

Winter 2022

Volume 119, Issue 1

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Official Newsletter of Coast Guard Auxiliary 5th District, Northern Region



80 Years of TOPSIDE

See page 12 for details.

topside



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Leadership of 5NR

Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX)
CDR Victoria Taylor-Davies

Operations Training Officer (OTO)
CWO4 Diego Herrera

District Commodore (DCO)
COMO Joseph J. Giannattasio

District Chief Of Staff (DCOS)
Kurt P. Sarac, Sr

District Captain Central (DCAPT-C)
Cindi C. Chaimowitz

District Captain East (DCAPT-E)
Thomas Johnston Don

District Captain West (DCAPT-W)
J. Douglas Willwerth

Immediate Past Commodore
COMO Thomas J. Dever

President Past Captains Association
Alfred O. Grimminger

Division Commanders

DCDR 01 Reynolds A Giovannozzi Jr

DCDR 04 Scott G. Graham

DCDR 07 Thomas H. Brouillard

DCDR 08 Robert N. Babezki

DCDR 12 Timothy D. Precht

DCDR 15 Ivan Meixell

DCDR 16 Basil Iwanyk

DCDR 17 Charles Lorentz Jr.

DCDR 18 Paul Whitman Sr.

DCDR 19 Edwin W. Seda

DCDR 20 COMO KC Murphy

DCDR 21 Michael B. McElwee

D-AD Jason C. Flynn, Donald W. Merrill

D-AA Phil Walmsley

DSO-C Jason C. Flynn

DSO-C COMO Ken Brown, Janet Brown

DSO-DV Ruth A. Bearce

DSO-FN Mark F. Letavish

DSO-LP Francis P. Bigley

DSO-SL Harry W. Otto

DFSO Thomas Callahan III

DDC-Logistics Robert G. Vanderhook

DSO-CS Richard Taylor, II

DSO-FS Noreen Schifini

DSO-HR Steven G. Trojanov

DSO-IS Harry F. Dyer

DSO-MA Jeffery Wilt

DSO-PB Timothy P Marks

DSO-SR Noreen Schifini

DDC-Prevention Alfred O. Grimminger

DSO-AS James Robert White

DSO-MS Gregg R. Bollinger

DSO-MT Theodore R. Hall

DSO-NS Frank J. Williams

DSO-PA COMO Kevin C. Murphy

DSO-PE Pamela L. Thompson

DSO-PV Russell M. Galson

DSO-VE Edwin W. Seda

DDC-Response Douglas L. Smith

DSO-EM Gregory M. Stough

DSO-CM Richard F. Lord

DSO-AV William A. Fithian

DSO-OP Donald W. Merrill

Front Cover: Rehoboth Beach, DE; Auxiliarist Al Grimminger on VHF radio checking in with the Command Center during the February 6, 2022 Special Olympics Delaware Lewes Polar Bear Plunge. For more pictures and information, see page 33.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photos by Barbara Sama

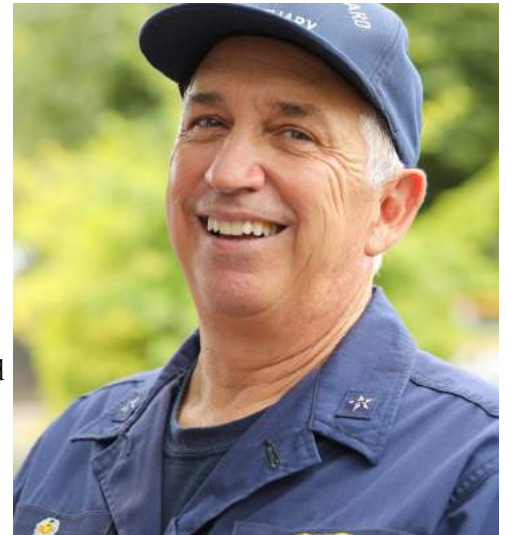
From the Desk of the Commodore

Welcome to 2022

by COMO Joseph Giannattasio

**Great Auxiliarist don't seek to lead.
They are called to it. And they answer.**

During the past year some people have commented they feel bad that my term as District Commodore has been beset by the COVID pandemic and necessary mitigations. And they are often taken aback when I tell them that I am grateful to be leading through these daunting times. Why? Because I've always been the type that feels at home on a sailboat surrounded by sea with no land in sight for days to come, rather than a sight-of-land sailor. And I believe an Auxiliary Leader needs to fully utilize their skill and experience, augmented with the courage to persevere during challenging times.



**Commodore Joseph Giannattasio
District Commodore
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region**

Though effective leaders can only provide enough guidance for Auxiliarists to succeed - it's up to the members to do the work. And the past year 5NR members themselves have demonstrated outstanding leadership, skill, dedication, and devotion to duty. The fact that we have accomplished what we have the past year is incredible.

You have done things that I still find amazing. The past year there have been a lot of negatives – AUXDATA-II “growing pains”, an abbreviated patrol season, the transition of the Coast Guard financial system; and of course, the COVID-19 pandemic. But, it has been the actions you did during this pandemic that make a difference. You did the safe things to protect yourself, your family, and your shipmates. You took necessary precautions to safely perform Auxiliary missions, train your fellow members and support the active duty. You proved our resiliency; you, and many of our more dedicated leaders and members proved our adaptability; it proved our dedication, it demonstrated our value to the Coast Guard.

We learned totally new skillsets. Pulling off having virtual meetings, training sessions, elections and conferences, seamlessly. If we considered doing this four or five years ago - I doubt it would have happened. Our RBS Missions (VE, PV & PE) have returned approximately 87% to pre-pandemic levels. Surface Operations executed 45 SAR cases. 116 members perform operational roles in directly supporting the Active Duty. 59 new Auxiliarists joined D5NR in 2021 (107 new members total joined during the 2020-21 pandemic.)

Continued on the next page...

From the Desk of the Commodore, continued

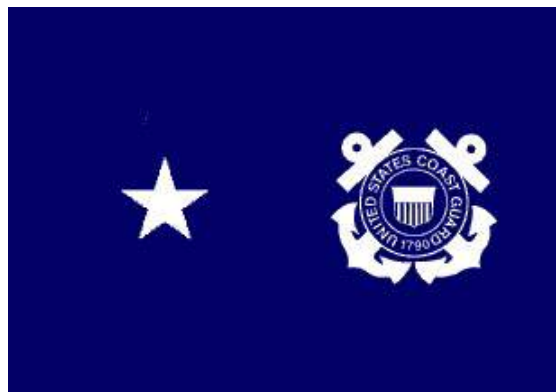
Scores of AuxCA (Culinary Assistant) members provided food preparation and serving Coast Guard units, 8 Auxiliarists serve as radio watchstanders at Coast Guard stations, 18 in-port watchstanders on small cutters, 6 Clergy Support members expand Religious Ministry within the Coast Guard, 5 members support functions at Atlantic Strike Team and 3 Auxiliary Health Support members regularly provide health care assistance at TRACEN's Medical Clinic. We have supported Sector Delaware Bay's Waterway department with ATON verification and Commercial Fishing Vessel Examinations.

This period also proved the value of fellowship. We decided to err on keeping our members safe. We even found ways to look after each other, including virtually. And the vast majority of our members remain safe.

I am also looking forward in 2022: This March begins Topside's 80th year of publication; launched in March 1943, Topside is the oldest continuously published Auxiliary newsletter in the U.S. And we will soon be finalizing updating the District Policy Manual chapter by chapter. Though daunting, this is a very worthy project for all our members now, and in the near future. CDR Taylor-Davies and our EXCOM spearheaded assigning various elected and appointed leaders in the reviewing, editing, and updating process. It has allowed members to be stakeholders in our district's policy process.

Yes, I am personally honored to be your District Commodore during these trying times; I am thankful for having Kurt Sarac as our Chief of Staff and thankful for our EXCOM leaders. D5NR members saw opportunities everywhere, every day, and made the most of them. We got in front of problems by being flexible and able to go around, over, and beyond challenges. Most importantly, we trusted ourselves enough to take the first steps to face problems and make corrections long before guidance was provided - as leaders do.

Stay Safe my Friends.



A Message from the Chief of Staff

Welcome to 2022 and a more relevant Coast Guard Auxiliary. Today we are needed more than ever for the Team Coast Guard mission to succeed. You are the tip of the sword, the boots on the ground for our success. I can not be more excited about our future. If we can continue to remain nimble, focused, and emphasize teamwork, we will be the force multipliers that the Coast Guard needs. Everyday we are challenged to help more here are some statistics for you to ponder:



Kurt P. Sarac Sr.
District Chief of Staff
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region

- In the 5th District, we have over 300 AUX members embedded in the commands.
- We have fulfilled needs of commands over 1000 times for direct support
- We have embedded members in almost every area in the Coast Guard;
 - Culinary
 - Operations
 - Cutter, Station and Command Center Watch Standers
 - Administrative Support
 - Instructors
 - Security Center
 - Station Support

“MAKE IT HAPPEN” attitude for 2022

This is on top of our standard missions of that we have been restarted in ALL vertices after COVID. Some thought to bring to your deck plate;

- There are NO areas shut down by COVID. Frankly put we are FULLY open for business!
- We have a solid guide to deal with COVID. The COVID Reconstitution Guide link is http://agroup-bx.wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/BX-GROUP/AUX-COVID19-RECONSTITUTE-GUIDE-V2-08FEB.pdf
- Be safe! Please take RM (Risk Management) seriously! We are all responsible for safety! It is not a check box item but a cultural need to implement.
- HAVE FUN! This is supposed to be enjoyable.
- Take time to encourage everyone. Don't just think the worst about someone if you have a disagreement, but take time to understand where they are coming from!
- Move forward and think outside the box

I believe we have the best staff, solid leadership and the best members! I am excited to charge forward as a team in. 2022

Kurt P Sarac Sr.

District Chief of Staff - DCOS

District Fifth Northern

J. Douglas Willwerth, DCAPT-W

Greetings Shipmates!

Welcome to the winter and soon-to-be spring of 2022! All in all, we had a pretty active and productive year in 2021. Despite some of the pandemic challenges and late start, many goals were still met. As we ramp up for the upcoming operational season, I know you will continue to maintain a steady course and navigate any new hurdles that will confront our organization. As an Auxiliarist, we need to continue being flexible and prepare for any changes as we have proven over the last 2 years. Adapt, overcome, and maintain your situational awareness!

This is the time of year to prepare and train for the upcoming boating season. I always talk about goals with the leadership. Goals need to be realistic, achievable, and measurable. Take advantage of the online courses in AUX LMS or Moodle, maintain or increase your qualifications, and certainly update your CORE courses as needed. You might even consider venturing into something new! Take advantage of some or all of the AUXOP courses while you don't need a proctor! There are leadership courses available starting at the member level and above. Taking one of these courses gives you an opportunity to learn more about the "nuts and bolts" details of the Auxiliary leadership. Check with your Flotilla Commander or Member Training Officer for any guidance or help with any of these courses.

Spring D-Train as you know will be held virtually. While we will miss the in-person fellowship, we need to do what is best in keeping everyone safe. Take advantage of any training opportunities on or before the event. There will be more info posted in a future District communication about the specifics on the weekend of March 11th and 12th.

As an optimist, I know that spring is right around the corner! Now is the best time to get prepared for the operational season, and it will be upon us very quickly. While we are still dealing with many unknown issues, I know this organization of great volunteers will be ready for any concerns thrown in front of them. Our mission hasn't changed, and we will provide the best possible practice and service to our boating public, the Coast Guard, and Auxiliary!

Thank you for everything you do in the Auxiliary! Your hard work continues to provide the goal-setting results that we have seen over the last year of challenges! As we navigate into 2022, let's continue to do what we do best. Best wishes to everyone, stay positive, and please remain safe in your activities.

Respectfully,

Doug

Douglas Willwerth, DCAPT-W
District Captain-Western Area
Fifth Northern District
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



J. Douglas Willwerth
District Captain—West
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region

Thomas Johnston Don, DCAPT-E

Tom Don served in the USCG from 1965 to 1995. Add three more years in the Reserve and you get a total of thirty-three years. He continues his services in the USCG Auxiliary.

Tom Don's father and brother also served in the USCG, making it the 'unofficial' family business. Tom's dad owned and operated a successful woodworking business. It is there that the family came in contact with many NYC-based Coast Guardians. Don Senior volunteered in 1941 to protect our ports and harbors from enemy saboteurs. The Don family was with the Auxiliary and the USCG from the very beginning!

Tom's father attended meeting and trained in the old USCG HQ in lower Manhattan. Because Tom's father operated a "defense related business" he was exempt from service in the Armed Forces but he volunteered anyway. This excellent example was followed by his two sons, Andrew and Thomas. They both served their country during the Vietnam era in the USCG. Andrew Don served 6 years and Tom made a long and productive career in the United States Coast Guard.

Trained at TRACEN in Cape May, Tom served along the Atlantic coastline both at sea and shore. In New Jersey, he was a Coxswain based in many of the stations that our District supports. He also went to sea for 4 years on the USCGC Hornbeam where he 'squared away' attitude and hard work made him a decorated Coast Guardian.

Information taken from the Summer 2021 edition of Division 7's newsletter.

Written by

Dennis McCullen

Division 7 Historian



Thomas Johnston Don
District Captain—East
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
5th District-Northern Region

A Focus on 5NR Departments



Information Services

Communication Within the Auxiliary

By Harry Dyer, DSO-IS

Communication – the thread that binds and keeps an organization from unraveling at the seams. Without a strong thread, an organization will unravel, break apart, and in time will completely disintegrate. To prevent this from occurring, the thread must pass through and bind all organizational levels to insure a tight knit working community.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary has the guidelines/policy for a strong thread to pass through and bind all levels in the “Chain of Communication.” Unfortunately, in some areas, the thread is broken and the Auxiliary, in those areas, is starting to unravel. We must re-evaluate our commitments and take a good look at ourselves. Are we communicating with fellow Auxiliarists, to the degree that we need to sustain a strong organization? The answer is obvious – not to the degree that we could.



Harry Dyer
District Staff Officer - IS

The main seam in the Auxiliary is the Flotilla. Communication must start there and wind its way up through the “chain.” Members must express their needs to their Flotilla Commanders and staff officers. In turn, the Flotilla Commanders and staff officers must pass this information up to the next level, their division officers. Consequentially, the information must then go the district officers and then on to national officers. It is the duty of the Flotilla Commanders to provide the “needle” to start the information winding its way up through the “chain.” The next step requires the thread to reverse itself and wind its way back down from National to Districts to Divisions to Flotillas.

As you know, there are two different paths the thread must bind - the elected officers’ path and the appointed staff officers’ path. If the information flow follows these paths, we will have a tight knit organization that is held together at the seams by a strong thread.

How can we stop the unraveling that is occurring? First, the elected officers must provide proper guidance. In some instances, there is a need for improvement so members do not become discouraged by not receiving all the information that is available. Flotilla elected officers, in many instances, need to fulfill the commitments of their office. They need to improve the dissemination of available information to their membership and they need to submit reports to their Division Commanders. This they must do to set an example for their staff officers and insist that the staff officers follow their example. The next steps, at the division and district levels, the same procedure must be followed. As at the flotilla level, in many instances, there is a need for improvement. A strong leadership is needed to insure the “Chain of Communication” is not broken.

Continued on the next page...

Information Services, continued

There are many dedicated members in the Auxiliary who do an excellent job of keeping the membership informed. They set a good example of how information should be communicated up and down the chain. However, they cannot perform the duties of those who do not set a good example. But, those members should follow their leaders and improve their communication skills by dedicating themselves to the duties of their respective offices. Neglect of communication creates a disgruntled membership.

The solution to the “communication problem” is found in “training.” Without proper training, skills can only be partially achieved. District D-Trains are the perfect venue for leadership training.

In real estate, there is a saying; “location, location, location!” Let us make a commitment to resolve our problem not by saying, but by performing; “communication, communication, communication!”

And always remember, “Communication – the thread that binds and keeps an organization from unraveling at the seams.”



Marine Safety

The Global Marine Stranding Network

We hear about the stranding of marine mammals on beaches around the world. These are sad situations which often times prompt concerned bystanders to take action to assist the stranded marine mammal—but could they do more harm than good? If you encountered a stranded marine mammal, would you know what to do? Here, in the Greater Atlantic Northeast Region, the institution to which to turn would be the National Marine Fisheries Service and even more specifically, its Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program.

The Marine Mammal Fisheries Service (MMFS) oversees members of the National Marine Mammal Stranding Network. Detachments in the Greater Atlantic Northeast Region respond to strandings along the coastline of ME, MA, NH, CT, RI, NY, NJ, VA, and D.C. Responses are carried out whether the marine mammal is alive or dead.

