

Quarterly briefing
To The Commandant

on the state of the

**United States
Coast Guard Auxiliary**



May 2008

Steven M Budar, National Commodore

This page left intentionally blank

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary	3
2. Projects and Critical Issues	4
3. Accomplishments and Initiatives	6
4. The Course Ahead	
Recreational Boating Safety Directorate.....	25
Operations Directorate	28
Member Services Directorate	32

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This quarterly brief presents two topics in the Projects and Critical Issues categories that either require added attention and emphasis or are tracking on course at this time. The first item Coast Guard Auxiliary modernization was discussed in the most recent flag conference. The second item addresses the longer term Auxiliary Information Systems requirements. Following the discussion of critical issues is a section on Accomplishments and Initiatives that draws items of interest from activities in experienced by field units. Finally, The Course Ahead outlines the directions and efforts of the National Staff Directorates. Following are over views of the two critical issues in this report.

- The Coast Guard Auxiliary modernization efforts that parallels the ongoing Coast Guard “transformation/modernization” restructuring continues on pace. The Districts/Regions largely agree with restructuring at the National and District levels to accomplish needed functional relationships with the emerging Coast Guard structure. Within Districts, at the Division and Flotilla levels, there will be challenges in some areas as local units are restructured to align with Sector Commands.
- The Auxiliary Information Technology Requirements Team (AITRT), has been working with CG-542 to develop CG funding sources to support the IT system advancement being developed to meet current and future Auxiliary requirements and CG needs relative to Auxiliary participation in CG missions. These requirements will be embodied in a new system to be called AUXINTEC. A Resource Proposal (RP) has been submitted for the 2010 budget cycle for both development and maintenance of the system, and an update will be added to the RP this fall for the 2011 budget.

2. PROJECTS AND CRITICAL ISSUES

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY MODERNIZATION

There are nine Coast Guard Districts, 35 Sectors and 16 Coast Guard Auxiliary Districts/Regions. In terms of alignment the challenges vary from one Auxiliary District/Region and one Sector (5NR/Delaware Bay) to one Auxiliary District and six sectors (D7/Charleston, Jacksonville, Miami, Key West, St Petersburg, San Juan). In some cases existing Auxiliary units fit neatly within Sector boundaries but in others Auxiliary units may straddle Sector boundaries. Beyond geographical boundaries, some Auxiliary units may benefit by consolidating weaker units or reassigning flotillas (the basic unit) within the division level. A few examples follow:

- **First District Northern Region and Sectors N. New England, Boston, S.E. New England**
Reorganization plans are being drawn up now to integrate units as per the models presented from National. Progress on the plan is now at the phase of soliciting feedback and proposals from the EXCOM, the board and staff. Reorganization is based on geography, unit size, participation, and member activity. Studying data is now underway.
- **First District Southern Region and Sectors Long Island, New York**
As we began to plan for the Modernization and Transformation, a meeting was held with EXCOM and division captains to roll out the plan and begin discussions. This was followed by a presentation to all attendees at the recent district conference. Following the General Session, a question and answer session was held with division captains, vice captains and EXCOM. This level of discussion appears to be helping build support and understanding for the impending changes.
- **Fifth District Northern Region and Sector Delaware Bay**
Our reorganization plan was put out to the membership during our Spring Conference. There is some resistance to the new staffing at the division level as there are no actual job descriptions for the new positions of Response, Prevention, and Logistics as it pertains to the division. I am in the process of writing a job description for these positions. Overall the 5th Northern is on track to complete the reorganization plan at the end of '08. We combined eight divisions in our district to give some of our struggling divisions' relief. The combining will allow weaker flotillas near each other to join together thus strengthen their numbers and give them the ability to come up with stronger elected leaders. The new 5th Northern will be comprised of 11 divisions with the combined units being given new numbers to prevent one unit from seeing itself as above another. We also changed our areas from three to two and gave them new designations (North and East) to suit our plans for the future.

- **Fifth District Southern Region and Sectors Baltimore, Hampton Roads, North Carolina**

We completed the vote by the District Board as to the number of divisions we are looking at combining and have decided to reduce the number from 20 to 15. This will have the largest impact on Sector Baltimore and especially around the District of Columbia and Baltimore areas. We have for years been our own worst competitors in these areas due to the number of division looking for PE students and VSC customers. This reduction from nine to five divisions will improve all aspects of the district business plan and improve interaction with the active duty throughout the district. We presented our plan at all three sector conferences this winter and have worked with the division captains on the final appearance of the combined divisions. The VCO and DCO are working on the final proposal that will be sent to National, as well, as to the District Commander for final approval. We plan to have the final combined division stand for elections in October and be ready to meet 2009 with the first phase of restructuring behind us. The staffing and flotilla restructuring will be completed by the deadline of December 2010.

- **Eleventh District Southern Region and Sectors Los Angeles-Long Beach, San Diego**

The proposed modernization has been presented to the members and largely accepted. This is partly because we tried to do it four years ago and know the pitfalls to avoid. To help solve division boundary problems, E maps are being prepared with division and flotilla meeting places shown. This will be given to the current DCPs who are urged to talk to each other and be pro-active this year. The leader-position name changes are also being largely accepted.

Modernization plans are well underway and will be presented by all Districts/Regions at NACON in August 2008.

AUXILIARY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS (AUXINTEC)

The current Auxiliary Data System (AUXDATA) has been the servicing information system for the Auxiliary since March 2002. This existing system was developed by the CG as a unit /resource based information system before it was given over to the Auxiliary and was never intended to be used as an individual based system, which is what the Auxiliary needs. This has resulted in an on-going history of system challenges, patchwork modifications, under-reporting of activities, lost productivity and added maintenance cost that has not been fully funded. This is a great source of member dissatisfaction.

The Auxiliary Information Technology Requirements Team (AITRT), has been working with CG-542 to develop CG funding sources to support the IT system advancement being developed to meet current and future Auxiliary requirements and CG needs relative to Auxiliary participation in CG missions. A Resource Proposal (RP) has been submitted

for the 2010 budget cycle for both development and maintenance of the system, and an update will be added to the RP this fall for the 2011 budget.

Our RP is currently a stand alone Auxiliary request for funds and has a slim chance of acceptance, as we are competing with CG operational needs. Our goal is to have this RP folded into a larger CG RP, as well as secure funding from other sources for start-up purposes. The RP process is necessary for securing both system development funds and recurring funds for yearly operation and maintenance.

An updated cost estimate will be included in the RP for FY11. It will include development funds, and more importantly, recurring funds for maintenance of the system. When AUXINTEC is built to fulfill the organizational requirements, the maintenance costs will be lower than that which was necessary for AUXDATA.

A stand-alone Auxiliary RP for less than \$2 million has a small chance of success. However, if that RP was rolled into a larger RP for either CG-5 or CG-6 budget, or the AC&I budget, it would increase the likelihood of success. The RP process is needed to ensure the required recurring funds for maintenance.

It is important to note that AUXINTEC is not scalable. The system must be a complete package that provides easy, intuitive and comprehensive information management capability for a large workforce of volunteers who work out of their homes and not a CG office.

3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INITIATIVES

ATLANTIC EAST AREA

The five districts of the Atlantic East Area have made good progress in achieving its strategic goals this first quarter. RBS missions and member training continue to be an action item with all the districts. In addition to the RBS missions, the First Northern and Southern Region Districts are in support of promoting Operation Paddle Smart. The modernization plan is well underway and will be implemented by all districts as of 1 January 09. The ASC appointments are in place throughout the districts and are highly successful in achieving support to the Coast Guard stations and sectors. Mission balance continues to be an action item and all five of the Atlantic area districts have had their conferences, recruiting and retention continue to be also an action items and all are recruiting at a rate that exceeds the loss of membership due to disenrollment and death. Membership total as of 1 April 08 is 15, 948 members, an increase of 1,010 over the 1 January 08.

First District Northern Region

Leadership initiatives continue on track with a Flotilla Commander's Academy Weekend followed up by a Flotilla Commander's Seminar at the Spring Training Conference. DINR has participated in the Train the Trainer SCE by initially sending five candidates last year and additionally, six more have submitted STTRs for upcoming training.

D1NR is aggressively pursuing the purchasing and installation of 10 radios and five repeaters within the state of MA to augment and supplement CG communications. Radios have been purchased, repeaters are in process. Both VHF and HF nets are being supported now and participation will increase to a greater extent in the near future.

Reorganization plans are being drawn up now to integrate units as per the models presented from National. Duplication of services has drained productivity, yet participation in programs can be complimentary and mutually beneficial. Progress on the plan is now at the phase of soliciting feedback and proposals from the EXCOM and the board and staff. Reorganization is based on geography, unit size, participation, and member activity. Studying data is now underway.

Paddle sport deaths have been increasing in the Northeast. As a result, the First Coast Guard District Recreational Boating Safety Department is working with representatives of D1NR, D1SR and the Power Squadron, on a joint initiative to saturate five points of contact for paddlers with safety information. Some 20,000 packets of information will be assembled in D1NR to be disseminated to flotillas in D1NR and D1SR and to the Power Squadron for the campaign beginning in May and lasting through June.

