

# SAFETY LINE



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## TA21-1 “OPERATING IN A COVID ENVIRONMENT”

On the evening of Monday, 16 August 2021, surprising U.S. Transportation Command orders were relayed to Ship Managers for activation of specified Ready Reserve Force (RRF) vessels under Turbo Activation 2021 (TA-21). Five Keystone-managed RRF ships were activated, including Cape Race and Cape Rise in Portsmouth, VA; Cape Kennedy in New Orleans, LA; and Cape Decision and Cape Domingo in Charleston, SC.

Special orders for activation included a seven-day Restriction of Movement (ROM) period followed by a five-day activation period and a 3 to 5-day Operations period (3 days for a normal maintenance sea trial or up to 5 days for a maintenance sea trial followed by Contested Environment

(CE) training for vessels on which Tactical Advisors (TACAD) were assigned); and a two-day deactivation period upon return from sea. Mariners who were not vaccinated for COVID-19 were restricted to their staterooms onboard during the ROM period. COVID-19 testing was conducted of all Full Operating Status (FOS) mariners before they reported to their ships, as well as testing again on days 1 and 5 of the ROM.

Cape Rise was excluded from CE training and successfully conducted a maintenance sea trial. Cape Race, Cape Decision, and Cape Domingo performed successful maintenance sea trials and CE training. Hurricane Ida's threat to the Gulf Coast provoked a cancellation of the at-sea events for all New Orleans based RRF vessels, including Cape Kennedy. Due to the devastation in the New Orleans metro area, Cape Kennedy and nested pair sister ship Cape Knox were made available to accommodate FEMA first responders during the aftermath of the storm.



Cape Rise departs Portsmouth, VA

When the Turbo Activation bell rang, all Keystone shipboard and shoreside personnel answered the call and responded in classic Keystone fashion to complete their Turbo Activation orders efficiently, professionally, and safely.



Cape Race crew members gather to enjoy an at sea BBQ



Strong women represented on the Cape Rise



# 519TH EXPEDITIONARY MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION JOINT BASE CHARLESTON TRAINS ON CAPE DECISION

The 519th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Battalion Joint Base Charleston boarded Cape Decision to perform expeditionary vehicle loading and securing training from 21 – 23 September.

Cape Decision’s Chief Mate Alec Cunningham, Bosun Leslie Bracey, 3rd Mate Phil King, and Cape Domingo Chief Mate Pat McGourthy provided ship specific training and instructions on securing the vehicles.

Training topics were provided covering the ship’s cargo capacities, mooring arrangement, permissible deck loads and limitations, vessel stability, hydraulic ramp systems, cargo hold ventilation and exhaust gas detection systems, and watertight integrity.

The Cape Decision received a Certificate of Appreciation for their support, “Your teams selfless service and dedication to the event reflect great credit upon the Keystone Shipping Company, the 519th Military Intelligence Battalion, and the United States Army.”

Photos provided by Chief Mate Alec Cunningham, Cape Decision



519th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Battalion



Scream and shout to a job well done!

## SHOTS ON SHIPS



Captain Rich Laskey Visiting the Chippewa County Health Department

As health care workers continue their amazing support during the COVID-19 pandemic, Captain Rich Laskey from our Key Lakes Office visited the Chippewa County Health Department (CCHD) to pay thanks to the nurses that put “boots on the ground” at the Soo Locks delivering the COVID-19 vaccine to our Great Lakes crewmembers over the past year.

On April 6, 2021, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and CCHD teamed up with the Lake Carriers’ Association (LCA) to execute a COVID-19 vaccination program called “Shots on Ships (SOS)” for the U.S. Great Lakes mariners.

As vessels approached the locks on their normal route, USACE lockmasters in the Soo provided a location to briefly moor the vessel and notify CCHD personnel of awaiting vaccine volunteers. Nurses from CCHD, with equipment and vaccines in hand, climb pilot ladders to board the vessel, and administer the vaccine.

Rich Laskey, as part of his visit and thanks, presented the nurses with Great Lakes Fleet gear. Thank you for all that you’ve done and continue to do!



## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

The Cape R's got creative in spending their Safety Incentive Wayne Enterprise points and organized a night out at the Norfolk Tide's Baseball Stadium!

