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**District 5NR
is GO!**



topside

**USCG Auxiliary
Fifth Coast Guard District NR
1 Washington Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19147**

Our Staff...

Joseph Giannattasio, DSO-PB, *Editor*

Carolyn J. Otto	ADSO-PB Central
Edna M. Winans	ADSO-PB East
Stanley W. Olsen	ADSO-PB West
Phillip P. Stamm	ADSO-PB Historian

Topside is published at no expense to the U.S. Government or the U.S. Coast Guard. Cost of publication is borne by the dues paying members of the 5th Coast Guard District Auxiliary (Northern Region), a volunteer, unpaid civilian body whose mission is to assist the regular Coast Guard in promoting and maintaining safety on the water.

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Editorial...

Welcome Aboard!

On behalf of Coast Guard Auxiliary Fifth District Northern Region's nearly 3,100 members, CDR Glenna T. Tredinnick-Director of Auxiliary D5NR, and John S. Witemeyer, District Commodore and the District Bridge, I am pleased to present the "recommissioning" of TOPSIDE, The official newsletter of the 5th Northern District.

Members of the editorial staff who help mold and shape the TOPSIDE's content and format are:

Carolyn J. Otto	ADSO-PB Central
Edna M. Winans	ADSO-PB East
Stanley W. Olsen	ADSO-PB West
Phillip P. Stamm	ADSO-PB Historian

A Successful District Magazine is not limited to our Publications Staff Officers. This "Successful District Magazine" is built from the articles and photographs submitted by the members of Fifth Northern. Members at every level are achieving great things and are engaged in numerous wonderful projects that bring credit to District Fifth-Northern. Articles and photographs in TOPSIDE should tell their stories and applaud their efforts. Get out those cameras and start writing. We need to tell everyone what a great job our members are doing!

You will notice that we are modernizing how TOPSIDE is developed, produced, and delivered to our members. As times change, we must approach our communications differently. Many volunteer organizations are struggling to increase and retain membership and the Coast Guard Auxiliary is no exception. When communication technology changes, we must find new ways to keep current members engaged and pique the interest of potential members. TOPSIDE will not only give District Fifth Northern a sharper look, it will serve as a effective communication tool and showcase the efforts and accomplishments of District 5NR Auxiliarist.

So, read and enjoy TOPSIDE, and pass it along to a prospective member. Then, tell them why you chose to join the world's best volunteer organization.

Joseph Giannattasio DSO-PB, Editor

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In Memoriam

DECEASED SINCE LAST CONFERENCE

MARYANNE RICE	01-04
CHARLES LYMAN	02-76
MARION BLACHMARK	03-05
ROBERT CHANDLER	04-03
JOSEPH RZLICIDLO	04-07
GEORGE S. HUTTON	12-03
ALDO MARCOZZI	13-06
ROBERT MORRIS	13-10
GERALD E. MILLER	16-06
RAYMOND SMALFUS	16-07
FRANK SHELLENBERGER	16-07
EDWARD A. FOGG	16-08





2008 SNAPSHOTS
BY J. GIANNATTASIO, DSO-PB

AWARD WINNERS 2008

AUXOP

THOMAS J. DEVER 04-09

COXSWAIN

KENNETH G. ENOCHS 04-09

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK AWARD	VINCENT MACIBORKA	07-07
MARINE DEALER VISITOR AWARD	VINCENT MACIBORKA	07-07
OPERATIONS PROGRAM AWARD	SUSAN FITZGERALD	02-06
JOHN "ANDY" KRATZER AN/CU AWARD	EDWARD A. HILSCHER	15-09
SUPPORT MISSIONS PROGRAM AWARD	CAROL O. HALLIGAN	01-04
INSTRUCTOR AWARD	DANIEL B. CHARTER, JR	13-05
ASSISTS AWARD	EDWARD J. ROSS, JR	14-02
ED MORTON MT AWARD	ROBERT J. FRITZ	04-09
FLOTILLA MEMBERSHIP AWARD	FLOTILLA	07-02
FLOTILLA OPERATIONS SUPPORT AWARD	FLOTILLA	01-04
FLOTILLA ATON/CU AWARD	FLOTILLA	14-05
FLOTILLA OPERATIONS AWARD	FLOTILLA	01-04
FLOTILLA VSC AWARD	FLOTILLA	12-02
FLOTILLA MDV AWARD	FLOTILLA	12-02
WILLIAM ROSS McDONALD AWARD	FLOTILLA	03-04
PAST DISTRICT COMMODORE'S PLAQUE	FLOTILLA	12-02
PAST DISTRICT COMMODORE'S TROPHY	FLOTILLA	14-01
FLOTILLA MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD	FLOTILLA	14-01
JOHN MASSMAN MEMORIAL AWARD (PERFORMANCE)	DIVISION	VII
JOHN MASSMAN MEMORIAL AWARD (ACTIVITY)	DIVISION	XII