National Safe Boating Week and Recreational Boating Safety have been first and foremost in the planning in all divisions in the district. The year began with the RBS Fender Contest and has continued with each division, working with their flotillas, in developing a multi-tiered interdisciplinary approach to NSBW. The activities begin before NSBW, continue through the week, and in many divisions continue on through June, July, and August providing maximum visibility.

Public Education class attendance is on the rise with pending mandatory boating education in some states. Until a week ago, Maine's Mandatory Boater Education Proposal still had not been decided. Unfortunately, it was defeated. New Hampshire does, however, have mandatory boater education and that has definitely had an impact on public education classes.

Member training for safety in mission execution and in getting more Auxiliarists qualified in RBS, PE, VE, and PV missions is ahead of last year. The two training conferences showcase required annual training, requalification training, and initial qualification training opportunities. Off site training towards qualification is also an option to members in multiple locations throughout the district.

First District Southern Region

Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) continues to be a major focus. Workshops were conducted in all RBS program areas at the recent District Conference and all sessions were well attended. Initial performance numbers for 2008 look promising. Two major initiatives are worthy of additional note.

The First District is promoting Operation PaddleSmart. This initiative will take place during the months of May and June and will have all partners (Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Power Squadron and all state Boating Law Administrators) focusing their RBS outreach to paddlers. Unfortunately, the fatality rate among manually propelled vessels has exceeded the fatality rate on power-driven vessels for the last two years in the First District. The hope is to raise awareness of the problem among paddlers.

The second initiative is an incentive program for vessel examiners (VE). VEs who conduct 12 vessel safety checks (VSCs) will receive a flashlight, VEs who conduct 24 will receive a clipboard/case, and VEs who conduct 40 or more VSCs will receive either a briefcase or duffel bag. First Southern has allocated \$4,000 to support this effort.

Leadership and communications is also a continuing area of attention. As we began to plan for the Modernization and Transformation, a meeting was held with EXCOM and division captains to roll out the plan and begin discussions. This was followed by a presentation to all attendees at the recent district conference. Following the general session, a question and answer session was held with division captains, vice captains and EXCOM. This level of discussion appears to be helping build support and understanding for the impending changes.

Good progress is also being made in the area of Emergency Response Planning. Our AuxNet repeater system is up and running extremely well. We have two additional repeaters to install to complete the system implementation. Locations for these two sites have finalized and the equipment has been procured. Final installation should occur in the next quarter.

A district-wide tabletop emergency response drill will be held on April 26th and will be followed by another full-scale drill in August.

First Southern is fortunate to have one of its members qualified as an ICS 210 Instructor and a second Auxiliarist nearing full qualification. As a result, two ICS 210 classes were held at the district conference.

Meetings have been held with the New York State Office of Emergency Management (OEM). This meeting has led to developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between New York State OEM and the Coast Guard/Coast Guard Auxiliary. This effort has been strongly encouraged and supported by the District Commander. The MOU will include such items as: Coast Guard Auxiliary presence in the Emergency Operations Center during major events and incidents, Communications interoperability between New York State OEM and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Auxiliary support to New York State as needed during major events and incidents, and coordination with New York State Field Mobility Units for shared networking access.

The Auxiliary Firearms Coaching Unit (AFCU) in Sector Long Island Sound has been of increasing use and support to active-duty stations. An AFCU point-of-contact has been established at each station. AFCU members assist with preventative maintenance of

firearms along with off-range skill development for station personnel. AFCU members continue to provide coaching assistance on the firing range.

The Legal Assistance program has been established to provide legal support and assistance to active duty Coast Guard personnel. Auxiliary lawyers are available in all geographic areas and in all areas of law. The program has had strong support from CG First District Headquarters.

An In-port Watchstander program has been established with the Coast Guard Cutter *Wire*. Members of divisions 15 and 20 will provide support to the cutter's crew on an ongoing basis. The USCGC *Wire* is a 65' harbor tug based in Saugerties, New York on the Hudson River.

Watchstanding support has also been established with the Aids to Navigation Team at Saugerties. This support is especially helpful during the busy times in the fall and spring when river buoys need to be changed. This evolution requires the entire station's crew.

The commanding officer of Station Sandy Hook, in conjunction with Auxiliary leadership, has developed an Auxiliary Familiarization program. This voluntary program involves having all Auxiliary Operational Facilities (OPFAC) visit the station to have digital pictures taken which are then included in a log in the Communications Center along with each OPFAC's Offer of Use form. In addition, station personnel will complete a practice Electronic 4100 Boarding form. This provides an opportunity for boarding officers to learn to use the new technology and also become familiar with the capabilities and equipment of various OPFACs.

The Auxiliary Sector Coordinator (ASC) position has been fully implemented in both Sector Long Island Sound and Sector New York. In both locations, the position has been well received and appears to be providing excellent results. At Sector New York, an Auxiliary Human Resources Officer has also been appointed. This Auxiliarist works with Sector department chiefs to identify staffing needs and then works to find appropriate Auxiliarists to fill those needs. This individual also reports to the ASC.

Fifth District Northern Region

The year began fairly well for the 5th Northern. Our membership drives are working, and we are actually outpacing our losses due to deaths, retirements, and resignations. There are still some delays in the PSI process in terms of time to get a new member's security paperwork through the system. Over time, this should improve. Since members in AP status are now allowed to participate in training for qualifications, it has given us some breathing room while we wait for the Security Center to process a member's security package.

Our State Liaison for New Jersey has done a wonderful job in working with the New Jersey State Police to get our members on board to teach in that state. They are in the final stages of this process now and look to be on track to complete the process before the

July deadline. They have been very helpful and understanding during this whole process of getting Auxiliary members qualified under the new rules set forth by the legislature.

Our reorganization plan was put out to the membership during our Spring Conference. There is some resistance to the new staffing at the division level. One problem encountered is that there was no actual job description given for the new positions of Response, Prevention, and Logistics as it pertains to the Division. I am in the process of writing a job description for these positions, as I see them working for us.

Overall, the 5th Northern is on track to complete the reorganization plan at the end of '08. We combined eight divisions in our district to give some of our struggling divisions relief. The combining will allow weaker flotillas to be near each other to join, thus strengthen their numbers and give them the ability to come up with stronger elected leaders. The new 5th Northern will be comprised of 11 divisions with the combined units being given new numbers to prevent one unit from seeing itself as above another. We also changed our areas from three to two and gave them new designations (North and East) to suit our plans for the future.

While collecting facts for the reorganization plan, it was discovered that our flotillas suffer with a leadership problem. It was noted that on average about 10 percent of our flotilla members are eligible for elected office. Some flotillas have no one eligible for election, while the highest eligible for election was 25 percent, and that was only one flotilla. Also noted was that we are re-electing the same people over and over again and there are not many new members who meet the requirements to be elected.

Public education classes are being conducted throughout the district with mixed results. Some are having no problems getting a student to sign up for boating classes while others struggle no matter how they try to entice students to attend. A lot depends on how the State mandates boating education for its citizens. If they have mandatory education with a time line attached to it, the classes are flooded with students. If the state requires education but is not necessarily forcing the issue, getting students to attend becomes an area of interest. The closer to resort areas we are the better the class attendance, the further away from resorts, the more difficult it is to get a class started.

Fifth District Southern Region

The five imperatives of the Strategic Plan have been worked with all areas seeing results that are more than anticipated. The Coast Guard Support Missions are being filled throughout the district with support from HQ, MLC and all Sectors. New areas are being explored by the active duty and the Auxiliary.

Our leadership academies are in the process of being updated to include all new title changes as well as streamlining the training to enhance all levels of leadership. We are graduating approximately 100 members per year through our academy. We see vast improvement in the readiness of those taking leadership positions in both the flotilla and division levels.

Both houses of the Maryland Legislation has passed the Tax Reduction amendment reducing the time an Auxiliarist must be a member to received a \$3,500.00 tax credit for volunteering. A member will qualify for this reduction after three years of service. This will be a huge boost to recruiting and retention for Sector Baltimore. We are working on both the State of North Carolina and Virginia for like bills for the members there as well.

The restructure of the district has been agreed by the membership and we will be presenting to the National Board and to the District Commander. Our plan is to reduce the number of divisions to 15. This will be accomplished with the fall elections and will be implemented on January 1, 2009. We will take a hard look at the staffs, at all levels, and the flotillas as soon as this phase is complete.

The district had five strategic imperatives as part of our plan. I am proud that we have worked the five with determination and vigor and are extremely close to completing most of them.

The first was to provide support for all areas of the Auxiliary programs and those of the Coast Guard, to partner with the states and other organizations.

We are providing CG support in many directions from supplying personnel for special projects at HQ, Webmasters at HQ, all local units and Sectors.

The MLC project has taken off very well. This started in January and we have placed to date six doctors and nurses through several locations to assist in the medical field, one civil engineer at Integrated Support Center, Air Station Elizabeth City, two office and clerical assistances at the MLC Command in Norfolk. The help wanted ads on the district website are being answered quickly and so far we have had 100 percent capability to provide their needs.

The ASC position has been highly successful in all three sectors. The appointed personnel are providing the services hoped for and have become a dependable staffer for the Sector Commanders.

