

topside

Vol. 108, No. 2 Published by 5th Northern District - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Fall 2009

IN THIS ISSUE:

- * FALL CONFERENCE 2009
- * OPERATION: ORANGE SMOKE
- * AUXILIARY ASSISTS CG HELO OPS
and PICTURES GALORE!



District 5NR Auxiliarists
assist the Coast Guard on
the Water and in the Air

Rescue Swimmer Training



In August, Auxiliarists and OPFAC's from Division 8 augmented Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers with their in-water qualifications and training.



topside

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Fifth Coast Guard District NR
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Philadelphia, PA 19147

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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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On the Cover: Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers onboard FL-82 OPFAC.	
Coxswain: Bruce Long DCAPT-E.	

Editorial...

Steady as She Goes!

Welcome to the second edition of your TOPSIDE, the official publication of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary 5th Northern District. Every effort has been made to provide current, relevant and quality information in a format pleasing to the reader.

In these pages you will find numerous photographs of, and articles about Auxiliarists engaged in our primary mission: to support the U.S. Coast Guard and promote boating safety to the recreational boating public. I would like to thank my predecessor Edna Winans for being my mentor and helping maintain course.

We in District 5NR have a fine group of Publications and Public Affairs Officers. All have made contributions to the TOPSIDE. I welcome all members' articles, photographs and ideas on how to make this the best publication in the Auxiliary!

On behalf of the TOPSIDE Staff, thank you for your comments and support. BRAVO ZULU to all!

Joseph Giannattasio DSO-PB, Editor



In Memoriam

DECEASED SINCE LAST CONFERENCE

William Bori	7-04	Mary Paradise	12-02
William Deangelis	4-07	Geraldine Scudner	14-01
Lewis Hazell	8-02	Lucas Pollits	15-04
Valdis Jakabsons	7-12	Henry Reeser	14-02
David Kirk	1-04	Clifford Rose	15-06
Charles LaMarr	4-07	Elizabeth Wilkinson	14-01
Francis McDonald	7-12		

District Awards

AUXOP

Ken Christy 2-76

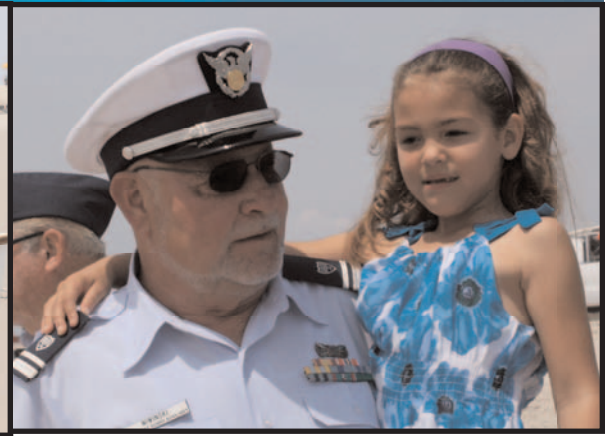
COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION

Bruce Long 8-02, Phillip Appenzeller 8-02, Walter Alsegg 8-01, John Bodin 8-01, Scott DiStefano 8-05, Gilbert Finkelstein 8-05, William Hannan 8-05, Ernest Phillips 8-04, Harry Norcross 8-01, Joseph Skutlin 8-01, Richard C. Weiss 8-02, Glen Westervelt 8-05, Kenneth Wilde 8-01

NACON AWARDS (3) 1st. Place Photography

Joseph Giannattasio 8-02

Around the District



FL 82, CAPE MAY, took an active part in the Memorial Day Observance held at the beach in Cape May. The somber event included the traditional Wreath Laying and Flower Boat Ceremony. Afterwards, everyone was invited to the "Shack" for a sumptuous buffet and good fellowship.

Photos (clockwise): Ceremony on Cape May beach. Walt Niwinski VFC FL82 "Pops" with granddaughter Lauren. TRACEN Honor Guard at the Shack.

