



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

REPORT TO THE COMMANDANT



Items of interest reported monthly by District Commodores

February 2007

ATLANTIC EAST

District 1, Northern Region

1. In September 2007, all division captains in the region were given a boat fender. Their task was to tap the talents of their members to create a fender with a recreational boating safety message. Completion and submission date was January 5 at the District Change of Watch Conference. An auction was held until all were sold. Proceeds from the auction benefited the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Fund. Total raised was \$840.
2. Notification on Jan. 8 from National requesting partnership with Bass Pro Boat Shows promoting Recreational Boating Safety at an event in Foxboro, MA. Auxiliarists mobilized and staffed RBS booth, providing demonstrations on life jacket wear.
3. A Recreational Boating Safety Assistant District Staff Officer for Paddle Sports was appointed and began working with District Recreational Boating Safety Office for Safety Campaign to begin in early spring. An organizational meeting was held to finalize plans for information dissemination and locations, as well as Paddle Symposium development and deployment throughout the district.
4. Two Coast Guard Auxiliarists in Flotilla 38 have been running a professional Captain's licensure prep course. The RCO-Boston and the XO at STA Merrimack brought them to Northern Essex Community College and facilitated moving their Master's maritime license program as a course in the college curriculum for 10 college credits, now qualifying for CG personnel educational.
5. Seven Auxiliarists supported the Mid-Planning Conference for Frontier Sentinel 08 Full Field Exercise for four days during the week of 22 January at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Six Auxiliarists will serve as Planning Section - Resource Unit Check-In and Logistics Section - Food Unit. One Auxiliarist will be the point of contact. The Full Field Exercise will be conducted in June 2008.

6. The Boston Boat Show was staffed by 40 Auxiliarists from seven divisions. Auxiliarists stood over 40 scheduled three- to four-hour sessions of watch standing at the Recreational Boating Safety Booth totaling 172 hours.

District 1, Southern Region

1. Auxiliary Sector Coordinators (ASC) have been appointed to both Sector New York (SECNY) and Sector Long Island Sound SECLIS). Both ASCs have met with the sector commanders and are beginning to meet additional senior staff. George Reilly was appointed to SECNY, and Ed Petrie to SECLIS.

2. AUXNET radio repeaters have been installed throughout the district with an AuxNet radio installed in the Communications Center at Sector New York. The system was tested with excellent results and will provide an important logistics link between the Auxiliary and SECNY.

3. Auxiliary members supported tours of the USCG Cutter *Campbell* while in port in New York City on January 25. Eight Auxiliary members worked with active duty personnel to conduct tours and hand out recruiting materials. Members included Kenneth Stanley, John J. Gallagher, Joseph Finocchio, James Richards, Joseph Villafane, and Ralph Conetta.

4. Auxiliarists Wesley Freeburg, Raymond Dahle and Frank Ferraiuolo have assisted the Regional Exam Center (REC) during the past year. Of particular note is Freeburg's dedication to assisting REC-NY. Kenneth Skuches of the REC stated, "For over the past year, Wesley has been instructing me on piloting and navigation. It is because of Wesley's work and instruction, he was asked to assist the REC with developing a pilotage standard. Even though Wesley's new career kept him from working on the project through to the end, his help and knowledge in navigation was essential to the REC completing a Pilot Standard."

5. A meeting was held at Sector Long Island Sound with LCDR Tamez, GM 1 Michael Dunn, LTJG Miller, Ensign Nielson, Harvey Miller, past rear commodore, and Tony Wuestman, rear commodore. The focus of the meeting was on the Auxiliary Weapons Coaching program. GM1 Dunn would like to see the Auxiliary members in the unit work with and help prepare those active duty personnel who need more familiarization before going to the firing line exercises. Auxiliarists will invite personnel who need help to sessions given at the stations under the auspices of Sector LIS.