Maryland State Tax Reduction Bill has been approved by the Senate and the House and moved to the Governor for signature yesterday. This change in the law will give members of the State of Maryland a \$3,500 Tax Credit off the taxable income after three years of membership. The change is from five years to three years. Our sponsor for the same bill in North Carolina has written a law and it is on the docket for presentation this year. We do not know when. We have found a possible sponsor in Virginia and will be working with the SLO in getting for the members of Virginia as well.

The second Imperative was to appreciate and honor the contributions of all members. I have been able to establish a new awards committee consisting of three past DCO who have agreed to become involved. The process has been greatly improved and we are now processing awards in one to two weeks. These Commodores are not asking the division

captains to write the citation but to list the events as best possible and they are writing the citations. This is the biggest time saver.

The next imperative was to establish new leadership courses and staff courses to assist in the preparation to become flotilla, division or district leaders. We are now on the second year of the new Leadership Academy and all courses have been received well by the members of the district. The new staff officer course has had the largest enrollment. This course is not to teach them the program responsibilities but give suggestions as to how to motivate members to do the programs. This is the first step for leadership within the district. The FC Academy has been updated and we have had success in getting most of the newly elected FC and VFC to attend this course. The restructure of the district will also have a big impact on this course hopefully by stopping most of the retraining of older leaders back through and having more new blood in the leadership roles. The DCP Academy will also benefit for the same reasons as the FC Academy.

Expansion of the district website and use of internet for communications between leadership and the members has been slower due to slow learning curve of several programs.

The implemental of the 3N program has been slow due to other matters taking higher priority but we have started the process with Sector Hampton Roads being the first to go on line with this communication system. *(3N is a computer software suite providing the Auxiliary with real-time communication to our units and or individual members via voice, email and text messaging when immediate communications is required)* They were selected since the restructuring of the district has very little impact on them. The VCO has completed most of the input process and we are in the position of inviting members to join the network. We anticipate having the district up and running on the program by the end of this year.

Lastly, here is a look at restructuring of the district. We completed the vote by the District Board as to the number of divisions we are looking at combining and have decided to reduce the number from 20 to 15. This will have the largest impact on Sector Baltimore and especially around the District of Columbia and Baltimore areas. We have for years been our own worst competitors in these areas due to the number of Division looking for PE students and VSC customers. This reduction from nine to five divisions will improve all aspects of the Auxiliary business plans and also improve interaction with the active duty side throughout the district.

We presented our plan at all three sector conferences this winter and have worked with the division captains on the final appearance of the combined divisions.

Three flotillas are affected with these combinations of divisions. Two have brought in with the plan and will be changing divisions. In both cases the flotillas as well as the EXCOM agree that this change is better for the members and will increase their training and make them stronger. One flotilla has revolted and is causing problems with the future restructuring. I plan on being at their next flotilla meeting to work with them. I plan to ask the entire membership if their personal bias should outweigh the need to

complete mission support for the area and the Coast Guard. We will then decide how to precede with the plan we intent to offer for approval.

The VCO and DCO are working on the final proposal that we will be sending to National, as well, as to the District Commander for final approval. We plan to have the final combined division stand for elections in October and be ready to meet 2009 with the first phase of restructuring behind us. The staffing and flotilla restructuring will be completed by the deadline of December 2010.

Seventh District

During the first quarter of 2008, the district made solid progress with achieving its Strategic Goals. In recruiting and retention, our programs are yielding strong results as shown by a quarterly net gain of 209 new members. Although 262 new members were recruited in the quarter, deaths, resignations and transfers reduced that number. Active membership grew to 5222, a gain of four percent from year-end 2007. Many new members are younger than the average age of district membership, and the influx of younger members shows a response to our tactics for attracting younger members while retaining our long-serving members. The first Quarter 2008 growth in membership also helped to increase the number of qualifications in several important activities and to the benefit of many programs.

The district also made important progress with a strategic goal of achieving Joint Planning and Mission Development with active duty Coast Guard commands. Through a new Joint Operations Planning Process, known as Standard Operational Planning Process (SOPP) and with participation by district Auxiliary leaders, District Seven Coast Guard planners, and the Seventh CG District Chiefs of Prevention and Planning/Force Readiness, we developed a joint planning training agenda. Following development of that training agenda, a two-day conference was held March 13 and 14 in Atlanta. Participants at the conference included district Auxiliary captains, key Auxiliary leaders and staff, our ASCs, Coast Guard Planners from District Headquarters, the five Sector Headquarters and the Air Stations, and the Sector Auxiliary Liaison Officers. The desired outcome for both the active duty and Auxiliary was to learn the process together and to identify and create operational plans for using Auxiliary resources to fill gaps in each Sector's ability to complete mission assignments.

The result of the meeting was a set of action plans for Auxiliary support of 12 mission sets that included all of the six Sectors and the four Air Stations. Those action plans are being reviewed and consolidated by Coast Guard Planners and will be distributed to Sector and Air Station Commanders with supporting directives by the District Seven Chief of Staff.

We are also working to align AUXDATA reporting categories with those used to report Coast Guard missions. When completed, an AUXINFO report should then be available to include Auxiliary activity in the quarterly "Operational Performance Assessment Report" (OPAR) that Sector and District Commands submit to Coast Guard Headquarters. If we are successful, this will be the first time that Coast Guard field

Commands provide the Commandant with reports that include the Auxiliary's mission contributions.

Progress was also achieved with our strategic goal of enhancing organizational management. Auxiliary Air and Surface units are working more closely to strengthen their position as a force multiplier to Air Station activities; there is new editorial support that is enhancing *The Breeze*; and changes underway in the structure and content of the district website will strengthen its value in improving communication at all levels of the organization.

In regard to recreational boating safety poor weather, record low-water levels in many lakes in the northern part of the district, and soft economic conditions in some communities, combined to significantly impact results in member training, public education and vessel examinations. On a positive note however, the overall number of instructors grew by 115, or 15 percent, and there was a 27 percent increase in the number of vessel examiners, which grew by 149. Weather conditions and water levels have been improving however, and better results in RBS activities are expected in the coming months.

The first quarter of the year is historically a time when many communities conduct boat shows, air shows and boat parades. Once again, public affairs officers throughout the district have done superior work. Among the examples of this was the coordinated support provided by Division 12 members to a Coast Guard exhibit at the Bassmaster's Tournament, February 21-24, at the Greenville, South Carolina Expo Center. Over 20,000 people attended the four-day event. Division 1 public affairs provided outstanding support to the Puerto Rico International Boat Show, which was attended by over 8,000 people, and several flotillas from Division 9 supported the Charlotte County Florida Air Show, which was attended by nearly 30,000 people. The District BAT-PAK hands-on exhibit has been used at several of the larger shows within the district.

In the area of Aviation-Surface Activities, aviation workshops were held at two air stations and the remaining workshops are scheduled for April. Joint Auxiliary Air and surface unit support to Air Station helicopter and C-130 training continues to grow, and district aviation is recovering rapidly from the Time Between Overhaul (TBO) issues that severely affected operations a year ago.

Support by Division Six for the Coast Guard Hawkeye Program achieved an impressive 1105 hours of support during the quarter. Qualified Sensor Managers from Division Six provided uninterrupted daily monitoring support at the Sector Miami Command Center, making an important contribution in this program to help detect smuggling and alien migration activities.

ATLANTIC WEST AREA

Eighth District Eastern Region

The strength of the District improved 1.3 percent through first quarter 2008. However, there has been a significant loss of qualifications in all program areas except AUXAIR since the beginning of the year. We are very concerned about this decline in program participation and are taking measures through the chain of leadership and management to get members to reinstate their qualifications and to train new members to restore participation.

The AUXAIR program has exactly the same number of aircrew members and aircraft facilities as it had at the beginning of the year. Less than 0.8 percent of the district's membership participates in the AUXAIR program.

Core competencies in the Boat Crew program are down by 32.9 percent at the end of first quarter 2008. Both Coxswain and Crew competencies declined by more than 30 percent. Interest in the PWC program is waning in the district. Only five operators remain throughout the district, and four of those are in one division.

There are 19.4 percent less people qualified as Vessel Examiners and 10.3 percent less Program Visitors than at the beginning of the year. There is still a substantial number of members participating, however, as 29 percent of the members are qualified in these programs. This maintains a strong activity base for future recruiting efforts, as these programs have traditionally been the face of the Auxiliary that steers the public into boating classes and eventual membership in the organization.

We have noted a decrease of 5.6 percent in both Surface and Radio Facilities through first quarter. Some 17.6 percent of the membership has offered a boat for use, and 11.8 percent have offered radios.

Although the district suffered a loss of 8.4 percent of qualified instructors, mission effectiveness in Public Education and Member Training is still strong, as over 22 percent of the district members are currently qualified as instructors. This is also an important ingredient in recruiting efforts.

A recent disaster in the form of flooding in the district AOR gave an opportunity to test the new Auxiliary Sector Coordinator position in an emergency environment. The technique of having the ASC maintain liaison with the Incident Commander at Sector Ohio Valley and coordinate with the DCO and DSO-OP worked very well.

District units are finishing up the winter season of boat shows, public education classes and individual training, and are preparing for an active boating season. A great deal of coordination has already been made for regattas, fireworks and other marine events in all units. The bulk of these events will take place between 1 May and Labor Day.

