



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



# REPORT TO THE COMMANDANT

Items of interest reported monthly by District Commodores

January 2007

## ATLANTIC EAST

### **District 1, Northern Region**

1. In Sector Northern New England, nine members representing Division 2 and the entire Documentation & Resource Units, contributed over 130 hours in support of Command Post Exercise Frontier Sentinel 08. They assisted the Situation Unit in the Planning Section of the General Staff of the Incident Commander.

An Auxiliary team assisted 7 Dec. setting up the command post at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. On 13 December, the team assisted in restoring the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services venue. On 11-12 December, the nine members mentioned above had duties in the Planning Section.

Agencies involved in the exercise included: representatives from New Hampshire Environmental Management Agency, US Customs and Border Patrol, FBI, US Navy 2nd Fleet, USCG Sector Northern New England and USCG LANTAREA.

2. In Sector Southeastern New England, on 15 December, 12 Auxiliarists from Divisions 11 and 6 assisted the chiefs from Air Station Cape Cod with the Annual "Breakfast with Santa." Members assisted setting up the hangar with decorations, provided the cooks with griddles and provided an Auxiliary Chef to cook pancakes needed to feed over 375 people. Santa, also an Auxiliarist, was flown in to an eager crowd and was on duty for quite some time – the line to speak with him wound through the hangar.

### **District 1, Southern Region**

1. The New York National Boat Show opened on 29 December and ran through 5 January 2008. First Southern provided a display booth and distributed boating safety and marine safety materials. In addition, *Coastie* was on hand and entertained the crowds. At the show, the National Marine Manufacturers Association and Allstate Insurance donated 40,000 free lifejackets to children. Rear Admiral David Pecoske was present on 29 December and provided several television interviews in support of boating safety and environmental protection during the visit. Finally, America's *Boating Course* was offered by the local division.

2. Members of Division 15 and 20 provided watchstander support to the Aids to Navigation Team at Saugerties, New York the entire AToN team needed to be underway to remove the summer buoys on the Hudson River. Auxiliary watchstanders maintain a presence at the station while the crew was gone during a two-week evolution.

### **District 5, Northern Region**

1. Recruiting Office Harrisburg identified 10 Auxiliary members willing to be trained as outreach members for the recruiting office their training took place in January. These members will help steer potential Coast Guard recruits to the Harrisburg office.

2. Division 12 has been conducting TCT training sessions for Sector Baltimore at Station Annapolis. This valuable training for CG personnel relieves Sector Baltimore from having to provide active duty personnel to conduct the training.

3. An Auxiliary member in Sector Delaware Bay attended a week long Contingency Preparedness Planner Senior Course at TRACEN Yorktown along with four members of the Contingency Planning and Force Readiness Department, from the Sector. By providing stable volunteer help for years to come, the Auxiliarist is another valuable member that will help the planning department in its day-to-day tasks.

### **District 5, Southern Region**

1. Fifty members from throughout the district attended the Coast Guard Association's tribute to the Auxiliary in Washington, DC on 15 December. The event was very successful and all members left feeling that their work was important and appreciated. The evening highlight for all was having the chance to meet, shake hands, and have pictures taken with the Commandant.

2. The Commanding Officer of CAMSLANT passed thanks to D5SR personnel for maintaining the AUXMON Program (Auxiliary Monitoring Program). This is a cadre of Auxiliary communications stations that provide monitoring and quality control services for the voice, weather fax, and NAVTEX broadcasts from the CAMSLANT stations in Virginia, Miami, Boston, Georgia, and New Orleans.

3. A member from Division 12, Eastern Shores, performed duties as a Spanish interrupter during the recent SARSAT Conference, in Washington, DC.

### **District 7**

1. In the eastern area, Station Ft Lauderdale continues to receive strong support from the Division 3 flotillas. On 15 December, the division provided five facilities for regatta patrols during the Winterfest Boat Parade.