6. At Station Fire Island, Auxiliarists provided 106 hours of watch standing duty, 13 hours of maintenance support, and five hours of weapons cleaning during the month of January and. In addition, the flotilla provided a Maritime Observation Mission patrol every Sunday during December and January.

7. On January 22, the First District Boating Safety Specialist held a meeting to discuss strategies for addressing growing concerns around paddle craft fatalities. The intent is to develop a district-wide strategy to address this issue by involving as many stakeholders as possible. Attending as First Southern Auxiliary representatives were Cdr. Elizabeth Young, Alex Cascione, Jean Traposi and Tim Mulhern.

District Five, Northern Region

1. The Recruiting Office, Harrisburg, has 10 Auxiliary members training as outreach members. Recruiting Officer BMC Colonna conducts the training. These Auxiliary members will help steer potential Coast Guard members to the Harrisburg Recruiting office.
2. Auxiliarist Warren Huff of Division 12 - 5NR has been conducting TCT training sessions for Sector Baltimore at Station Annapolis. This valuable training for CG personnel, when conducted by Auxiliary members, relieves Sector Baltimore from having to provide active duty personnel to conduct this training, thus allowing the Auxiliary to become a vital force multiplier. Warren has also been conducting TCT training classes for the Sector in Baltimore.
3. Sector Delaware Bay: Auxiliarist Marty Abelkop attended a week long Contingency Preparedness Planner Senior Course at Tracen Yorktown with four members of the Contingency Planning and Force Readiness Department from the Sector. Abelkop is another valuable member helping the planning department by providing local Auxiliary help that will be there for years to come.

District Five, Southern Region

1. COSPAS-SARSAT Conference was held at the NOAA Facilities in Suitland, MD. Auxiliarist Bruce McMasters, Division 12, Eastern Shore, was invited by LCDR. Kathy Niles, SARSAT Liaison Officer at the USCG Office of Search and Rescue to join the group representing the Dominican Republic as their interpreter. The USCG Auxiliary Interpreter Corps serves the Coast Guard at the International and the inter-agency levels.
2. Auxiliarist Charles Rippel, Flotilla 58, Division 5, was sent TAD to San Juan (for the second time in a couple of months) as a representative of CAMSLANT to assist in the diagnosis and repair of a problem with the NAVTEX transmitter in Puerto Rico. He went with two ETIs and at least one person from TISCOM. The issue was resolved and they returned to the mainland.
3. Auxiliarists support:
Pat Bartlett and Greg Baker, 58 hours of watch standing support for STA Washington D.C.;
20 hours of credentialed medical practitioner support for the Yard at Curtis Bay by David Flaherty who also assisted the Director of Admissions at the Coast Guard Academy conducting local admission interviews for the Academy.