The NMFS headquarters is located in Gloucester, MA and operates a Marine Mammal Stranding and Entanglement Hotline which is: 1-866-755-6622. The program's website is: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/report.htm. The Marine Mammal Center, which is closely involved with this work, is a partner of the USCGAUX Prevention Department's Outreach Program. The Outreach Program also includes the America's Waterway Watch Program (AWW), the Citizens' Action Network, Sea Partners, the Good Mate Program and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program. All D 5 NR MS officers as well as anyone interested, are encouraged to check into any or all of these programs.

Globally, there is an international Global Marine Stranding Network which exists to aid stranded and/or entangled marine mammals which are protected by international laws as well as U.S. federal laws such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act which established a moratorium on taking and importing marine mammals, any of their body parts or by-products of their bodies. The act provides protection for polar bears, sea otters, walruses, dugongs, manatees, whales, porpoises, seals and sea lions.

Protection of marine mammals has been an element of the Coast Guard mission for a very long time, dating back to its forerunner, the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service. We as Auxiliarists need to incorporate awareness of marine mammals into our outlook and the ability to help them through the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program when the need arises.



***Gregg Bollinger
DSO
Marine Safety***

Gregg Bollinger, Th.D., DSO-MS, D 5 NR

Publications

TOPSIDE Anniversary March 1943-Present

We wanted to communicate an important milestone that is coming soon.

Our research indicates that this newsletter, TOPSIDE, is the oldest continuously published Auxiliary newsletter. TOPSIDE has been regularly published since March 1943. 2022 begins the 80th year of the newsletter, with March 2023 being the official 80th Anniversary of TOPSIDE.

To view TOPSIDE's online archive, please click this link on the D5NR website at <https://5nr.org/topside-archives/>. The TOPSIDE online bibliotheca contains the most complete collection of TOPSIDE from March 1943 to present.



Timothy Marks
District Staff Officer -
Publications

We assembled a dedicated multi-disciplined team of 5NR members to insure the preservation of the collection of old TOPSIDE newsletters. The Team digitally scanned each issue and uploaded them onto a section in the district's website where they could be stored and accessed.

TOPSIDE's online archive reveals a wealth of treasure from the Auxiliary's history. Gems include a 1944 article chronicling the Auxiliary's response to the "Great Atlantic Hurricane" of September that year, the golden 50-year anniversary fall 1989 issue featuring the "History, 5th [Northern Region] Coast Guard Auxiliary," and policy pieces including the 2003 essay about the Auxiliary being the only volunteer organization to be included in the newly created Department of Homeland Security.

Please view this archive, continue reading current issues of TOPSIDE, and thank you for all your support to this newsletter for the past 80 years!



Sea Scout/Auxiliary Program

One of the things I hear all the time is “why should the Auxiliary help the Sea Scouts”. The reason is simple, they are the future mariners in the United States. The Sea Scouts were founded in 1912 and have had female members since 1959. The members are between the ages of 14 and 21. This means that most of the Sea Scouts already have three years of scouting under their belts.

They are normally some of the best the scouts have to offer. Mature, understanding leadership and have a “can do” attitude.

What they need from the Auxiliary is our boating, training and organizational experience. The Auxiliary is the official sponsors of the Sea Scouts. This puts us in a unique position to help them and in turn they can help us.

The Auxiliary is not requesting units to charter a Sea Scout Ship. We would like flotillas to mentor scout ships. Do not get me wrong I am very proud of the three Sea Scout Ships chartered by two flotillas and one division in 5NR.

It should be remembered that a Sea Scout can join the Auxiliary at age 14. I do not know one flotilla that could not use more members. Over the next several months members of my staff will be contacting flotillas near Sea Scout Ship to share contact information. I hope flotillas use this information to help the scouts and ourselves.

James White
DSO-AS



Public Affairs

For my public affairs qualification I had to memorize the rank structures for both Enlisted & Warrant/Commissioned officers. I put together these two PDF documents to help me study.

I wanted to pass this along because this is important for every Auxiliarist to familiarize themselves with this information (good reference for those that already know this information).

Respectfully

Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA3

Seaman Recruit SR (E-1)



Seaman Apprentice SA (E-2)



Seaman SN (E-3)



Petty Officer Third Class PO3 (E-4)



Petty Officer Second Class PO2 (E-5)



Petty Officer First Class PO1 (E-6)



Chief Petty Officer CPO (E-7)



Senior Chief Petty Officer SCPO (E-8)



Master Chief Petty Officer MCPO (E-9)



Command Master Chief Petty Officer CMC (E-9)



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard (E-9)



Chief Warrant Officer 3 CW03 (W-3)



Chief Warrant Officer 4 CW04 (W-4)



Ensign ENS (O-1)



Lieutenant Junior Grade LTJG (O-2)



Lieutenant LT (O-3)



Lieutenant Commander LCDR (O-4)



Commander CDR (O-5)



Captain CAPT (O-6)



Rear Admiral (lower half) RDML (O-7)



Rear Admiral RADM (upper half) (O-8)



Vice Admiral VADM (O-9)



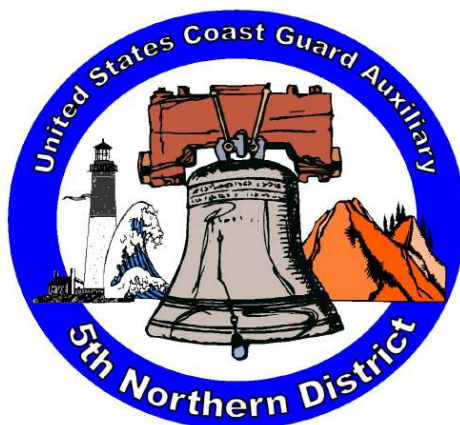
Admiral ADM (O-10)



Help Wanted

For additional requests see:

<https://5nr.org/auxiliarists-help-wanted/>



AUX SUPPORT REQUEST – Operations Duty Officer (Watchstander)

1. Description of Duties:

Operations Duty Officer (ODO): The ODO watch is 24 hours long relieving at 0800 daily. The ODO watch shall be manned 24-hours per day. When not required to be in the Operations Center (OPCEN) the ODO may relocate the watch elsewhere (e.g., the Wardroom or ODO bunkroom) once classified materials and storage containers are properly secured and calls can be answered via forwarding or long-range cordless handset. The ODO shall assist the Senior Duty Officer (SDO) as required and to complete the following daily responsibilities at a minimum:

- Open the OPCEN at 0730 or 15 minutes prior to the first flight's ramp time.
- Shall account for all classified material in the ODO safe and ensure the Classified Work Space (CWS) is secure (Need SECRET security clearance)
- Shall inventory all Night Vision Goggles (NVG) and Heads Up Displays (HUD).
- Check the ODO email account and C2 Official Information Exchange (C2OIX) message traffic and ensured logs are complete.
- Preparing the morning Operations Brief.
- Act as primary point of contact for the Air Station. Field telephone calls from outside the unit.
- Field Prior Permission Required (PPR) requests for transient aircraft.
- Closely monitor the weather and notify airborne crews of the nature and severity of unforecasted weather phenomena as necessary. Be cognizant of Notices to Airmen (NOTAM), Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR), and active Special Use Airspace (SUA) that may affect operations.
- According to POTUS Executive Order 13991, CDC Guidance and CG ALCOAST 285/21, all personnel, to include Auxiliaries, must wear a mask inside USCG operated buildings, regardless of the ability to maintain social distancing and regardless of vaccination status.

2. Skillset Needed:

- Be capable to obtain a SECRET security clearance in order to handle classified material. The AIRSTA will start the application process once candidates have been identified.
- Be able to get access to various CG systems (Log into government computers, ALMIS, MISLE, etc.)
- Be able to work under the supervision of an active duty ODO with minimal oversight.

3. Timeline Needed:

Shifts from 0800-1600 with the possibility of extending hours depending on proficiency and mission requirements. Maximum watch period could be once or twice per week (depending on availability) from 0800-0800.

4. Point of Contact:

Please contact/email if interested in volunteering:

LT Humberto Hernandez

609-677-2222

Humberto.D.Hernandez@uscg.mil

Please copy D05-smb-nrdiraux@uscg.mil

5. Number of Aux needed:

Three Auxiliaries Needed.

6. Location:

Air station Atlantic City

AUX SUPPORT REQUEST – CGC EAGLE SUMMER SUPPORT

1. Description of Duties:

You will be underway on the CGC EAGLE during one of the below times to provide Culinary Assistant support. If you volunteer, your name will go forth to Headquarters for consideration.

2. Skillset Needed:

Qualified Culinary Assistant. Need to be physically able to get underway, lots of ladder wells, etc.

3. Timeline Needed:

EAGLE Notional summer cruise dates:

07MAY-11JUN2022

14JUN-23JUL2022

25JUL-13AUG

4. Point of Contact: Email Commander Victoria L. Taylor-Davies @ Victoria.L.Taylor-Davies@USCG.mil

5. Number of Aux needed:

Unknown



Information from Around the District



New Addition to DIRAX Office

I am overjoyed that OTO Diego Herrera will be OTO Schubert's temporary replacement. OTO Herrera is bringing a wealth of knowledge and valued work ethic to our office. OTO Schubert will be missed and he starts his next chapter; retiring from the USCG after 30 devoted years of service.

For Offer for Use and Three Year Currency Maintenance submissions, please send to OTO Diego Herrera. He will be in charge of ALL OTO functions for the entire fiscal year of 2022. The incoming OTO will take the reins the start of fiscal year 2023 (23OCT2022).

Thank you very much and please let me know if you have any questions.

Very respectfully,
CDR Victoria L. Taylor-Davies
U.S. Coast Guard
Director of Auxiliary
Fifth District - Northern Region

District Historian Seeking Help

The District Historian, Steve Marthouse, is looking for old Topside Magazines from the 1940's thru 1961.

We are currently digitizing these old magazines and making them available for re-searching on the 5NR website. It is a great way to look back to understand the roots of the Auxiliary.

If anyone or any Flotilla or Division has access to either "Sea Bag" or "Topside" magazines, please contact the District Historian - sjmarthouse@gmail.com

Latest COVID Guidance

Please click on the link below to take you to the 5NR website with the latest COVID guidance information:

<https://5nr.org/diraux-covid-19-directives/>



Auxiliary Humanitarian Service Award

Stephen Brickman

Dear Auxiliarist Brickman,

It is my privilege to award you the Coast Guard Auxiliary Humanitarian Service Award for service performed in the Coast Guard Training Center Cape May Clinic in January of 2021. Your performance has been exceptional, and the timing could not be more relevant as the training center battled the COVID-19 pandemic head on. Your efforts in the clinic directly impacted the success of the clinic's mission and of the entire training center.

While assigned to the clinic you consistently and tirelessly assisted the medical staff at Coast Guard Station Manasquan Inlet, NJ, with review and processing of the health screening forms. Without your actions, operations would not have been completed in a timely manner and therefore the staff was able to complete their task uninterrupted.

In addition, you have been lauded by your supervisors for your efforts assisting with required assessments of Active Duty member's eligibility to receive the COVID-19 vaccination, a vital requirement of any complex command, and essential to one of the busiest medical clinics in the Coast Guard.

I applaud your work and look forward to your accomplishments in the future. Congratulations on a medal hard earned and well deserved!

Victoria L. Taylor-Davies

V. L. TAYLOR-DAVIES

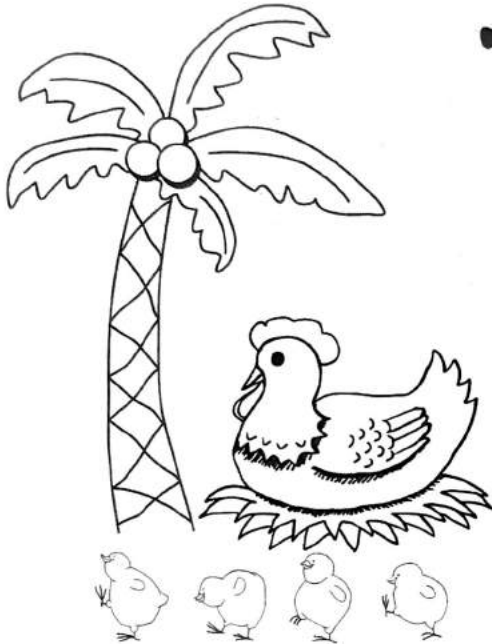
Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Coast Guard
Director of Auxiliary



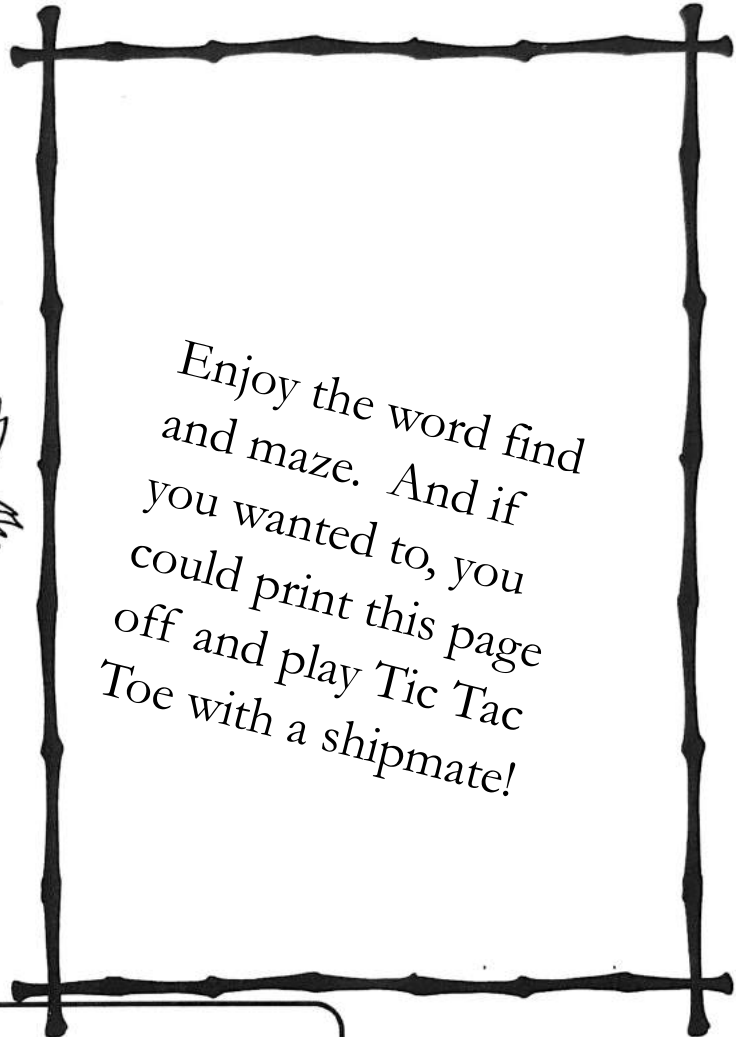
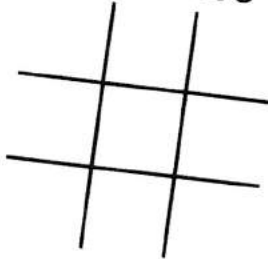
Stephen Brickman (left) receiving he Auxiliary Humanitarian Service Award from Division 15 Commander Ivan O. Meixell Jr. DCDR (right).

Photograph taken before October 1, 2021

Topside Puzzlers



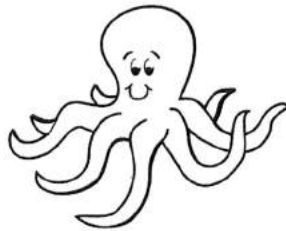
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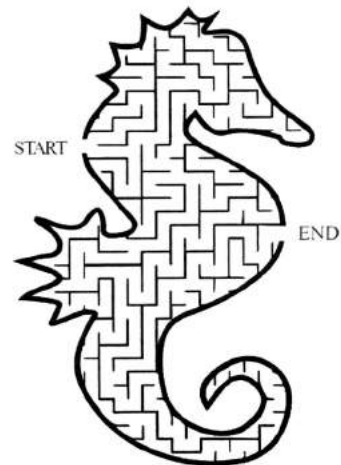
Enjoy the word find
and maze. And if
you wanted to, you
could print this page
off and play Tic Tac
Toe with a shipmate!

word search

S	T	A	R	F	I	S	H	G	T	W	R
K	J	O	P	C	F	V	B	J	W	H	E
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R	A	B	C	R	A	B	N	S	T	V	U
S	H	A	R	K	A	C	B	H	M	C	S
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O	S	R	T	K	L	O	B	S	T	E	R



SHARK	WHALE
FISH	DOLPHIN
TURTLE	JELLYFISH
LOBSTER	STARFISH
seaweed	CRAB
OCTOPUS	seahorse



Auxiliary and Community Members Make Thanksgiving for Coasties Who Cannot Go Home

Article and Photos by COMO Joseph Giannattasio

For the fourth year in a row, on November 13th., District 5NR Auxiliarists and members of the community showed their appreciation to the families of USCG Station Cape May and homeported cutters for their sacrifices while giving them a thoughtful Thanksgiving meal—complete with all the trimmings. John Burns, the Auxiliary Unit Coordinator for the station and his wife Chris, Chef Robert Ohlsen, a Culinary Arts Instructor at the Cumberland County Technical Education Center with student Ismael Torres, and Nick DiRenzo, owner of Westside Meats in Rio Grande worked with LT Dan Nelson, the station's Commanding Officer to make a special family style dinner for over 40 people.