Around The District

Joe Perchetti of 13-10 earns Legion of Merit Medal

Command Sergeant Major Joseph N. Perchetti, U.S. Army Reserve (Retired) was awarded the United States Legion of Merit Medal on 11 January 2009, at the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary 5th Northern, Division 13, Change of Watch, in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey.

U.S. Coast Guard officers, Commander Mike Antonellis, Prevention Chief Sector Delaware Bay, and Commander Glenna Tredinnick, DIRAUX, presented the award, on behalf of the United States Army. Perchetti, a Flotilla Commander (13-10) and Division 13 Staff Officer in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, requested to have it presented at the Change of Watch, where members of the Coast Guard, his fellow Coast Guard Auxiliarists, and about two dozen Perchetti family and friends witnessed the ceremony.

The Citation that accompanied the medal read:

"For exceptionally meritorious service during the period of 1 May 1995 to 30 April 2005, while serv-

ing in increasing responsibility, culminating as the Command Sergeant Major, 365th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy). Throughout his 40 year career, Command Sergeant Major Perchetti displayed unsurpassed professionalism, leadership, and dedication to duty. Command Sergeant Major Perchetti's exceptional performance throughout a fine career is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the United States Army Reserve, and the United States Army."

Commander Tredinnick initially pinned the medal to Joseph Perchetti's wife, Sandy, before it was transferred to Perchetti. When later asked why his wife was presented with the medal first, Perchetti humbly replied...."because no service person can execute their duties unless they have the support and understanding of their family. Spouses serve too, although not necessarily in uniform...."

In addition to the script on the award, a narrative composed by Perchetti's recommending officer, COL Mark E. Eldridge (Ret), USMA 1972, was read by Commander Antonellis, enumerating many Perchetti accomplishments that led to his being recommended for this well-deserved medal.

- **topside**



USCG CDR Mike Antonellis reading the testimonial, while DIRAUX 5NR CDR Glenna Tredinnick waits to pin Joe's medal on his wife, Sandy.

*Article by
Lin Goldkrantz, SO-PA Division 13*

Around The District

Auxiliarist for *Only* 30 Years!

Norma G. Hunter, SO-VE Div. 13 was awarded Auxiliarist of the Year. She achieved 30 years service in the Auxiliary this year. Each of those years she has contributed to the Auxiliary and its goals.

Norma has achieved the qualifications of Air Observer and Air Crew and is working towards the qualification of pilot. Norma has distinguished herself in the Air program, VE program and PE program. - topside

Right: District Commodore Jack Witemeyer presenting the Auxiliarist of the Year Award to Norma Hunter, FL 13-3.

Photo by
Lin Goldkrantz, SO-PA Division 13



Auxiliary Air Safety

"Aux Air" The District's Auxiliary Air Program recently held a Air Safety Workshop in Reading, PA.

All flight crew members (including all Observers, Air Crew, and all pilots) must have annual emergency egress training and water survival training. This includes a 75-yard swim, life raft and emergency gear familiarization, and may include optional training in the SWET – Shallow Water Egress Trainer.

Left: Judith A. Redlawsk, ADSO-AV (Safety) demonstrates the deploying and utilization of a inflatable emergency life-raft during a recent Auxiliary Air Program Safety training event. CWO Philip Pinto, Operations Training Officer (left) and Auxiliary Pilot Andrew Diffley (right) observe in background.