Patricia "Trish" Peck awarded The USCG Auxiliary Honorary Membership Award *By Bruce Long, DCAPT*

(Photo on back cover)

In June, seventeen D5NR Auxiliarists completed the Area Crew School held at TRACEN, Cape May. Besides taking this opportunity in training to be an "Operational" member, the Crew candidates were treated to among distinguished guests to honor a good friend of the Auxiliary.

Ms. Patricia (Trish) Peck was cited for extraordinary support of the USCG Auxiliary in the Fifth Northern Area. Ms. Peck is a civilian employee of the Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J. Her title is Writer Editor of Lesson Plan Preparation for the Recruit Training Sector referred to as The Instructional Systems Branch (ISB).

Although she has never been tasked with providing support to the Auxiliary, Ms. Peck has taken upon herself to support the six Auxiliary Members that teach the recruits on a weekly basis and any other Auxiliary Member that may need her assistance. She has become known as the "go-to" person at TRACEN when an Auxiliarists needs something done that no one else can provide. "Trish" is always available to provide support, such as providing copying for Auxiliary hands outs at Auxiliary meetings as well as their Public Education Classes, and assisting with Power Point Presentations to members within the Southern New Jersey Area. She has been providing this service for the past seven years and the Training Center Command condones it.

For all the reasons, stated above Patricia Peck was awarded The USCG Auxiliary Honorary Membership Award. Guests included Commander Glenna Tredinnick, DIRAUX; Captain Cari Thomas, CO TRACEN; and Commodore John "Jack" Witemeyer.

Around the District

Auxiliary Promotes Modern Water Safety at Classic Boating Event

On Saturday, July 18, members of Division 16 attended the annual Wooden Boat Festival at Huddy Park, Toms River, NJ. In addition to answering questions regarding boating requirements, potential new members were registered, individuals signed up who were interested in attending Safe Boating classes, and requests for Vessel Safety Checks were taken.

The festival included both a youth boat building station and a family boat building event, expositions by the Pt. Pleasant Pirate Club, a vintage auto display, and multiple vendors who presented both new and used items for sale.

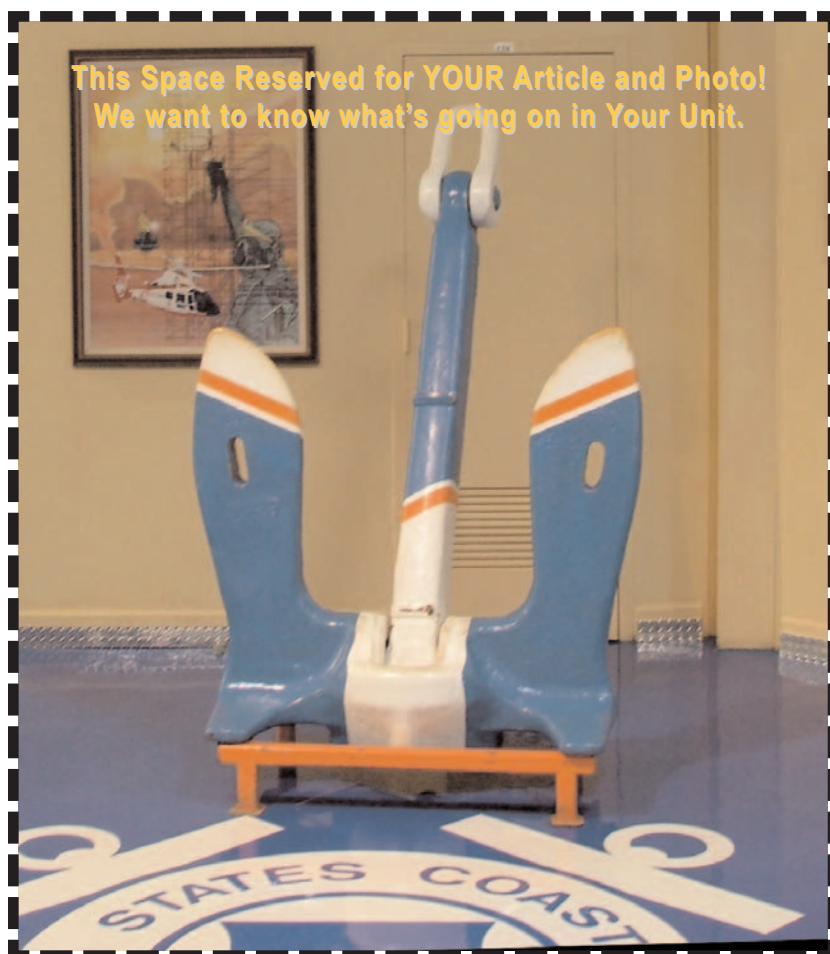
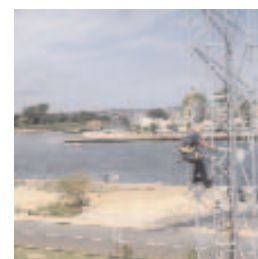
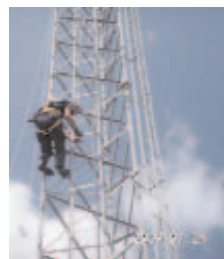
Article and Photos by Terry Bearce, SO-PB D5NR 16