District Seven

1. Auxiliarist Antonio Vianna, a member of Flotilla 34, was assigned to two weeks temporary duty as an Interpreter in South Africa.
2. Auxiliarist George Gentile, FSO-OP, Flotilla 52, provided Station Jupiter Inlet with a set of large-scale aerial photographs taken by the Palm Beach Property Appraiser. The station will use the aerial photographs as a training tool to new incoming personnel and mount the photographs in the station training room. Another Flotilla 52 Auxiliarist, William Shannon, volunteered his services as an attorney to assist active duty personnel with estate planning needs.
3. Auxiliarists Stewart Landau and Charles Reiner, Flotilla 54, both certified CPR Instructors, trained active duty personnel at Station Lake Worth in the application of CPR.
4. On January 13, Auxiliarists from Division 6 provided 319 hours as Hawkeye Sensor watch standers at the Miami Security Command Center. On January 16, watch standers Humberto Jahen (6-10) and Edward Burbank (DCP-6) provided valuable assistance in using Hawkeye cameras to assist the rescue of an overturned vessel off Fisher Island.
5. Sector Miami AUXLO ENS Stacey Lemmon requested Division 6 provide a water safety briefing to a group of 20 Girl Scouts. Auxiliarist Bruce Farcus, Division 6 SO-PE, conducted the briefing with ENS Lemmon.
6. Auxiliarist Dewey Jackson, an Auxiliary Initial Pollution Investigator, was called to duty January 12 to assist a pollution investigation in Key Largo, Florida. He documented the case and worked with the marina and vessel owner to prevent further damage. His report and documentation were forwarded to Sector Miami.
7. Auxiliarist Bill Porter presented two 16-hour courses to 16 active duty personnel at Station Key West, and Auxiliarist Gerda Fletcher facilitated an eight-hour course for nine active duty personnel from Station Marathon and Station Islamorada.
8. Flotilla 13-3 supported a Recreational Boating Safety Day on Cudjoe Key. Flotilla Commander Don Kittsmiller brought the flotilla's boating safety trailer and along with 10 Auxiliarists, conducted vessel safety checks. Twenty Auxiliarists from Flotilla 13-8 gave 60 hours of support for the flotilla's Safety Booth at the boat show at Islamorada in January.
9. During January, the division supported marine safety unit patrols, helicopter operations, and training missions. On January 8, an Operational Facility from Flotilla 10-11 assisted Station Tybee, MSU Savannah, and Air Station Savannah with a man

overboard rescue training exercise for Savannah River pilots. The Auxiliary provided a platform for local new media to observe the exercise.

10. Twenty-two surface facilities from Division 7's flotillas supported Station Sand Key by providing patrols during the Gasparilla Festival and Boat Parade on Tampa Bay. The division also provided Auxiliarists who are in training for guard duty at the entrance gate to the Sector Headquarters and Station St Petersburg.
11. Seven facilities from Division 8 participated in the Gasparilla Boat Parade. Six Auxiliarists of Flotilla 86 received the Medal of Operational Merit at the Division's Orientation meeting. The medal was awarded for the rescue of the pilot and passengers of a helicopter that crashed off Venice Inlet.
12. Flotilla 83 provided cooking support to Station Cortez. Flotilla 86 was featured on the City of Venice web site for its contribution to the area.
13. A surface facility from Flotilla 91 participated in a January 20 search for three missing teens on an overdue boat. Auxiliarists Coxswain Daniel Falzone and Crew Member William White were on patrol when they were diverted to look for the missing youth. The boat and missing teens were located in a safe harbor that evening.
14. Auxiliarists from Flotilla 91 provided a surface facility and crew to play the part of smugglers during the filming of a segment about Coast Guard efforts to curtail smuggling. Camera crews from Fox Television's "America's Most Wanted" filmed boats from Coast Guard Station Fort Myers Beach in a simulated chase and capture scene. USCGC *Knight Island* and Station Fort Myers Beach were featured in the segment that aired nationally on January 26.
15. Flotilla 91's Connie Irvine is constructing a sound barrier around the Standby Generator Unit at Station Fort Myers Beach. The need for a sound barrier arose when nearby residents complained about noise from the generator during regularly scheduled tests.
16. Flotilla 93 completed arrangements for the annual Port City Days. The City of Naples, City Dock facility, the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary all cooperate in this event. The celebration provides an opportunity to display Coast Guard equipment, discuss public education programs, recruit new members, encourage vessel examinations, and tell the public about the Auxiliary. A Coast Guard 41' patrol boat and a helicopter from Air Station Clearwater are scheduled for the event.
17. Flotilla 95 is partnering with the Marco Island Police Department's Marine Division in advertising steps to help reduce boat theft. The area is currently experiencing a rash of boat thefts, mostly of the sleek high-powered "go-fast" variety.