Eighth District Coastal Region

Division 1 (Florida Panhandle) has been asked to continue support of the Florida State University Red Tide study by taking water samples at specific locations in the Gulf of

Mexico. This project has proven to be very useful to gaining an understanding of this harmful killer of marine life and blight upon the tourist industry.

Division 2 (New Mexico) has been working closely with the New Mexico State Parks officials and has been issued radios that will enable better communications with the various state agencies.

Division 3 (South Alabama and South Mississippi) continues to support the cleanup efforts along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The division enjoys a close working relationship with Sector Mobile personnel.

Division 4 (Southern Louisiana) has instituted a new procedure for conducting division meetings by going to various locations and combining the business portion of the meeting with a fourth cornerstone event such as a picnic. In the past meetings have been held at Sector headquarters and devoted entirely to business purposes. By branching out and bringing fellowship into the meetings, they expect to have a larger number of non-staff and command members attend. The process also lends itself to family participation.

Division 5 (North Central and Northwest Texas) is conducting public education classes. Especially noteworthy is the fact that Flotilla 57 conducted its first class in many years. Another is already on the books. A division-wide crew-training program has been completed and will turn attention to the coxswains soon. They are taking advantage of the slump in boating activities to get members up to speed for upcoming missions.

Division 6 (Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana) is also engaged in member training activities before the boating season begins in earnest.

Division 7 (South Central Texas) Flotilla 74 did 25 vessel safety checks as part of a fishing club's requirement for their member's vessels to be inspected prior to participating in the club's activities. The MEXUS Exercise will be a major play of the US and Mexican governments in responding to major oil spill off Port Isabel. The Coast Guard and Auxiliary will be major players in the exercise.

Division 8 (Central Alabama and Southwest Georgia) has supported college rowing events in the Tuscaloosa area and National Motor Boat races at Lake Seminole this year. The members working the races at Lake Seminole got a good workout in rescue and towing operations.

Division 10 (Northeast Texas) has been concentrating on member training with a goal of six newly trained crewmembers by June. Public education, other member training, and vessel safety checks have taken first priority. Classroom space is a problem and the division captain is working with the American Legion and VFW for the use of their facilities.

The AIMS Incident Management System (*also know as the 3N system as reported in the 5NR report*) has been tested twice down to the flotilla leadership level. This is a sophisticated

system to get set up but once done it seems to work very well. Some of the flotillas have checked out their notification system and gotten the bugs worked out. Next, we will check out the system all the way to the member level. The district is beta testing this initiative and so far it works great after the member's data is input into the system.

Eighth District Western Region

Division 5 flotillas are working to qualify several crew and coxswain. One flotilla has two new crewmembers and one coxswain. The division made good progress in gaining new members with 11 either in AP or in having passed the security check.

Division 5 members are busy supporting district officials by preparing for the District Search and Rescue competition to be held in Kimberling City, Missouri 9 and 10 May. Vessels for the competition are being volunteered, places for Coast Guard Aircraft to land and set up static displays are being arranged, hotel accommodations, food for the event and all the various supplies needed to run such a competition are being arranged.

Planning was undertaken for future Division 15 meetings and included arrangements for receipt of PPE equipment and the planned distribution. Planning is underway for a joint OPEX with Divisions 5 and 16, and planning for division reorganization.

Division 16 has indicators pointing toward a very busy boating season. The Port of Catoosa, which is the start of the 444-river mile McClellan-Kerr Navigation System (the Arkansas River), is reporting that in the first two months of 2008 they are operating at a record setting pace. The February inbound/outbound goods totaled 257,283 tons, the highest figure in the port's 37-year history. The previous best was 233,000 tons in 2003. The two-month totals are 10 percent higher than any previous top January-February cargo tonnage.

Division 30 BS & S classes are in progress in Kansas City. Preparations are underway for the Bass Pro Shop's FIT TO FLOAT campaign and their ECO FEST. The Bass Pro Shop in Independence, Missouri is the newest facility to open. A flotilla is participating in The Lake Area Water Council boating safety activities at The Lake Of the Ozarks.

Division 1 staffed the Denver Boat Show was held in January where attendance was approximately 50,000. Division 1 also staffed a boat show in Grand Junction in February. Members of Division 1 continue to staff the Denver R.E.C. twice a month.

Division 31 has been busy with boat shows; two in Wichita, one in Olathe, and one in Topeka. These shows give the Auxiliary the opportunity to answer any of the public's questions and the number one topic, which is Zebra Mussels! Several folks expressed interest in the Auxiliary, and contact information was exchanged. People also had the opportunity to sign up for classes.

Division 31 has a plan to increase the number of Program Visitors. One of their strategies to increase membership is to increase the PV activity. The division also developed a tri-fold brochure that contains frequently asked questions (FAQs), historical

information, contact information for PV, PE, establishing a speakers bureau, VSC and MS. These fliers are to be distributed to as many of our partners as possible.

Division 33 has been participating in several boat shows and has started teaching public education classes. Boat crew training has begun in most Flotillas. At the Bass Pro Shop in Council Bluffs on May 17 and 18, Division 33 will have a public affairs booth, activity booth for kids, and a state boating class. Lincoln will have a Safe Kids day at Cooper Park in April and on May 24 Memorial weekend at Branched Oak Lake. T-shirts will be given to children that have life jackets on.

Ninth District Western Region

The member training highlight was the February conference including FC Academy graduating 25 students, 15 hours-plus training and nine different training workshops. The increased training also increased the attendance with more members driving in for a day of training. More than 300 members attended the meeting.

PACIFIC AREA

During the first quarter of 2008, all five Auxiliary districts in the Pacific area held their awards event and/or change of watch banquets. Commanding officers of each district were in attendance along with their sector commanders and some of the sector staff to present Coast Guard Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medals, Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendations, and Certificates of Appreciation. Along with the award ceremonies, district staff officers presented training to the membership in workshops that were held during the five two to three day events. The material for these workshops was the most current information as the curriculum came from workshops held at the Auxiliary National Training Conference in late January.

Pacific area district search and rescue teams are actively preparing for their district team competitions being held in the Spring to see which team will earn the right to represent their district at the National Auxiliary Search and Rescue Competition (NSAR) being held during the first weekend of October 2008 at Cape May, New Jersey. Each district is allowed to send one team to this competition composed of three members, one of which must be a Coxswain.

The five district commodores are asking their unit leaders to prepare for National Safe Boating Week which is scheduled for late May. Suggested activities to send the boating safety message to the boating public include vessel safety check pushes at lakes and marinas, local newspaper items, radio spots, announcements at movie theaters, increased safety patrols and public affairs booths.

For the first time in a long time, all five PAC districts are in the green showing membership growth. PAC area Auxiliarists are doing a great job recruiting and retaining our members. We are up to 19.55 percent of the total National membership. We have 31.18 percent of the total National membership increase since January 2008. We only

short 990 members from January of 2004 totals when we began to lose members due to the security check program.

Eleventh District Northern Region

In March, 11NR had its 61st Annual District Training Conference and Awards Banquet at the Doubletree Hotel in Modesto, CA. Training received by several of our DSOs at NTRAIN was passed on to our members, along with other updates involving several of our district programs. In addition, dozens of awards were given out in recognition of our member's outstanding performances in 2007. Approx. 250 members and guests attended.

We are well on our way to planning for a productive year and meeting our goals for 2008. Although our Utah and Nevada flotillas are still limited by hard water, we all have been preparing for the opening of our boating season and National Safe Boating Week. Our California flotillas have already been on the water this year with some very significant missions.

USCG Cutter *Bertholf* will be commissioned in August at Coast Guard Island in Alameda, CA. Local Auxiliarists are actively involved in several events accompanying the actual commissioning ceremony.

FESTIVAL OF SAIL –SAN FRANCISCO 23-27 JUL is a tall ships event that will include the arrival of the USCG Cutter *Eagle* under the Golden Gate Bridge into SF Bay. More than 1,500 volunteers, including the 11NR Auxiliary, will be involved in this event.

A new ATON D11N web site is up and running on our District 11NR web site. Two ATON classes were held at the Past Captains Training Fair in February.

11NR AUX AIR Squadron assisted in a search for a missing sailboat and one crew member of the missing boat. On 18 MAR, within five minutes of a phone call AUX AIR had three airplanes and crews being organized and responding to this request from Sector San Francisco and AIRSTA San Francisco.

For communications, one of the ideas that we are working on is to get more participation in the H/F program, so that three regions would be covered in the event that VHF style communications were compromised in an emergency. The plan is to have an H/F station in the Morro Bay area, Crescent City area and in Utah or Nevada.

The ARMS (Auxiliary Resource Management System) is an interactive web site that is coordinated by the DSO-CM and the Auxiliary Watch Officers under the supervision of the OTO and Sector SF. This site contains several mobile responders that are a part of the emergency call out process. This site emails the communicator with their availability for the next 24 hours. This site is the only for the health services, and several Auxiliarists in 11NR who are professional health care providers have been regularly providing volunteer support to CG Medical Facilities at Alameda and Petaluma. AUX medical teams also provide 24/7 support to the AIM program each summer at the CG Academy. These volunteer physicians, dentists, physician's assistants, nurse practitioners and EMTs

must meet the same professional standards as active duty and USPHS health care providers.

