



REPORT TO THE COMMANDANT

Items of interest reported by District Commodores

May 2007

Atlantic East

District 1 Northern Region

1. In Maine, a pre-Easter snow storm was followed a week later by a severe late winter storm and Auxiliary Volunteer Emergency Liaisons were activated in the Division 2 area of responsibility. Members were on duty at the EOCs in York County and Cumberland County, ME. MSD Newcastle called out Auxiliarists to staff the State Emergency Operations Center in Concord, NH. In addition, Auxiliarists did duty at the Great Salt Bay Shelter in Lincoln County, ME. Over all, over 160 hours of service were performed by Division 2 Auxiliarists in a three day period

2. Auxiliary air was requested to assess storm damage over Cape Cod and Islands. One of the photos taken to document damage was of a wash through on one of the barrier beaches near Chatham, MA, on Cape Cod, where part of the beach was separated from the mainland. A high quality photograph taken from the patrol aircraft was published in the *Boston Globe*. The excellent photograph was made with a high- resolution camera purchased by DIRAUX 1NR and the air station.

District 1 Southern Region

1. The AuxChef Program continues to be very active in First Southern. In April, AuxChefs spent five days preparing and serving lunch at Station Eatons Neck. At a special event, as part of a memorial to PO3 Nate Bruckenthall who was killed in Iraq, a breakfast was prepared for 70 Coast Guardsmen and their guests. Captain Peter Boynton, Commanding Officer of Sector Long Island Sound, and Northport Police Chief Ric Bruckenthall, Nate's father, attended this breakfast.

2. Two Auxiliary Aircraft Commanders are spending some Saturdays at the Coast Guard Academy providing flight training and aircraft familiarization for interested cadets. This unique program helps interested cadets develop skills and knowledge required for the private pilot's license.

District 5 Southern Region

1. Members from Division 1, in the Northern section of the Chesapeake Bay area, are collaborating with the National Weather Service to improve the weather forecasting and reporting for this area of the bay. Because of a lack of adequate equipment and a limited

number of reporting stations in this area, boaters have been caught unawares in some very bad conditions. Using a toll-free number the watchstander in the Sector Baltimore area is notified about current wind and sea conditions and this information is passed on to the Weather Service. To aid the boating safety effort, the weather service is supplying contact stickers to be given to the boaters during vessel safety checks, Coast Guard inspections and at other public affairs functions.

District 7

1. In central Florida, members of Flotilla 42 were engaged in a search-and-rescue training exercise and saw a boy waving from a small boat that appeared to have drifted into mangroves along a small island. On investigation, they discovered a group of 12 young people who had spent the night on the island after their boat became disabled. The members worked with sectors Jacksonville and Miami, and with stations Canaveral and Fort Pierce, to recover the group of cold, wet and hungry youngsters.

2. Auxiliarists, of Flotilla 11-1 in the Clearwater, FL area, conducted a weekend of operational activities while assisting CG Station Sand Key. During the period, boat crewmembers happened upon two separate PWC accidents and were able to stabilize and transport victims to waiting EMS units. In addition, a capsized kayak was assisted, and, finally, boat crew members stood by the station as the active duty crew departed for a diver in distress call 15 miles west of Clearwater Pass.

Atlantic West

District 8 Central Region

1. Division 3 in South Alabama has recruited 14 new members thus far this year in an effort to rebuild a flotilla hurt by Hurricane Katrina. In addition to recruiting, the division is executing a training plan to get the new members quickly qualified in various Auxiliary programs.

2. Division 6, of Southeast Texas and West Louisiana, held a daylong training session for coxswain and crewmembers. In the afternoon, while underway to practice on the water tasks, the operational facilities answered a distress call that involved persons in the water. During the SAR evolution, two boats responded along with a helo from Air Station Houston. Three PIWs were recovered but one died from a possible heart attack.

