on the Great Lakes to assist in keeping channels and harbors open to navigation in response to the reasonable demands of commerce to meet the winter shipping needs of industry. In addition to heavy icebreaking, the USCGC MACKINAW (WLBB 30) has state of the art systems and multi-mission capabilities that include maintenance of aids to navigation (ATON), search and rescue (SAR), as well as the ability to deploy an oil skimming system to respond to oil spill situations and environmental

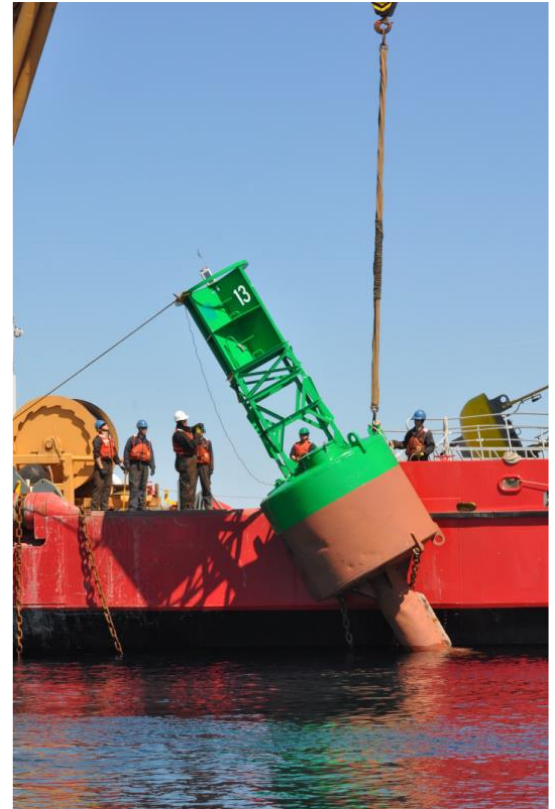
response. Our deployments will range from one day to roughly 3 weeks. The MACKINAW is typically busiest Fall through Spring. ATON retrieval in the Fall, ice breaking in the Winter, and ATON restore in the Spring. Summer is usually\* the slowest time with the occasional patrol.

**CREW ASSIGNED:** 10 Officers, 48 Enlisted.

**QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRE FOR ALL:** Basic Damage Control (DC) [written test] and Advanced DC [board]. All crew members will be required to complete DC drawings\* (ENG department will be required to complete additional drawings).

**TYPICAL SA/SN JOB ASSIGNMENTS:** Members of Deck Force will work on the buoy deck assisting with line handling, launching and crewing of small boats, anchoring, towing, interior/exterior maintenance, preservation of survival systems and small boats. Additionally SA/SN will be serving as messcooks in the galley. Qualifications include Lookout, In-Port Security Watchstander, Boat Crewman, Damage Control Repair Party Member, Cutter Rescue Swimmer, ATON Rigger and Ice Rescue Team.

**TYPICAL FA/FN JOB ASSIGNMENTS:** A Fireman reporting to CGC Mackinaw can expect to learn a lot in the engineering field which includes diesel engines, hydraulics, small boats, and electrical systems. Once fully qualified, they are free to pursue other quals such as small-boat engineer, small-boat crew, or buoy deck rigger. Depending on the group they are placed in, either Main Prop or Aux shop, their main equipment focus will be the main diesel engines and Azipods or hydraulics and A/C equipment. Additionally FA/FN will be serving as messcooks in the galley.



**IN-PORT WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR E2-E5:** In-Port Security Watchstander (ISW): Stand a break-in rotation of 1 of every 3 days until qualified, and then stand 1 of every 6-8 days. This is a 24hr watch where you will be staying on the boat overnight which can include weekends. Messcook (E2-E3): weeklong assignment, Monday-Friday roughly 0600-1745, that rotates and requires you to be present to assist with breakfast, lunch, and dinner, before being let out for the day.

**IN-PORT WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR E6-O2 (OPS DEPT):** In-port OOD: Stand a break-in rotation of 1 of every 4 days until qualified, and then stand 1 of every 6-13 days. This is a 24hr watch where you will be staying on the boat overnight which can include weekends. OODs will also be required to complete ISW qualifications if not completed at a prior unit.

