

The faces aboard USNS Comfort in Continuing Promise 2011



Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Comfort delivers help and hope to thousands of people in Latin America during Continuing Promise 2011, which began in April and continues through mid-September. The medical services offered by hundreds of government and non-government personnel assigned to Comfort's Medical Treatment Facility were accomplished with the 24/7 efforts of MSC's 70 civil service mariners, or CIVMARs. These photos capture some of the many CIVMAR contributions.

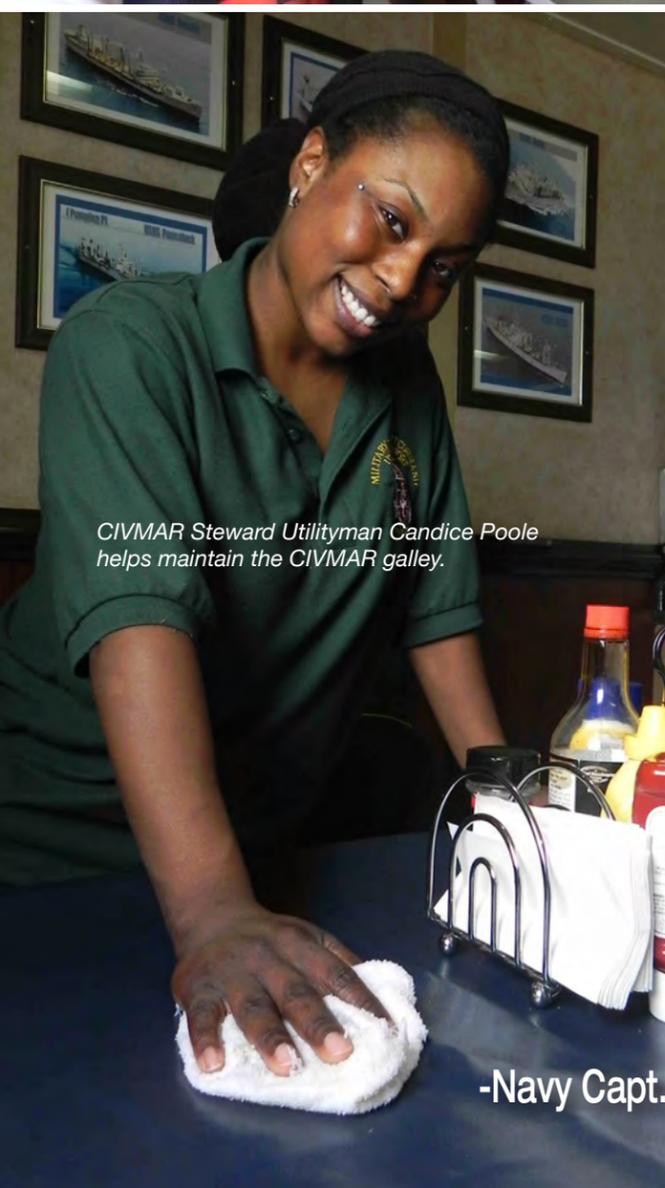
U.S. Navy photos by Meghan Patrick/MC2 Jonathen Davis, and U.S. Air Force photos by staff sgts. Alesia Goosic/Courtney Richardson



CIVMAR Boatswain's Mate Roda Lamarche talks to post-surgical patients in Spanish, his first language, while they wait aboard Comfort for transportation back to shore.



CIVMAR Third Officer Krystyn Rutzel stands watch on Comfort's bridge.



CIVMAR Steward Utilityman Candice Poole helps maintain the CIVMAR galley.



CIVMAR Able Seaman Stacy Cuffee straps a young patient into a lifejacket for safe transport to the ship aboard Comfort's 33-foot-long utility boat.

**"This very unique and dynamic platform
couldn't operate without the CIVMARs."**

-Navy Capt. Kathy Becker, executive officer of Comfort's Medical Treatment Facility

Comfort's Second Officer Grant Begley packages cargo pallets ashore. In addition to filling the role of cargo mate, Begley became the first CIVMAR to join a hospital ship leadership team in a predeployment site survey.



CIVMAR Deck Machinist Martin Ibanez checks and secures fire-fighting equipment during a fire drill aboard Comfort.



CIVMAR Able Seaman William Cooke transports Comfort personnel who work daily at mission sites ashore, as well as local dignitaries scheduled for shipboard tours, from shore to Comfort.



CIVMAR Boatswain Gerald Butch lowers a lifeboat holding CIVMARs, including Comfort's two designated search-and-rescue swimmers, Boatswain's Mate Roda Lamarche and Steward Utilityman Adam Kasunic, during a search-and-rescue drill.