District 8 Eastern Region

1. To repair the damage done to enrollment levels by significant losses in 2006, recruiting is a significant priority. In the first four months of 2007, membership has increased by 2.3 percent and brought the Region up to 1,141 members. In one recruiting effort, members of Division 24 are working to expand Auxiliary presence on Pickwick Lake, which is located in a tri-state area at the AL, MS and TN borders, on the Tennessee River. As part of that effort, a newly named Pickwick Detachment was stood up at Iuka, MS on 14 April 2007.

District 8 Western Region

1. On April 30, the Governor of Colorado signed into a law a bill to authorize a Coast Guard License Plate. RADM Whitehead, Commander 8CGD, was present for the event, along with other active duty, reserve, and approximately 40 Coast Guard Auxiliary members from Division 1. The United States Coast Guard Band held a concert as part of the event. Coast Guard Auxiliary members of Division 1 helped with the publicity, ticket sales, and directing people into the event.

2. A remote REC office is scheduled to open June 5th in Denver and four members of Division 1 will help staff the office. On April 18, four members of Division 1, along with Director Douglas Leavell, attended a meeting with the National Park Service in Page, Arizona. The main topic involved a discussion on how the Auxiliary could extend patrols to cover all of Lake Powell.

District 9 Central Region

1. DSO-MT is working with the DSO-AV to set up joint air/surface communications training in the Detroit and upper Michigan areas. This will be similar to exercises held in the past but there will be an increase in communication net participants; and, in addition, members of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary are invited to observe and provide comments.

PACIFIC AREA

District 11 Northern Region

1. After several sailboats capsized in high winds and turbulent seas during the annual Camellia Cup Sailboat Regatta on Folsom Lake, CA, Coast Guard Auxiliary crews rescued four people from the chilly waters. Several vessels suffered damage to their rudders, masts and sails, and had to be towed back to shore. Winds were steady between 25-30 miles per hour, with gusts of up to 45 miles per hour and conditions were very hazardous for small craft. Four vessels capsized and their crews ended up in the chilly 57-degree water. Some of the victims of the capsized boats exhibited minor signs of hypothermia and were given first aid onboard by the Coast Guard Auxiliary crews. All of the victims, however, refused treatment by emergency medical personnel.

2. During the first week of April, an Auxiliary Radio Repeater Team completed one of the most exhausting and successful repeater installations in recent years. The Mt. Diablo site located 3,800-feet above sea level in the east San Francisco Bay Area now serves as a crucial communications asset for Sector San Francisco. Auxiliarists met the challenge of developing equipment that would work reliably at that altitude and the Mt. Diablo repeater has significantly enhanced communications capabilities throughout the Sector.

3. Over a dozen CG Auxiliarists have been taking part in the effort to escort the two whales down the Sacramento River. The ICS safety officer is an Auxiliarist. Other members are manning Aux boats to create a safety zone and provide media platforms. Members trained via the Auxiliary Public Affairs "C" school are providing public affairs coordination and photo support, and are helping man the ICS Joint Information Center. And Aux members are helping augment CG Station Rio Vista to enable Station personnel to maintain a normal SAR/LE posture while supporting the whale escort.

District 11 Southern Region

1. While standing watch at the Flotilla 16-06's communication Station Gracie at Oceanside Harbor, CA an Auxiliary watchstander picked up a radio transmission from a boater who witnessed a small private aircraft crash off Carlsbad, CA. Sector San Diego was not able to pick up the transmission and the watchstander relayed the information and position to them. Regrettably, the incident was a tragedy with loss of three lives but this incident demonstrated the value of the radio station at Oceanside Harbor.

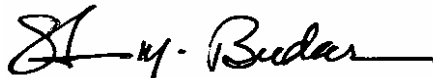
District 14

1. Barbers Point Air Station on Oahu employs several Auxiliary aircraft to supplement active duty aircraft for search and rescue missions. Recently several Auxiliary aircrews have been qualified to also assist as radio watch standers.

District 17

1. On 25, April Auxiliary vessel 275594 rescued 13 people from a fishing vessel that was sinking in the vicinity of Homer, AK. (See complete details in NACO's Quarterly Brief to the Commandant June 2007.)

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Budar,
National Commodore