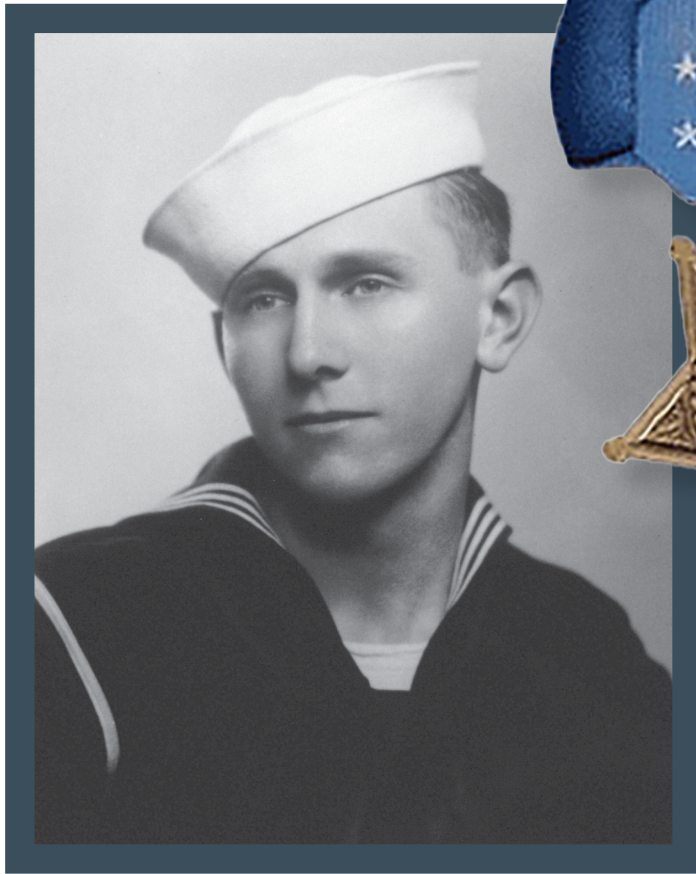


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# Underway Opportunities for Coast Guard Auxiliary

Translators, Culinary and Public Affairs Specialists aboard the USCGC MUNRO (WMSL 755)



Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755) departing Guam 2022. Photo by .....

Douglas Munro. U.S. Coast Guard photo. Click on photo to watch a 55 second video about Doug Munro's heroic actions.

Article and Photos By Roger Bazeley, AUXPA1 District 11N

ALAMEDA, Calif. — The U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area Command hosted a MUNRO crew and family day cruise of the San Francisco Bay, November 15, 2021 departing at 0900 hours and returned at 1900 hours. The assignment to augment public affairs aboard the USCGC MUNRO (755) was received from CPO Matthew Masaschi USCG District 11 SW Public Affairs, for an experienced Auxiliary Public Affairs photographer. I reported at 0800 hours to the ship's Public Information Officer PIO Ensign Gunner Smith. The USCGC MUNRO's Commanding Officer was CAPT Blake K. Novak.

The assignment to duty was sent out a few days ahead of the special crew and family underway outing and flight deck picnic celebration of the USCGC Munro's return from a multi-month Western Pacific deployment. The ship was to be refit after the day cruise event for several months before its next Western Pacific deployment where in Santa Rita, Guam a change of command ceremony was held aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755), May 2022 where Capt. Rula Deisher relieved Capt. Blake Novak as Munro's commanding officer during the ceremony presided over by Vice Admiral Micheal F. McAllister, commander Coast Guard Pacific Area and Defense Forces West.

The Public Affairs augmentation assignment November 15, 2021 was to capture the memories of the event for the crew and their families and incorporate an overview of the ship activity underway while honoring the history of the ship and its naming after Douglas Munro USCG, a Battle of Guadalcanal Medal of Honor marking the 80th Anniversary of Douglas Munro's sacrifice to save fellow Coast Guardsmen at the battle of Guadalcanal. The 418' LOA National security cutter is an amazing USCG asset to experience underway, with its flurry of preparation activities in being maneuvered out from its berth on Coast Guard Island, Alameda.