CIVMARs lower and set up Comfort's gangway at 5 a.m. in order to begin personnel and patient transfer to and from the ship by 6 a.m.



Navy and non-governmental organization medical personnel embarked aboard the ship as part of Comfort's Medical Treatment Facility examine the throat of a young patient during a site visit ashore.

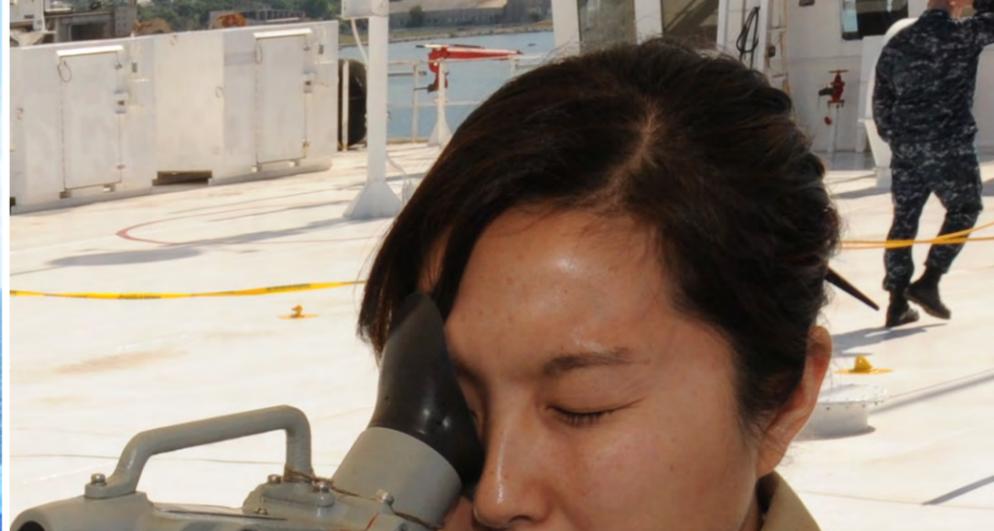


"The smooth collaboration between CIVMAR and military personnel was a great victory for the Comfort mission."

-Civil service mariner cargo mate Second Officer Grant Begley



CIVMAR Chief Engineer Joseph Watts is embarked aboard Comfort after several consecutive deployments aboard its West Coast sister ship, USNS Mercy.



CIVMAR Engine Utilityman Willie Grant lights a burner on the starboard boiler in Comfort's engineering spaces.



CIVMAR Second Officer Shari Lee, ship's navigator, monitors Comfort's position while sailing into port.

CIVMAR Boatswain's Mate Yanny Jimenez-Rodriguez teaches uniformed Navy personnel how to net cargo for helicopter pick-up at an airfield ashore. For the first time on a hospital ship humanitarian mission, CIVMARs are responsible for coordinating all cargo movement to and from the ship.



CIVMAR Engine Utilityman Brian Lott maintains Comfort's engineering spaces, which contain equipment that provides water, electricity and propulsion services to the ship.