An 11NR member was under orders in Seattle 23-29 MAR serving as a fluent Chinese Interpreter for the Experts Meeting for the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum. This special delegation involved China, Russia, Korea, Japan, Canada and US and worked on issues related to Coast Guard Fisheries law enforcement, drug Interdiction, maritime security, information exchange, illegal migration, and etc.

For Domestic Vessel Inspections, on 03 March, we met with representatives and agreed to launch the MDA Inspector Program. This will involve members from across the district, assigned to waterfront and related communication and transportation facilities. These patrols will be established and maintained district-wide, and include both targets and potential launch sites such as marinas and unattended waterfront areas. We will integrate our efforts with Sector San Francisco's Operation Focused Lens.

We have been asked to support the Coast Guard's oversight responsibility over the Transportation Worker's Identification Card (TWIC) program. Our members will spot check the enrollment facilities, which will be scattered across the district, for customer service issues such as wait times. This program will be staffed by MDA Inspectors and Remote Location personnel.

On 10 March, we met with representatives of the Domestic Inspections Division and received a go-ahead to launch a life raft inspection program. This is another program which will be staffed entirely by our members and involves monthly observations of life raft servicing activities at three facilities in San Francisco and Alameda.

A National branch chief from Houston, Texas will conduct un-inspected Towing Vessel training at Coast Guard Island April 3-4.

In the Ferry Vessel Audit Program we have trained a total of 50 members in this qualification and have a total of five audits to date.

For Container Inspection we have four qualified inspectors (and one trainee) who are operational three to four days a week in this important but complex area.

The Reno Regional Examination Center office is now operational and has processed four mariners. Sacramento processed one mariner.

For member training, the Annual Elected Officer Training was given as an all day event on 20 JAN 2008. This training concentrated on division and flotilla unit leaders. Topics included leadership, finance/legal, COW planning, protocol, using AUXDATA and AUXINFO, operations, and administrative Issues.

The Past Captain's Training Fair on Coast Guard Island in FEB 2008 included classes on ATON verifying and chart updating, award and grant writing, basic web page

construction, HAZMAT training, Ferry Boat Auditing, TCT training, operations workshops, IT workshop, VE workshop, a National "C" School public affairs team, "Coastie" the robot training, and a digital photography class. Over 250 Auxiliarists and 25 Instructors participated in this hugely successful event. Many of the classes were taught twice so that members could take more than one class.

D-TRAIN in MAR 2008, at the Doubletree Hotel in Modesto, CA., offered many workshops based on training obtained at N-TRAIN, as well as our first ever New Members Academy, consisting of four sessions oriented towards our newer members.

The Auxiliary Sector Coordinator, met with Sector San Francisco's Contingency Planning Department to discuss integration of the Auxiliary's Incident Response and Preparedness Plan with Sector's Contingency Response Plan. They reviewed the various scenarios in the Auxiliary plan and the relationship to certain sections in Sector's plan. There were no apparent inconsistencies. Sector San Francisco has also suggested we assist in the development of the tsunami and flood portions of Sector's plan.

DSAR (District Search and Rescue Competition) on 07 June will have our District Search and Rescue Competition on Coast Guard Island in Alameda, CA. Each division is encouraged to send a three person team for a District wide competition to determine the team that will represent us in Cape May, New Jersey for the National Search and Rescue Competition (NSAR).

Again for 2008, our members are partnered with Cal Dept of Boating & Waterways on the *Life Jacket Exchange* program "Wear it California" life jacket campaign. These efforts helped increase the PFD wear rate in the CA Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers Delta from 6 percent to 13 percent for adults in 2007.

Our Vessel Examiner Information website on the 11NR website is proving to be a valuable source of updated and comprehensive information for our VEs. 11NR is the ONLY District to offer an all in one inclusive site. The National V Dept. has asked and was given permission to promote it to other Districts throughout the nation.

Eleventh District Southern Region

D11 SR continues to recruit new members and we continue in-line or ahead of the Benchmark districts in new members and retaining existing members. The membership numbers have now increased with PSI flowing much faster and we have already added 23 new members in 2008. The Legacy members with PSI packages still at SECCEN are down to 17 members.

PE classes, Public Appearances, MT, and MD visits are currently down as this is currently a challenge. Operational activities, and VSCs are up.

Sector and CG direct support remain high (98 members working regularly). A new CG MDA Academy is currently in progress over three alternate weekends at Sector LA. This

will shortly be repeated at Sector San Diego. The ASCs are established in both Sectors with many challenges and good results. The ASCs are working well with the CG AUXLOs to determine and support CG needs. This is opening new doors for the Auxiliary. We even have an Auxiliarist in training to work at the Operations Center at Sector LA-LB. This position required a security clearance.

The Quagga mussel invasion is a big problem for the Western lakes and rivers. Once the mussels get in; there is now no known way to get rid of them. They get from water to water by being transported on/in trailerable boats. So now the emphasis is on preventing the "hitch hikers" from invading the fresh water lakes and rivers.

District Modernization - The proposed modernization has been presented to the members and largely accepted. This is partly because we tried to do it four years ago and know the pitfalls to avoid. To help solve Division boundary problems, E maps are being prepared with division and flotilla meeting places shown. This will be given to the current DCPs who are urged to talk to each other and be pro-active this year. Division leadership name changes are also being largely accepted.

In aviation, as of the end of the month, one inland aircraft is operational and two coastal aircraft are operational. A third coastal aircraft became available in April when DIRAUX was able to complete the paperwork and system entry. CG LA Air Station has authorized one patrol per week and there is plenty of fuel available. San Diego has only authorized patrols along the Colorado River and the Air facility must be from the inland region.

In the area of communications, status of our repeaters remains unchanged. Approval has been received from Alameda to proceed with the installation of the antenna for the Rasnow Peak site by the Coast Guard's civilian contractor. The antenna has been transported to the site from storage, so now we're waiting for the work to be scheduled. Next, a joint exercise involving the Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol and active duty Coast Guard is being planned for mid-June. The exercise will involve all modes of communication, including HF SSB, VHF and Digital and will extend throughout the PACAREA AOR. More information will be available as planning proceeds

The SO-MS 11-11 and founder of the Auxiliary Underwater Dive Investigation Team (AUDIT), has been awarded the Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal with Operational Distinguishing Device by Sector LA/LB, for his efforts to promote the development of the Auxiliary Team. The team assists in the investigation of dive accidents in the LA/LB AOR.

District Thirteen

This report focuses on the Southern and Eastern parts of District 13 that are often overlooked due to the number of members and level of activity around Puget Sound. A successful February District Training meeting was held with the District Commander in attendance. Training support was provided and NTRAIN out brief sessions were conducted by those that attended in St. Louis. One of these sessions included a briefing

on the Auxiliary Sector Coordinator information and was attended by several members of the District who interact with the GROUP/AIRSTA's and Sectors.

In the Portland area, the Division Change of Watch led directly into the Portland Boat Show, followed by the Sportsman's Show that was both very successful.

We are gearing up for a heavy season of operations as Station Portland has informed us they will be relying heavily on the Division 7 OPFAC's due to the large number of active duty personnel rotating out of the Station this summer.

District Fourteen

Member training was very evident throughout the district and was highlighted by our district training the first weekend in March. About 100 auxiliaries received the benefits of this training that was based on the N-Train training held in January.

In recreational boating safety this has been a busy three months for the vessel examiners and program visitors. Of special note was the awarding of our first three RBS insignias at our Annual Awards Banquet. This extremely impressive device will be an incentive to many auxiliaries.

Air operations continue to be very impressive with over 40 missions scheduled and flown each month. Surface operations continued and our Safe Boat crews trained hard for their Ready for Operations (RFO) in March, but unfortunately, some minor discrepancies with the boats put them in Charlie status and the operational portion of the RFO was postponed. In March, a member received the first Auxiliary TRIDENT certification and device in District 14. To date, one of the most successful programs is the fingerprinting and forensic documentation services performed by auxiliaries on Kauai and the Big Island which enable mariners to process their mariner license paperwork without having to travel to the Regional Examination Center in Honolulu.

Auxiliaries along with 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 were treated to talks given by the Commandant and District Commander. The following day, Jan. 18, a permanent memorial to the Coast Guard Pacific veterans was unveiled at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, HI.

Two District 14 Auxiliaries, who had previously attended the train-the-trainer school for the New AUXSCE course, assisted the National Search & Rescue Training Team from Yorktown, VA, the week of 25-29 February 2008 with their course given at CG Air Station, Barber's Point, HI. Auxiliaries taught the legal aspects of SAR, flare sightings and the Theory of Drift and SAR Variables. There were 25 active duty students consisting of pilots and sailors from petty officers to commanders.

When the communications high sites on Maui and the Big Island were down for maintenance on Mar 24-25, Auxiliary aircrews flew missions over the affected areas

to monitor and pass on emergency communications to Sector Honolulu and Auxiliary radio communicators stood watch to accept the aircrews guard when needed and to be able to pass on any emergency signals they received to the aircraft and to Sector Honolulu via landline. This important mission further enhances our capabilities to pass communications during emergencies/ contingencies.

District Seventeen

The first quarter of 2008 is usually a quiet time in District 17. In January, some members attended N-Train in St. Louis gathering much needed updates to bring back to members involved in various programs.