Underway  
ALAMEDA, Calif. – Underway 0930 hours 7.15.2022, the MUNRO with a tractor tug on standby for assist after taking in the bow and stern lines. Using the aide of bow thrusters USCGC Munro eased out slowly into the Oakland estuary channel to head out into the bay. After passing Yerba Buena Island and the PACAREA Admiral's residence and lighthouse, while steering toward the starboard side to position for passing under the Oakland Bay Bridge, like so many times before heading out to the Western and Indo-Pacific on deployment. It was an overcast day as we passed

into the channel with the San Francisco downtown to the portside. The crew was in the process of removing the pelican anchor chain stoppers as we moved through the San Francisco Bay, which required loosening by the crew with sledge hammers. The MUNRO then headed out toward the Golden Gate and passed under the Oakland Bay Bridge and then toward the Golden Gate Bridge north anchorage as USCG Station Golden Gate and the Marin headlands and Point Bonita Lighthouse slipped by the starboard side, and finally leaving the city of San Francisco astern before eventually dropping anchors to anchor out for the rest of the day.

I photographed many crew activities from deck crews, the galley and lunch preparation to the climbing up to the bridge with crew and officers standing at the councils of navigation electronic displays, propulsion and steering control, and at watch positions while actively scanning from port to starboard the horizon for vessel traffic and navigation hazards. The bridge area was busy with officers and crew at their various command, navigation and watch standing duties. The weather cleared a bit during lunch time on the flight deck with crew and families spending quality time together after the long deployment

to the Western Pacific, away from each other. It is one of the cutter service family sacrifices in the Coast Guard that one endures for a career at sea on this new generation of National Security Cutters that play a vital role in our national security and search and rescue missions.

In the afternoon, there were multiple launch and recovery of the bright orange accented 29' RHIB response boat for demonstration rides. As we finished up the day we had a MH65 USCG Dolphin helicopter flyover from Air Station San Francisco. The sun was starting to set in the west as the crew prepared to get under way raising anchors and setting a course back to Coast Guard Island, Alameda. Underway colors were raised astern, waving proudly backlit by the setting sun, as the MUNRO headed under the Golden Gate to its homeport. The U.S. Coast Guard National Security Cutter, Munro (WMSL 755) is named to honor Signalman First Class Douglas A. Munro, the Coast Guard's sole recipient of the Medal of Honor. He was mortally wounded on Sept 27th, 1942, while evacuating a detachment of Marines on Guadalcanal during the battle with Japanese forces holding the Pacific Island. Douglas Albert Munro was born in Vancouver, Canada, of American parents, on October 11 October



Indonesian Interpreter Willem Loupaty from District 11S working to detect Illegal Unreported, Unregulated (IUU) fishing in support of Operation Blue Pacific. Photo by .....



The MUNRO crew removing the pelican (chain stopper) as part of the anchor evolution so the anchor can be raised before departing from port.



The MUNRO crew and a visitor while a tug boat approaches. The stern ramp launch system is just to the left.

1919, but spent his entire life previous to his enlistment in South Cle Elum, Washington. He attended the Central Washington College of Education for a year and left to enlist in the United States Coast Guard in 1919. He had an outstanding record as an enlisted man and was promoted rapidly through the various ratings to a signalman, first class. (USCG Official Achieves Douglas Munro Bio-History) The new USCG National Security Cutter MUNRO was commissioned in Seattle, Washington April 1, 2017. The USCGC MUNRO (WMSL 755) the sixth of twelve National Security Cutters under Capt. Blake Novak and its newest Commanding officer Capt. Rula Deisher as of the May 2022 Change of Command in GUAM, is a vital multi-mission asset for insuring or nation's security and interests in maritime safety. Its mission goals include maintaining safe and secure ports, coasts and interdiction drug trafficking on the seas, the protection of vital fisheries from illegal fishing, along with diverse search and rescue operations and its roll in international training operations with Pacific Area islands National Coast Guards and Navies with its new generation