Photos provided by Chief Mate Dan Mclean, Cape Race

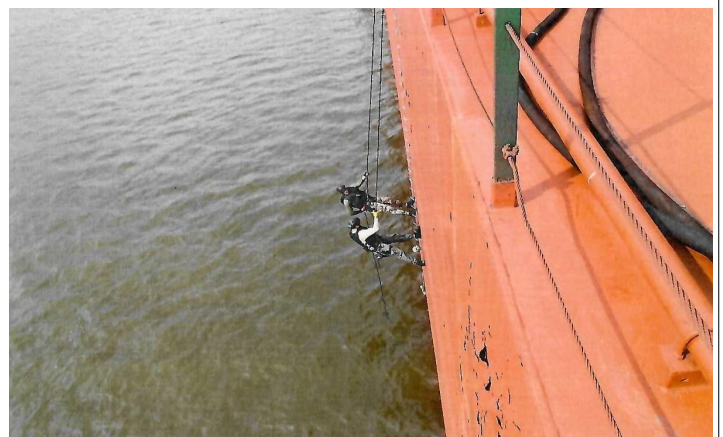
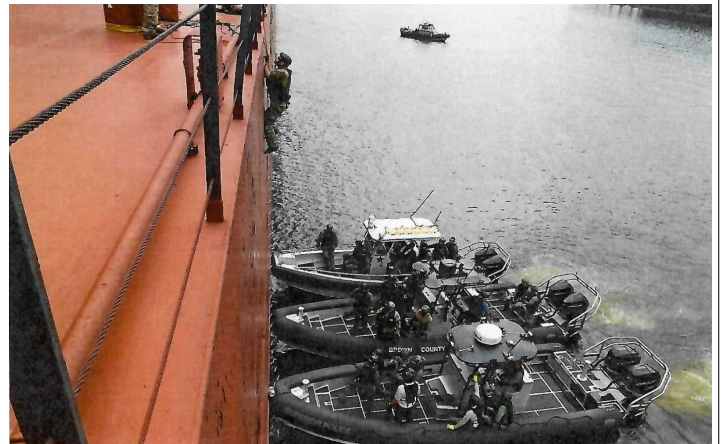
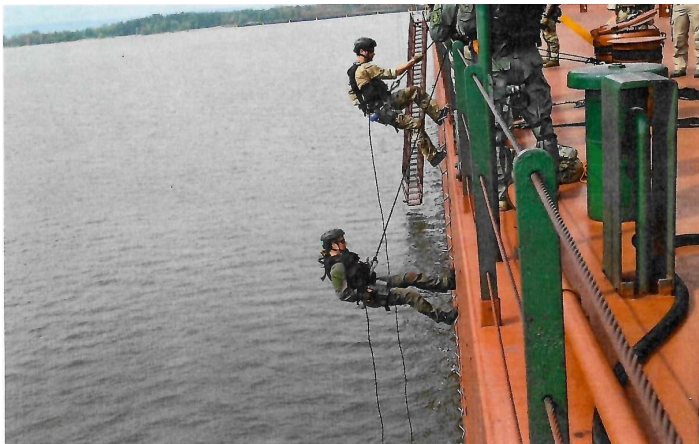


## SUPERIOR POLICE TRAINING

In early-August, the Superior Police conducted boarding exercises on the MV Edwin H. Gott.

While Gott was loading at BN5, they made several passes of the vessel and performed rappelling exercises to their boats. Once cargo operations were completed and Gott was underway, the Superior Police continued their training by performing underway boarding exercises and detaching to their boats through use of the vessel's accommodation ladder. The exercise involved four boats and approximately 35 participants.

Photos provided by Captain Tim Alfson, MV Edwin H. Gott





# SHIPS IN MOTION

On the Great Lake's Fleet, MV Edwin H. Gott and MV Arthur M. Anderson unloading in Gary, IN.

Photos provided by Port Captain Richard Laskey





## CELEBRATING DECADES OF WORK

On Friday, 29 October, 2021, we gathered to celebrate and honor our recent retirees during our Keystone Office Holiday Dinner Event.