2. At another event, five vessel facilities were provided for the Pompano Beach Boat Parade. An additional three facilities participated in the parade and a 41' UTB from Station Ft Lauderdale led the parade. Flotilla 34 and Station Ft Lauderdale entered floats in the "Yuletide on the Atlantic Parade" where recruiting and safe boating materials were distributed by active duty Coast Guard and Flotilla 34 members to several thousand spectators.
3. Flotilla 38 again provided a Christmas tree for the Station Ft Lauderdale Galley. This was the fifth year Flotilla 38 provided a tree, decorations and lighting to the station. On a different note, the flotilla provided front gate watch standers at Station Ft Lauderdale from 0730 to 1600 throughout the week until the entry gate was repaired.
4. Flotilla 54 supported USCG Station Lake Worth by providing four facilities for the Lake Worth area Christmas Boat Parade. For the second year in a row, Flotilla 58 collected funds from its members to provide gifts to families of active duty members at Station Fort Pierce. The flotilla raised \$600 to help make a better holiday for the families.
5. Division 5 distributed free life jackets with whistles to children during the Ft Pierce Holiday Parade. Members sized life jackets to fit and children receiving the jackets were very excited to have their very own life jacket.
6. Flotilla 59 supported the Martin County Christmas Boat Parade by providing three vessel facilities and a radio watch stander. The flotilla also supported the Stuart Toyota Fireworks display with three vessel facilities and a radio watch stander.
7. During December, 11 members from Division 6 performed 400 hours of Hawkeye watch standing at the Sector Miami Command Center. All watches were performed between 0600 and 1800 and cumulatively amounted to 54 percent of the monthly requirement for Hawkeye watch standing at Sector Miami.
8. Members of Division 6 also collected clothing items, toiletries, canned foods, candies, cosmetics and other items for distribution to service men and women serving in Iraq. With goods received, they assembled a total of 15 packages.
9. On 20 December, while on a routine safety patrol, an Auxiliary Aircraft *Saber Three* heard a call reporting a burning boat in the vicinity of Duck Key Channel. After advising Sector Key West the aircraft proceeded to the scene where smoke from the burning vessel could be seen for many miles. Upon arrival it was determined that the stricken vessel was a 24 foot outboard and two persons were observed standing in shallow water at a safe distance from the boat. *Saber Three* advised the Sector of its observations and remained on scene until USCG Talon 01 from Station Marathon arrived.
10. During the month, operational facilities from Division 16 flotillas conducted three search and rescue cases. On 9 December a vessel facility from Flotilla 16-1 recovered a grounded 41 foot sailboat that had broken loose from its mooring. In another SAR case an operational facility from Flotilla 16-2 was called out on 14 December to investigate Emergency Position

Indicating Beacon activation at Cabrita Point in St Thomas. Again, on 17 December, a facility from 16-2 was called upon to assist a 67' vessel that had struck a reef and was taking on water. Aside from SAR cases, on 22 December Flotilla 16-1 participated in the annual Holiday Boat Parade in Christiansted Harbor.

11. From the Western area, Division 8 is cooperating with Division 7 to provide Marine Observation Mission patrols at the Skyway Bridge and Port Manatee in Tampa Bay. The joint operation provides an average of 11 patrols a month and is supported by seven Auxiliary facilities, two of which participate weekly in the patrols. Marine Observation Missions help educate the public about the security zones established at the Skyway Bridge and Port Manatee. Signs posted in the vicinity of these zones advise boaters that violate the security zone they are subject to fines of up to \$32,500 and imprisonment for up to six years. The coxswains on these Marine Observation patrols must provide Station Cortez a written report following each mission.

12. Division 8 provided six surface facilities and crew-members from five flotillas to cover Station Cortez's area of responsibility on 15 December while the station's crew attended a holiday gathering. During that time, Auxiliary vessel *Big Cler* was directed to assist a 37 foot sailing vessel in distress. The vessel was hard aground in three to five foot seas and the Auxiliary facility was not able to get close to her. However a Sea Tow vessel was able to get a line to the stricken vessel and pull it off the bar. Sea Tow towed the vessel to a nearby marina, with *Big Cler* providing an escort.