FL16-1 Auxiliarist Reaches New Heights

On Friday 24 July Auxiliarists Holger Skurbe, FL 16 -1 who is a Watchstander at Station Manasquan Inlet installed the finishing touches on the new radio in the commroom. He had previously installed the radio and temporary antenna with magnet base on the building itself. By installing the new antenna on the tower behind the Station the range of the new radio was greatly increased. Holger's timing was perfect; the next day the Station had to deal with four four separate cases, one right after the other.

Article and Photos by Terry Bearce, SO-PB D5NR 16



**This Space Reserved for YOUR Article and Photo!
We want to know what's going on in Your Unit.**

Auxiliary and Community

Auxiliarists Welcome Home Coast Guardsman Returning From Iraq

By Ira & Arline Dolich, District Conference Coordinators D5-NR

In addition to our activities with the USCGAUX (Flotilla 66 D5-NR), we devote time to a group known as the Yellow Ribbon Club. Members of the Yellow Ribbon Club are volunteers who provide care packages for servicemen and women in Iraq and Afghanistan. Yellow Ribbon Club members also coordinate and attend welcome home celebrations for returning servicemen and woman in their hometown communities.

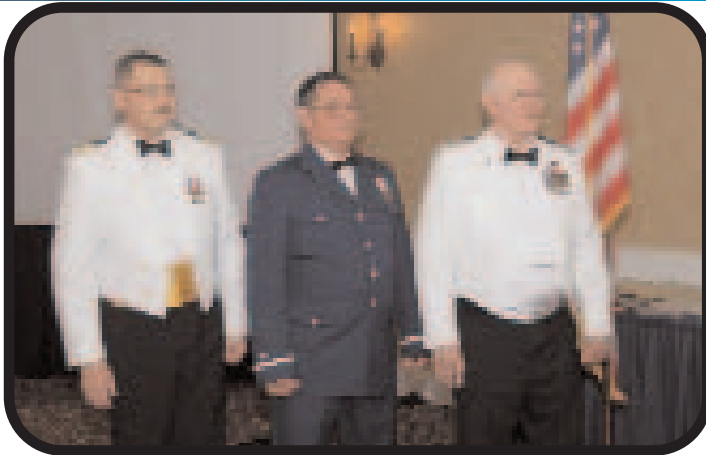
There have been many welcoming events for members of the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. However, the U.S. Coast Guard has not been represented, at least locally, until Coast Guard CPO Michael “Rocky” Bazis returned from Iraq to his home and family in Audubon, New Jersey. Chief Bazis is a 30-year veteran of the Coast Guard and this completed his second tour of duty in Iraq where he was involved with ship cargo inspections.