**IN PORT WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR E6-O2 (ENG DEPT):** In-port EOW: Stand a break-in rotation of 1 of every 3 days until qualified, and then stand 1 of every 8-10 days. This is a 24hr watch where you will be staying on the boat overnight which can include weekends.

**UNDERWAY WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR SA/SN:** Lookout, Anchor Watch and Shipping. 1 in 4 rotation\* (4 hours on watch, 12 hours off watch).

**UNDERWAY WATCH TYPE AND DUTY ROTATION FOR FA/FN:** Underway and away-from-homeport Journeyman Engineer (JE). 1 in 4 rotation underway.\* Port and starboard in a group rotation when in a port away from homeport. (6 hours on watch, 6 hours off watch).

**UNDERWAY WATCH TYPE FOR E4-O3 (OPS DEPT):** JOOD (QMOW)[E4-E7], Underway OOD [E7-O3]

**UNDERWAY WATCH TYPE FOR E4-O3 (ENG DEPT):** EOW, Journeyman Engineer (JE), and crane operator for both small boats and the buoy deck.

**HOW MUCH PERSONAL STORAGE SPACE:** Once you report aboard you will live onboard in two-person berthing rooms that share a head with another room and will have the opportunity to earn assigned government housing. Storage space onboard is limited as members will have one standing locker, some storage space under the rack, a footlocker, and a shared sea bag locker. Single members should refrain from bringing household good items such as furniture, large televisions and stereos until assigned berthing ashore or released to live on the economy.

**UNIFORM NORMALLY WORN DURING THE WORKDAY:** Operational dress uniform with standard Coast Guard or "MACKINAW" unit ball cap. Coveralls for Engineers are authorized. \*

**AVERAGE TEMPERATURE**                      SUMMER: 75 F                      WINTER: 20 F

Weather in Spring is cool with snow-fall possible until late May. Summers are mild and enjoyable. Fall is cool and brings a lot of wind. Winter is cold and windy often with lots of snow and ice. Winter-Driving training is provided at the unit and is recommended for those not used to driving in heavy winter conditions. Keep this in mind if you drive a vehicle not well suited for winter weather.

**UNIT MUTUAL ASSISTANCE REP/ PHONE:** Representative available onboard.

**ADDITIONAL EDUCATION:** DSST and CLEP courses are available through the Educational Services Officer. North Central Michigan College in nearby Petoskey, MI and Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste Marie, MI. Online education utilizing tuition assistance is also available with permission

from your department head and usually requires progress towards completion of qualifications.



**RATINGS PRESENT AT UNIT:** BM, MK, EM, DC, SK, CS, YN, HS, IT and ET. Those interested in other rates may be offered the opportunity to travel to another unit. E2-E3 looking to put your name on an A-School list will be able to once eligible (typically 3-months after reporting).

**NAME OF NEAREST CITY AND DISTANCE:** Mackinaw City 20 min, Petoskey 45 min, Gaylord 45 min, Sault Ste Marie 1.5 hours, Traverse City 2 hours.

**NAME OF NEAREST MILITARY FACILITY AND DISTANCE:** CG AIRSTA Traverse City, CG Base Sault Ste Marie, Camp Grayling (Michigan National Guard) (1.5 hours).

**LOCATION OF NEAREST EXCHANGE:** USCG exchange in both Traverse City and Sault Ste Marie. There are no commissaries in the local area.

**RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS IN THE AREA:** Assembly of God, Baptist, Catholic, Christian Reformed, Christian Science, Church of Christ, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Church of Nazarene, Congregational, Episcopal, Evangelical, Methodist, Jehovah's Witness, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan.

**COMMON DESTINATIONS OF DEPLOYMENTS:** Chicago, Grand Haven, Milwaukee, Sault Ste Marie, Mackinaw City, Duluth, Marquette, Thunder Bay Canada, Detroit, Windsor Canada, Sarnia Canada, Port Huron, Owen Sound Canada, Cleveland, and Toledo.

**AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:** Entire Great Lakes region. Our focus is Lake Michigan, Lake Huron and White-Fish Bay in Lake Superior; however, we may also support fellow cutters and operations in the other lakes.

#### **TYPICAL WORK EXPECTATIONS**

\*Workday in-port: 0745-1300 M-TH

Days away from homeport: 172 (avg.).

Days in homeport: 193 (avg.).

Workdays in homeport: 133 (est.).