February 15th, 16th, & 17th brought District 17's District Training Conference to the stormy shores of Kachemak Bay in Homer, Alaska. The conference was well attended by Auxiliarists and also by USCG personnel from Sector Juneau, and Sector Anchorage. The District Commander was able to join us Saturday evening and Sunday.

March 8th and 9th were the dates for the District 17 Spring Board meeting. Along with the District Board, the meeting was attended by representatives from Sector Anchorage and the head of the Rescue 21 project out of Juneau. Throughout this quarter members were doing member training, BS&S classes, and ABC classes.

During the District Conference, the District Commander spent two hours meeting and sharing ideas back and forth with members of the Arctic Outreach Group. This meeting brought about very positive results one of which was the decision to take along an Auxiliarist on some visits to the Arctic regions. A result of that decision, was in Kotzebue, Alaska, the purpose is to establish a dialog with local government entities to discuss the impact of increased CG presence, vessels, aircraft, as well as tourism cruise lines in the northern regions of Alaska. Vessel and air traffic will increase and in fact has started resulting from the melting polar ice thereby opening up the NW passage. Problems associated with this increase may/will include oil spills from tankers and/or oilrigs, tourist vessels breaking down, hundreds of injured and numbers of fatalities. A secondary goal was to use the CG Auxiliary as a primary means of delivering safe boating classes to the various villages. Some points of interest included: CG was commended on his approach of first seeking information and including the local people in planning/preparing; concerns what effect will be on marine mammals, subsistence life style; favorable to safe boating classes, adults as well as children; favorable to the CG Auxiliary involvement and inclusion into local communities; high interest of obtaining a 6 pack license, and agreed that additional meetings are needed and will be scheduled.

4. THE COURSE AHEAD

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY DIRECTORATE

BOATING DEPARTMENT

Liaison Division

- USACE Chart Updating Programs: USACE POC is swamped with other activities; therefore, the charting activity has been put on hold for the time being. The plan to discuss chart updating programs was to take place by the end of CY-07. However, the POC indicated that they would like to continue focus on VSC pilot program since this seems to be generating great interest within USACE leadership
- The USACE Vessel Safety Check program is progressing in spite of the fact that most Rangers do not live/work near Auxiliary flotillas. To date, three USACE Rangers have successfully completed all requirements and are now certified Vessel Examiners. BC-BLA has put together an Excel spreadsheet that will be used by the USACE and they will submit quarterly and annual reports to DC-V. This activity continues to gain positive momentum. BC-BLA and USACE POC are in frequent communication trying to coordinate all the details for training additional rangers as VEs during the 2008 IBWSS event in San Diego. USACE has arranged for a conference room. Currently 16 rangers are enrolled. The number might be as high as 20 by IBWSS. The plan is for BC-BLA to conduct a 10-hour intensive course and proctor the written exam so that these rangers are ready for their on-water portion of the VSC requirements. The on-water portion will take additional creative planning due to the remote location of the rangers.
- Offerings by *Soundings Publications*: Soundings magazine and the Auxiliary launched the *Soundings* free subscription offer for FCs and PE officers for the CY2008. As an added tool for public education, Auxiliarists are able to apply for the free subscription through the member's only link via the Auxiliary website. As of 9 March, 173 flotilla commanders and 84 public education officers had been certified to receive the comp subscription, a \$13.97 value.
- BC-BLN Being Inducted Into National Safe Boating Council Hall of Fame: CAPT Bill Griswold USCGret, BC-BLN, DSO-SL(D7), was inducted into the NSBC Hall of Fame at IBWSS in April. The B Department is very fortunate to have Capt. Griswold's expertise and dedication to the goals of RBS. Since his retirement while serving as CHDIRAUX in 1993, Captain Griswold has played vital roles within the Auxiliary and other RBS organizations. His activities are prevalent in all three of the B Department's divisions.

States Division

- The first quarter of 2008 has proven to be another good reporting period with an increase of documentation of activities in many states. In one state the branch chief and DSO-SL will be working closely with the district commodore and RCO; this is the state where the SLO does not live due to the lack of members. The Boating Law Administrator has requested assistance from the Auxiliary and the DCO wants to be sure the liaison program is included as a mission for a detachment which will be formed in the next few months. Of the 20 Atlantic East

SLOs, 75 percent sent a quarterly report. Of the 23 Atlantic West SLOs, 91 percent sent a quarterly report. Of the 11 Pacific SLOs, 70 percent sent a quarterly report. This is 79 percent overall, up from 69 percent last quarter.

- **NASBLA BAIRAC (Boating Accident Investigation Reporting and Analysis Committee) and Waterways Committee:** BC-BSB COMO Dan Maxim wrote a grant proposal to the USCG, Office of Boating Safety, to revise the Boating Accident Report form working with Dr. Deborah Mayhew, a nationally known consultant on forms design. COMO Maxim writes: “We completed revisions to the revised BAR form based on public responses to the Federal Register notice. The Coast Guard has accepted the revised form and has submitted it to OMB for their approval. The next major step in this project is to form a committee to look into revising the CFRs to make the process fundamentally simpler. This will not affect this year's form, but rather is a long-term effort to make the process fundamentally more user friendly. I have drafted a memorandum identifying Federal, State, and local agencies concerned with Waterways Management for the NASBLA Waterways Management Committee. This memorandum was drafted as part of an ongoing effort to identify various approaches to Waterways Management. We thought that it would be helpful to identify the "list of players" directly or indirectly associated with Waterways Management. The memorandum is under review.”
- **New Jersey Instructor Background Checks:** As previously reported, New Jersey is following through with the plan to have all NJ PE instructors to have a background check. All Auxiliary instructors will need to get fingerprinting done for a criminal background check. The procedure is posted on www.sljonj.org and Auxiliary members will start to enter information for the Boating Safety Certificate directly onto the State computer system.
- **Florida Violator’s Boating Education Course:** Florida is working with BoatEd to produce a violator’s on line defensive boating course. It is a four hour, 17 unit course with quizzes and a final exam, will cost \$49.95, and will satisfy judgments for operational violations on the water. Other states are reportedly looking at this new innovative method, which may affect our classroom courses.

PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

- **New PE Course on Navigation:** The text is Weekend Navigator from McGraw-Hill and the student study guides, chart sections and charting exercises have been combined into booklet form. We are getting a quote on pricing of the materials to price the course.
- **Sailing Skills and Seamanship:** The new course, with a book developed in cooperation with McGraw-Hill, was completed and posted to the E Department web page. Flotillas are now teaching the new SSS.

- About Boating Safely, basic eight hour course: BoatEd developed our “About Boating Safely” web site. The domain name was reserved and web pages were designed. The bank account handling the pay per click was set up and funded, and the web pages went live in late April. We expect to be very competitive with other on line course providers.
- The 800-hotline number continues to provide excellent service to the boating public. We recently lost one staff member to cancer, and are in the process of requesting an additional two branch chief positions to help staff the Hotline.

VESSEL EXAMINATION AND VISITATION PROGRAM DEPARTMENT

- Our RBS Program Visitors recorded 82,033 visits in 2007. A 22.7 percent increase over year-end 2006. Our Vessel Examiners recorder 124,329 Vessel Safety Checks. An increase of 8.2 percent over year-end 2006.
- Retention in our qualification areas is still a significant problem. The 01 March National Unit Summary report showed a loss of approximately 250 Program Visitors and 1,000 Vessel Examiners. These numbers are equivalent to the loss sustained at the beginning of 2007. A list of members in REYR was sent to each DSO-PV and DSO-VE with the expectation of recertifying some of these members. Recruiting of new Auxiliarists and retention of existing members will continue to be a top priority in 2008
- At the request of the U. S. Coast Guard Office of Search and Rescue (CG-534) we are mobilizing our Program Visitors, Vessel Examiners and Public Education instructors to educate the boating public on the use, maintenance, and registering requirements for EPIRBs and PLBs. In addition to electronic communications, a bulk mailing by ANSC to all SO-PE, PV and VE via the division captain is underway. Also included will be the education packet for DSC radios.
- CG 54222 has ordered 10,000 inflatable life jackets with 7100 targeted to the Auxiliary. ANSC will ship life jackets to each division based on a given formula. It is expected that shipments will begin in June and be completed by August. The life jackets will be worn while working with the public during VE, PE and PA activities.
- We are working with Mike Folkerts, CG RBS Specialist, D-17 to qualify CG personnel as vessel examiners. More on this program at a later date.
- Aided District 13 to develop an approach to do VSC on Canadian vessels that are issued a State of Washington residency permit. These vessels are permanently moored in the waters of the State of Washington which is their state of principle use.
- Program Visitors and Vessel Examiners will again support the Stearns/Pro-Bass Shops “Fit to Float” campaign.

OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

OPERATIONS (RESPONSE) DEPARTMENT

The Department of Operations (Response) is guided by its bywords of “*safe and effective programs*.” Our efforts are focused on the balancing of the safety of our members with the ability to provide full support to the Coast Guard in all operations program areas.

- This past quarter was highlighted by the N-Train initiatives, in which the IM Division, leading a Directorate team, developed a training program for the new position of Auxiliary Sector Coordinator. A full-day training session was held at N-Train 2008, including a number of different sessions and the participation of a group of 5 Sector Commanders along with the ASC appointees.
- Also discussed during N-Train, the new telecommunications qualification program PQS is the subject of ongoing development, with input from the field and with comments and suggestions from a number of district commodores, vice commodores and their staffs.
- Aviation and Surface Operations Standardization Teams continue to be active with program revisions and updates.
- Updated and corrected chapters for the Operations Policy Manual are in review by all divisions.
- The 2009 TCT refresher training session and 2009 Operations workshop are in development.