18. Station Fort Myers Beach has tasked the Auxiliary with compiling a list of area launch ramps that may be used in the event of a mass migration. Area flotillas are also establishing standby crews to distribute literature at launch should a large-scale migration occur.
19. Flotilla 9-10's Daniel Godfrey led a team of three members in developing a list of drop-off points for on-the-water medical emergencies. The team located, plotted and timed each location within the flotilla's AOR. Satellite imagery available through Google Earth was overlaid on charts with routes to drop-off points. Photos with the plotted locations and routes were then converted to PowerPoint charts and provided to area law enforcement, fire rescue personnel, and emergency medical technicians. A copy of the PowerPoint charts was also provided to Coast Guard Station Fort Myers Beach.
20. Auxiliarist Archie Schmidt, a member of Flotilla 9-10, received orders for two weeks temporary duty as a Portuguese Interpreter in West Africa.
21. After Station Sand Key revised its training schedule, Division 11 was requested to provide training assistance to the station four days a week. The division also provides a safety facility for Air Station Clearwater's Helicopter Operations and C-130 drops.
22. Auxiliary Air Tiger 4 was called out by Sector Key West after a fuel stop in Key West to search for a raft reported off Key Largo. The raft was located with no persons on board. A Coast Guard helicopter was dispatched to the scene.
23. Auxiliary Air Tiger 9 flew a VIP mission to Key West. Passengers included Admiral Kunkel, CAPT Pino, and the Counsel General of the United Kingdom.
24. Auxiliary Air Saber 3 flew an area familiarization flight for Sector Key West and was diverted to search for a boat between Sugarloaf and Marathon. During the search, Saber 3 found a derelict 50-foot sailboat, which was reported to sector. After continuing their patrol, Saber 3 sighted a go-fast boat in the area of the Marquesas traveling at a high rate of speed. No fishing gear, no gas containers. Saber 3 trailed the boat until it reached a maximum distance from shore. Sector requested photos that were forwarded to sector.
25. Auxiliarist Daniel Muelhaupt (pilot of Saber 9) spotted a suspicious boat at a marina where he was working. The boat, a 35 ft center console, had arrived at Dinner Key Marina without checking in and not paying dockage. There was no registration number or other markings on the vessel. Muelhaupt checked the HIN number and called the police. The boat, which had been stolen in August 2007, had apparently been used as a fuel hauler for smugglers and was abandoned at the marina. Muelhaupt was also able to get identification of two Hispanic males who claimed to be the owners of the vessel.

26. Auxiliary Air Saber 5 located an abandoned sailboat adrift. The vessel was reported to Sector and a Guard helicopter and surface asset were dispatched. The boat was eventually towed to a CG station and the owner notified.
27. Auxiliary Air Tiger 6 spotted a 28-30 ft runabout dead in the water about 6NM south of Dog Rocks. On their pass, the boat launched an orange flare. Tiger 6 vectored Shark 23 to the scene.
28. On January 17, Auxiliary Air Saber 6 located a boat in distress and sinking rapidly. Four people were spotted in the water and two more were on the boat. Saber 6 vectored two surface assets to the scene, directing one to the distressed boat and other to the people in the water. Six people were saved.
29. Auxiliary Air Tiger 9 was tasked by Sector Key West to search for a Target of Interest that had departed Cuba two hours previously. Tiger 9 spotted the TOI and reported its location to Sector Key West. Tiger 9 guided a C-130 that was in the area to the location of the TOI. Once the 130 was on scene, Tiger 9 was released to continue on patrol.
30. Auxiliary Air Tiger 9 flew a special operations mission in support of Sector Key West to locate the King Mackerel fishing fleet on opening day of the King Mackerel season. The aircraft was given search patterns to follow and successfully located 16 commercial fishing vessels. Tiger 9 reported the vessel names, numbers, and locations to Sector Key West, together with photos of the vessels.
31. Auxiliary Air Saber 8 found an airboat in the cooling canals of the Turkey Point Atomic Power Plant. The violation was reported to security at Turkey Point through Homestead AF Base. Turkey point sent security personnel to the area and Saber 8 continued its normal patrol.
32. A total of 22 missions were tasked during January, and a new facility (Piper Arrow PA-28R – N850NC) was added to the Clearwater inventory.
33. Only one SAR call out mission was flown at Clearwater in January and that flight was redirected by Sector St. Petersburg for law enforcement support.