More than 650 active duty, reserve, and civilian members work at USCG Training Center Cape May and the 15 tenant commands. Coast Guard active duty members and families in Cape May face the same hardships as service members stationed anywhere. Some are unable to go home and be with their families during the holiday. And some families are missing an essential element to their holiday celebrations – a deployed loved one.



A bountiful Thanksgiving serving line awaits Coast Guard members and families.



Culinary student Ismael Torres serving Coast Guard members and families.

Because Coast Guard personnel of the Duty Section need to be underway for an emergency in less than six minutes the dinner was held in the station's boathouse. Nick DiRenzo donated the food. Under the supervision of Chef Rob, John Burns and his wife Chris, and COMO Joe Giannattasio helped with food preparation and serving. Chef Rob's student, Ismael Torres also helped in preparing and serving the dinner. Auxiliarist and Soft pretzel business owner Leon DeFulgentis provided platters of buttery soft pretzel nuggets with multiple dipping sauces as a delicious snack.

Continued on the next page...

Auxiliary and Community Members Make Thanksgiving for Coasties Who Cannot Go Home

Continued



Chef Rob serving wonderful home cooked meals to Coast Guard members and families.



There's always room for tasty soft pretzel nuggets supplied by Auxiliarist Leon DeFulgentis soft pretzel proprietor.

Personnel and families decorated and set up tables and supplied soda, water, and cups. The goal is simply to provide Thanksgiving dinner, complete with turkey, dressing, glazed ham, mashed potatoes, desserts, etc., to members and family of the Coast Guard as a simple way of showing appreciation to them, especially those who will not be able to travel home to be with family over the holiday.

After dinner, LT Nelson presented Chef Rob and John Burns with unit T-shirts as tokens of appreciation for all they have done in coordinating this feast.

The dinner all came together perfectly. There were approximately 40 Active Duty personnel and family members who had the opportunity to sit down in a group setting and enjoy the delicious dinner provided by local Auxiliarists and family, all prepared by a well know chef. In addition, some Officers of the Deck from Coast Guard Cutters were provided meals "to go". It all came together and was a memorable experience for all. It truly captured the meaning of giving thanks.



Auxiliarist Burns service dessert.

Aux Spotlight - Ellen Voorhees

By Christopher Orlando, ADSO-PB

When oil discharges, hazardous substance releases, weapons of mass destruction events, require U.S. Coast Guard attention, the Atlantic Strike Team (AST) springs into action! AST functions as a "special team" within the National Response System (NRS) and assist United States Coast Guard (USCG) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Federal On Scene Coordinators and other federal officials while executing responsibilities under the National Contingency Plan (NCP) and the National Response Plan (NRP).

Among the "special team" of AST is Ellen Voorhees of Flotilla Lacey Township (07-09). Voorhees joined AST as an Auxiliary Incident Response Center Watchstander in August 2001 and became certified in December 2001. In October 2006, she was asked to serve as the Auxiliary Unit Liaison Officer for the AST.

Voorhees continues to serve in both roles. As Watchstander, she relieves the Command Duty Officer (CDO) and, under the direction of the CDO, act as a control point, register, grant or deny access to unit visitors, maintain the IRC phone watch, intercept and transmit phone calls and messages, monitor status boards and T-card racks, maintain and update the Unit's daily log, receive visitors and arrange for their escort to appropriate Unit site destinations, respond to external requests and perform other tasks as requested.

As Auxiliary Unit Coordinator, she works with the AST Command, the Auxiliary Liaison Officer (AUXLO) and other key members of the Unit to provide immediate input and response to requirements for Auxiliary support and facilitate Auxiliary service to the unit. Prepare and maintain an Auxiliary Watch Personnel Duty Roster containing contact information of Auxiliarists assigned to the AST. She also prepares a quarterly Watch Schedule and distributes copies of the same to the AST Command and the Auxiliary Watchstanders, maintains a spreadsheet of the watch hours accrued monthly and annually by each of the Watchstanders. She also schedules regular Quarterly meetings for the purpose of distributing information and the Watch Schedule for the upcoming quarter.

Voorhees said her most unique experience as a member of AST was that her fourth day training turned out to be September 11, 2001 and she took the call alerting the Unit of planes crashing into the Twin Towers. "I then was tasked to assist with the distribution of necessary response clothing and with loading PFDs into vans in preparation of deployment to New York City," said Voorhees. "In the weeks following 9/11, the AST's resources and personnel were fully employed. The manning of the AST IRC by the Auxiliary helped free personnel desperately needed for critical response activities during this period – talk about on-the-job training!"

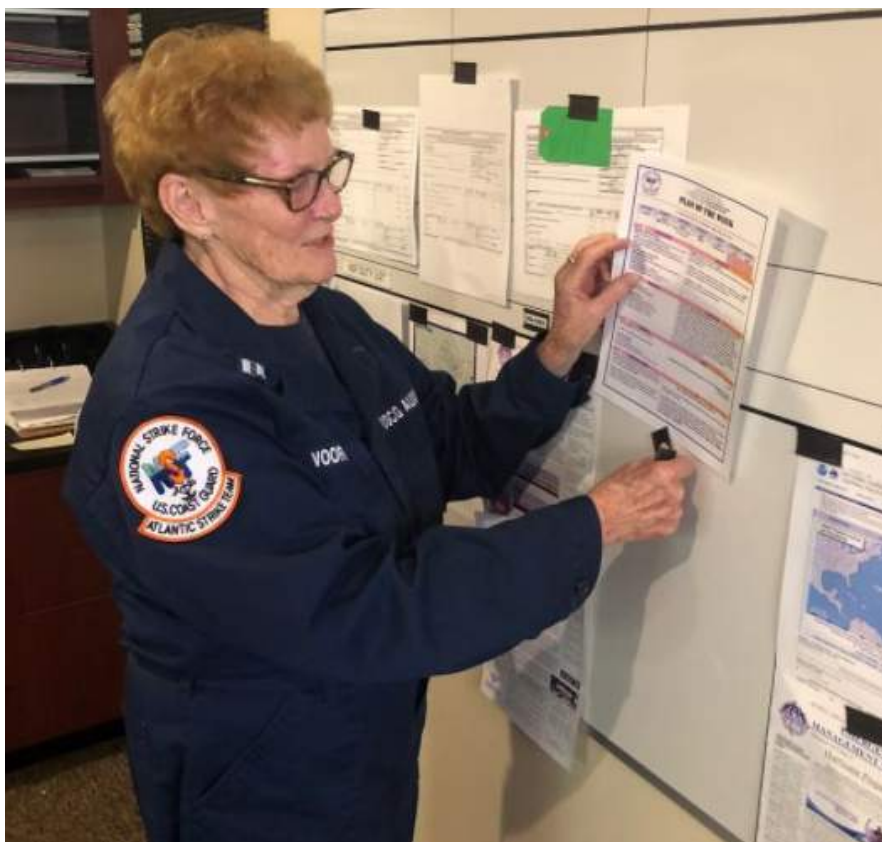
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Aux Spotlight - Ellen Voorhees

Continued

Voorhees said she has also had a ton of unique experiences such as May of 2014, “I, along with other Auxiliarists, participated in a tactical combat casualty care program sponsored by Special Missions Training Center-Deployment Training Detachment at Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst. The Auxiliarists assisted in the training of the personnel being deployed by acting as role players/patients in the mock-combat and responding to pre-planned medical treatments.”

“Ellen Voorhees is an essential member of the AST, responsible for managing the unit’s daily routine, tracking personnel and resources, and greeting visitors,” said District Commodore Joseph Giannattasio. “For two decades Ellen has volunteered over 3,000 hours assisting the AST in case documentation and personnel launch of cases.”



Ellen Voorhees at AST Command.

Photograph by COMO Joe Giannattasio

"AUX Voorhees is an AUXSOME Auxiliarist and a valued member of our team. Her kindness and mentoring of others continues to enhance our organization," said CDR Victoria L. Taylor-Davies, Director of Auxiliary Fifth District - Northern Region. "Her dedication to her shipmates is astounding. In addition, AUX Voorhees continues to produce Flotilla 79's newsletter, *Guardian of the Bay*."

"For the past 20 years, I have enjoyed my weekly duties at the AST and found the experience to be extremely rewarding. The AST personnel have made the Auxiliarists feel a real part of "Team Coast Guard," said Voorhees. "I consider it a privilege and an honor to serve the U.S. Coast Guard as an Auxiliary Incident Response Center Watchstander."

To cap off an incredible career in the AST, Voorhees was honored at a retirement ceremony in late 2021 where her work was acknowledged with the Auxiliary Achievement Award.

Aux Spotlight - Tim Marks

By Christopher Orlando, ADSO-PB

Behind every issue of “Topside” is a captain at the helm. That captain is Tim Marks, District Staff Officer of Publication from Flotilla York (19-05).

Marks has been in the Auxiliary since 2012 and said his start in the Auxiliary is unique and unexpected. “I have always loved the Coast Guard. My first experience started back when I was very young and was watching the 1970 Disney movie “The Boatniks,”” said Marks. “Not the best representation of the Coast Guard, I am sure, but it had an impact on me. I thought it would be exciting to be in the Coast Guard.”

Fast forward 30 years later, Marks said, “I was taking my kids to McDonald's for dinner one night and when I went in there was a person with his family in a Coast Guard uniform. Later I discovered that it was Jay Price, at that time the Division Commander for Division 14 (now 19). Jay is now in Delaware, but still a current member of 5NR. Well, seeing him in uniform got me to thinking and doing research where I discovered the Auxiliary. I began attending several meetings of the local flotilla and joined very quickly. I loved the idea that I could still serve in a small way with the Coast Guard.”

Marks began his role in Publications in 2012. “Our division did not have a current newsletter or SO-PB. I asked the Division Commander Kevin Tyler if he thought I could take over and rekindle the division newsletter. He agreed, and I have been in that position ever since. “Shortly thereafter, I stepped into the role of ADSO-PB to take the reins of the District Calendar from the renowned Harry Dyer. After two years in that role, I moved into the helm of the Publication Department as DSO-PB in 2015, taking over from District COMO Joe Giannattasio.” Marks has recently accepted a position as the Assistant Editor of Navigator, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary National Publication.

Marks said his goals for “Topside” are “...to continue to be producing a quality, quarterly newsletter while adhering to the 5NR Publication Department mission statement that we created this year: *The Publication Department exists in order to keep the Coast Guard, our membership, other government agencies, and the boating public informed through various formats and publications. In doing so the Department strives to showcase Auxiliary activities and achievements to other stakeholders and seeks to attract members of the public to potentially become new Auxiliarists.*

“Tim Marks’s vision and diligence has yielded the compilation of hundreds of articles and photos that promote the story of our members and their activities throughout the Auxiliary” said District Commodore Joseph Giannattasio.

Continued on the next page...

Aux Spotlight - Tim Marks

Continued

Marks explained he hopes to inspire other Auxilarists to join the Publication ranks. "I wish people knew that it doesn't take much to get a newsletter off the ground and they don't need much experience to become an FSO-PB. Also, even in this digital age, the impact of traditional newsletters is still important."

"Tim's technological insight and resourcefulness were instrumental to the successful digital conversion and archival of the district's collection of 91 printed TOPSIDE's since 1943, that can now be viewed, distributed, or downloaded from the web," said Giannattasio.

"I don't have enough wonderful words to describe Tim. ALWAYS has a smile to greet you with!," said Barbara Sama, AUXPA1 and ADSO-PB under Marks' leadership. "I enjoy doing any project with him! He is truly a dedicated and exemplary Auxiliary member!"

Marks said, "Since the newsletter is quarterly, for the 1st month after a new issue, I collect stories and pictures from people who send them to me. Then, the second month after an issue, I email various people (EXCOM, DSOs, my team, etc.) for any messages and articles to be due in 1 month. Then, in the 3rd month, I finish compiling everything (I work on it slowly during the 2nd month)." Marks continued, "After everything is compiled and laid out, I send it to the Commodore and DIRAUX for approval. After that, it is posted on the web and sent out to the membership via email."

Marks said while he does not have a favorite story during his time as DSO-PB, "I love the stories that highlight what we do, such as rescues, supporting the gold side, community volunteering, etc. I am also a big history buff, so the history articles are interesting to me."

As far as favorite issues, Marks said, "My favorite issue would have to be Fall 2020. I love this issue because of how the front cover and parting shot (back cover) frame the issue with the current commodore and the incoming commodore, both at the helm of USCGC Eagle. The symbolism there is just outstanding in my opinion."

Marks said that one of his proudest achievements as DSO-PB was keeping Topside relevant and interesting during the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions. "Even during the pandemic we were able to produce a 70+ page quality newsletter," said Marks.

Publications is always looking for new writers or contributors whether that be writers, editors or photographers. "I would say if you have an interest, even with no experience, just contact your SO-PB and get more information. If you don't have an SO-PB please contact any of the ADSO-PBs or me. I would be happy to give you more information. We are always looking for more people in this department," said Marks.

Standing the Watch on 87' Coast Guard Cutters at Training Center Cape May

By Auxiliarist Leon C. DeFulgentis

I became interested in watch standing after hearing about this opportunity from Auxiliarist Michael Slepian who is my mentor for public affairs, a certification that I am currently pursuing. I searched online and read an article published in "The Responder" by Auxiliarist Rick Kettinger that provided a detailed description of watch standing duties at Cape May. I contacted Mr. Kettinger via email, and he suggested that I contact Auxiliarist John Burns who serves as the Auxiliary Unit Coordinator (AUC). Mr. Burns is the point of contact for Auxiliarists interested in qualifying as an Officer of the Deck on the 87s. Mr. Burns met me the first night I arrived at TRACEN and spent the evening with me onboard describing all the duties/responsibilities associated with watch standing. Mr. Burns was extremely knowledgeable in describing the operating systems and mechanical diagrams of the cutter.

I currently travel to Cape May once per month to serve as a trainee onboard one of the 87-foot cutters that are in port. The 87-foot marine protector class is a multi-mission class of vessel capable of performing search and rescue, law enforcement, fishery patrols, drug interdiction, illegal immigrant interdiction and homeland security duties up to 200 miles offshore. The marine protector class employs a stern launch and recovery system using aluminum-hulled cutter boats propelled by diesel-powered waterjets.



Auxiliarist Leon DeFulgentis on the bridge of the USCGC Mako.



Continued on the next page...

USCGC Bonito docking at Station Cape May.

Standing the Watch on 87' Coast Guard Cutters at Training Center Cape May

Continued

Currently I am working on very detailed drawings that once finalized will be signed off so that I can be qualified as an OOD (Officer of the Deck). These drawings detail very specific systems of the cutter that an Auxiliarist must understand while standing watch (Fire and CO2 suppression systems, electrical, hydraulic, sewage, bilge pumps, fuel oil, compressed air, and raw water generators). Rounds are completed every few hours and morning and evening colors are done at sunrise and sunset onboard the cutter. This entails raising and lowering of the Union Jack, pennants, and the national ensign. The qualification system is very rigorous, and the same requirements that are met by active-duty personnel are required of the Auxiliarist.

There are currently thirteen qualified in-port watch standers on the 87-foot cutters at Cape May and there were many Auxiliary missions completed during the past year. Active-duty personnel are very thankful that the Auxiliary contributes their time as this gives them a much-needed break. Being onboard the cutter is a very rewarding experience in my opinion. This experience has been extremely educational in that I have gained an incredible amount of knowledge regarding security and general operations of the cutters. This has been a great way for me to give back directly to active-duty personnel while standing the watch.



USCGC Mako in-port at Station Cape May.

From the Member Training Directorate

On 19 January 2022 the Auxiliary Online Classroom (<https://classroom2.cgaux.org/moodle/>) was rebuilt as New AUX Classroom.

Everyone is now a first time learner to this specific site and will need to create a new account using your Member ID, associated email address and a new password. Once a new account is created, you will be given access to the New AUX Classroom.

The New AUX Classroom requires all users to create a STRONG password with 10-characters, UPPER & lower case letters, numbers, and special characters. To better visualize, here is an example of a STRONG password: ABcdef12#\$

Follow this link to access a Job Aide: How to Create a New Account in the New AUX Classroom.”
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eo494DVX_8lUKvHJiwWf64fie8kvejz5/view?usp=sharing

There is also a Video Tutorial at this link:
<https://vimeo.com/660519472/4bbe7a5aff>

These links are also available on the system Log-in page

Another significant change is the way in which you register for a self-paced course. This is a part of our security upgrade. The new protocols require that every course have an extra layer of security at the course level. This is accomplished using enrollment keys for self-paced courses. An enrollment key is simply a 4-6 character code unique to each course that unlocks the course for individual learners.