Holiday Routine days in homeport: 60 (est.).

**WHERE TO REPORT/TRANSPORTATION:** When you receive orders to MACKINAW, contact your sponsor or call the ships number above for additional information. The nearest airport with the most availability is Traverse City. Pellston is closer but more rural and offers far less options when flying.

**UNIFORM TO REPORT IN:** Service Dress Bravo or Tropical Blue.



**HOW TO REPORT:** Call ahead to your sponsor. He or she will meet you upon your arrival, or if not available, will arrange for another crewmember to meet you. If you have questions and can't reach your sponsor, contact the Officer of the Day (OOD) aboard the cutter.

**MEMBERS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS IS MESSING AVAILABLE:** Yes, onboard.



**QUARTERS AND OR BARRACKS AVAILABLE:** Yes. E2-E3 without dependents will have shared housing based on availability. If none are available, then you will be staying on the ship until a unit becomes available. E4-E9 without dependents will be given BAH and will be required to obtain housing accommodations in town or the surrounding area. E4-E9 with dependents will be authorized government housing or authorized to submit a request to live on the economy and receive BAH. E2-E3 with dependents will be authorized government housing. O1-O3 will be authorized BAH and will be required to obtain housing accommodations in town or the surrounding area. Contact the Housing Office for more information. (231) 627-7882

**WHERE DO MOST PEOPLE BANK:** If you don't have online banking there are a few local banks in town. There are no major chains in Cheboygan.

**MAJOR STORES IN AREA:** Walmart and Family Fare (groceries). More shopping in Gaylord 45 miles South, or in Traverse City.

**MEDICAL CARE:** McLaren Hospital-Cheboygan Campus. Members are enrolled in TRICARE Prime-Remote. It is **HIGHLY** recommended members and dependents call as soon as you receive orders to obtain a primary care manager (PCM). TRICARE assigns a PCM, however it is a generic name, and the initial assigned doctor doesn't always have openings for new patients. Please call the facility to setup a PCM and initial appointment as soon as possible since openings can sometimes be 3-5 months away. McLaren also has an emergency room available. The nearest urgent care is in Indian River about 25 minutes away from Cheboygan. There is an independent HS1 available onboard for members ONLY that can provide basic care and address basic needs in-port and underway.

**WHAT LEVEL OF TRICARE IS AVAILABLE:** TRICARE PRIME-REMOTE

**PHARMACIES ACCEPTING TRICARE:** Walgreens. Walmart is no longer accepting TRICARE. TRICARE also uses Express Scripts to mail prescriptions if that is preferred.

**DENTAL/EYECARE:** Cheboygan Family Dentistry, Aspen Dental in Gaylord and Alcona Health Center in Alpena. Eyecare is available in Cheboygan at Cheboygan Vision Source.

**LOCAL AREA SCHOOLS:** Public Schools include: (1) High School 9-12, (1) Middle School 5-8, (2) Elementary Schools - East (K-1), and West (2-4). Private Schools include Bishop Baraga Catholic elementary, Cornerstone Christian, and St John Lutheran (231) 627- 5149 (PK-2).

**PETS:** Pets are allowed in housing (see CG Housing Policy) and there are two small vet clinics in town as well as an emergency care in Indian River. Only the stand-alone houses have fenced in backyards. The other housing buildings will require permission for a temporary fence to be installed. There is a fenced in dog run available in housing. Please contact the housing office for more information.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS:** The town of Cheboygan does provide activities along with Mackinaw City, which is approximately 20 minutes north. There are plenty of activities to stay busy including golfing, bowling, running, hiking, biking, camping, and lake-activities. Skiing/snowboarding, ice hockey, ice fishing, hunting and riding snowmobiles are popular activities during the winter season. There are several state parks or forests that contain great trails for

running, hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing. Many of these parks contain picturesque waterways that are navigable by kayak or canoe and are open for fishing. Mackinaw Island is a beautiful place to visit in the summer and is unique as it doesn't allow motorized vehicles. Using Google or Apple Maps is a great way to see what shops and resources are available in town. Mackinaw is a large part of the Great Lakes community, and we get to partake in awesome events such as the Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, MI as well as fulfilling the yearly role of the Christmas Tree Ship, delivering over 1000 Christmas Trees to Chicago, IL. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your sponsor.

We are excited to have you aboard and we look forward to having you join our team!