ATLANTIC WEST

District 8, Eastern Region

1. On-the-water activities in the district are dormant at this time. The divisions had scheduled their changes of watch, with most being completed by the end of January. The planning and execution of these activities result in a high degree of fellowship and camaraderie to begin the year with a team spirit. They are well attended by regular Coast Guard representatives from Sector Ohio Valley. The participation of the regular Coast Guard in swearing in ceremonies

helps to cement the close working relationship with the various sector units. This time of renewal is essential for any organization, and our members enjoy the time with each other as they await the better weather to begin operations activities.

2. January also begins the season of boat shows, which in turn sets off the customer need for boating classes to learn to operate the new purchases. All units are heavily involved in public education classes at this time. An important part of the member recruiting effort takes place at both of these activities, and early reports indicate good response to recruiting efforts in most units.

3. Member training activities are gearing up, with the mandatory Instructor workshop and TCT mandatory refresher, plus the optional VE, PV and OP workshops being offered throughout the district at flotilla levels. These workshops will also be offered at the District Spring Conference for those who may have missed the one given in their flotilla.

4. The District 8ER Spring Conference is scheduled in Dayton, OH from 6-8 March.

5. LCDR JOSHUA D. McTaggart, Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Nashville, presented the Governor of Tennessee, the Hon. Phil Bredesen, with a framed America's Waterway Watch poster. In the presentation party were Kevin Gallagher, Division 11 staff officer for marine safety and Bill Mason, assistant District 8ER staff officer for public affairs. The poster is one of 6,000 that will be distributed throughout the United States, and features the Nashville skyline and the General Jackson sternwheeler. Auxiliarist Bill Mason took the photo, one of several outstanding photos used in the current America's Waterway Watch campaign.

6. The final session of the District 8 ER Flotilla Commander's Academy was presented in Indianapolis, IN. Newly elected or current flotilla commanders and vice flotilla commanders were invited to attend the two day instructional session to learn to run an effective flotilla. The curriculum included how to run a successful meeting, courtesy and protocol, how to get new members and retain old members, necessary paperwork, etc. The 20 students were very eager to learn, and were very involved in the class. The class included both situational role-playing as well as textbook instruction. Two other sessions had been presented in December, in Zanesville, OH and Chattanooga, TN. In all, 50 new leaders received the training.

District Eight, Central Region

1. Division 2 (New Mexico) will conduct it's Thunderbird SAREX at Elephant Butte Lake from 25 -27 April. The exercise will be in conjunction with the New Mexico State Parks, Sector Corpus Christ, the Civil Air Patrol and other local emergency service agencies. Division 3 (South Alabama and South Mississippi) will hold a SARX at Dauphin Island over Memorial Day weekend.

2. Division 6 (Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana) had great success at the Houston Boat Show where 25 Auxiliarists and 26 active duty Coast Guard members worked the 10-day

show. Some 21 people signed up to join the Auxiliary and one requested a CG recruiter contact him. Sixteen boaters requested vessel safety checks and 148 requests for public education courses resulted from this cooperative effort.

3. A Division 7 (South Central Texas) public affairs officer covered the sinking of the *Texas Clipper Ship* for use as an artificial reef off the coast of Port Isabel. The event was captured from a CG 87 foot cutter. The division will also hold the Sea Bird training exercise again this year.

District Eight, Central Region

1. Sector Upper Mississippi River is revitalizing the HF program they started some time ago. This program uses licensed amateur radio operators as part of a plan to supplement sector communications during a crisis. Chief Simberlund Sector UMR is coordinating the effort.