Within the new AUX Classroom, there are now 2 types of enrollments.

1. Manual Enrollment: This is used for courses that have specialized enrollment criteria such as C-Schools or courses with limited enrollment. Learners will be enrolled directly by the course instructor.
2. Self-Enrollment/Self Paced: Any course open for self-enrollment such as Core Training, BQC2 or other courses that do not require an instructor. For security purposes, these courses now require an enrollment key.

Each Directorate is responsible for securely maintaining a list of enrollment keys associated with their self-paced courses. Each Directorate also has a special page on their WOW site called "Enrollment Keys", You can access enrollment keys using your Member Zone (MZ) password. A video showing the process is available to view after login to the New AUX Classroom.

Your access or password for the Member Zone (MZ) and for the National Testing Center (<http://ntc2.cgaux.org/NTC/>) have not changed.

From the Member Training Directorate,

Continued

A few other points of consideration:

- Due to the changeover and enhanced security, prior enrollments and past learning history from the OLD AUX Classroom could not be rolled into the new system. Nothing transferred to the New AUX Classroom. Users will have to re-register for any self-paced courses they were engaged in prior to the transition.
- Any training completed in the old system and verified through the National Testing Center is safely recorded in AUXDATA. This includes Core Training and the Basic Qualification Course as well the AUXOP courses.
- Some old/outdated training content from multiple directorates were not transitioned to the new system because they were unable to run in the new secured system.
- Certain other valid training courses transitioned to the new system but are hidden for now while they are being updated. Once complete, they will be available again.
- Users enrolled in self-paced training can re-enroll in the same course within the new system. Unlike the old system the new system can track user progress and even generate certificates of completion.

Like any transition, this one is not without a few challenges. But once we make it out of the inlet, it will be fair winds and following seas as we take the Auxiliary into the future.

Regards,

Jonathan M. Ahlbrand

Division Chief, Advance Distance Learning and Program Management

National Training Directorate

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



Polar Bear Plunge

Article and Photos by Barbara Sama AUXPA1

REHOBOTH BEACH, De. was the exciting site of the USCG 5th Northern Auxiliary's first Public Affair event of 2022. This event took place on February 6, 2022. Coast Guard Auxiliaries from Dover and Smyrna gathered together to provide support for the 31st annual event of the Special Olympics Delaware Lewes Polar Bear Plunge. The Auxiliary represented 21 of the 80 First responders. Over 2400 participants gathered to raise funds for these extraordinary Olympians. The fundraiser reached their goal of 1 million dollars and was still counting!



Lewis McCullough took the lead and provided outstanding leadership to a successful mission along with Division Commander Tim Prescht's guidance. Flotilla members came from the South Bethany, Lewes, Dover and USCG Station Indian River Station. An additional two members from Newark Flotillas also travelled south to be part of this gathering.

The Auxiliary team's main purpose was to provide a healthy and safe environment. They were divided into 3 zones which provided additional coverage on the beach. Among the many who provided security, were the Mounted Police, EMTs, Divers and Troopers which could be seen keeping a watchful eye. It wasn't hard to spot any Auxiliarists on the beach with their bright orange float coats.

5th Northern has been supporting this Special Olympics Polar Plunge for over several years. The event itself included two days of demonstrations, food contests, and a 5k run that finished at cold beach for a Polar Plunge!

Preparing for this event is a monumental task. Special thanks to these following volunteer Auxiliarists: Al Grimminger, John Craig, Cindi Chaimowitz, Steve Straneva, Cate Birk, Marty Schertzer, Peter Urbanowicz, Chick Anderson, Donna Doyle, Frank Cebula, Frank Manning, Ron Latini, George Ruff, Arthur Stewart, Roy Zimmerman, Brendan Freeman, Tim Precht, Ralph Carotenuto, Joe Kulesa, and Mike Maquire.

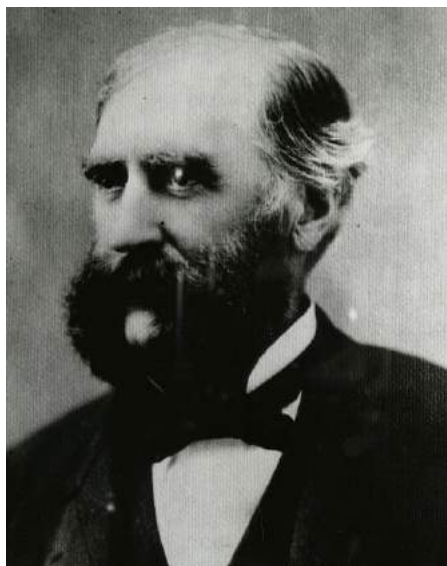


New Jersey and the United States Coast Guard

by Auxiliarist Leon C. DeFulgentis

New Jersey has a very special relationship as well as a long history with the United States Coast Guard. Significant milestones occurred in the state of New Jersey that give the U.S. Coast Guard a special place in New Jersey's heart. William Augustus Newell (September 5, 1817-August 8, 1901) served as the 18th governor of New Jersey. Newell witnessed the wreck of the *Terasto* on Long Beach Island in 1839. All its passengers and crew drowned within sight of onlookers on the beach who had no means to save them. New Jersey's shore had quite a different character over 170 years ago than the beaches and boardwalks enjoyed by millions today. The waters offshore were considered very dangerous, and they were labeled the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" for the many shoals lurking beneath the waves that could easily cause shipwrecks.

The saving of life from shipwrecks was almost nonexistent due to the desolate nature of the beaches as well as lack of training and equipment. In 1848, nearly a decade after Newell witnessed the *Terasto* wreck he advocated for a \$10,000 congressional appropriation to establish unmanned lifesaving stations along the New Jersey Coast. Formal federal government involvement in the lifesaving business began on August 14, 1848, with the signing of the Newell Act, named for its chief advocate, New Jersey Representative William A. Newell. Under this act surfboats, rockets, and other necessary apparatus was provided to better preserve life and property along the coast of New Jersey from shipwreck. The Life-Saving Service left behind a splendid record. From 1871 through 1914, the Service aided 28,121 vessels, and rescued or aided 178,741 persons, while only 1,455 people lost their lives.



These early stations were administered by the Revenue Marine (later renamed the United States Revenue Cutter Service) which later became the United States Coast Guard in 1915. Since 1915, the U.S. Coast Guard has continued to save lives endangered by the sea, using fast, motorized rescue boats, modern radar and radio technology, and aircraft including helicopters to accomplish its search and rescue missions. The Coast Guard's official motto, "Semper Paratus" which means "Always Ready," echoes the spirit of the old Life-Saving Service's unofficial motto: "Remember, you have to go out, but nothing says you have to come back."

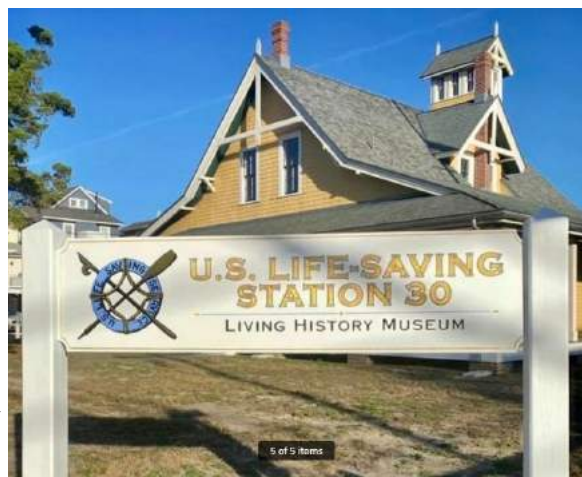
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New Jersey and the United States Coast Guard

Continued

Some other significant facts about New Jersey and the U.S. Coast Guard:

- Federally funded life-saving stations were along Cape May County's shores as early as 1849. Some of these, including Ocean City's 1885 Life Saving Station 30, are still standing and operate as museums or civic buildings.
- In the 1920's, the Coast Guard patrolled the waters of the Jersey Coast to foil rumrunners during Prohibition.
- The first permanent Coast Guard Air Station is in Cape May, New Jersey, and was founded in 1926.
- During World War II, the Coast Guard Mounted Beach Patrol rode the beaches of Cape May County's barrier islands on horseback, as well as walked the sandy beaches with German Shepherds to watch for German U-boats.
- The only Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center is in Woodbine, NJ, Cape May County. This center ships uniforms, medals, ribbons and accessories all over the world.
- Sewell's Point, the large expanse of oceanfront land where the 350-acre TRACEN (Training Center) is now located, was once the site of an amusement park, and was shared with the U.S. Navy from 1924-1946.
- The oldest Coast Guard boat station is in Sandy Hook, NJ. New Jersey has the most surviving Life Saving Stations in the United States. This includes the one built at Spmaceti Cove in 1849.
- The World War II-era Cutter Tamaroa, which played a key role in the rescue effort documented in *The Perfect Storm* was sunk in 2016 to help create an artificial reef barrier off the coast of Cape May. The site is about 30 miles offshore.
- Air Station Atlantic City became operational in May 1998. It is located at the William J. Hughes Federal Aviation Administration Tech Center at AC International Airport. This station serves as a base for USCG helicopters frequently seen along the Southern Jersey coastline and Delaware Bay.



Photos:

Life Saving Station 30 Ocean City New Jersey (Photo courtesy US Life-Saving Station 30 Facebook Page)

William A Newell (Unknown author-public domain)

Toms River Life Saving Station in 1898. (Photo courtesy of Norman McClure of Toms River)

Training Center Cape May (Photo courtesy uscg.mil)

Flotilla Members Represent the Auxiliary in Community Christmas Festivity

Text by COMO Joe Giannattasio, photos by John Tredinnick.

On December 4th, members, family and friends of the Cape May Flotilla represented the Auxiliary in the West Cape May, NJ Christmas Parade.

Organized by AUX Anne Marie Gillesburg, holiday-spirited Auxiliarists, with family members and friends decorated a small boat with festive decorations and gifts to be among the 56 participating parade floats.

With the Coast Guard Color Guard from nearby TRACEN leading the parade, the Auxiliarists in ODUs and dressed as elves passed out any Life-Savers candy to the parade onlookers.

Many thanks to Auxiliarists Ann Marie, Marty Sannino, Lorraine Bianco, John and Glena Tredinnick, Sandy Dalton with four family elf candy tossers for representing the Coast Guard Auxiliary to the community.



Flotilla 21-02 Holiday Fellowship

Article and photos taken from Division 21 newsletter, Steady on Course.

Members of Flotilla 21-01 gathered at a local BBQ restaurant for great food, and friendship. We briefly “talked shop”, reminisced over the past year, and eagerly discussed the new year’s plans. It is always enjoyable spending the holidays with family, and the members of our flotilla are truly part of that extended family. During the year, we almost exclusively talk about business at hand. Our holiday fellowship gave us a most welcome opportunity to discuss the happenings of our everyday lives. A good time was had by all!



Newly elected FC, Sharlene DeLeva (L) and VFC, Matthew Arner (R) ensure compliance to Auxiliary COVID-19 requirements.

Photo by: Joseph DeLeva



(L to R) Joseph DeLeva and Matt Arner

Photo by: Sharlene DeLeva

(L to R) Immediate Past FC Carl Wischner and Immediate Past VFC Joseph Shambo.

(L to R) Carl Wischner , Joseph DeLeva, Joseph Shambo, and Cindy Simoson.



Commodore Raudabaugh Honored for Dedication to Safe Boating

HARRISBURG – On February 7 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Commodore Richard Raudabaugh was honored by the Pennsylvania Boating Advisory Board for his many years of service dedicated to making recreational boating a safer and more enjoyable pastime. The award, a framed rendition of the 2006 Trout/Salmon Stamp, was presented by Laurel Anders, Director, Bureau of Boating, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC); Tim Schaeffer, Executive Director, PFBC; and Loren Lustig, Chair, Boating Advisory Board at their winter meeting.

Raudabaugh has spent 11 years as the State Liaison Officer for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary working extensively with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission promoting vessel safety checks, public education courses, and safety patrols. A lifelong boating enthusiast Raudabaugh first joined the Auxiliary in January 1974 and has held a progression of leadership roles including as Commodore for Fifth District Northern Region that covers southcentral Pennsylvania.



HARRISBURG – Boating Director Anders, Executive Director Schaeffer and Chairman Lustig present COMO Raudabaugh with an award of appreciation on February 7, 2022. The occasion marked Raudabaugh's stepping down as State Liaison Officer (SLO) for Pennsylvania with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

U.S. Coast Guard photo by Richard Taylor.

Crossing the Bar

D5NR Members Who Crossed the Bar in 2021

Dr Richard C Weiss (Flotilla ?)

16-05

Joyce Kretsch

John C. Ostapovich

01-04

Shirley Anne Stevenson

16-07

Rocco Summa

04-04

Shirley Landis

Clyde Reynolds (passed in 2020, but reported in 2021.)

17-01

Michael Schmidt

Wayne Terry

Charles R. Young

04-09

Carol Halligan

17-04

Karen Angela Dunne

Theodore J. Fink (retired)

07-09

Marie Porter

08-02

Ralph Catanese

Thomas Hynes

Thomas F Weber (retired)

18-02

Daniel H Tinney (retired)

08-04

Paul Rudolph

18-05

James R. Capobinaco

18-08

Frank Stewart

12-03

Dominic Anthony Calafati (retired)

Steven Kaulfuss

19-05

James A Cole

12-04

Ronald T. Downey

21-04

Joan Siegfried (retired)

15-03

Charles DeFrancesco

History of the District



Andrew Assimos

by 5NR Historian Steve Marthouse



Several years ago, I attended a historical association convention and listened to presentations by some noted maritime historians. At a social mixer following the last scheduled event of the day, I had a conversation with a noted author, and he made a statement that has stuck with me over the years. He stated that history should always be about the people. Too many stories focus on events, artifacts, dates etc. but he believed the most critical area was the people involved or how the events affected people. Over the years, I have devoted a great deal of time researching the history of the US Coast Guard, its predecessors; US Revenue Cutter Service, US Life-Saving Service, and the US Lighthouse Service. Thirty-four years ago, I joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary and that opened a whole new subject area. What I learned quite quickly was that, just like the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary did not consider its history a priority. Trying to find a source document to answer a simple question required major effort and many times simply could not be located.

Last Spring, I began to write a series of articles for Topside with a goal to inform our members of the contribution the Coast Guard Auxiliary has made over the years. Finding information beginning with the WWII era was easy but to drill down to our specific District presents a serious challenge. I was able to determine the difficulty the Auxiliary went through trying to establish itself and its missions following the war. The 1950's brought about the Courtesy Marine Examination and Public Education, but Operations was really limited and far different than what we have today. Patrol activity was at the discretion of the District Commander and usually was assisting at marine events and regattas. Beginning in 1952, the first AUXOPs were established. An AUXOP was a special trained unit consisting of around fifty members, five surface vessel facilities, 2 aircraft facilities and 2 radio facilities. The Auxiliary formed these units to demonstrate their effectiveness and it was expected that the Coast Guard would recognize the greater operational potential of these units.

This past September, I received an email about a member who had joined the Auxiliary in 1960 and had decided that it was time to retire. The individual it turns out, was heavily involved in operations during his entire Auxiliary career. I jumped at the chance to interview him not only to discover what motivated him to spend over 61 years contributing to the organization, but to understand the evolution of the Auxiliary from 1960 to when I joined in 1987. I was privileged to meet and spend the day interviewing Andrew Assimos this past October.

Continued on the next page...



Andrew Assimos

Continued

Andrew Assimos was raised in Wilmington, Delaware. Following his Navy service, he owned and operated a restaurant along with other family members in Wilmington. In 1958, he and a brother, also a Navy veteran, decided to buy a boat. His first exposure with the Auxiliary occurred while he had a “Courtesy Marine Exam” done on the boat. He later attended a Public Education course. Through these contacts with the Auxiliary and his military background he became interested in joining and told me about the process at the time. I had previously read that a new individual had to be voted on by the Flotilla members to join the Auxiliary. Andy confirmed that process and told me that after he spoke to the members at a meeting, they voted privately. A single no vote was all that was needed to prevent an individual from joining. Newly accepted “provisional members” were required to demonstrate proficiency in piloting, seamanship, and Coast Guard organization functions. Additionally, members needed to qualify in the rudiments of internal combustion engines, communications and first aid. The training was overseen by the Flotilla Training officer. The Flotilla leadership consisted of a Flotilla Commander, Vice-Commander and Training Officer. Lucky for the Auxiliary, he enrolled 17 May 1960 and became a highly qualified respected, and valued member.