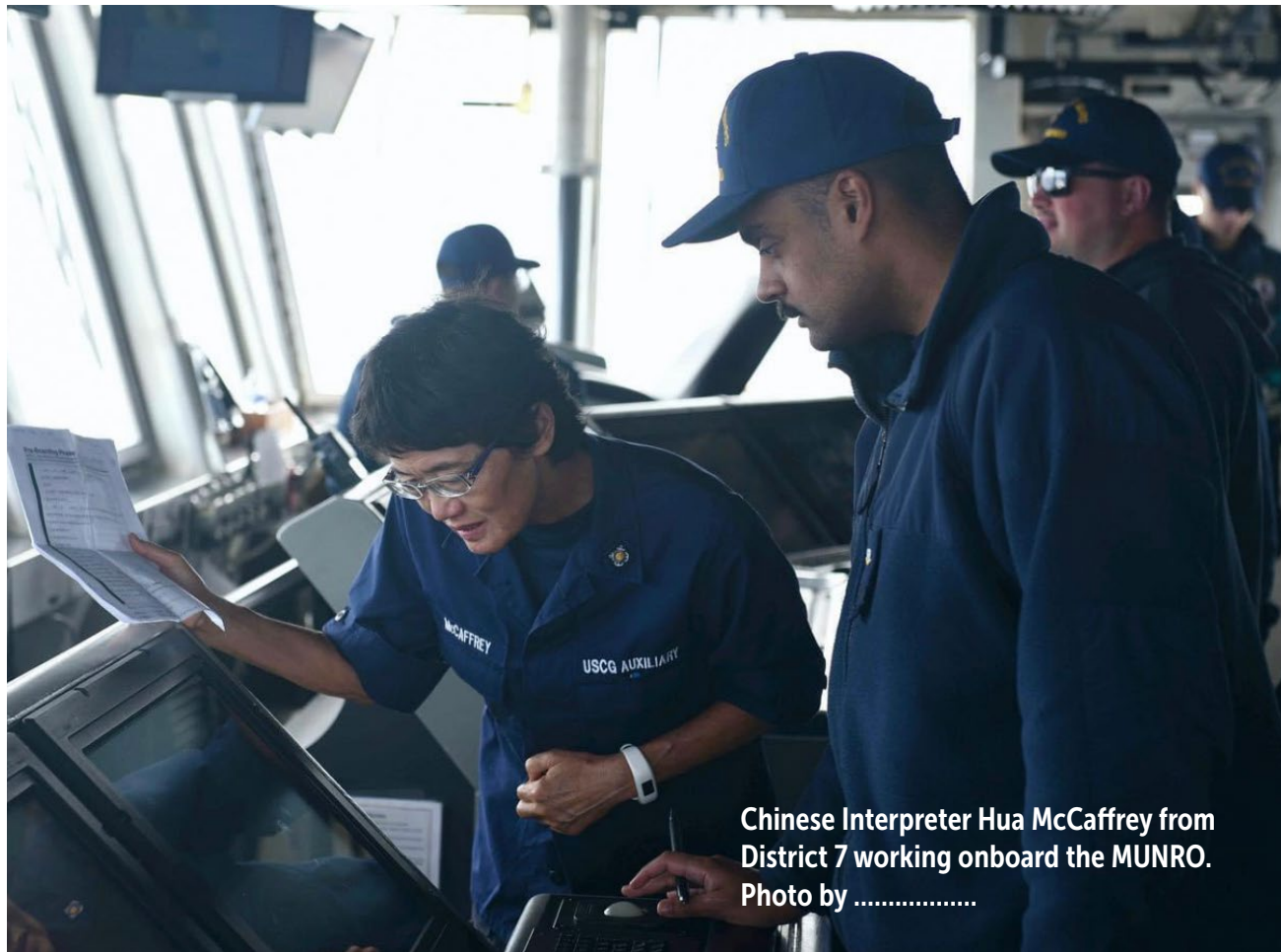
of dedicates officers and crew members. This opens up opportunities and the need for Coast Guard Auxiliary qualified specialists in Public Affairs, multi-language speaking and translation skills, and Culinary Assistance for the Munro's multi-mission deployments to the far reaches of its current western Pacific Areas of operation under Capt. Rula Deisher who relieved Capt. Blake Novak May 2022 in Guam, who was Munro's commanding officer from May 2020 to May 2022. Captain Novak assumed the duties as Fourteenth Coast Guard District Chief of Staffing June 2022.