There is an informal effort by several Auxiliarists who are licensed amateur radio operators to organize radio nets in the SUMR area. A club has been formed in the Minneapolis/St Paul area to facilitate a net there. There is interest in the St Louis and Northeast Kansas areas. FCC rules allow and to some extent encourage these nets to pass health and welfare messages in the event of a disaster situation. In time, much of this may be moved to Coast Guard frequencies once policies and procedures have been set up for the use of those bands.

2. The 2008 Auxiliary aviation program started out with a busy and productive January with over flights on the Missouri, Mississippi, Illinois, and Arkansas rivers.

- On an over flight on the Arkansas River (McClellan-Kerr Navigation System) the Tulsa, OK based flight crew observed a suspicious discharge entering the Arkansas River. It was coming from a pipe located in Dardanell, AR. The crew photographed, recorded lat/lon of the site, and reported to Sector Lower Mississippi River. At sector's request, they over flew the site about four hours later. A written report, with accompanying photographs, was sent to Sector LMR command center. A Field Intelligence Report (FIR) was created and CG Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) Ft. Smith, AR was contacted to investigate the discharge. MSD Ft. Smith Commander, LT Carrero and his team located the discharge and traced it to the source that was a Tyson Foods plant.
- The DSO-AV attended and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Tulsa Port of Catoosa Area Security Committee. The committee is composed of business operators and users of the waterway system, Captain of the Port (COPT) Sector LMR Commanding Officer, MSD Ft Smith CO, FBI, Memphis FIST, Department of Homeland Security, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, local law enforcement, Oklahoma Ports and Waterways Authority, and Port Muskogee.

Auxiliary Air was specifically recognized as an asset performing vital missions contributing to the security and environmental well being of the waterways. The

discharge into the Arkansas River mentioned was cited as a good example of some of AuxAir capabilities, even though it wasn't in the immediate area.

- Because of the recognition of Auxiliary aircraft as great photo platforms, all 8 WR AuxAir facilities now have surveillance kits consisting of cameras and stabilized binoculars. The kits were procured by Air Station New Orleans and distributed by DIRAUX.

3. Commander P. J. Maguire, Commander, Sector Lower Mississippi River attended all three the division changes of watch for each of the divisions reporting to his sector. The district thanks CDR Maguire for his solid support.

4. Division 16 also enjoyed tremendous active duty support at their change of watch. In addition to CDR Maguire, LCDR Tierney, Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Institute, LTJG Carroll, AuxLO, Air Station New Orleans, CWO Leavell, OTO, 8 WRR, and Master Chief Mott, OIC of the USCGC Muskingum in Salisaw, Oklahoma, attended the meeting.

5. CDR Maguire has solidly committed to support of the district SAR competition in May in Kimberling City with sector equipment.

District Nine, Eastern Region

1. DSO MS /DSO CS has developed an MS link to the district's website with the following Marine Safety mission statement: *We are the Coast Guard Auxiliary's core team of specialists in Marine Safety and Environmental Protection. Our principal Mission is to support the marine safety and environmental protection programs and activities of the United States Coast Guard and to train and support members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary who join us.*

2. MS/Harpat training has begun once again at Sector Buffalo. Training is scheduled every Monday

3. The RBS Team is gathering ideas for the promotion of National Safe Boating Week. There is an emphasis to always wear a life jacket and to set the example. The suggestion has been made to wear one while doing Vessel Safety Checks to help get the point across. With so many styles to choose from, it is easy to get a comfortable fit. Members have to be reeducated to make the effort to call them life jackets and not PFDs.

4. IBOT and DBOT initiative by OTO: All scheduling in place for 2008

- 1st Annual Great Lakes Water Expo: Planning still continues, few snags hit, CG legal working out details
- Aviation: Daily or as weather permits, ice recon flights over the Great Lakes and marinas
- ICS 210: 10 more members have completed the training

5. Division 2's SO-PA has been doing an outstanding in cleaning up our public displays and bringing them up to the standards set forth by National. Each show is focused on specific messages and results are beginning to show.