Although Andy was active in VE and PE, his true passion was operations. Over the years he held appointed staff positions at the Flotilla, Division, District and National level in operations. He relayed to me how he performed the first patrol for the 3SR in the Upper Chesapeake area and described the qualification process at the time as well as the initial operational parameters. As an Auxiliary Facility owner, members could be utilized for the following activities:

1. Safety patrols of marine parades and regattas
2. Search and rescue
3. Special safety patrols
4. Checking and reporting on ATONs and Bridge lights
5. Flood and hurricane warnings and relief

The upper Chesapeake Bay then as was under the jurisdiction of USCG District 5 Group Baltimore.

The first sea story Andy relayed to me provided some insight to the working relationship with the active duty in the mid 1960's. Prior to the early 1970's when the Coast Guard established a permanent Station Still Pond, the Coast Guard would assign one of their cutters to cover the Northern Chesapeake AOR on weekends. The cutter's mission was to show a presence, patrol the area and respond to emergencies, and perform their other assigned duties. This duty was normally assigned to either USCGC Apalachee or USCGC Chinook both were 110-foot tugs homeported in Baltimore at the time.

Andy's Flotilla (Fl-15) invited the former two term Governor and Delaware U.S. Senator, J. Caleb Boggs, to ride along on one of their Safety Patrols. Following existing procedure, Andy requested patrol orders as required and informed Group Baltimore that a U.S. Senator would be onboard the facility. Orders were approved, however apparently no one at Group really believed Senator Boggs would actually show up and participate in a Coast Guard Auxiliary Patrol. Andy based that statement on the fact he later found out the Commanding Officer of the USCGC Apalachee had never been advised of the possibility of a Senator being aboard the Auxiliary Facility patrolling that weekend.

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Andrew Assimos

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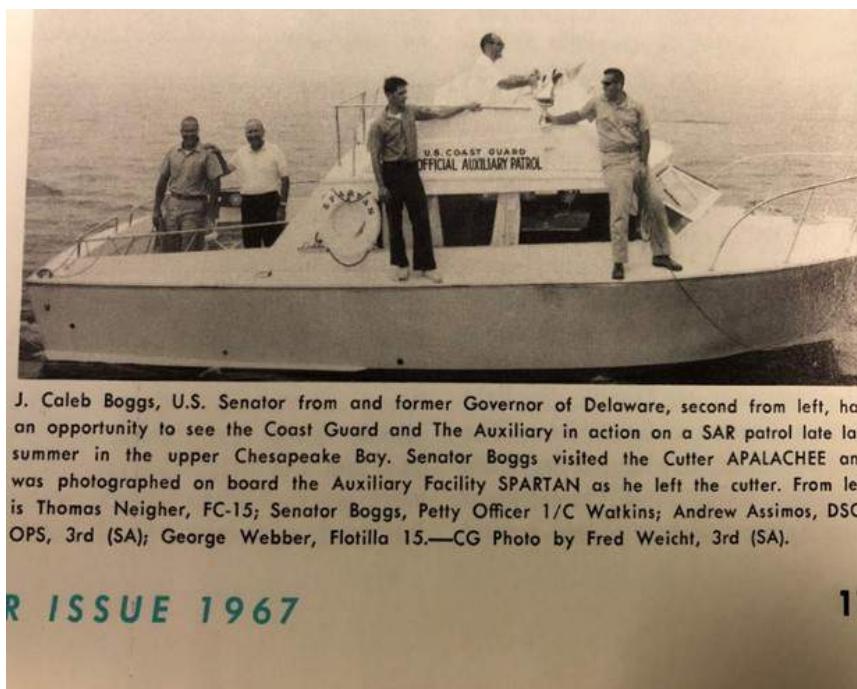
Andy said there were established procedures the Auxiliary patrol vessel were to follow on patrol and obviously one was to establish radio communications with the assigned cutter advising they were on patrol in the area and if needed were available to assist. He also mentioned that the cutters rarely if ever answered their radio calls.

The patrol takes place with the Senator aboard and Andy and his crew make a radio call to the Cutter Apalachee as required however they received no reply. The vessel then gets underway to patrol the AOR looking for any vessel having need of assistance. He and his crew use the opportunity to explain and show Senator Boggs what the Coast Guard Auxiliary Operations Program is all about and the services it is providing the boating public. As time goes on, they were a bit disappointed as no case of distress found. A short time later they see the USCGC Apalachee anchored in the distance. Senator Boggs then mentioned he would be interested in going aboard the cutter for a tour and meet with the crew. Andy radios the cutter to request permission, but the call goes unanswered. Three additional radio calls are made and still no response. Andy slows down his vessel as he is getting close and puts forth one more call. "Cutter Apalachee, this is the Auxiliary Vessel approaching your stern on the starboard side. I have a U.S. Senator onboard my vessel that would like to come aboard for a tour. Please advise."

With a chuckle, Andy said he saw a crew member jump out of the wheelhouse, another comes running from the other side of the vessel. Andy then notices another crew member pop out from a deck hatchway as he comes alongside to tie up. Shortly thereafter, the Commanding officer appears and greets Senator Boggs and the crew of the Auxiliary Vessel Spartan. The tour went very well all things being considered. Following the tour, the crew cast off and returned to the dock and secured from patrol.

We were able to find this photo in the Topside Magazine Archive (right).

Now for the rest of the story. As soon as the Apalachee returns to Group Baltimore on Monday morning, the CO immediately reports in and states what had taken place. No doubt, he was upset when he found out that folks at Group were aware that Senator Boggs was listed on the Auxiliary Patrol Order request. Again, everyone at the Group involved with approving the orders request, were convinced the Senator would come up with some sort of excuse not to go out on an Auxiliary patrol. Thus, they just did not see a need to mention this to the CO of the Apalachee. Andy again chuckled when he said "the Auxiliary boats never again had their radio calls go unanswered."

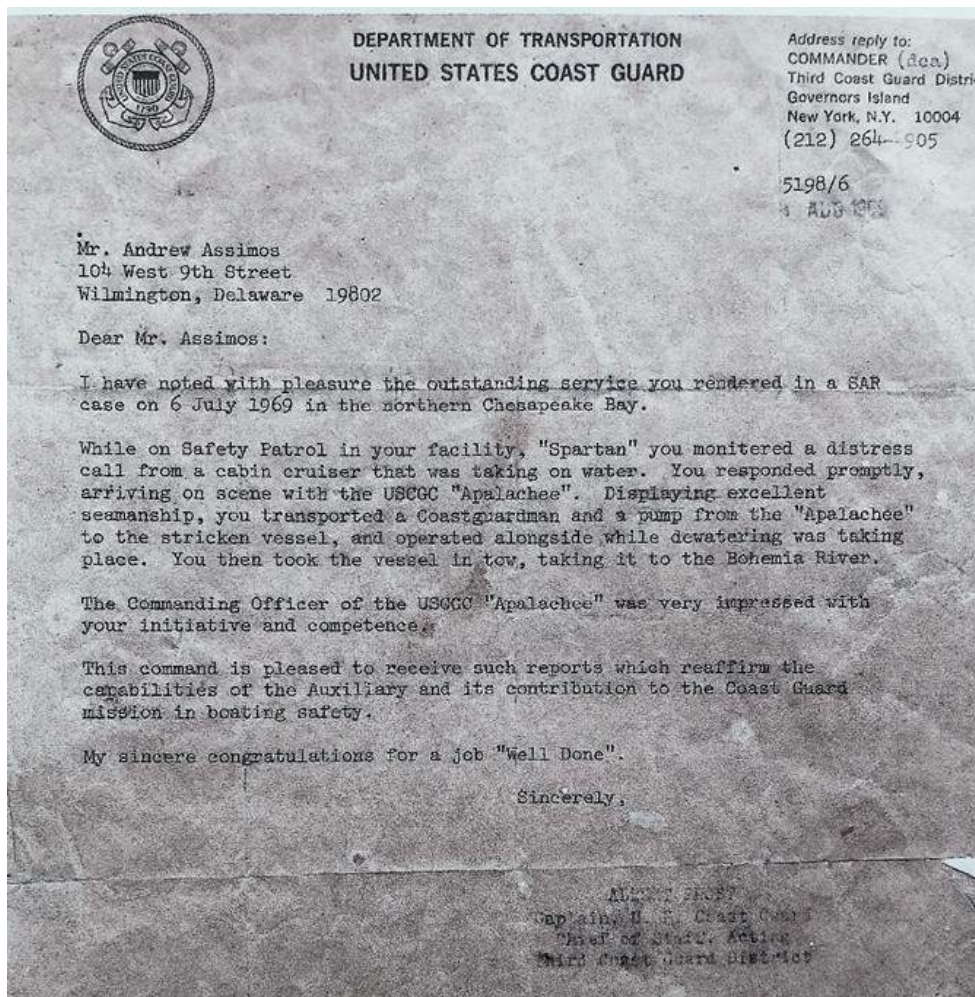


J. Caleb Boggs, U.S. Senator from and former Governor of Delaware, second from left, has an opportunity to see the Coast Guard and The Auxiliary in action on a SAR patrol late last summer in the upper Chesapeake Bay. Senator Boggs visited the Cutter APALACHEE and was photographed on board the Auxiliary Facility SPARTAN as he left the cutter. From left is Thomas Neigher, FC-15; Senator Boggs, Petty Officer 1/C Watkins; Andrew Assimos, DSO OPS, 3rd (SA); George Webber, Flotilla 15.—CG Photo by Fred Weicht, 3rd (SA).

Continued on the next page...

Andrew Assimos

Continued



As Andy stated, it was going to be up to the Auxiliary Crews to win over the active-duty Coast Guard's respect and confidence when it came to operations in the 1960's. Obviously based on the following letter (Left), Andy had made significant inroads in achieving that objective.

Now some specifics on Andy's USCG Auxiliary Career

Andy lives in Rehoboth Beach Delaware, and as previously mentioned, joined the Auxiliary in 1960. Over the years, he held a wide variety of both elected and appointed offices and received recognition but operations was his passion. He served as District Operations Officer from 1966 to 1971. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the training of new boat crewmembers as well as expanding the number of facilities and patrols in both the 3SR and the upper Chesapeake Bay.

While in this position, he took considerable pride in having the National organization establish the Flotilla Operations Achievement award.

He completed the newly established operational training requirements and was designated AUXOP in 1971.

He was qualified as Coast Guard crew on 44-foot, 41-foot, and Non-Standard Boat in 1991 (see picture on the next page). That was quite an achievement considering all the requirements he had to meet.

Continued on the next page...

Andrew Assimos

Continued

Commanding Officer Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971-2698
U. S. Coast Guard Station (302) 227-2440
Indian River Inlet

1221
17 June 1991

From: Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Station Indian River Inlet
To: Mr. Andrew Assimos, 05N 12-09-027, USCGA

Subj: RECERTIFICATION AND ASSIGNMENT AS BOAT CREWMAN

Ref: (a) COMDTINST M16114.11 (Boat Crew Training, Qualification and Certification Manual, Volume II)
(b) COMDTINST M16114.9B (Standard Boat Crew Training, Qualification, and Certification Program)

1. You have completed reference (a), and have been recertified by this command in accordance with reference (b).
2. You are hereby designated as qualified to perform the duties of Boat Crewman on the following station boats:
MLB 44360 UTB 41336 UTB 41476 UTL 222028 UTL 191500
3. Appropriate entries will be made in the unit files.
4. This authorization is cancelled upon your transfer from this unit, or until rescinded by me or a higher authority.

J. D. HOLMAREN
1221
17 June 1991

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: Mr. Andrew Assimos, 05N 12-09-027, USCGA
To: Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Station Indian River Inlet

1. I have read and understand the above instructions.

ANDREW ASSIMOS
Andrew Assimos

He also was recertified as Station Watchstander under new guidelines that same year.

When his Flotilla needed a Publications Officer, Andy stepped up to the plate even though he was out of his comfort zone. In 1994, he was recognized by being awarded the District 5NR Publication Award as Editor of Best Division Newsletter.

In recognition of his 35 assists, four lives saved and 400 hours on patrol, Assimos was selected as the first Auxiliarist of the Year for Group Eastern Shore in 1998. Rear Adm. Timothy Riker presented the award (see below and top of the next page).

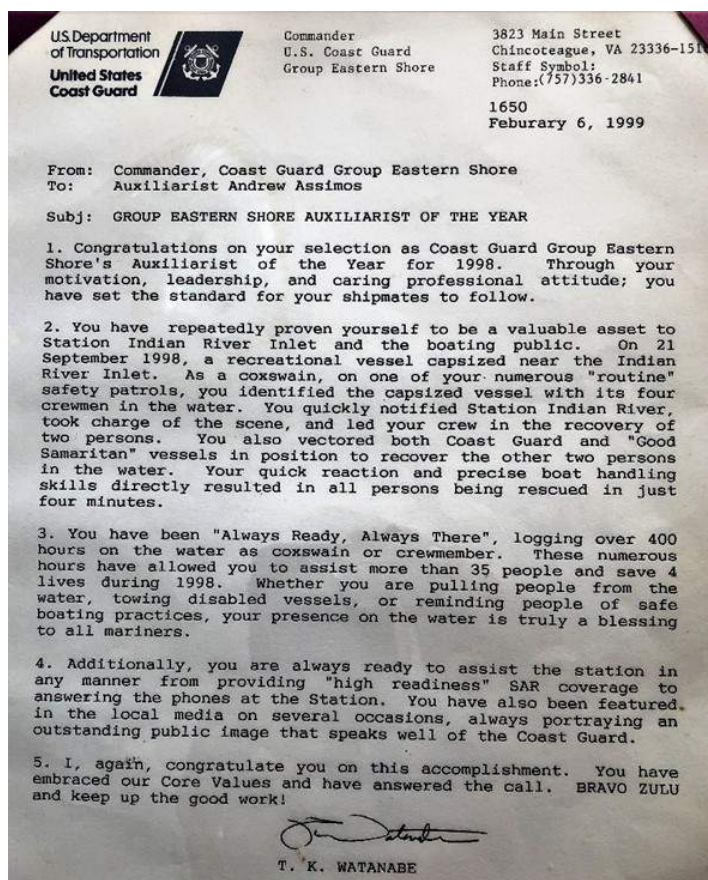
He was the recipient of the Award of Operational Merit, USCG Auxiliary in May of 1999 (See next page, bottom picture).

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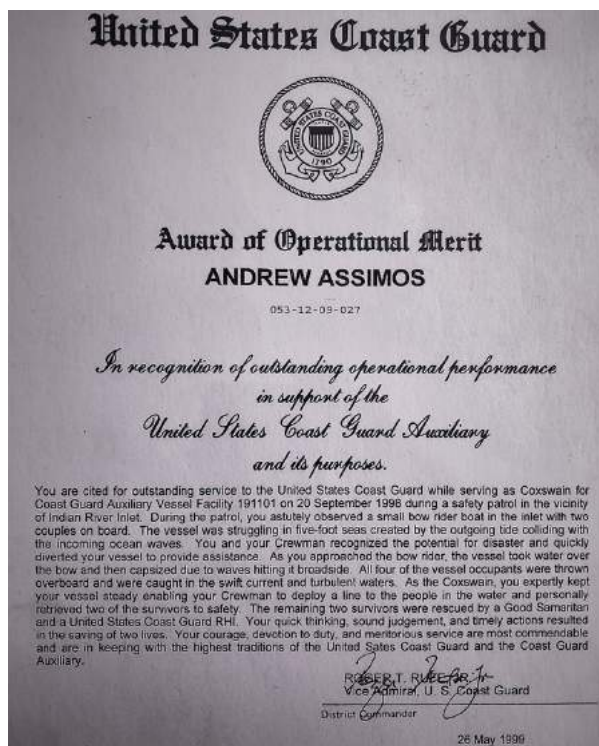
Andrew Assimos

Continued



I have used several documents in this article to give a partial picture of Andy's contribution over the years. He was very active in all the cornerstones up until just a couple of years ago. I detected early in the interview just how important a role the Auxiliary had played in his life. There was no doubt, Andy saw the Auxiliary and Station Indian River as his extended family. He glowed as he remembered the early days and some of his accomplishments. What impressed me the most was his dedication and the flexibility to go through the number of changes that took place within the organization over the 61 years. He took it all in stride and continued to participate as much as possible.

I asked him why he was submitting the paperwork to "Retire". He told me he had a brother George who also was in the Auxiliary. George lived in North Carolina and was a member District 5SR. George is a few years older than Andy, but they had made a pact. They agreed to remain in the Auxiliary until one or the other felt they could no longer contribute. When either one felt they were at that point, they both would retire. George felt it was time and Andy lived up to the agreement.



As I ended the day, the thought kept coming back to me that after my 34 years in the Auxiliary and my involvement in operations, I am sorry I was not aware of Andy or his many accomplishments.

Putting on my District Historians hat, I know there are other long time Auxiliary members among us. There must also be individual members that have been involved in major events, made a significant impact, or been exposed to demanding situations. Just like Andy, they need to get their story told. I would encourage all our members to identify individuals and get their story told. I would be happy to discuss the process if you have a candidate.