13. Members from Division 9 raised funds in memory of a departed Flotilla 93 member in order to provide a holiday gift to more than 30 children of active duty members at Station Fort Myers Beach. At a 16 December party for station personnel and their family members, Flotilla 95 members presented a wrapped gift to each child. A gift certificate was given to each adult and a check for \$400 was presented to the station for the Crew's Health and Welfare Fund.

14. On 15 December Division 9 held a successful orientation and planning meeting for incoming flotilla commanders and division staff officers. Emphasis was given to the requirements of the elected and staff positions and the importance of monthly reports was stressed. The district plan, 2008 through 2011, was reviewed and flotilla commanders and division staff were advised to provide their 2008 objectives to the division.

15. Division 9 members are coordinating the appearance of *Coastie* at West Florida boat shows and civic affairs. *Coastie* was recently refurbished and is a big hit with children and adults at public events.

16. Since the first of the year, nearly 80 new members have been recruited in Division 9, with Flotillas 98 and 96 leading the way. Flotilla 91 is providing instructional and interpreter assistance in support of Operation Enduring Friendship, a U.S. State Department funded initiative to train members of Caribbean Naval forces in skills and tactics needed to combat drug and human smuggling. Classes for program participants are held at USCG Station Fort Myers Beach, where members of Flotilla 91 are instructing participants in Team Coordination

Training, Charting, Piloting, Navigation, Aids to Navigation, and the use of GPS and Radar. Flotilla 91 members also translated their classroom Power Point presentations and work-books into Spanish. To date these Flotilla 91 members have provided instruction for three groups of sailors from naval forces in the Dominican Republic, Panama, Jamaica and the Bahamas.

17. During December, Division Eleven provided two boats to Station San Key on Tuesdays for training and check rides. The division has five Operational Excellence weekends planned for 2008, and three division members are training at Station Sand Key to qualify as crew for the station's 25' and 47' boats. Another Division 11 member is training to be a Communications Watchstander for the station's Rescue 21 equipment.

18. In the Northern area, Flotilla 22 participated in several public affairs events during the month, including the Acworth, Georgia Holiday Parade, where the Flotilla 22 float took second place. The flotilla also took part in the annual "Shop with a Hero" program and donated a gift card to needy children.

19. Division Two also finished its preparation for a Safety Booth at the Atlanta Boat Show. The District Seven mobile display with a PWC simulator will support the division's presence at the Atlanta show. The Division 2 booth will be adjacent to the district trailer and at the entrance to the show, giving both displays heavy exposure to everyone entering or leaving the show.

20. Flotilla 28 members volunteered more than five days in support duty at Station Tybee Island and provided training station on CPR, First Aid, and the use of the AED.

21. Division 4 members are active in Coast Guard support. One member works as a Coast Guard Recruiter at Station Ponce. Another volunteers as a Communications Watchstander one day each week at Station Canaveral. Two members work regularly with the Port Canaveral MSD detachment and another assists Station Canaveral with processing mariner licenses. Two members are teaching ICS courses to Coast Guard and Auxiliary members.

22. Members from Flotilla 44 assisted a vessel adrift in the Intercoastal Waterway. The vessel had broken loose from its mooring and was drifting toward a number of moored boats. The crew secured the drifting vessel and saved the nearby vessels from almost certain damage.

23. Auxiliary operational facilities from Division 10 are providing regular Marine Safety patrols. During December, Flotillas 10-2 and 10-11 established a safety zone for boat races on the Savannah River and conducted special patrols. In addition, two facilities established a safety zone for the Parade of Lights held on the Savannah River.

24. The Division 12 roster at the end of December reflects a 16 percent growth in membership. At least 35 new members were added and additional enrollment packages were submitted in late December. The division also had a healthy increase in the number of Public Education offerings.

25. As an expression of thanks for assistance provided the Coast Guard while responding to the sinking of a yacht in Winyah Bay, Flotilla 12-10 was asked to represent the Coast Guard Reserve in the Georgetown Christmas Parade. Flotillas 12-6 and 12-8 are supporting Sector Charleston by providing rotating weekend safety patrols.