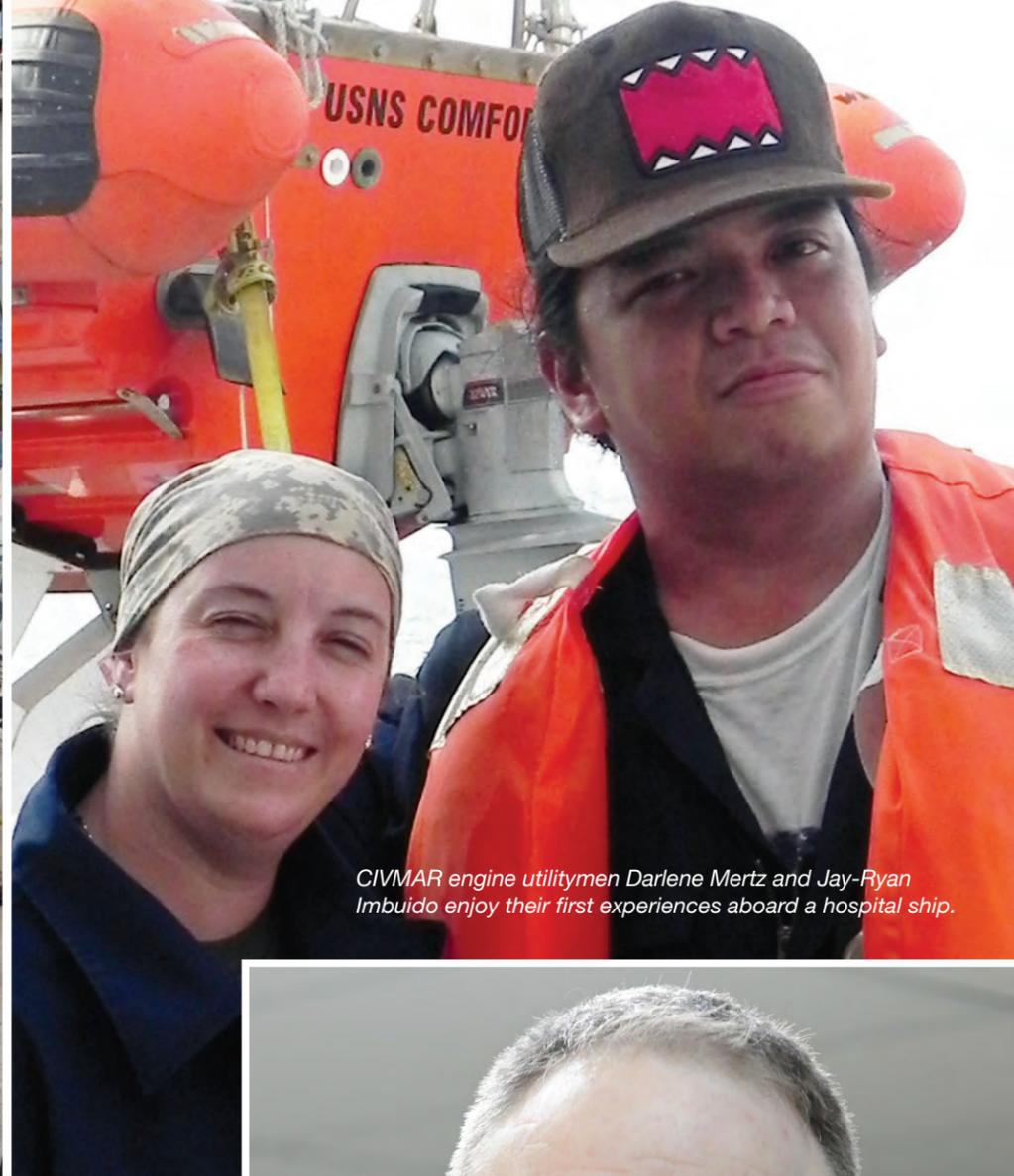


"It's nice to be part of a growing, maturing process ... as we better define our abilities, we'll be able to deliver more care to people in the same period of time."

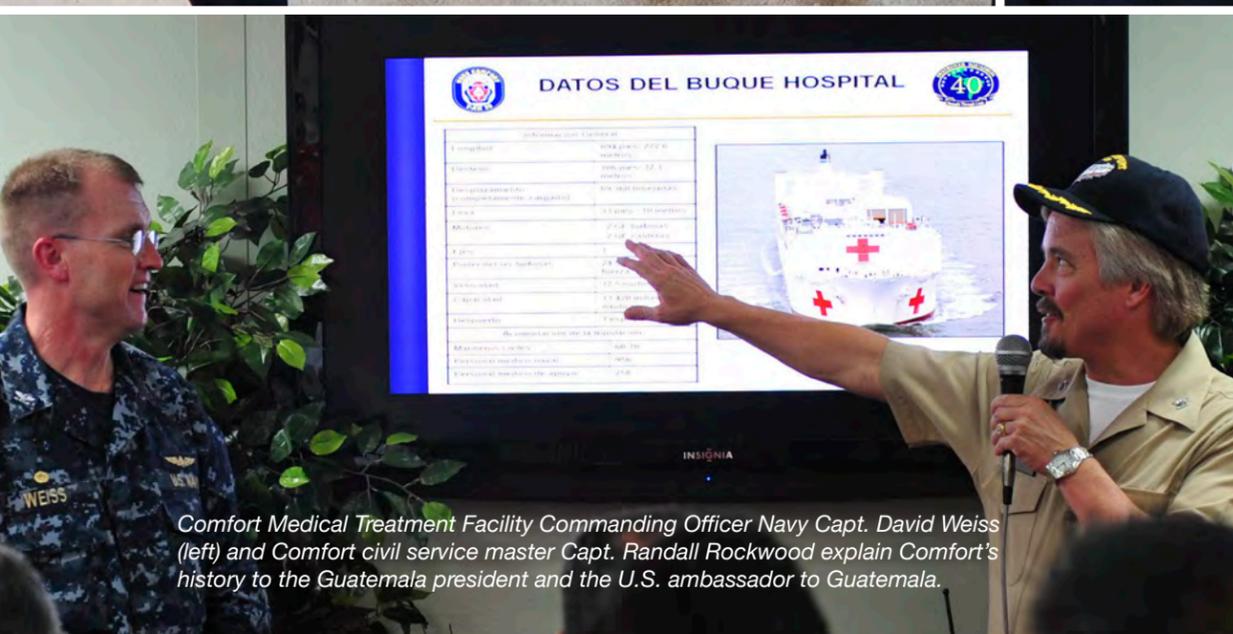
-Civil service mariner Chief Engineer Joseph Watts