These celebrations include the local fire and police departments, emergency medical services, Warrior Watch Riders, Patriot Guard and Last Patrol Riders, and, of course, citizens of the local community. As members of both the Auxiliary and The Yellow Ribbon Club, we were excited and honored to be part of the welcoming home festivities for Chief Bazis. These celebrations draw the major and local newspapers and we had the opportunity to talk about the Coast Guard’s little known (by the public) role in Iraq. Of course, we put in a big “plug” for the Coast Guard Auxiliary’s efforts as well as support role of the Coast Guard.

Although we have participated in other celebrations, this one was special as it was a rare opportunity to welcome home one of our own. - **topside**



District Photo Scrapbook



Clockwise top-left: P. Appenzeller & B. Long (FL-82) receive Meritorious Team Award from CAPT. P. Ratte CO AIRSTAA.C.. Judy Redlawsk DFSO conducts liferaft training to AuxAir members. "Jake" Lincoln D5NR Historian. (L to R) Ron Zuggi VFC FL-34 & wife Jean; Tom Morrissey DCDR-03 & wife Veronica. Conference "Gurus" Ira and Arline Dolich.



picture yourself in **topside**



Clockwise from top-left:
Division 8 members receive CG Meritorious Team Award. Doris Smith FSO-FN FL-86 serves up delicious treats during fellowship. On patrol in Cape may Harbor during a majestic sunset. Natalie McFeeley FL-86 receives her Meritorious Team Award from Admiral Thad Allen Commandant.

Join the FUN at the next Spring Conference!
March 19 - 21, 2010

Auxiliary History

An Auxiliary Blast from the Past

researched by Joseph Giannattasio, DSO-PB

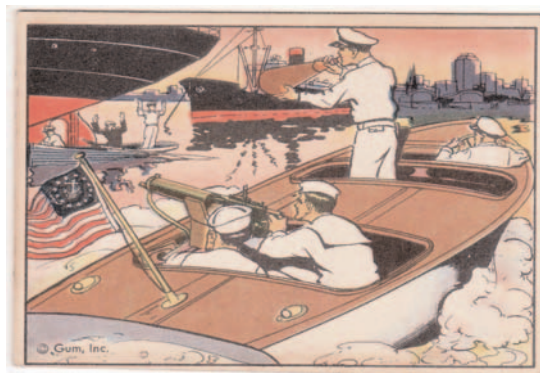
Many of the events leading up to our country's involvement in World War II, from the late 1930s to 1941, were dramatically depicted on the newest American fad, gum cards.

Insert cards picturing a variety of historical, fantasy and contemporary events were relatively new in 1939. But, as the tides of war swept over most of the world and Americans came to realize it was only a matter of time before our turn came, some gum card sets began taking on a patriotic tone and emphasized the need for America to be prepared. Gum, Inc., in 1941, began inserting "Uncle Sam - Home Defense" (148 cards) and "Uncle Sam - Soldier" (96 card).

The "Soldier" portion shows men of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Corps in training and conducting mock warfare. The "Home Defense" portion highlights home front activities, such as air raid wardens, first aid stations, defense against incendiary bombs, and school children dispersing in the event of an air attack. It also showcased such military complementary outfits as Home Guard, Office of Civilian Defense, women pilots ferrying aircraft overseas to England, and the Auxiliary Coast Guard.

The sets, though, published from 1938 to 1941, are among the best ever produced - from the viewpoints of patriotism, quality artwork, and creativity.

Today, gum card collectors and others eagerly seek them out. - **topside**



109. Uncle Sam's HOME DEFENSE Auxiliary Coast Guard

As a backlog of patrol boats for use in an emergency, private yachts and motorboats are being put into service, in some instances along with their owners. Civilians are enrolling in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, a voluntary, non-military organization. Men must be citizens, own at least 25 percent of a boat, and pass an examination. Their duties will be to increase safety, promote better understanding of navigation rules and guard against sabotage in emergencies. Boats are armed, some with rifles and pistols, and others with machine guns. All expenses of operating the boats will be borne by the government. The picture shows how one of these armed boats might be used to round up a gang of saboteurs at the water front.