26. Flotilla 14-7 has prepared the first automated member calling-tree program in the division. The new automated calling tree will contact all of the flotilla members in the event of an emergency. Other flotillas from Division 14 will soon begin assisting the Sector with helicopter training operations.

## **ATLANTIC WEST**

### **Eighth District, Eastern Region**

1. December 2007 was the second year that Flotilla 8-11 gave Christmas stockings filled with gifts to the children of Coast Guard officers and enlisted at MSU Paducah. On the big day all was loaded into the sleigh for delivery and with two members acting as elves.

2. The efforts of members and others representing Flotilla 87 were very much appreciated by the thousands of children and families lining the two-mile parade route on 1 December in Cadiz, KY. Santa's elves stationed with Flotilla 87 gave away 1,000 CG activity books and over 2,000 pieces of candy to the children. The flotilla received third place recognition out of over 100 entries in the parade.

3. Division 5 and Division 6 participated as a critical component of Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Cincinnati in a Maritime Observation Mission. The mission objective was to observe local area targets of interest in response to the increased vigilance of DHS and the USCG following the anniversary of the 9/11/01 terror attacks. Members of both divisions participated in surface and air operations, provided necessary logistic and operational support and provided much needed personnel for MSD Cincinnati. Active duty and reserve Coast Guard members along with more than 25 Auxiliary members patrolled more than 100 miles of the Ohio River. During the operation the use of the AUXCOM, co-located with the Operations Office at the MSD, proved very effective for the passing of information.

4. As the 2007 boating season came to an end, Division 24 supported the 10th Annual Hobb's Island Rowing Regatta on the Tennessee River near Huntsville, AL. Rowing teams from Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida and Alabama participated in the regatta.

5. The last patrol for 2007 in the Division 16 area took place on 23 November for the Grand Illumination in downtown Chattanooga, TN. Auxiliary facilities and a SAFE boat provided by MSD Nashville conducted a patrol that lasted about six cold hours. Observers both ashore and afloat were treated to a magnificent fireworks display to conclude the festivities.

## **Eighth District, Coastal Region**

Division 5 (North Central Texas) participated in the Armed Forces Bowl Adventure in Dallas. All five services had large displays in the parking lot the day before and the day of the Armed Forces Bowl game. The CG booth, staffed by a team of 11, included a 25-foot safe boat, and a tent that featured displays, handouts and *Coastie*. Plans are already underway to expand the display in 2008.

## **Eighth District, Western Rivers**

1. With the establishment of four offices, the project to set up support to Regional Examination Centers in the Sector Upper Mississippi AOR was completed in November 2007. Twenty-three Auxiliarists were initially accepted for the project. Except for six direct support personnel, the volunteers were divided into two person teams with one DCGO per team as team leader. The team concept has been very successful for the operation of these RCAOs and appears to be optimal for operations and training of newly assigned members.
2. Local support for the January NTRAIN (National Training Conference) in St. Louis complete all tasks received to date in December. All requirements identified were provided to ISC & ESU. Procurement are being handled on contracts and computer/printer requirements are being provided by ESU.

## **Ninth District, Eastern Region**

1. New boat crew training programs designed and developed by the OTO and the DSO-OP will be rolled out starting in May. Divisions will participate in the programs that have the following 9ER specific names: IBOT [Inter-divisional boat operations training] and DBOT [divisional boat operations training]. The purpose of this training is to facilitate and promote standardized boat handling and operations throughout 9ER. There are six core modules that each consist of classroom and practical underway exercises. The six core modules are: boat handling, towing, alongside towing, PIW/ man over board, search patterns and piloting/navigation. The intent is to take the members' crew and coxswains skills beyond the basics required by the boat crew program.
2. The DSO-OP and OTO initiated new pilot programs to train and qualify mentors in the Boat Crew Qualification Program. The program is intended to standardize how mentors train/prepare members new to the boat crew program. The training will improve mentors' understanding and responsibilities of their duties and how they are to follow protocols set forth in the Boat Crew training manuals.
3. The region participated in the development and implementation of a new ID card process system that eliminated the need for special ID card teams. The ownership for picture taking and completion of the process was given to local leadership, the flotilla commanders and division captains. A data base for photo storage was developed that will allow for re-issuance

of ID cards that are lost, stolen, or worn without having to go through the photo process again. This new process covers all three Auxiliary regions in the Ninth Coast Guard District.