Photo by Joe Giannattasio, ADSO-AV (PA)



Profile In Service

My experiences in Texas after Hurricane "IKE"

Article & Photos by Joe Skutlin, ADSO-PA

In 2008, during months of September thru November I was in Houston, TX with FEMA involved in the recovery effort from hurricane "IKE".

I received a call from FEMA at 4 PM on Wednesday afternoon (Sept.10) to be in Atlanta, GA headquarters for a 1 PM meeting on Thursday (IKE made land fall Friday) The flight confirmation and ticket, car rental and lodging was sent to me by e-mail that evening and at 6 AM I departed from Atlantic City and made the noon meeting for briefing and interim training.



Commercial Fishing Boat washed ashore in a parking lot 100 yards inland.

We then took a flight flight to Austin JFO (joint field office) for more training and finally arrived at the Secure Reliant Center headquarters (football stadium) in Houston for our temporary field office four days after landfall. The first few days we used the parking lot for our briefings and team assignments.

Traffic lights were out for two weeks

because there was no electricity as well as no replacement parts for traffic lights. 2.1 million people were without electric on September 13. Four weeks later the electric power was back to normal.



Downed trees were commonplace in residential areas.

Our first reconnaissance was with a fire chief (there are 62 fire stations in Houston) in an affluent area west of center city and which didn't appear too bad except for extensive tree damage and debris and power lines down. Some down-town high rise buildings (75 floors) had extensive window damage to the 25th floor due to wind-driven debris (stones from the tarred roofs of smaller 10-20 story buildings.) Standard houses in the high wind zone had significant roof damage from wind and fallen trees.

There were Blue roofs everywhere (free blue tarpaulins furnished by FEMA) in an attempt to keep the homes dry. Still there was a lot of damage to the top floors and in some cases the contents of the whole house was affected. Insurance adjusters were everywhere assessing damage.

Food in the refrigerators and freezers had to removed, and there was a lot of barbecuing and dinner by candle light. Some of the homes were in deplorable condition and there were families living there.

In September (80 degrees) ice and water had to be distributed in a lot of areas.

Profile In Service

There were many food distribution points at Community Centers throughout the city. Food banks continued until the middle of December.



Joe Skutlin, ADSO-PA D5NR (center) with FEMA Interpreter and owner of local restaurant.

The SE section was primarily Spanish and I had an interpreter to assist me. "*Pre Guantas para FEMA.*" (Have any questions for FEMA?) If they answered- "*SI*" I would get my interpreter.

The NE section was primarily African-American. Many churches in this area are run down and some deserted. Some areas we were told to avoid. One SW area was primarily Vietnamese. Some areas were a mix of Spanish and African-American. The city is diversified in all aspects.

We surveyed the town of Baytown where there was extensive damage, and checked on Galveston USCG Station that had numerous temporary units setup but all vessels were okay. Numerous EPIRB activations were a problem for the Coast Guard that had to investigate each. The seawall on the gulf side was impressive but the bay area and business district was devastated. The yearly Christmas "Dickens on the Strand" event was

held though only few stores remained open.

My assignment, CR (Community Relations) with FEMA was similar to the procedures and techniques we use in our contacts with the general boating public and boating dealers and marinas. We first visited the force multipliers, Churches, schools, businesses, strip malls, community centers, and organizations. We talked to the pastors, superintendents, teachers, owners and they, in turn, distributed the information using flyers that we issued and in some cases sent information over the internet. In some cases one on one contact was the only way to reach some of the residents.

The first step that had to be done was to register with FEMA /Texas and be entered in the data base to be eligible for assistance. The un-insured, the under-insured and applicants that lacked essential needs were of primary concern, as were people with special needs.

Insurance considerations and information were referred to the DRC (Disaster Recovery Center) that had other services available. Such services were - Housing (HUD), mitigation, Individual Assistance, crisis counseling, social services and SBA (Small Business Administration) information, Red Cross and Texas Work force/unemployment.

One assignment included contacting motels and apartment complexes in an effort to use their facilities to house the displaced residents. In some cases they did not want to participate as they still had tenants that were there from Katrina.