6. The next district event will be the Central New York Boat Show. For the first time the display and operation will be completely under the control of auxiliary Division 2. All standards recommended by National will be adhered to. Primary focus will be wearing life jackets, vessel exams, and public classes. Two seminars will be presented; one will be navigation in CNYa and the other will be on safety equipment requirements. The NY Sea Grant will have a static display showing the required safety equipment. It will be in a different building and the display will be an actual pontoon boat loaded with safety equipment a *Get a Vessel Safety Check* banner.

8. Members of Division 4 attended the Rochester Boat Show Feb 7-10. Thanks to West Marine, the division's safety exhibit featured different styles of life jackets and stressed "WEAR IT." The division will focus on three primary thrusts in 2008: Recreational Boating Safety; Boat Crew proficiency training; and member involvement.

9. The Cleveland Boat and Waterfront Lifestyle Show during mid January had an AUX booth that was manned by watch standers from Divisions 07, 08, and 09. Each flotilla in Division 07 was represented. The booth was open 80 hours manned by at least two members each hour. Upgrades to the division's display helped visitors better understand the role of the Auxiliary.

10. Division 08 will be hosting IBOT training to be conducted by OTO Kevin Clark at the College of Massotherapy, Copley, Ohio, April 26 and 27. Divisions 5, 7, 8, and 9 will also participate.

11. Crew and coxswain training is scheduled on a weekly basis and open to all division members the last Wednesday evening through spring at Karl R. Rohrer Assoc. offices at 6:30 PM. The crew / coxswain training manual including charts and course plotting, SAR, basic seamanship, etc, will be reviewed.

District Nine, Central Region

1. Division 10 members supported "Shiver on the River," a children's event held at USCG Station Belle Isle.

PACIFIC AREA

District Eleven, Northern Region

1. CGSTAs Rio Vista, Bodega Bay and San Francisco now have regularly scheduled boat crew training coordinated with district boat crew and facilities. Auxiliary facilities are

providing platforms on a reliable basis for CG boat crews to practice towing, boarding practice, and other on the water qualification activities. Two San Francisco Bay Auxiliary surface facilities are also being increasingly integrated with AIRSTA San Francisco HH-65 ops.

2. The San Francisco Bay Boats 'n Kids Team gave a basic boating safety presentation aboard CGC *Morgenthau*, at Coast Guard Island, Alameda, CA. In a one-hour presentation, children learned the importance of knowing how to swim and float, as well as how to help themselves, or someone else in distress while in the water. They tried on different types of life jackets and learned about the importance of creating a float plan. The program also included a tour of the 378-foot cutter and an AIRSTA SF helo rescue demonstration.

District Eleven, Southern Region

1. Auxiliary surface facilities in San Diego are doing Aircraft Under Fire exercises with the H60. The facilities are the target boats that the helo targets. Blanks are used from the helo and the Auxiliary boats fire back with toy guns clearly marked with orange/plugs barrels and have completed four dusk exercises.

2. Division 10 participated in the Association of the U. S. Army Career Day/JRROTC Luncheon held at Luke Air Force Base by sponsoring a table and having several members attend the luncheon. This event was initiated by RADM Rick Cueroni, USCG, former Superintendent of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, to attract young men and women to a career in the military. Students representing the various junior ROTC units and similar organizations in the Phoenix area were invited.

3. Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach Investigations divisions, Sector San Diego Investigations divisions, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary have teamed up to initiate the Auxiliary Underwater Dive Investigation Team (AUDIT). The Coast Guard is responsible for investigating commercial diving accidents and recreational diving accidents from commercial passenger vessels, however many of the Coast Guard active duty investigating officers do not have practical diving experience to make knowledgeable determinations. To bridge the gap, Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach solicited the assistance of approximately 20 Auxiliarists, many of who have Master Diver and Dive Instructor certifications and have collectively approximately 300 years scuba diving experience.