### **Ninth District, Central Region**

1. The district's member training team is working on the agenda for our *FC Boot Camp*, which will be held 16-17 February. The program is geared towards first-year flotilla commanders and vice commanders with no previous FC experience. The training is a hands-on, down-and-dirty, "*This is what it takes to be a Flotilla Commander*" course. Due to budgetary constraints, it will be limited to the first 30 students who sign up to attend.
2. District 9CR created a clearing-house for new member packets, which will be routed through the DSO-PS. The DSO-PS will review packets for relevance and completeness.
3. Public Affairs is working on securing the placement of Auxiliary brochures in all Michigan Travel and Information Centers throughout the state.
4. Division staff advised that there will be NSBW proclamation signed by the Governor and by both the House and Senate. In addition, they will work on finding officials who can help with local proclamations.
5. A pilot project, as part of America's Waterways Watch, called "*Citizens Action Network*" will be implemented in the spring. As Ninth Central has an extensive amount of waterways bordering Canada, this program will enlist the assistance of residents who live on navigable waterways to report on requested activities to the CG.
6. Three members of 9CR attended Harbor Safety training with CG Reservists at Sector Detroit.

## **PACIFIC AREA**

### **Eleventh District, Northern Region**

1. An 11NR member taught HAZWOPER (**H**azardous **W**aste **O**perations and **E**mergency **R**esponse) to active duty personnel at AIRSTA San Francisco in December.
2. A member fluent in Russian was invited by the USCG to assist the *CGC Boutwell* in Japan recently. The US, Canada, Russia, Japan, South Korea and China agreed to share resources and information in an effort to rid national and international waters of drift nets. As part of these efforts, six Chinese drift netters were boarded and escorted to authorities for prosecution. The appropriate interpreters facilitated ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communications and served as members of the boarding parties. The patrol included port calls in Japan and

Petrapavlovsk, Kamchatka-Russia. Joint SAR exercises were held with both the Japanese Coast Guard and the Russian Border Guard. One of the highlights of the deployment was the joint SAR exercise with the Russian Border Guard Ship *Magadanetz*.

### **Eleventh District, Southern Region**

The Region participated in the 2007 pandemic flu tabletop exercise that fulfilled the annual requirement to test COOP. This exercise was designed to explain the federal requirements and expectations for the Los Angeles Area Federal Continuity of Operations (COOP). The exercise included discussions on planning, sharing of ideas and networking that will help increase COOP effectiveness. Auxiliary members assisted in setup and take down of presentations materials and equipment. In addition, members handled the technical side by setting up PowerPoint projectors, loading software and running presentations for the presenters.

### **Thirteenth District**

1. The Sector Seattle Sea Partners Program Manager met with People for Puget Sound and shellfish farmers to educate them on the Clean Water Act of 1977 and its provisions regarding non-discharge areas. Sea Partners also gave a presentation to the Skagit County Stream Team, who are interested in collaborating on marine environmental education. The Sea Partners team plans more such collaboration as a key to future growth.
2. Auxiliary members continued to support Sector Seattle units by averaging 14 days per month with Port State Control boarding teams, 10 shifts of Command Center watchstanding, five days of administrative assistance and 20 days on the planning staff. In addition, Auxiliarists responded to 10 pollution incidents.
3. Auxiliary facilities and crews served as SAR standby for seven days during military out loads in Puget Sound. Working in shifts, the Auxiliarists stood by 24x7 on their facilities and were ready for instant callout. This allowed active duty, law enforcement-qualified Coast Guard to focus on security for the operation and ensured that they would not be diverted for SAR missions.
4. Thirty District 13 Auxiliary members will be receiving the new RBS Device, representing almost 60 percent of the Pacific Area total. The award takes two years to earn and requires 120 hours, in specified missions, for two years in a row to total 240 hours of service.
5. Flotilla 33 (Tacoma) continues to be active in aviation by providing pilots and crew to fly planes and helicopters on familiarization flights, Homeland Security missions, and transportation of passengers around the district. The flotilla has averages two to three flights per week and completed training of 15 flight observers from the Portland area. At the recent “fly-in” at Port Angeles Air Station, about 20 of the 45 members attending were from Flotilla 33.