"History is about the people"

District 5NR

Obscura

A Chronicle of local legends,
unusual places, and peculiarities
in District Fifth Northern.



The Old Riverboat



The Old Riverboat in the middle of a wooded field in Bernville, Pennsylvania. Built in 1980 in Minnesota, the "Suwannee Belle" was used off the coast of NJ and NY before being decommissioned in 1991. There was a failed attempt to turn it into a restaurant and it was later moved to Tuckahoe, NJ. It then sat in storage until 2003 when it was bought and brought to this spot. The owner wanted to put it in a pond with a beach and use the boat as a tiki bar. Apparently, those plans never materialized. In 2006, the restaurant next to the field reopened as the "Riverboat Saloon".

Photos from Across the District





Coast Guard Captain Sarah K. Felger, Commanding Officer TRACEN swears in Auxiliary Flotilla 83 Commander Williams Holmes at the unit's Change of Watch on Friday, December 17, 2021.

*Photo by
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
PA3 Robert Babezki*



Division 19 supports the Special Olympics Polar Plunge. Pictured, Mel Collins and Rick Young.

Photo by Jason Collins

Sector Delaware Bay - Auxiliarist Leon C. DeFulgentis and Lieutenant Luna at the Public Affairs/Leadership Diversity Advisory Council Meeting on Jan 13, 2022

Guard photo by Auxiliarist Mike Slepian



Sector Delaware Bay - Auxiliarist Mike Slepian and Lieutenant Luna at the Public Affairs/Leadership Diversity Advisory Council Meeting on Jan 13, 2022

photo by Auxiliarist

Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA3



Auxiliarists supporting the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge in Rehoboth Beach Delaware.

Photographs by Al Grimminger



Philly Pops honors USCG and Auxiliary



Scott Sigman, Flotilla Commander of 4-76 with USCG Capt Scott Anderson, past Commander of Sector Delaware Bay, and Major Andre McCoy, US Army at the Philly Pops for military appreciation night where the US Coast Guard and Auxiliary were honored.



USCG Commander John Di Leonardo with Scott Sigman, Flotilla Commander of 4-76 and USCG Capt Jonathan Theel, Commander of Sector Delaware Bay and Captain of the Port of Philadelphia at the Philly Pops for military appreciation night.



Scott Sigman, Flotilla Commander of 4-76 with 97 year old World War II Veteran Jake Ruser, Utah Beach Normandy and Battle of the Bulge.



Photo taken by Scott Sigman

Station Cape May Change of Command

USCG STATION CAPE MAY - District 5NR Auxiliarists have long been integrated in the support of STA CAPE MAY, and welcomed at the Change of Command in August, 2021.

(L to R): John Burns, AUC and
COMO Joe Giannattasio DCO-
5NR.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by
Mike Hamilton.*



(L to R): Marty Sannino FC 08-
02, Jim Hans DCDR 08 and
COMO Joe Giannattasio DCO
5NR.

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by
Mike Hamilton.*

COMMS Center

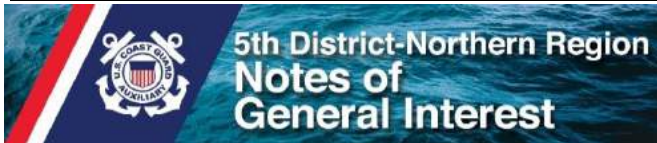
Communications to the
membership compiled together
(November 2021-January 2022)



COMMS CENTER

NEWS FROM FIFTH DISTRICT-NORTHERN SECTION

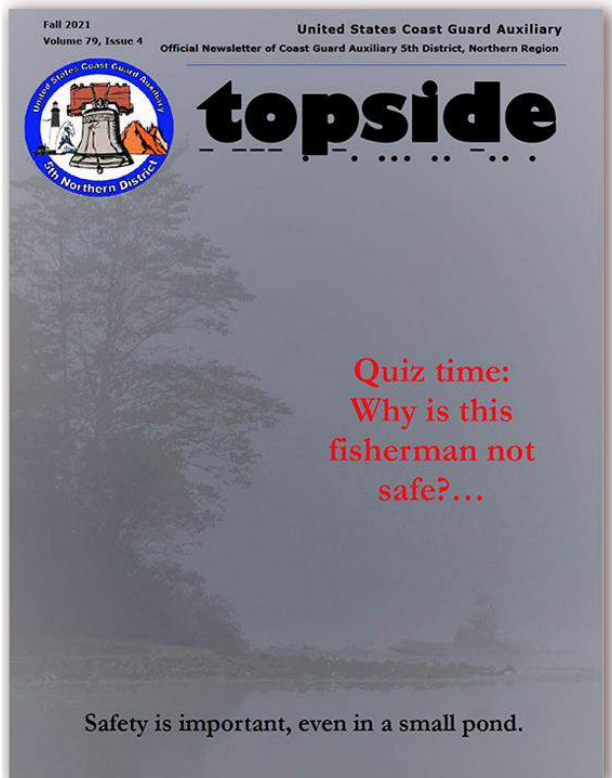
NOGI 22NOVT21 TOPSIDE Fall 2021 Edition
District-wide Distribution to ALL Members



Full District Distribution

TOPSIDE Fall 2021 Edition

Editor: Tim Marks, District Staff Officer-Publications (DSO-PB)



The Latest Edition of Topside—Our District Publication is here!

Keep up with District events, news, deadlines, opportunities and more!

Every issue of Topside is full of information valuable to every member of the District.

Reading Topside is your easiest way to keep up with our ever-changing and advancing Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Submissions, photos and ideas for stories are always welcome! Reach out to our very talented and dedicated Topside Editor, [Tim Marks](#).

In this Fall 2021 Issue of Topside:

- From the Desk of the Commodore
- Area District Captain Reports
- Focus on D5Nr Departments
- Help Wanted
- Information from Around the District
- Topside Puzzlers
- Topside Newsletter Archive is Online
- Aux Spotlight—Barbara Sama
- Uniform Changes Coming
- March 2022 Award and Order Deadlines
- History of the District
- D5NR Obscura
- Photos from Across the District
- COMMS Center (your source for recent regional and national communications)

[Click here to download or view this great publication!](#)



Commodore's 2021 Holiday Message

District-wide Distribution to ALL Members



District 5NR Commodore's 2021 Holiday Message

We're coming up on that time of year that is traditionally the most festive but this year will have a twist: Holiday Season 2021 will be the first time that many families gather together since before the recent global health crisis.

But for some — particularly those members who are widowed, or estranged from family — the Holidays can be lonely, stressful and depressing. Please remember and look after these Shipmates.

The Spirit of the Holidays is the act of giving without expecting anything in return. It's finding peace in the happiness of others, forgetting one's self and making connections with those around you. Love, generosity and goodness are the ideals to which we aspire at this time of year.

For those who can join friends, family and loved ones over the holiday season, Gina and I encourage you to make the most of every moment as we honor those who are standing watch protecting the freedoms we so enjoy.



May the Spirit of the Holidays be with you and your families,

COMO Joseph Giannattasio
District Commodore
Fifth District - Northern
Region
United States Coast Guard
Auxiliary



NOGI 24DEC21 Message from D5 Commander District-wide Distribution to ALL Members



Holiday Message from Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District

To the Men and Women of D5NR and D5SR,

As we enter the holidays, I want to thank you for being a member of the Auxiliary here in the Fifth District. I remain thoroughly impressed with the sheer depth and breadth of the support you provide to the Coast Guard and the maritime public. COVID stalled many Auxiliary activities last year but I was so pleased to see more and more of you as I made my travels around the district during 2021. Almost everywhere I went, there was an Auxiliarist standing the watch, cooking a meal, serving as clergy, conducting a patrol, preparing for safety exams, helping to train others, and performing a host of other duties. I remain impressed with the dedication and sacrifice you all make. We haven't made it easy on you this year with budget uncertainties, new travel and financial management system roll outs, data calls, and the ever-present COVID challenges — yet you remain steadfast in your support of the Coast Guard and the work of your flotillas. Thank you.

Please accept my warmest wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season.

(To read a little bit about what D5 has had going on this year, please see the note below that I sent to our units.)

Best regards,

RADM Laura Dickey
Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District

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Team D5,

As the year draws to a close, CMC DeMello and I want to wish you and your families a joyful, relaxing holiday season.

This has been another dynamic year across our country, the Coast Guard, and certainly our District. Through all of the uncertainty and challenges, Team D5 has continued to rise to the occasion and provide outstanding service to our nation and our maritime stakeholders. In addition to performing our normal missions, it's been a year filled with unique operations and successes, including:

- Security operations in support of the Presidential inauguration and other National Special Security Events.
- MAPLE's trip to Greenland to operate with international partners as part of Exercise ARGUS.
- RICHARD SNYDER's deployment as part of Op NANOOK, making it the first FRC to cross the Arctic Circle.
- Flawless Rotary Wing Air Intercept support in the National Capital Region in addition to a dramatic increase in deployable RWAI missions.
- The stand up and operation of new POTUS waterborne security support efforts in the Delaware AOR.
- Safeguarding the Marine Transportation System from cyber incidents/threats.
- Ensuring navigation safety / bridge permitting in support of major, multi-billion dollar bridge tunnel expansion projects.
- Conducting complex SAR cases to include long range oxygen bottle drops to a merchant ship 700 nm East of Bermuda to save the life of a master suffering from COVID, and multi-day searches for distressed boaters/persons in the water (to include finding and saving a person several miles offshore and more than 20 nm away from where their canoe capsized) - just two of the more than 1,500 SAR cases performed across D5 this year.
- Innovative intel support to fisheries enforcement, to include developing

situational awareness of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fisheries activity by foreign fleets between our EEZ and Bermuda.

- Maintaining greater than 90% availability of our Aids to Navigation to ensure waterway safety.
- Significant port state control operations and detentions due to outstanding inspection and investigative work, some of which resulted in criminal referrals to the DOJ.
- Cutter and air support to D1, D7, JIATF-S, and to the DOD.
- Pollution prevention and response, to include monitoring grounded vessels and lightering ops.
- Deployment of Reservists in support of DHS missions along the Southwest Border and as part of FEMA vaccination sites, in addition to contingency operations in D8 and elsewhere.
- Integration of our Auxiliarists across the District in the performance or support of our missions, to include air ops training, safe boating education, safety exams, clergy and culinary support to units and personnel, and many other activities.
- Preparing and publishing Port Access Route Studies to ensure the future navigation safety of our offshore waters.
- Exercises, engagement, and outreach to our port partners across the Mid-Atlantic region to ensure preparedness for emergencies and facilitate commerce.

None of these could have happened without the support and dedicated efforts of our maintenance engineers, culinary teams, legal advisors, health services technicians, chaplains, financial experts, administrative specialists, and ombudsmen. Our external and public affairs teams extensively highlighted your great work to the public and Congress. All of this happened despite budget uncertainties, the biggest financial and travel system overhaul in our Service's history, and the continuing stress of the COVID pandemic.

Simply put, whatever your role, YOU played an integral part in our success and we are grateful for your efforts and your service. One of the best parts of our job has been traveling across the District and

visiting with you — CMC and I made it to 64 of 75 units this year on our second round of visits and we look forward to seeing the rest of you early in 2022. We're honored to serve with you.

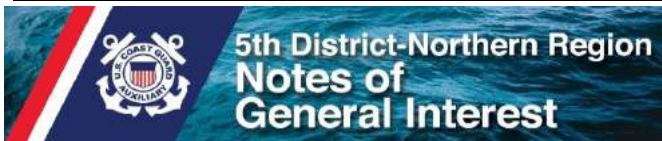
For those of you standing the watch, underway, in the air, or taking duty to enable a shipmate to be with family on a holiday — thank you! For all — please enjoy the holidays, take some well-deserved rest and time off, and stay safe.

v/r,

CMC Jeremy DeMello and RADM Laura Dickey



NOGI 04JAN22 – Spring 22 DTRAIN Announcement on District-wide Distribution to ALL Members



D5NR Spring 2022 District Training Announcement

Shipmates,

After careful deliberation, we have decided to hold our Spring 2022 District Training (DTRAIN) virtually—incorporating our District Board Meeting the evening of Friday, 11 March and our member Awards Ceremony on Saturday, 12 March with Training Events held throughout the week. We also plan to conduct Area



Training / Award / Fellowship opportunities preceding DTRAIN to additionally benefit our members.

This was not an easy decision but was made based upon responses to the most recent member survey and applying the Risk Assessment Model. The health and safety of our membership is of utmost importance and while we were hopeful to host the Spring 2022 DTRAIN in person, the

pandemic has forced us to adjust our course heading. We will still be able to provide the incredible opportunity to honor award winners, train together and exchange ideas with our shipmates from across the District but will do so virtually. This is not the decision we had hoped to have, however, we are confident it is the right choice.

We have begun planning an in-person Fall DTRAIN scheduled for 09-11 September, 2022 at a new venue that will accommodate our membership and allow a variety of training sessions to better serve our members. We look forward to sharing more information with you as it becomes available and hope to gather together to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Fifth District--Northern Region.

I want to thank all of our DTRAIN Conference Staff, Instructors, and EXCOM members for all of their hard work in planning and working in developing an effective, enjoyable and SAFE Spring DTRAIN for our members.

Please keep watching for additional information via email as our virtual Spring DTRAIN plans and schedules are finalized.

Very Best Regards,



COMO Joseph Giannattasio
District Commodore
Fifth District - Northern Region
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

NOGI 25JAN22 – Help Wanted – Culinary Assistance/Watchstanders
District-wide Distribution to ALL Members

Looking to Serve with Active-Duty Coast Guard? Read On!



AUX SUPPORT REQUEST 2022-02
Operations Duty Officer (Watchstander)

USCG Air Station Atlantic City

1. Operations Duty Officer (ODO):

The ODO watch is 24 hours long relieving at 0800 daily. The ODO watch shall be manned 24-hours per day. When not required to be in the Operations Center (OPCEN) the ODO may relocate the watch elsewhere (e.g., the Wardroom or ODO bunkroom) once classified materials and storage containers are properly secured and calls can be answered via forwarding or long-range cordless handset. The ODO shall assist the Senior Duty Officer (SDO) as required and to complete the following daily responsibilities at a minimum:

- secure (Need SECRET security clearance) logs are complete.
- Closely monitor the weather and notify airborne crews of the nature and severity of unforecasted weather phenomena as necessary. Be cognizant of Notices to Airmen (NOTAM), Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR), and active Special Use Airspace (SUA) that may affect operations.
- include Auxiliarists, must wear a mask inside USCG operated buildings, regardless of the ability to maintain social distancing and regardless of vaccination status.

2. Skillset Needed:

- capable to obtain a SECRET security clearance in order to handle classified material. The AIRSTA will start the application process once candidates have been identified.

3. Timeline Needed:

Shifts from 0800-1600 with the possibility of extending hours depending on proficiency and mission requirements. Maximum watch period could be once or twice per week (depending on availability) from 0800-0800.

4. Point of Contact:

Please contact/email if interested in volunteering: LT Humberto Hernandez
609-677-2222

Humberto.D.Hernandez@uscg.mil Please copy D05-smb-nrdiraux@uscg.mil

5. Number of AUX needed:

Three Auxiliarists Needed.

6. Location:

USCG Air Station Atlantic City

AUXILIARY LEADERSHIP LINK

From: *L2* Auxiliary Leadership Link
The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

Distribution: All Auxiliaries

03 DEC 2021



2020 Commodore Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education

The Public Education Directorate is pleased to announce the selection of Auxiliarist Cono "Buddy" Casale of Seventh District (D7), Flotilla 11-10 in Dunedin, Florida as the 2020 Commodore Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education awardee.

Auxiliarist Dennis Kellner of Ninth District-Western Region, Flotilla 47-2 in Green Bay, Wisconsin and Auxiliarist Douglas MacPherson of Eleventh District Northern Region, Flotilla 35 in Gold Country, California are also congratulated for being selected as the regional winners from Atlantic West and Pacific Regions, respectively. They demonstrate exemplary instructor performance and an outstanding spirit of service to members of the public and to Coast Guard Auxiliary members.

The Commodore Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education was established to motivate and inspire the entire Instructor cadre to reach beyond the comfortable or ordinary to achieve the extraordinary. Some of the goals of the Award are to increase the diversity of courses offered by flotillas and additional numbers of classes offered; to improve Public Education and Member Training Instructor effectiveness and performance; to improve mentorship of newer or lesser experienced Instructors; to develop new and innovative teaching methods and techniques; and to develop new and innovative teaching aids.

Auxiliarist Casale enrolled in the Auxiliary in February 2002 and has consistently volunteered between 75 and 100 hours a year in Public Education and Member Training on top of thousands of additional hours in multiple mission areas. His uniforms are impeccable, and his appearance is always professional. He is a masterful instructor who skillfully runs his classes with respect, tact, and humor. Auxiliarist Casale brings to his classes a

wealth of experience and in-depth knowledge of boating skills and safety.