Ask for Uncle Sam Bubble Gum and complete your collection of cards Nos. 1 to 96 picturing U. S. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen in training to Defend America.
Copyright 1941, GUM, INC., Phila., Pa. Printed in U. S. A.
Buy U. S. Defense Savings Bonds or Stamps

WANTED

If you have an Auxiliary item of historical significance (pictures, documents, items, ETC.), share them with your Shipmates.

Digitally scan the item or take a digital photo of it and email it to TOPSIDE so everyone can enjoy your treasure.



Auxiliary Air Safety

In May District 5 South Auxiliary Air Program hosted an Air Safety Workshop at USCG Air Station Elizabeth City, NC.

Highlights include enjoying a nice lunch at the base galley "The Round House" with Air Station personnel and fellow Auxiliary Aviators from Fifth-Southern,

Pictured (L to R) Bob Layton, Air Crew D5NR, Lt. Jon Miller, USCG and Andrew Diffley, Pilot D5NR

Photo by Joe Giannattasio, ADSO-AV (PA)

USCG/AUX - Cross Training

Division 8 Auxiliarists augment CG Helicopter Crew Training

by Joseph Giannattasio, DSO-PB

U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City is the product of merging Air Station Brooklyn, NY and Group/Air Station Cape May, NJ into a single unit in 1998. It is the newest and largest single airframe unit of the Coast Guard's Air Stations. The Air Station supports the wide range of Coast Guard operations encompassing the coastlines of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia including interior bays and rivers such as the Chesapeake, Delaware, Hudson and Long Island Sound.

The Air Station is comprised of 10 HH-65C Dolphin Helicopters with over 60 pilots. A major challenge for the Air Station has been maintaining regular helicopter hoist training which involves a Coast Guard flight mechanic lowering a rescue basket from a hovering helicopter onto the deck of a Coast Guard small boat. Helicopter crews must routinely conduct these evolutions with small boat stations for training and maintaining 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 amount of fuel and shortest distance to reach.



On April 21, 2009 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. A 27ft Boston Whaler UTL [Utility Boat-Light] was acquired, designated UTL-AUX 279535, specifically modified with rescue basket receiving apparatus in the vessel's aft. Thirteen Auxiliarists from D5NR participate in the program.



The Auxiliarists initially trained with the helicopter lowering the rescue basket with the UTL on the ground. Training included classroom studies, practical exercises, and PQS requirements. On June 9th training progressed to where the UTL teams began practicing actual helicopter / surface operations in the Absecon Inlet.

There are 3 Auxiliary UTL Teams. Each Team is composed of 4 members (1 Coxswain and 3 Crew). Presently, all team members are "Basically Qualified" with BM1 Hitchner accompanying training evolutions until it's determined the Auxiliary UTL Teams can forgo a CG presence.

UTL Program members are: BM1 Clarence Hitchner - P/O in charge. Lt. Jason Ingram, CO – STA Atlantic City. UTL Coxswains: Scott DiStefano, Bruce Long, Harry Norcross. UTL Crew: Walter Alsegg, Philip Appenzeller, John Bodin, Gilbert Finkelstein, William Hannan, Ernest Phillips, Joseph Skutlin, Richard Weiss, Glen Westervelt, Ken Wilde. - **topside**

Photos (from top): UTL Crewmembers Phil Appenzeller FL82 and Richard Weiss FL82.

Rescue basket being lowered to the UTL.