The Department of Operations remains committed to providing policy guidance and all the program support elements required for safe and effective operations; allowing the CG Auxiliary to meet the responsibilities of today and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow.

MARINE SAFETY (PREVENTION) DEPARTMENT

Despite a decrease in overall Auxiliary Mission hours from 2006 to 2007, the Prevention (Marine Safety) Department continues to show a slight overall increase. REC surge support continues to grow with additional requests from the National Maritime Center for increased Auxiliary participation. Navigation Services forms and materials are in the review stage and pending further approval. Updating of training materials is on-track with the finalization of the Coast Guard’s PQSs. AWW continues to increase program visibility with appearances at such venues as the National Small Vessel Safety Summit, International Boating and Water Safety Summit and NASBLA. Realignment between the Prevention (Marine Safety) Department and the Response (Operations) Department has been completed for the near term.

- REC Surge Support

Auxiliary Support to the Regional Examination Centers (REC) continues with direct support being provided to: REC NOLA, REC Houston, REC Toledo, REC Long Beach and REC Monitoring Unit St. Louis.

One high profile item is the savings which are being realized by Merchant Mariners utilizing the Remote Customer Assistance Offices supported by 8 Western Rivers Region Auxiliarists (REC Memphis & REC Monitoring Unit St. Louis)

Others of note: St. Paul MN office (open 12 months): 65 merchant mariners realizing a savings of \$42,000. Branson MO office (open 4 months): 48 Merchant Mariners realizing a savings of \$12,400. Kansas City MO Office (open 9 months): 27 Merchant Mariners realizing a savings of \$6,800. Denver CO office (open 8 months): 24 Merchant Mariners realizing a savings of \$24,300.

Please note only one office has been in operation for a 12 month period of time. It is expected that the annual savings to mariners will continue to grow.

- Prevention Outreach

America's Waterway Watch & Sea Partners: Although funding has not been restored, both programs once again have an adequate supply of materials. Auxiliarists are being urged to work to publicize the programs to take up the slack.

Presentations for AWW were made at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit and at the Orlando session for the Small Vessel Safety Summit and a display will be present both times.

BC-MWA, secured a grant from ALCOA for aquatic nuisance species education. With the grant he intends to prepare sixteen trunks, (one per district) with preserved specimens and educational material. At this time the specimen collection is in progress and the education materials and trunks have been ordered. We anticipate the trunks will be available by the end of summer, 2008.

BC-MWS, is working with the state of Florida on their Clean Marina project with the goal of making this a national program. She is pursuing contacts outside Florida to facilitate this.

- Training Update

The Coast Guard has updated their Marine Safety (Shore Forces) Performance Qualification Standards. ALCOAST 387/07 has specifically precluded Auxiliarists from obtaining these new qualifications except the Commercial

Fishing Vessel Examiner qualification. As a result, all of the Auxiliary qualifications are being updated to align with the new Coast Guard Standards.

Additionally, the Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection course is being rewritten to bring it up to date with changes in the Coast Guard and Auxiliary. It is anticipated that this major revision will be completed by mid-2008.

- Realignment

His year saw the Prevention (Marine Safety) and Response (Operations) Departments realign to mirror Coast Guard Headquarters structure by moving Aids to Navigation from Response (Operations) to Prevention (Marine Safety) and Incident Management from Prevention (Marine Safety) to Response (Operations). Additionally, the Prevention (Marine Safety) Department underwent reorganization at the same time. Several divisions were renamed to match the Coast Guard Headquarters structure and two divisions (Environmental Protection and America's Waterway Watch) were combined into a Prevention Outreach Division.

The remaining items in this project include the final renaming of the Department and Staff Officer positions. This will remain open pending action by the National Board.

- Navigation Systems

The Navigation Systems Division has been working to review and update guides, forms and training materials for use by AN staff officers in training their team volunteers and for developing and enhancing their local Aids to Navigation programs. An "Aids to Navigation Staff Officers Guide" has been developed and is currently in trial phase in one district. In addition, review of guides, forms, training presentations, kits and handouts and background informational materials have been reviewed for current practices and accuracy for each of the five program areas – Federal Short Range Aids to Navigation, Private Aids to Navigation Program, Bridge Administration Program, NOAA Chart Updating Program and NOAA Small Craft Facility Updating Program. The goal is to replace existing outdated materials and replace with up-to-date information. Approval has been received from NOAA for the new CU and SCF guides and user forms. Additionally, the goal is to minimize the requirement for paper reports and convert as many forms as possible to on-line preparation and submission. National review and approval is pending.

- Commercial Vessel Activities

In addition to the NMFS program in force in Districts 1 and 5, NMFS now will be putting their observers on South Atlantic Shrimpers, beginning in July. It should generate a few more Commercial Fishing Vessel Exams than normally seen in D7.

There are few reports of Uninspected Towing Vessel examinations. Training hours are up which may be an indicator that this will change.

The Port State assists are as expected with the bulk in Districts 11 and 13. Districts 1 and 5 are starting to come in with some hours. This is a program where we can certainly be of assistance. It's a matter of awareness both at our and the Sector levels.

- Auxiliary Sector Coordinator Tiger Team
The Prevention (Marine Safety) Department participated as members of the Auxiliary Sector Coordinator Tiger Team including surveying Auxiliary Sector Coordinators regarding their job duties, appointment process and job descriptions. We also participated in the development of the Auxiliary Sector Coordinator Training presented this year at NTRAIN. Currently the Department has created a “bang” list of ASCs and are forwarding Prevention Department information and best practices to those Coordinators.
- Department Renaming
In order to mirror the naming structure of Coast Guard active duty commands it was proposed to rename the Operations Department to the Response Department with the designator “R” and the Marine Safety Department to the Prevention Department with the designator “P.” This would necessitate changing the designator for the Personnel Services Department, currently using the “P” designator. An appropriate new designator for that department could be “H” for Human Resources. This has the benefit of matching the designator for the Coast Guard department with similar functions.
- Renaming of Aids to Navigation (AN) Staff officers to Navigation Services (NS)
It is requested that the current Aids to Navigation (AN) title for staff officers be changed to Navigation Systems (NS) to better reflect the expanded opportunities for Auxiliary involvement in the Coast Guard Navigation Systems program area. Activities included by the Coast Guard under Navigation Systems include visual navigation systems, vessel traffic services, E-navigation and Navigation Standards.

MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTORATE

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

For 2008, we are geared up to support NSAR, the 60th anniversary of Public Education, as well as the 70th anniversary of the USCGAUX in 2009. With this ambitious level of activity, staffing issues continue to be our greatest challenge in carrying out our strategic and tactical plans.

Some of our successes during the first quarter of 2008 include the following:

- Our online courses, as well as the AUX-12 C School, continue to be in high demand. In FY 07, we completed five classes of the AUX-12 C School, thanks to extra billets and one road show in District 1. Our class schedule for FY 08 is full. Our instructors will teach 6 three-day AUX12 C Schools. This year, of the six schools, three are road shows in District 9, 14 and 17. Moreover, we will teach 120 students this year. That is a 17 percent increase from 2007.
- We are working with the V Department to develop a brochure for recruiting businesses to participate in the RBS Visitation Program and redesign the VSC manual cover along with two other manuals.
- We are in the final design update to the Join the Auxiliary website. We are working with our Audio Branch Chief to introduce interviews with members, describing why they joined the Auxiliary, to give the site a more personal appeal. We have 14 audio interviews that will be rotated thru a sequence for freshness.
- Now that the boating season is underway, we are issuing one National press release a week to the media. During the off-season, we issue about two press releases a month. With our Contacts on Tap, we have substantially updated our media list to better serve our needs. We are getting requests from the media inquiring about the Auxiliary. Boating Life Magazine is doing an Auxiliary profile of five members from across the country about real-life volunteers. We received a request from *Suffolk Life* Newspaper in Long Island wanting to do a story about the Auxiliary and the boating safety courses we offer.

Some of our challenges we faced during the first quarter of 2008 and beyond include the following:

- A continuing challenge is finding staff members that are highly motivated, talented, and possess a sense of urgency. Also, since many of our senior staff are in the peak of their civilian careers, time availability is a critical factor.
- Nowhere has the shortage of motivated, talented personnel been more apparent than with our graphics design personnel, and we are continuing to look for new talent in this area so that we can stay on “the cutting edge.”

We announced at NTRAIN our restructured department by eliminated programs, and reduced staff by 28 percent.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

I Department efforts during the first quarter of 2008 presented the Auxiliary with successful implementation of new program services, greater direct support to the field and better monitoring of information systems. Greater attention was given to better communication, organization, accuracy and improved retrievability of reported member activity data. Several important forms were updated, revised and introduced into the work flow providing more clarity of instructions and eliminating unneeded data cells.

Our scheduled Aux C Schools this quarter have been well attended and very successful. A great achievement was realized with a zero lapse rate in student enrollments reporting so far this year. That’s a strong endorsement by our customers that they respect and

value our schools. We strive to continue maximizing the effectiveness of these training opportunities and realize additional cost saving opportunities.