While Auxiliarist Casale readily uses the resources provided by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, he is also exceptionally talented in identifying when there is a need to explain or add to the information to suit the audience and/or boating area. He regularly incorporates information relevant to the local area in addition to the materials either in the textbooks or the PowerPoint slides.

Auxiliarist Casale identified a need to develop a less lengthy course that did not require the purchase of a book. In collaboration with fellow Auxiliaries from the Dunedin Flotilla, he designed and created an Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation Seminar and presented it to several High School and middle school Algebra Students within the Clearwater and Dunedin, Florida Area. Because of COVID-19, the 2020 course was conducted via Zoom to the high school classrooms. Over 300 students have experienced this course since its inception in 2017.

Once the virtual mode of instruction was introduced, Buddy quickly acquired the skills to teach using Zoom. In addition, he encouraged his instructors to join him in the learning journey and most classes in 2020 took place virtually and continue to this day.



From: *L2* Auxiliary Leadership Link
The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

All Auxiliaries
04 Jan 2022



The National Training Event scheduled for the third week of January, 2022 is postponed to mid to late March 2022, subject to confirmation with the hotel. As soon as we confirm hotel availability, we will send out a notice immediately.

Balancing the risk of COVID-19 infection and the scarcity of critical care hospital beds, against protecting the health and safety of our members,

there really is no rational alternative. If that risk versus gain analysis was not a sufficient basis to postpone the event, the problems with air travel that have been making headlines over the past weeks are expected to continue through January. Moreover, services at the event hotel have been substantially reduced and many of the nearby restaurants that we have traditionally used for our group and individual dining are either closed or operating at severely reduced capacity. Finally, the Coast Guard directed that all travel planned for January is to be curtailed except for "critical missions." N Train is important, more so than ever, but it is not so critical that the health of our members must be put at risk.

We know from recent polling that if we were to go forward in January many of our members who are scheduled to attend would choose not be present to take advantage of the training and networking opportunities. That result would substantially diminish the return on our enormous investment of time, energy, and financial resources. We need full-scale member participation for N Train to be effective, successful, and worth the effort.

The plan now is to have the rescheduled event include the events presently scheduled, but simply at a later date. We are working on rescheduling the C-Schools and will keep you up to date as information becomes available.

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay Semper Paratus.

Respectfully,
Alex Malewski, National Commodore



From: **L2 Auxiliary Leadership Link**
The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

11 January 2022

To: All Auxiliarists



On Wednesday, January 19th, a new authentication (member login) system will be put in place for the

Auxiliary Online Classroom (Moodle). After the change, members will need to set up new login credentials, using their member number as their username and creating a new password according to the criteria displayed on the sign-up page.

When accessing the Moodle system, members will see a new login button "Sign up/in with USCGAUX":



After clicking on that button users will be taken through the process to create their credentials for the first time. The "Sign In" login method should be used for subsequent access to the Online Classroom. Other Auxiliary systems will transition to the new authentication process in the future. For now, the legacy login mechanism will remain in place until they are transitioned over. Advance notice will be given before that happens.

A video describing the sign up / sign in process for the Auxiliary Online Classroom can be viewed at this link: <https://vimeo.com/660519472/4bbe7a5aff>

If you have issues with your credential setup or the login process, submit a help desk ticket at help.cgaux.org with the subject line: "Issue with Online Classroom Login".



From: **L2 Auxiliary Leadership Link**
The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

19 JAN 2022



FOURTH QUARTER 2021 NAVIGATOR
EXPRESS AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW!

Click on the links below to read stories titled:

- From HQ
- Save A Life, Wear It
- The Christmas Ship: USCGC MACKINAW
- Rouse Simmons Mystery
- Christmas Rescue History
- Spellbound WWII Story
- Memories From WWII: First Integrated USCG Patrol
- Do You Know Boat Trim?
- Auxiliary Culinary Assistance: Cutter Assignment
- Christmas Drop Ops
- Michigan Shores History
- Guardians Of Cuisine
- 2020 National Flotilla Of The Year
- Vessel Examiner Program
- A Bugler's Call To Remember
- Chaplain Support
- Auxiliary Association
- Contact & Submissions

[Access the E-Magazine](#)

[Access to PDF Magazine](#)



NATIONAL NOTICES



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

05 NOV 2021

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 038/21

Subj: 2021 ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA (AFRAS) AWARD RECIPIENTS

1. Please read the following ALCOAST announcement of 2021 AFRAS award recipients. Congratulations to Ninth District Auxiliarists Gary Markle and Shelley Markle on their award of the Silver Medal! Their outstanding efforts included calm, controlled, and effective management of an emergent situation with a drowning person, their administration of life-saving CPR, and the victim's timely transfer to emergency services personnel. Their heroic actions brought great credit to the United States Coast Guard and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary!

Respectfully,
Captain Troy P. Glendye
Chief Director of Auxiliary
(CG-BSX)

R 011420Z NOV 21
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC
TO ALCOAST
BT
UNCLAS
ALCOAST 402/21
SSIC 16100

SUBJ: 2021 ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE
AT SEA (AFRAS) AWARD RECIPIENTS
A. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON
DC 131719Z MAY 21/ALCOAST 183/21

1. Per REF (A), this ALCOAST announces the recipients of the 2021 AFRAS Gold and Silver

Medals. The Gold and Silver Medals are awarded to a Coast Guard enlisted member and Auxiliarist, respectively, for an act of extraordinary bravery during a rescue at sea.

2. GOLD MEDAL.

a. The 2021 Gold Medal is awarded to Boatswain's Mate First Class (BM1) Wallace C. Qual, U.S. Coast Guard Station Yaquina Bay. BM1 Qual led a beach team in the rescue of the master of the 44-foot Fishing Vessel (FV) LEGEND.

b. At approximately 0130 local time on September 8th, 2020, FV LEGEND reported running aground in the vicinity of the Yaquina Bay channel entrance near Newport, Oregon. A rare wind event coupled with local fires resulted in extremely challenging on scene conditions including 60-70 knot wind gusts, 6-8 feet of surf, and visibility less than 200 yards due to blowing sand, smoke, and ash. After determining the exact position of FV LEGEND, a 47-foot Motor Lifeboat (MLB), the 52-foot MLB VICTORY, and a Coast Guard MH-65 helicopter from Air Facility Newport were launched. While extreme winds and poor visibility forced the helicopter to return to Air Facility Newport immediately after take-off, shallow water rendered the two MLBs unable to directly assist in the rescue.

c. It was determined that a beach rescue team might reach the vessel and that BM1 Qual would lead the rescue. The beach party located FV LEGEND by spotting a faintly flickering navigation light in the low-visibility conditions. Dressed in full SAR ensemble and carrying an additional 20 pounds of rescue equipment, BM1 Qual led the beach

rescue team in running approximately two miles down the beach to arrive on scene.

d. Realizing that no helicopters were able to fly in the on-scene conditions and the two MLBs were unable to assist, BM1 Qual donned the swimmer's harness and mask and made preparations to enter the water. The low visibility and rapid drift prevented BM1 Qual from reaching the master on his first rescue attempt. He returned to shore and instructed the team to move further down the beach and once again, BM1 Qual entered the water. Battling the high surf, wind driven sand, ash and smoke, and hurricane force wind gusts, BM1 Qual finally succeeded in reaching the master. The beach rescue team was then able to pull BM1 Qual, with the master in tow, to shore using the swimmer tending line.

e. During the rescue, BM1 Qual placed his own life in grave danger on two occasions in the process of rescuing the master of FV LEGEND. His actions in the early morning hours of September 8th, 2020, were nothing short of heroic.

3. SILVER MEDAL.

a. On August 8th, 2020, Auxiliarists Gary and Shelley Markle were returning to their slip on their Personal Water Crafts (PWC) at Burnham Harbor in Chicago, Illinois. During the transit, they were notified by a Good Samaritan of a possible drowning from the vessel ICEMAN II. While Auxiliarist Gary Markle notified Coast Guard Station Chicago, Auxiliarist Shelley Markle set up a safety perimeter to keep other boats clear of the incident location.

b. Swimmers in the vicinity spotted a man on the lake bottom in 12 feet of water. Auxiliarist Gary Markle notified Station Chicago where the survivor was located and requested medical assistance. As the swimmers struggled with retrieving the drowned swimmer, Auxiliarist Gary Markle dismounted his PWC to assist in

bringing the survivor aboard ICEMAN II. Auxiliarist Shelley Markle notified Station Chicago that the swimmer was being brought to the surface, was unresponsive, and again requested medical personnel and immediate assistance.

c. While still in the water, Auxiliarist Gary Markle advised the other swimmers on how to push water from the lungs of the unresponsive drowned swimmer. Observing that the drowned swimmer was not breathing, and the other swimmers were panicked and improvising chest compressions, he requested the assistance of Auxiliarist Shelley Markle. Auxiliarist Shelley Markle dismounted her PWC, and swam and boarded ICEMAN II where she immediately took control of the situation. Auxiliarist Shelley Markle quickly cleared the area, directed another bystander to stabilize the survivors head and began CPR while instructing the other passengers to don life jackets. Realizing she would need assistance due to the anticipated duration of time for EMS to arrive, Auxiliarist Shelley Markle requested a volunteer and instructed him on how to perform chest compressions. While the two traded-off chest compressions, she repeatedly directed passengers, who appeared to be in shock, to don life jackets, and move ICEMAN II closer to shore.

d. As Auxiliarist Shelley Markle initiated CPR and handled the management of panicked passengers, Auxiliarist Gary Markle boarded one of the PWCs and began transporting Chicago Fire Department personnel and paramedics from land to the ICEMAN II as it slowly transitioned towards shore. When these rescue personnel eventually relieved Auxiliarist Shelley Markle from CPR duties, she continued to assist with counseling and managing the passengers aboard ICEMAN II.

e. A Chicago Fire Boat along with multiple Coast Guard and Chicago Police Marine unit vessels arrived, took over

responsibility of the survivor and transported him to an ambulance at a nearby marina. Once on land, the survivor was confirmed to be revived before his transport to a local hospital. Through their outstanding and heroic efforts, Auxiliarists Gary and Shelley Markle saved an individual's life.

4. In addition to the Gold and Silver Medal recipients, all 2021 AFRAS award nominees demonstrated exceptional courage and have further enhanced the Coast Guard's reputation as the Lifesavers and Guardians of the Sea.

These outstanding nominees include:

- a. AST2 Grant B. Roberts, USCG Air Station Sitka, Alaska.
- b. AST2 Dakota J. Schick, USCG Air Station Houston, Texas.
- c. AET1 Robert C. Cowan, USCG Air Station Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

5. This year's award ceremony, hosted by AFRAS on November 2, 2021, in the House Rayburn Congressional Office Building, Washington, DC, will recognize the 2020 Gold Medal Recipients, AST1 Eric Young and AST1 Nathan Newberg, 2020 Silver Medal Recipients, Auxiliarists Stephen Wyatt and Gloria Wyatt, and the 2021 Gold and Silver Medal Award recipients.

6. Congratulations to the AFRAS 2021 and 2020 Gold and Silver Medal recipients and all nominees on a job well done.

7. COMDT (CG-SAR) AFRAS awards POC: Mr. Michael Clarke (202) 372-2090, Michael.E.Clarke@uscg.mil.

8. RDML S. W. Clendenin, Assistant Commandant for Response Policy (CG-5R), sends.

9. Internet released is authorized.



08 NOV 2021

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 039/21

**Subj: OCTOBER 2021 COAST GUARD
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CREDENTIAL BOARD RESULTS**

1. Please read the following ALCOAST announcement of the October 2021 Coast Guard Emergency Management Credential Board results. Congratulations to Auxiliarists Grant Graves of the Eleventh District (Southern Region) and Christopher Todd of the Seventh District for earning this highly advanced credential! Bravo Zulu!

Respectfully,
Captain Troy P. Glendye
Chief Director of Auxiliary
(CG-BSX)

R 291600Z OCT 21
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC
TO ALCOAST
BT
UNCLAS
ALCOAST 400/21
SSIC 4102

SUBJ: OCTOBER 2021 COAST GUARD
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CREDENTIAL BOARD RESULTS
A. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC
191056Z APR 21/ACN 043/21

B. U.S. Coast Guard Emergency Management Credential (CGEMC) Application Guide, July 2021

1. This ALCOAST announces the October 2021 Coast Guard Emergency Management Credential (CGEMC) Board results, which convened 4-8 October 2021 in accordance with REFs (A) and (B).

2. The CGEMC Board was established in 2021 to recommend Coast Guard personnel who have demonstrated the highest levels of



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

expertise and proficiency in the field of Emergency Management (EM) for a credential. This credential is a cornerstone effort designed to advance crisis leadership skills within the Coast Guard by promoting the principles of EM. As outlined in REF (B), the CGEMC is available to any active duty (officer or enlisted), civilian, reserve (officer or enlisted), or auxiliary member who meets the training, experience, and test criteria, regardless of specialty or assigned duty station/position. The CGEMC Board process was modeled after the ICS Competency Review process.

3. The CGEMC Board reviewed 27 applications and recommended 21 CG members be assigned the CGEMC. Of the 27 applicants, 10 applicants held the CEM designation or other comparable agency EM credential.

4. The Director, Emergency Management, COMDT (CG-5RI), approved the Board's recommendations and found the following members to have achieved the CGEMC as indicated below:

CAPT Becky Jones, District 8 New Orleans
CAPT Jason Lehto, PACAREA
CDR Meredith Gilman, Sector Juneau
CDR Danielle Shupe, USAFRICOM
LCDR Kasey Arguelles, Pacific Strike Team
LCDR Annjea Cormier, Sector Long Island Sound
LCDR Adam Mosley, Sector Miami
LCDR Phillip Stitzinger, Sector Buffalo
LCDR Jessica Thornton, Gulf Strike Team
LT Carolyn Bigos, District 8 New Orleans
LT Karl Harris, Sector New York
LT Emily Ivashenko, District 13 Seattle
LT Michael Power, District 9 Cleveland
LT Douglas Schneider, Atlantic Area
CWO2 Timothy Tamargo, TRACEN Cape May
MST1 Jeromy Cowell, MSU Duluth
AUX Grant Graves, Los Angeles Flotilla 12-4 DIV 12
AUX Christopher Todd, Miami Flotilla 070-06-11
Mr. Ken Jones, Sector Charleston
Mr. Justin Moyer, COMDT (CG-OEM-2)
Ms. Kathryn Pfeifer, Sector Ohio Valley

5. Recipients should expect to receive certificates electronically via the email address provided in their applications. COMDT (CG-OEM-1) will enter the CGEMC into Direct Access/ESS.

6. Following each Board convening, COMDT (CG-OEM) will implement Board feedback to improve the application and review process as outlined in REF (B). Furthermore, COMDT (CG-OEM) amplifies the information contained in REF (B) through webinars, sample applications, FAQs and announcements all posted to the COMDT (CG-OEM-1) CGPortal Page at: (Copy and Paste Below URL into Browser)

<https://cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/cgcpe1/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

7. Submission timelines and procedures are located in REF (B). All applications for the next CGEMC Board are due by 15 March 2022 for the April 2022 Board convening.

8. The October 2021 Coast Guard Emergency Management Credential Board membership included:

CDR LuAnn Kehlenbach, Board President
LCDR Amanda Le Monde
LCDR David Vihonski
LT Daniel Dunn
LT Enrique Quinones
LTJG Brandon Young
Mr. Steven Maynard served as Board Secretary and COMDT (CG-OEM-1) representative.

9. Questions regarding the October 2021 CGEMC Board results should be directed to CG-OEM-1@uscg.mil.

10. POC: CDR Laura Miller COMDT (CG-OEM-1), 202-372-2143
or Laura.S.Miller1@uscg.mil.

11. Ms. Dana S. Tulis, Director, Emergency Management (CG-5RI), sends.

12. Internet release is authorized.



**30 NOV 2021**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 042/21

**Subj: AUXILIARY CULINARY ASSISTANT
INSTRUCTOR AUTHORIZATION**

1. The Auxiliary Culinary Assistance (AUXCA) Program Standard Operating Procedures (AUX-SOP-005(A)) issued on June 18, 2021 launched the AUXCA program's replacement of the legacy Auxiliary Food Service (AUXFS) program. Legacy AUXFS program participants had their AUXFS competency subsequently converted to AUXCA-1 Specialist in AUXDATA II.
2. Legacy AUXFS Instructors are also authorized to have that competency converted to AUXCA Instructor (AUXCA-IT) and reflected as such in AUXDATA II. Accordingly, they are authorized to continue performing AUXCA program PQS task sign-offs in accordance with AUX-SOP-005(A).
3. The Auxiliary national Culinary Assistance Division Chief (DVC-HC) will work with the culinary assistance program District Staff Officers (DSO) to identify all legacy AUXFS Instructors that are eligible to be assigned the AUXCA Instructor competency. Those assignments will be made in AUXDATA II by the office of the Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX).
4. Internet release is authorized.