6. In early December, due to a strong storm that hit the NW Oregon and SW Washington areas, Division 6 moved a planned emergency test up by one week and upgraded it to a live check. All flotillas responded within two hours of notification. The coastal area was hit the hardest and was unable to be reached by any phone service. Flotilla 61, 62, and 64 had members do physical checks on other members and render assistance. No injuries were reported but property damage was extensive in the area. Most of the damage to Auxiliary and active duty properties affected roofs and trees. Flotilla 64 staff reported to Group Astoria and assisted in any manner they could. Valley flotillas continued to report as the storm moved through but no additional response was necessary,

#### **District 14**

1. On 1 December, Division One participated in the Kaneohe (Oahu) Christmas Parade, which spanned about 1.7 miles along Kamehameha Hwy. The parade consisted of a moving display involving a UTL being towed by the Coast Guard truck with crewmembers stationed atop the UTL. Other uniformed members acted as ambassadors, walking along both sides of the display while passing out safe boating and safety materials.

2. Following a holiday season tradition, sailboats and cruisers decorate their boats and parade from the Ala Wai Harbor in Oahu out to Honolulu Harbor and back to the Ala Wai. Numerous boats participated in the parade on 15 December and the Auxiliary was tasked by Sector Honolulu to provide a Safety / Maritime Observation Mission (MOM) for the event. One of the Oahu based 23 ft SAFE boats (UTL 756) participated in the event.

3. On 21 December the District Commander hosted the Flotilla 18 and Flotilla 23 Christmas party at the Diamond Head Lighthouse, the Admiral's residence. The party was held at sunset, and over 85 Auxiliary, active duty, reserve and civilian members of the Coast Guard were treated to a beautiful sunset from the famous landmark.

4. As is their practice, members of Flotilla 15, Division 3, Kauai, provided holiday meals and entertainment to the duty crews of the USCGC *Kittiwake* and USCG Station Kauai on both Christmas and New Years days. On Christmas day, the meal was shared with Auxie Santa who took off from his return to the North Pole to pay a visit.

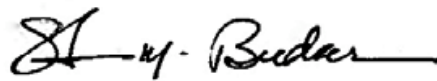
5. On 30 December, Auxiliary UTL 756 gave operational training support to the crew of C-130 1702 from Air Station Barber's Point by participating in an airdrop exercise off of Ko'Oolina on the western shore of Oahu. Several drops were made and materials recovered by the Auxiliary crew. This training will be followed by a series of STAN team exercises in late January and the Auxiliary will participate.

6. Auxiliary members arranged a Sugar Bowl Party at the ISC Sand Island Club 14 on New Years Day. Many Auxiliary and active duty personnel attended.

## District 17

Auxiliary members are developing methods to carry RBS missions to the Native People. The District 17 Outreach Committee, with the support of the D-17 CG RBS office and the State of Alaska Office of Boating Safety, are identifying villages and persons to contact. They hope to receive an invitation to come and introduce the concepts of boating safety. It is expected that the safety training will be better received if presented by Native instructors, the goal is to eventually see villagers training their own people. This project began with the goal of supporting the Coast Guard in their expanding Arctic region missions but with the outside support, the program can extend the outreach throughout rural Alaska.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. M. Budar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven M. Budar  
National Commodore