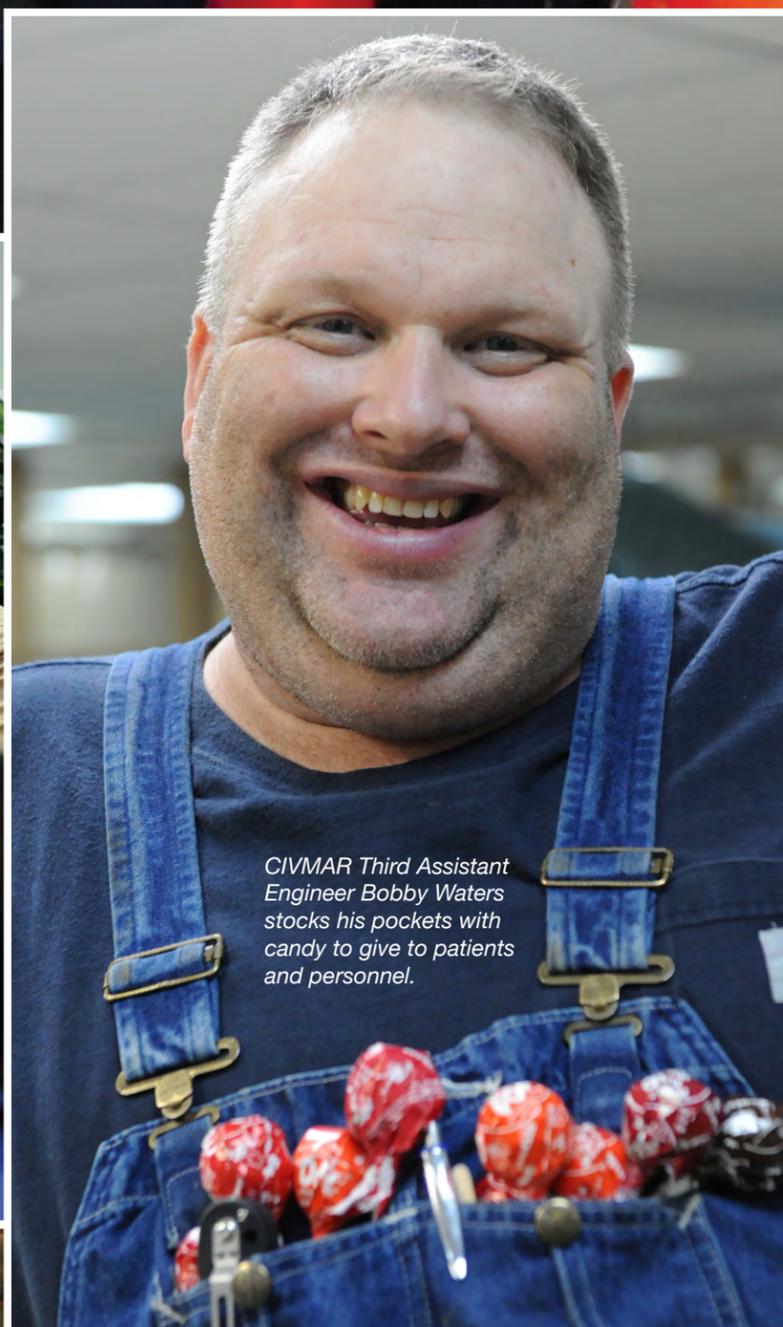
Comfort CIVMARs conduct a connected replenishment with MSC dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS Lewis and Clark July 26, during the largest underway replenishment conducted aboard a hospital ship since the first Persian Gulf War.



CIVMAR engine utilitymen Darlene Mertz and Jay-Ryan Imbuido enjoy their first experiences aboard a hospital ship.



Comfort Medical Treatment Facility Commanding Officer Navy Capt. David Weiss (left) and Comfort civil service master Capt. Randall Rockwood explain Comfort's history to the Guatemala president and the U.S. ambassador to Guatemala.



CIVMAR Third Assistant Engineer Bobby Waters stocks his pockets with candy to give to patients and personnel.



CIVMAR Able Seaman Kerry Smith reviews his college Spanish at night so he can talk to the patients he assists each day.



CIVMAR Second Assistant Engineer Peter Barry inspects one of Comfort's auxiliary diesel engines, which supplies power to the shipboard hospital.

"We're all working incredibly hard, but it's okay because it's all about the patients and their faces to me."

-Civil service mariner Third Officer Laura Hammond