Many new websites have been designed, developed, approved and hosted on our servers. We've added over 80 new sites since January 2008. This brings out total number of hosted and administered sites to approximately 1000 on our servers alone. This is a clear indication of our positive move toward a desired path for increased visibility and online presents within the Auxiliary.

The I Department in cooperation with headquarters has made a concerted effort to improve our working relationship especially as we all search for solutions to the myriad of evolving AUXDATA needs especially over the next two years. We've seen good progress and a greater willingness for all hands to roll up their sleeves and search for cost effective longer term solutions to past and existing limitations of the current system. The exceptional cooperation with HQ has allowed the creation of the first ever Requirements Review Board (RRB) in which the I-Department has a pivotal role in the future development of technologies used between our two organizations. We are looking to the future, trying to anticipate a broad solution impact for new information needs and applicable new Federal requirements such as how best to support 508 compliance needs over the next two years.

This quarter has also exposed a need to review and resolve some issues that have begun to limit the I-Departments effectiveness to serve our customers. Probably the biggest issue concerns the availability of resources to attend to the AUXDATA work list items. Limited funding has resulted in little to no critical modifications being made to the AUXDATA system since late last year. There is a significant backlog of changes and modifications to AUXDATA. Many of these changes are long over due and directly impact the quality of business reports generated for decision making at all levels of the organization. This concern has been brought to the attention of the National Commodore and NEXCOM. It was also presented by the National Commodore during the 2008 Flag Conference in Washington DC.

Over the next two years a comprehensive plan to develop an over all look and structure to the 1000 plus Auxiliary websites will be initiated. The website redesign effort will be implemented in cooperation with the National Bridge, Professional Web Designers, the 10 National departments, and 16 districts.

A critical component of the web redesign initiative will be a study to research and implement advanced technologies bringing our organization closer to current business standards. The task is daunting but we feel it's imperative to the future business requirements and to support the influx on new members who will already be comfortable in the use of such technologies.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

The department is pleased to report that in the first quarter of 2008, the Personnel Services efforts are continuing the trend established in 2007. The Auxiliary is showing a

positive gain in numbers that indicates that new members are joining the organization while our existing members are staying. This indicates that the recruitment and the retention efforts being conducted in the flotillas are functioning (on average) very well. The numbers from the report issued from AUXDATA indicates a three to one ratio of new members compared to those lost from death and disenrollment. Continuance of this positive net gain is of utmost importance to the Department of Personnel and plans to stay the course (with minor corrections for lessons learned) are the order of the day.

To aid in retention efforts, an awards brochure was created by the Retention Division. This colorful brochure lists some of the benefits that members enjoy including educational classes, insurance discounts (through the Auxiliary store), Pentagon Federal Credit Union membership and others. It is in flyer style so that it can easily be shared. It has been reviewed by CHDIRAUX and will soon be available on the P Department web site. Current plans are being made to have the flyer inserted into the New Member Packet. Revenue sources for printing of the flyer (hard copy) are being investigated.

The New Member Guide has been reviewed and corrected after advice from the CHDIRAUX's office. The guide has now been resubmitted to CHDIRAUX for second review in anticipation of the work that office is doing on the AUXMAN. It is anticipated that very few corrections will be necessary as the information contained therein, and the associated test, should not be impacted to great extent by the revisions to the AUXMAN. Following approval, the master will be turned over to ANSC for printing and distribution. A recommendation made by the Development Division is that the whole packet be made available on CD in the future and this will be explored.

The Resources Division reports that the presentations at N-Train on awards administered by the P Department has resulted in more requests for growth and diversity awards. Article published in the current Department newsletter, The Interchange, should also assist in raising awareness and generate additional requests.

TRAINING DEPARTMENT

In keeping with our statement of Vision and Operating Principles for 2007-09 The National Department of Training has concentrated on three areas of concern.

1. Staffing with competent, energized and willing fellow Auxiliarists
2. Developing deliverable, on target and usable training programs to the field
3. Address and fully support the National Commodore's mandate for Recruiting, Retention and Responsibility.

Leadership Division

1. Participated in the update of the 2007 RCO Academy including revisions to address needs for the National Department deputies. The material was presented at a training session combining RCO and DC-d officers at 2008 N-TRAIN.
2. Efforts are continuing to review and implement the procedures defined by the Leadership Guidance Team (LGT).

3. An AMLOC class was conducted in Orlando with 24 attending. In addition, a course was conducted in Boise Idaho with 26 attending. Thus, a total of two AMLOC classes have been given this quarter attended by 50 members. Two AMLOC courses are planned for the second quarter.
4. A master spreadsheet has been developed listing all leadership courses given for the year. The spreadsheet list each class, student, location, date completed and instructors. This master spreadsheet for each year will be maintained to provide a database of leadership training.

Instructional Design Division

1. A new value-added training program “*Chain of Leadership*” was released. The article provides guidance on how to communicate up and down the chain of leadership within the Auxiliary organization to resolve an issue or problem. There are now a total of 10 value-added documents on the training website.
2. Work is progressing on the AUX-101 course designed to be presented to Coast Guard recruits to describe the role of the Auxiliary and interface between the two organizations. The material could also be used as a recruiting tool and as an introduction course for new Auxiliary members. A draft of handout material is currently under review.
3. Efforts are continuing to review and implement the procedures defined by the Leadership Guidance Team (LGT). A curriculum outline of the ASOC course was developed in accordance with the guidelines of the *CG Standard Operating Procedure for Curriculum Development* and is presently under review. A curriculum outline of the AMLOC course was started this report period. A draft copy is expected to be completed next report period.
4. An intensive effort to improve the Administrative Procedures Course (APC) is almost complete. In March 2007 a revised APC exam was released which replaced questions inappropriate for flotilla level or new members. While this was a good improvement, complaints still persist. Upon analysis of question by question responses to all APC exams, taken from July 2007 to February 2008, it was determined that another update is necessary. The next revision of the APC exam will be released next quarter. This effort identified a process and supporting software to analyze all exams hosted on the NTC website. See further details in the Distance Learning Division section of this report.

Advanced Learning Division

1. AUXSC&E final examination questions will be ready for review in April 2008.
2. AUXNAV Student Study Guide and study questions continue to be our major effort. There are 12 lessons in the course. Six lessons have been approved within the Division. Lessons Seven through 12 will be ready for division review in April.
3. AUXCOM is the division’s next priority. The Course Development Outline is underway.
4. The Division Chief was invited to report on the status of the AUXOP Courses at N-TRAIN in January. It was a great opportunity to meet and interact with the DSOs-MT, our customers.

5. An active recruiting effort is on-going to fill the position of Branch Chief, AUXOP Courses.

Distance Learning Division

1. We provided training in distance learning tools at 2008 N-TRAIN during the quarter.
2. We sent a reminder to all SOs-MT and DSOs-MT concerning the availability of courses on the Coast Guard E-Learning site: Coast Guard Indoctrination and eSAR.
3. The Auxiliary E-Learning site continues to be utilized by a wide range of Auxiliarists.
4. In the final stages of development is a curriculum suitable for new members, which will emphasize member training as a member benefit while they are provisional and awaiting their PSI clearance. The program will be rolled out in the form of a PowerPoint presentation for use by member training officers to orient the provisional members (as well as existing members) of the array of training resources available in the Auxiliary generally, and specifically featuring online courses as a way for the provisional members to be active if they exhaust their local training resources.
5. Some 3,925 exams were taken on the National Testing Center (NTC) this quarter, with 1,446 or 37 percent passing. The NTC has developed software to generate the results of any on-line exam hosted on the site. The software performs an analysis to report the response to each question in the exam. An analysis of each exam has been offered to all of the responsible Departments for their evaluation. As of the end of this quarter, the Training, Public Affairs, and Vessel Examination Departments are reviewing their exams.
6. We are attempting to identify subject matter experts and points of contact in each Department to serve as our resource for course development and testing questions.

Appendix: Looking Ahead to 2012

Looking ahead to the next five years we expect to consider the following strategic goals. Some have already been identified and are being acted on while others will require additional study to assess viability.

- ✓ Respond to LGT recommendations
 - Perform gap analysis of present leadership courses vs. aims of LGT
 - Develop curriculum outline of all leadership courses in accordance with guidelines of the *Standard Operating Procedure for Curriculum Development*.
 - Ensure outlines satisfy competency coverage
 - Develop priority of revisions to courses to satisfy aims of LGT
 - Execute course revisions
 - Release courses to field over planned timeframe
 - Deliver courses to members, collect comments
 - Perform evaluations, revise courses as required
- ✓ Release AUXOP revised courses in a phased planned release
- ✓ Review Training Department organization and personnel and revise as required
 - Improve staff with energized, competent, and willing members

- Tighten structure where required
 - ✓ Develop single source web page for all training courses and material and allow only links at other sites to assure currency of training resources
 - ✓ Work closely with other departments to improve quality and consistency of training
 - ✓ Develop new training programs where needs are identified
 - ✓ Expand E-Learning and provide centralized site
 - ✓ Continue leadership programs
 - C Schools
 - Road shows
- Increase instructor cadre and cross training

Respectfully submitted,

The Auxiliary Leadership Team