Respectfully,
Captain Troy P. Glendye
Chief Director of Auxiliary
(CG-BSX)

**DEC 2021**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 043/21

**Subj: AUXILIARY AVIATION PPE and
DAY/NIGHT PYROTECHNIC FLARES
UPDATE - CG-BSX POLICY LETTER 21-04**

To all Coast Guard Auxiliary Personnel:

1. On 17 December 2021, the Chief Director of the Auxiliary signed CG-BSX Policy Letter 21- 04, Auxiliary Aviation PPE and day/night pyrotechnic flares update. The purpose of this policy letter is to update Auxiliary aviation Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) policies in the Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series), Annex 1, section D.
2. Day/night pyrotechnic flares are to be removed from Auxiliary aircraft and replaced with at least one Coast Guard approved electronic Visual Distress Signaling Device (eVDS) onboard the aircraft by 01 June 2022 or by the expiration date of the pyrotechnics currently onboard the aircraft if that is prior to 01 June 2022, whichever date comes first.
3. The eVDS replaces the nighttime portion of the pyrotechnic. The dye marker or sea rescue device, as required air crewmember survival equipment, replaces the day portion of the pyrotechnic.
4. All District Directors of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), Operations Training Officers (OTO), and Auxiliarists must comply with the provisions in this Policy Letter.
5. The policy letter can be found on the Coast Guard Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX) website at: [CG-BSX Policy Letters](#).
6. Internet Release is authorized.





05 JAN 2022

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 001/22

Subj: **AUXILIARY COVID-19**

RECONSTITUTION GUIDANCE-VERSION 3

1. All Auxiliarists are highly encouraged to review the latest version of the Auxiliary COVID-19 Reconstitution Guide which has been posted in AUXDATA II and on the CHDIRAUX website at: [Auxiliary COVID-19 Reconstitution Guidance](#). (To review the guide in AUXDATA II, login to AUXDATA II; from the AUXDATA Navigation Bar select "More," then "Files," and then select "Libraries." The guide and other relevant COVID-19 information will be located in the folder listed as "CG Auxiliary COVID-19 Guidance.") If you have any questions regarding the content of the guide, please reach out to your Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM).

2. This update incorporates change, effective immediately, that requires full COVID-19 vaccination for Coast Guard Auxiliarists when assigned to duty that involves in-person interaction with Coast Guard personnel (including other Auxiliarists), other government personnel (federal, state, and local), or members of the public. It is meant to ensure the health and well-being of unvaccinated Auxiliarists, Coast Guard personnel, and members of the public that the Coast Guard is obligated to protect. Unvaccinated Auxiliarists (including partially vaccinated) remain able to volunteer for any assignments or activities that do not involve in-person interaction with members of the public, other government personnel, or Coast Guard personnel.

3. Procedures for handling Auxiliarists' requests for medical exemption and religious accommodation of this policy change are under development. When they are established and announced, CG-BSX-1 will

start to collect, review, and issue determinations on such requests.

4. This guidance is intended to provide assistance to the Directors of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), Coast Guard units, and Order Issuing Authorities (OIA) on how to use Coast Guard Auxiliarists in the safest way possible during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Knowing that the spread of the Pandemic is different in every area, region, state, city, town, etc., DIRAUX and OIAs may deviate from this guide as they see fit for their cognizant areas of responsibility (AOR), except for the vaccination requirement.

5. DIRAUX offices, Coast Guard units, and OIAs are continually assessing operational risks posed by COVID-19 and developing mitigation strategies in advance of mission performance. They remain the best sources for guidance regarding Auxiliary assignments to duty within their AORs. All Auxiliarists are expected to help them by exercising caution and strictly adhering to all Coast Guard guidance.

6. Internet release is authorized.



This resend should provide an operable link to the [Auxiliary COVID-19 Reconstitution Guidance](#).

05 JAN 2022

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 001/22

Subj: **AUXILIARY COVID-19 RECONSTITUTION GUIDANCE - VERSION 3**

1. All Auxiliarists are highly encouraged to review the latest version of the Auxiliary COVID-19 Reconstitution Guide which has been posted in AUXDATA II and on the CHDIRAUX website at: [Auxiliary COVID-19 Reconstitution Guidance](#). (To review the guide in AUXDATA II,

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5. DIRAUX offices, Coast Guard units, and OIAs are continually assessing operational risks posed by COVID-19 and developing mitigation strategies in advance of mission performance. They remain the best sources for guidance regarding Auxiliary assignments to duty within their AORs. All Auxiliarists are expected to help them by exercising caution and strictly adhering to all Coast Guard guidance.



6. Internet release is authorized.

25 JAN 2022

FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 002/22

**Subj: EXTENSION TO AUX-SOP-004(A) 04
Sep 20 - ELECTION OF UNIT OFFICERS
THROUGH THE USE OF ELECTRONIC
MEANS**

1. ALAUX 027/21 communicated the Chief Director of Auxiliary's extension of AUX-SOP-004(A) for the Calendar Year (CY) 2021 election cycle. Due to ongoing restrictions on in-person meetings across the country from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Director of Auxiliary has granted an extension to AUX-SOP-004(A) for all CY 2022 elections.

2. This change is effective immediately. The need for future extension shall be determined by the Chief Director of Auxiliary.

3. Internet release is authorized.



25 JAN 2022

FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 002/22

**Subj: EXTENSION TO AUX-SOP-004(A) 04
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3. Internet release is authorized.



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

25 JAN 2022

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 003/22

Subj: **2022 NATIONAL WORKSHOPS**

Ref: Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 (series)

1. National Operations Workshops. The Surface and Telecommunications Workshops are required for 2022. The Aviation Workshop is now a mandatory task included as part of the Aviation Air Safety Workshop. Like 2021, the National Operations Workshops (Surface/Air/Telecommunications) may be completed via webinar. The workshop training material(s) must be delivered by an Auxiliarist qualified in the respective operations program provided they are either a certified instructor or are under the supervision of a certified

instructor. Instructors may use any webinar delivery platform that is available in their region. Instructors are encouraged to work with their Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) to determine the proper delivery platform.

Details for the 2022 required National Operations Workshops are listed below:

a. Surface Operations Workshop. This workshop is required for all boat crew coxswains, boat crew members, personal water craft operators, paddle craft operators, and those currently training for any of these competencies, including members in Required Yearly Not Met (REYR) status who intend to regain their certification.

b. Air Operations Workshop. This workshop is required for all pilots, air crew, air observers, and those currently training for any of these competencies, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification.

c. Telecommunications Workshop. This workshop is required of all operators and owners of Auxiliary Radio Facilities. It is required of those currently holding Telecommunications Officer (TCO), or in training for TCO qualification, and those who are using AUXCOM as their "grandfathered" qualification for radio operation. This does not apply to operation of radios on aircraft or vessels which are covered by crew certification.

d. The 2022 National Operations Workshop presentations (Air, Surface, and Telecommunications) are located at the National Response Directorate web page at the following link: [R-Directorate What's New Website](#)

e. Instructors of these workshops must submit a Workshop Mission and Attendance Report (ANSC-7039) to their IS officer for entry into AUXDATA II.

2. National Vessel Examiner and Instructor Workshops. The Vessel Examiner (VE) and Instructor (IT) Workshops are required for 2022. These workshops are intended to be viewed by members and completion logged via a self-attestation form as described below. These workshops may also be facilitated by an

instructor via webinar or in person as District COVID Protocols permit.

a. VE Workshop. This workshop is required for all certified Vessel Examiners, and those currently training to become Vessel Examiners, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. The VE workshop presentations are located at the National V-Directorate website (in the Member Zone) at: [2022 National VE Workshop](#)

b. IT Workshop. This workshop is required for all certified Instructors, and those currently training to become Instructors, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. The IT workshop is located at the E-Directorate website "What's New!" page (in the Member Zone) at: [2022 E-Directorate Workshop](#)

c. Members who individually view the VE or IT workshops in their entirety must submit a Workshop Attestation Form to their FSO-IS for entry into AUXDATA II. In order to make data entry easier, IS officers may collect forms for all of their members required to complete these workshops and make one entry into AUXDATA II using the last day of the month of the Activity/Task Completion date. This form is located in the same location as the VE and IT Workshop presentations listed above. Note: When adding the VE workshop task to Activity Logs in AUXDATA II use the task named "Vessel Examinations Workshop" in the Workshops task category list.

d. If the workshop is facilitated by an instructor in a webinar or group setting, the instructor must submit a Workshop Mission and Attendance Report (ANSC-7039) to their IS officer for entry into AUXDATA II.

3. National Culinary Assistance Specialists Sanitation Workshop. This workshop is required for all Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Specialists and those currently training for this competency, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. Please follow the instructions on the Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Specialists Website for completing the Annual AUXCA Sanitation Update. After completing the

required test, course completion will be logged into AUXDATA II via the National Testing Center course results upload. There is no need to create separate activity logs for completion of this course in AUXDATA II. The workshop is available through the Auxiliary Human Resources Directorate web page at: [National Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Website](#)

4. Per chapter 8.B.1.g of reference (a), all required workshops must be completed no later than 30 June 2022. If not completed by 30 June 2022, members required to complete those workshops will have their affected competencies place into Required Workshop Not Met (REWK). If a required workshop is not completed by 31 December 2022, the affected competencies will be placed in REYR status.

5. Questions should be directed to the appropriate Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM).

6. Internet release is authorized.



25 JAN 2022
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 002/22

Subj: EXTENSION TO AUX-SOP-004(A) 04
Sep 20 - ELECTION OF UNIT OFFICERS
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extension to AUX-SOP-004(A) for all CY 2022 elections.

2. This change is effective immediately. The need for future extension shall be determined by the Chief Director of Auxiliary.

3. Internet release is authorized.

26 JAN 22

FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 004/22

Subj: **AUXILIARY CURRENCY
MAINTENANCE CHANGES FOR CY 2021**

1. The Coast Guard continues to recognize the unprecedented challenges imposed on its Auxiliarists since the outset of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and greatly appreciates the understanding and responsibility demonstrated by all Auxiliarists in preserving their health and well-being as well as that of our Nation's maritime public.

2. Significant constraints were again levied upon Auxiliarists' ability to perform authorized activities in Calendar Year (CY) 2021 by the COVID-19 virus. These constraints significantly and detrimentally impacted the ability of many Auxiliarists to apply their competencies, perform their authorized activities, and maintain their currencies. Consequently, the following changes to CY 2021 currency maintenance requirements apply for CY 2022:

a. General Qualification and Currency Maintenance Requirements.

(1) All annual currency maintenance requirements for CY 2021 (e.g., the five vessel safety checks required to maintain currency as

a vessel examiner) and other-than-annual requirements that were due in CY 2021 (e.g., the 3-year check ride required to maintain currency as a coxswain if due in 2021) are again waived except the tests and workshops that were able to be completed online through the Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS) or Auxiliary National Classroom.

(2) These waived currency maintenance requirements must now be completed by 31



December 2022 (e.g., the five vessel safety checks that were originally required by 31 December 2021 in order to maintain currency as a Vessel Examiner must now be completed by 31 December 2022). Currency maintenance requirements that were applicable for CY 2021 are cancelled (e.g., a Vessel Examiner will only have to perform five vessel safety checks in CY 2022 in order to maintain currency).

(3) CY 2021 completion of the Team Coordination Training (TCT) Refresher and the Crew Resource Management (CRM) Refresher is not waived because these refreshers were available through webinars.

(4) If an Auxiliarist started CY 2020 in REYR status in a competency and was unable to fulfill the requirements to regain certification during CY 2020 and CY 2021, then the Auxiliarist will remain in REYR status in that competency and will have until 31 December 2022 to complete those same requirements in order to regain certification.

(5) All requirements for initial qualification/certification remain in effect and will not be waived.

b. Auxiliary Aviation Specifics: The currency task requirements listed below are waived for CY 2021 and must be completed by the dates specified:

(1) The semi-annual Air Mission Currency task (3 missions totaling at least 6 hours) with a currency expiration date of 30 June 2021 and/or

31 December 2021 must be completed by 30 June 2022.

(2) Annual and greater-than-annual cycle (2-year/5-year) currency tasks with a currency expiration date no later than 31 December 2021 must be completed by 31 December 2022 (e.g., a biennial check ride that was originally required by 31 December 2021 in order to maintain currency as a pilot must now be completed by 31 December 2022).

Task Name	Frequency	Affected Competencies
Air Mission Currency	Semi-annual	First Pilots, Aircraft Commanders, Instructor Pilots / Flight Examiners
Emergency Egress Training	Annual	All AUXAIR Competencies
Swim Test	Annual	All AUXAIR Competencies
Annual Aviation Workshop	Annual	All Pilots and Air Crew
Instructional Flights (3)	Annual	Instructor Pilots / Flight Examiners
Auxiliary Flight Check	Biennial	First Pilots, Aircraft Commanders, Instructor Pilots / Flight Examiners
Flight Crew Medical	Biennial-Sliding	Air Crew and Air Observers

Screening *		
AUX-17 Crew Resource Mgmt.	5-Year	All AUXAIR Competencies
AUX-18 Spatial Disorientation	5-Year	All Pilots

* Must be completed as soon as possible and no later than 31 December 2022. If certified Air Crew/Air Observers have experienced any significant medical change since their last Flight Crew Medical Screening that would affect mission performance and/or would preclude medical clearance by a medical authority, then they must notify the District Director of Auxiliary prior to engaging in flight operations.

-

(3) In addition, all Auxiliary aviation pilots will then be required to:

(a) Maintain all FAA license and flight requirements including biennial check flights and holding a minimum of a valid Third-Class FAA Medical Certificate.

(b) Maintain Passenger Currency requirements (for pilots carrying passengers or crew).

(c) Fly and log a minimum of 12 hours Pilot-In-Command (PIC) time each semi-annual period (may be General Aviation or Auxiliary flight).

(d) Complete the CRM Refresher.

3. These waivers of CY 2021 currency maintenance requirements represent a second consecutive year of doing so. A third consecutive year of such is not envisioned regardless of COVID-19-induced circumstances and should not be expected. Questions should be directed to the servicing District Director of

Auxiliary (DIRAUX) and Operations Training Officer (OTO).

4. Internet release is authorized.



26 JAN 22

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 005/22

Subj: **AUXDATA II - RESUMING PATROL ORDER PROCESSING**

1. All testing and interfacing of AUXDATA II (ADII) and the Financial Systems Modernization Solution (FSMS) has been successful. The FSMS cutover period that began 01 October 2021 concluded on 26 January 2022. ADII is resuming normal operations.

2. Patrol orders with patrol dates on or after 01 October 2021 that were entered in ADII or issued via paper copy should now be entered into ADII for approval, completion, claims processing, and cancellations. Do not enter cancelled paper patrol orders in ADII.

3. In order to receive reimbursement for actual patrol expenses incurred during the FSMS cutover period, all corresponding patrol orders must be entered into ADII no later than 31 March 2022.

4. Information will be provided later for processing patrols conducted prior to 01 October 2021. Order Issuing Authorities (OIA) shall not approve any patrols with a patrol date prior to 01 October 2021.

5. When a patrol lead or facility owner requests patrol orders in ADII, they must include estimated reimbursable expenses. The OIA will perform a "Funds Check" during its approval process to ensure that funds are available to cover the estimated reimbursable expenses.

When completing patrol orders, the patrol lead or facility owner must then include the final actual reimbursable expense amount and comment if that amount exceeds the initial estimate by 10% or more.

6. "How to Guides" have been developed to help assist members and OIAs in the patrol request and approval process. To view/download these guides go to: AUXDATA II / Files / Libraries / USCG Auxiliary Guides.

Filenames:

1. Patrol Orders – How to Request in AUXDATA II Nov 2021 Patrol Orders, and
2. How To Complete Claim and Patrol Activity Logs in AUXDATA II Nov 2021.

The guides will also be available at CGAUX.ORG > [AUXDATA II](#) > [Member How To](#)

7. Internet release is authorized.

A Message from the Editor

Happy February 5NR,

I would like to thank everyone for contributing to this newsletter. As I mentioned on page 12, this year begins the 80th year of TOPSIDE! This newsletter is successful for 2 reasons. The first one is because members like you are willing to contribute articles, pictures, and the like to each issue. The second reason for its success has been the staff (past and most certainly present) that have helped shape and build this magazine over the past 80 years.

In that light, I would like to formally thank the Topside team for another successful issue. It is only with their help and guidance that we have been able to produce such a quality newsletter, even in the context of COVID and greatly reduced activities.

I would also like to thank COMO Giannattasio, CDR Taylor-Davies, and Pamela Thompson, DSO-PE for their input and edits.

I am excited for this 80th year and cannot wait until the official 80th Anniversary issue.

Tim Marks



Timothy Marks
District Staff Officer -
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Parting Shot



Cape May: Auxiliarist Don Dobson lowering the national ensign during evening colors. See page 29 for details.

*US Coast Guard photo by
Auxiliarist Leon DeFulgentis*