Photos by Joseph Giannattasio

Profile In Service

Auxiliarist Celebrates 100th Birthday and 50 Years of Service

by Stan Morantz, FSO-PA

Alice Drew, Flotilla 2-4, Willow Grove, PA. just turned 100 years old in July and the Auxiliary held a birthday celebration to commemorate this milestone in her life and as a valuable member in the USCG Auxiliary. The celebration was held at the Fort Washington Estates Assisting Living facility where she currently resides.

Alice has been a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary for over 50 years and has dedicated her time assisting in patrolling and protecting the waterways, conducting educational classes pertaining to boat safety and seamanship, and conducting vessel safety checks. - **topside**



“So, what’s your excuse?” - Ed.

Around the Island Row

Departing our dock at 0545 on an overcast Wednesday morning, Vince Kipp VFC 83 and I first spotted the boats competing in Wildwood’s Around The Island Life Guard Row as they came through the Grassy Sound Bridge from the ocean side of Hereford Inlet. (See photo)

Adhering to the request by the head Committee Boat, we took up a position at the rear of the race protecting the rowers from possible unaware recreational boaters. As the race proceeded under the Rt. 147 bridge that leads into N. Wildwood, we followed them south on the ICW past Wildwood, Wildwood Crest, and Cape May.

Having never patrolled this particular event, I was surprised at the number of spectators that appeared this early in the morning on both of the above bridges and adjacent piers.

Out through the Cape May Inlet and north along the beach front back to the starting line in the ocean in front of N. Wildwood, the competitors were so spread apart that any photos taken from our rear position would not have reflected the competitive nature of the row. All in all, it was a pleasant, uneventful, albeit it early patrol. - **topside**

Article and Photo by Howard Friedman, FSO-MT, Fl. 8-3



OPERATION: ORANGE SMOKE

District Surface and Air Programs Joint Exercises

by Joseph Giannattasio, ADSO-AV (PA)

This summer, the District coordinated two training sessions utilizing Surface and Air facilities in the interest of integrating operations during rescues and incidents. On 13 June the first drill Operation: ORANGE SMOKE involved an Auxiliary aircraft dispatched to identify a predetermined Auxiliary (OPFAC) boat in distress in the Delaware Bay. After locating the targeted boat from the air the Auxiliary aircraft directed other Auxiliary surface vessels to the scene and augmented communications.

Operation: LOST BOAT, a more complex exercise was successfully held 25 July. Upon returning to base after the exercise, Auxiliary OPFAC's responded to a disabled boat adrift in the shipping lane in the Delaware River with a passenger requiring medical attention. The person was brought onboard the OPFAC and transported to medical emergency responders onshore. Another OPFAC towed the disabled boat, which had become a hazard to navigation, out of the shipping lane to await assistance.

The goal of these missions is to develop a coordinated relationship between the Auxiliary surface and air programs in a manner consistent with established USCG standards and practices. This will ensure the development of a team relationship that benefits the public, public safety agencies and the Coast Guard. Future planned exercises include utilizing Auxiliary Air and Surface facilities with Coast Guard Helicopter assets. - **topside**



Above. "Oscar" the rescue dummy simulates a "Person In Water."

Left: Coast Guard Rescue Swimmer is lowered from responding helicopter during exercise ORANGE SMOKE. Photos by exercise members.



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.

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



Parting Shots



Clockwise from upper left: FL-82 members assisting with USCG Rescue Swimmer Training. AuxAir 62AD over TRACEN. J. Giannattasio receives NACON awards from NACO Kerrigan. John Tredinnick receives Crew Award from DIRAUX.

Photos by J. Giannattasio



**Don't see an article
or picture from
your area?**

**Send us your stories and
photos of what's happen-
ing in YOUR Flotilla and
Division!**



US Coast Guard Training Center Cape May 10JUN2009



District Crew School candidates join Commander Glenna Tredinnick, DIRAUX; Captain Cari Thomas, CO TRACEN; Commodore John "Jack" Witemeyer, and members of TRACEN's ISB team in presenting Ms. Patricia Peck the USCG Auxiliary Honorary Membership Award.

Read the full story on page 4.

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