This deployment was interesting and challenging and the training, knowledge and experience acquired with the USCG Auxiliary proved extremely beneficial. - **topside**

Auxiliary Assists CG Helo Ops

Division 8 Auxiliarists Assigned USCG Small Boat to Augment Helicopter Ops Training.

by Walt Alsegg- AUXULO Station Atlantic City

Air Station Atlantic City has doubled in size in recent years. They have 10 helicopters and pilots. This presents a big challenge for the air station to train the pilots and crews as well as have them maintain their qualifications. This process involves the assistance of many Coast Guard small boat stations from Indian River to New York. The closest station is Atlantic City which requires the least fuel and shortest distance to reach.

Accordingly Air Station AC and Station AC jointly launched a program patterned after one in Oregon Inlet NC where the Coast Guard provided a boat manned by Auxiliary crews. The boat is a 27ft Boston Whaler that was part of a fleet the Coast Guard bought after 9/11 for port security patrols. The boat was modified with a cage to provide a platform for basket hoists. It was also repowered with new Honda engines.

Currently, twelve auxiliarists from Division 8 are undergoing training to become Coast Guard certified crew members aboard the 27 UTL (Utility Boat Light). So far this training has consisted of classroom work, a visit to the Air Station and a basket hoist while the boat was parked on the helo pad. Further training will concentrate on boat handling and other required crew tasks before actual helo ops begin early this summer.

- topside



TOPSIDE Guidelines

TOPSIDE magazine is the official voice of the 5th Northern District and is of and by our membership. In its pages you will experience Auxiliary life as it occurs in every corner of our District., with Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) versions posted on this site as they become available.

A Successful District Magazine is not limited to our Publications Staff Officers. This "Successful District Magazine" is built from the articles and photographs submitted by the members of Fifth Northern. Members at every level are achieving great things and are engaged in numerous wonderful projects that bring credit to District Fifth-Northern. Articles and photographs in TOPSIDE should tell their stories and applaud their efforts.

Guidelines for submission to TOPSIDE are as follows:

1. **KEEP IT SIMPLE:** Sometimes all that is needed to tell a story is a photograph with a concise caption. Articles and stories of any length up to approximately 700 words are welcome. TOPSIDE has no set minimum number of words.
2. Every article or photo caption should answer the basic questions: Who is this about? What is this story about, or what is pictured in the photograph? Where and When did the story take place? Why is the action being done? and How is this performed? As an all-volunteer organization, nearly every thing we do can be noteworthy. Always provide the name of the photographer as well as the author's name, or byline.
3. Most people can improve their photos by just getting closer. Take pictures from **NO MORE** than 10-12 feet away from your subject. Photographs must be high resolution images. Set your camera for the highest resolution possible. Check your camera's documentation on how to do this.
4. When writing an article for submission never use all capital letters unless you are typing an acronym, and always spell out the complete name the first time followed by the abbreviation or acronym in parenthesis after it. Thereafter, the acronym may be used.
5. All submissions to TOPSIDE should be forwarded to your respective regional ADSO's.

All of this information and more can be found on the Public Affairs website. I encourage every Publications Officer to take advantage of this site. You will find any number of resources: from Power Point presentations to written guides on numerous topics; from how to write an effective news or feature story to how to take high resolution photographs and, of course, the Publications Manual. If you have not visited this site recently then you might be amazed at the vast number of resources available to you.

Get out those cameras and start writing. We need to tell everyone what a great job our members are doing!

Joseph Giannattasio DSO-PB, Editor

This Panel Reserved for Your Article or Photo!

SUBMIT
YOUR ARTICLES
AND
PHOTOGRAPHS
FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE!



The Deadline for submitting articles and photos
for the next issue of **topside** is -
September 1, 2009!





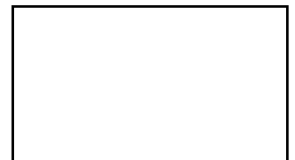
Division 8 Auxiliarists will help Coast Guard helicopters practice hoist maneuvers onboard a Coast Guard UTL (Utility Boat Light). Read the full story on page 10.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY 5NR
FIFTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
1 WASHINGTON AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147-4393

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