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Munro crew currently continues to make way through the Pacific while on patrol combatting illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing as part of Operation Blue Pacific! "Help from the Coast Guard Auxiliary has been a major factor while conducting law enforcement operations, according to the USCG. Two Coast Guard Auxiliary members are currently deployed on the Munro using their communication abilities as linguists to assist boarding teams in various

locations in the Indo-Pacific by communicating to crew members of the fishing vessels in multiple languages that include Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, Philippine, and various other languages including Russian. Other critical missions the Auxiliary specialists are force multipliers in Culinary Assistance and Public Affairs diplomacy and documentation in writing and through video media and photography as well as assisting in social media and news releases.

Coast Guard's greatest asset is the dedication of our 50,000 active serving USCG people who are apart of Team Coast Guard, from enlisted crew members like Ensign Vincent Lee to our active reservists, civilian employees, and the additional invaluable force multiplier of 22,000 volunteers of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Team Coast Guard men and women work together to support maritime safety, recreational boating outreach, and maintaining port security, as well as insuring environmental quality through

prevention, education and rapid incident response. The Auxiliary plays a vital role as a force multiplier in many of these key missions and events. Auxiliary members support the USCG in many areas, from the Auxiliary Cutterman program requiring extensive qualifications, to other support areas like Culinary Assistants. Auxiliarists who are qualified as Public Affairs photographers and photojournalists, Public Affairs Specialists, document and report on these events, augmenting the USCG District Public Affairs Team. The bonding and memories supported and captured for the USCG are an important part of fellowship bonding between the Auxiliary and the United States Coast Guard.



Chinese Interpreter Hua McCaffrey from District 7 working onboard the MUNRO. Photo by .....



A crew member is raising colors on the MUNRO while departing from port.



MUNRO crew inside the pilot house.

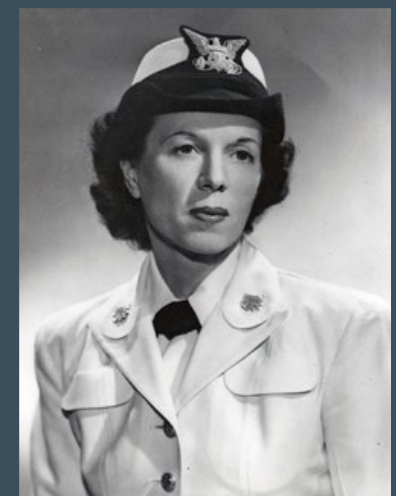
Official Biography  
of Signalman 1C  
Douglas Munro, USCG

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### Of special interest

Shortly after her only son's death, Mrs. Munro decided that she would do what she could to carry on the life of service cut short by her son's death. Weeks after Douglas Munro's death, Mrs. Munro signed up, and was sent to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy for officer candidate training. She was one of the first SPARs to ever show up in New London, Connecticut. She was also the oldest. Most new SPARs were in their late teens or early 20's, Edith Munro was in her mid-forties. *Coast Guard News*



Edith Munro, U.S. Coast Guard photo.