4. Sector LA-LB and the Auxiliary held its first coordination meeting with 15 Auxiliarists in attendance. Since August 2007, the AUDIT has assisted with four diving accident investigations by co-interviewing the witnesses, examining the divers' equipment and dive computer data, and helping formulate conclusions of the causal factors. Auxiliarist Dennis Burdo attended a District 11 workshop that consisted of Coast Guard and industry personnel to advise the District 11 Commander, RADM Bone, to gain an understanding of the issues relative to a recent rash of diving accidents.

Other goals of AUDIT are to conduct analysis of diving accidents in Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach and Sector San Diego's area of responsibility to identify trends and develop action plans to prevent reoccurrence these incidents in the future. AUDIT is also well connected with the diving community and plans capitalize on those connections by conducting outreach to the dive shops and dive vessels to explain best practices of diving safety. Even though AUDIT is new, it is proving to be an invaluable resource to promote maritime safety. It is stressed that AUDIT does not dive, but provides technical assistance as a tool that can be accepted or not by the Coast Guard investigator.

DISTRICT 13

1. Division 6 (Oregon) members from flotillas 62 and 64 participated in a mobilization exercise (MOBEX) conducted at Group Astoria. The event was a three-day exercise to test the mobilization readiness of the Coast Guard Reserve. Both Group Astoria and Coast Guard Reserve leadership praised the Auxiliary for their professionalism and willingness to serve.

2. Flotilla 54 created a new program with CG Station Yaquina Bay – Sponsor Family Program. This initiative provides an avenue for active duty members to have increased interaction with the community as well as access to mentoring and friendship with Auxiliarists and their families. The volunteer program is in full swing with 14 members of the station sponsored by 11 members from the flotilla.

DISTRICT 14

1. Auxiliarists and active duty personnel were invited to and attended a dinner at Fort Shafter honoring the Coast Guard veterans who served in the Pacific in World War II. The guests heard comments by Admiral Thad Allen and District Commander Rear Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara. Among those attending was Signalman First Class Douglas Monro's sister and the Commandant's father, also a WW II Coast Guard veteran.

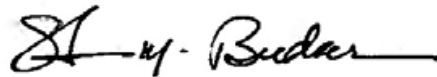
The following day, a permanent memorial to the Coast Guard Pacific veterans was unveiled at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, HI. Numerous dignitaries including Governor Linda Lingle, Senator Daniel Akaka, Admiral Allen, and Rear Admiral Brice-O'Hara attended the dedication. The Marine Forces Pacific Band and the USCG Honor Guard participated. Jim Nabors sang the National Anthem and TAPS was sounded by an Auxiliarist from District 5. Participants from various organizations presented wreaths and paid their respect for the sacrifices made by the men and women of the Coast Guard family over the many years here in the Pacific. Numerous District 14 Auxiliarists were also present.

2. Flotilla 3-15 on Kauai provided two Auxiliary facilities to support the standardization evaluation conducted on Station Kauai. The Auxiliary surface facilities were used as simulated distress vessels and played various roles as requested. The station passed with flying colors.

District 17

1. During the months of January to 01 April, Air station Kodiak forward deployed a helicopter and crew to Loran Station St Paul to be in position to more effectively perform emergency response during the very dangerous crab fishing season in the Bering Sea. LORSTA St Paul is hosting the helo unit. This year the LORSTA unit commander asked for Auxiliary volunteers to come work two week shifts to ease some of the load at the Station. The Auxiliarists will do public affairs work, help out in the galley and, last but not least, by help shovel snow after a storm. In all five Auxiliarists volunteered to cover the period. This is another great example of Auxiliary support for the Coast Guard.
2. Sector Anchorage and the Auxiliary Sector Coordinator are setting up monthly conference calls that include flotilla commanders, providing communication in both directions.
3. The district's Arctic Outreach Group is moving forward in its planning to teach boating safety in rural areas.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Budar
National Commodore