- Jerome Diggs
- Pete Lawler
- Greg Drickhamer
- Tim O'Connor
- Phil Fisher
- Dave Schiavone
- Willie Keyes
- John Thibodeau
- Mitch Koslow
- Jerry Walls

There was laughter, reminiscing, well wishes, and a few tears. We send off these friends with full hearts and the knowledge that they will continue to share their contributions to the world, whatever they may do and wherever they may go.



Mitch Koslow, his wife Marjie, and Dave Farrell



Tim O'Connor and his wife, Nancy



Jerome Diggs



President Don Kurz and Willie Keyes



Phil Fisher and John Thibodeau

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR YEARS OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION  
TO THE KEYSTONE FAMILY!**

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**2021 ENVIRO TARGETS**



**If you have any suggestions or comments please submit them to Captain LeighAnn Ferrari**  
[lferrari@keyship.com](mailto:lferrari@keyship.com) or  
**Frank Pierson**  
[fperson@keyship.com](mailto:fperson@keyship.com)



<p>Objective: Regulated disposal of office and vessel used batteries</p> <p>Target: Recycle office and vessel used batteries</p> <p>Indicator: Receipts for disposed batteries</p>	<p>Objective: Reduce the risk of pollution incidents from vessel cargo handling machinery</p> <p>Target: Utilization of environmentally friendly non-sheening oil in various cargo handling equipment on deck:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cranes</li> <li>• Booms</li> <li>• Stern Ramp</li> <li>• Side and port doors</li> </ul> <p>Indicator: Annual listing of vessels which utilize the non-sheening oil and the equipment in which it is being used</p>	<p>Objective: Reduce the risk of potential pollution incidents from deck mooring operations machinery</p> <p>Target: Utilization of environmentally friendly non-sheening oil in various onboard deck mooring operations machinery and equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anchor windlasses</li> <li>• Deck winches</li> </ul> <p>Indicator: Annual listing of vessels which utilize the environmentally friendly oil and the equipment in which it is being used</p>
<p>Objective: Reduce energy consumption on vessels in Reduced Operating Status</p> <p>Target: Develop onboard practices, procedures and modifications for reducing energy usage onboard ROS vessels</p> <p>Indicator: For vessels in ROS on shore power, develop baseline of current energy consumption in kilowatt hours. Monthly monitoring and annual measurement to determine that objective is being met</p>	<p>Objective: Regulate proper disposal of electronic equipment for Keystone Offices (Bala and Duluth) as well as commercial vessels (Keystone and Key Lakes)</p> <p>Target: To recycle used office electronic equipment</p> <p>Indicator: IT disposal log of used electronic equipment</p>	<p>Objective: Reduce energy consumption by changing to LED lighting where applicable</p> <p>Target: One ship annually upgraded to LED lighting where applicable and continuous energy efficiency improvement in the fleet</p> <p>Indicator: Annual measurement in our fleet</p>

**COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTERS**

Although COVID-19 vaccinations remain effective in preventing severe disease, recent data suggests vaccinations become less effective over time. Building protection against COVID-19 is still important. As COVID-19 spreads, the virus has more chances to change and to create new variants of concerns, like Delta and Omicron.

COVID-19 vaccine boosters are now authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for all adults 18 or older that completed their primary vaccination series.

Data from clinical trials showed that a booster shot increased the immune response in trial participants who finished a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna primary series 6 months earlier or who received a J&J/Janssen single-dose vaccine 2 months earlier. With an increased immune response, people should have improved protection against COVID-19, including the Delta variant. For Pfizer-BioNTech and J&J/Janssen, clinical trials also showed that a booster shot helped prevent COVID-19 with symptoms.

Per the CDC, certain people, based on their occupation, may be at increased risk of being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 while at work. Merchant Mariners are no exception: Working and living in close quarters, and having unavoidable frequent interactions with possibly unvaccinated people from outside their household.

You may choose which COVID-19 vaccine you receive as a booster shot. Some people prefer the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots. COVID-19 booster shots are the same formulation as the current COVID-19 vaccines. However, in the case of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine booster shot, it is half the dose of the vaccine people receive for their primary series.

After receiving your COVID-19 vaccine booster shot, you may experience some temporary side effects and symptoms. These are normal signs that your body is building protection against COVID-19. Fever, headache, fatigue, and pain at the injection site were the most commonly reported side effects, and overall, most side effects were mild to moderate.

If you want to know more about the COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/)

