

**QUARTERLY BRIEFING
To THE COMMANDANT
ON THE STATE OF THE
UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**



JULY 2006

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This quarterly status report of challenges and initiatives emphasizes the Auxiliary's watchwords for 2004-2006:

We show that we are **READY** by focusing on the roles and missions as trained professionals, continuously developing expertise, anticipating opportunities and providing resources where and when they are needed.

- The number of members who have completed **Incident Command Systems training** is continuously increasing, illustrating our readiness to react professionally in an emergency situation.
- The **SMART** Update illustrates our ability to anticipate opportunities and provide resources when needed.

By adapting and embracing change and practicing intelligent opportunism we are **RESPONSIVE** to the needs of our members, the Coast Guard and the Nation.

- The first phase of the **Auxiliary Resource Alignment Study** established gaps in our ability to respond to the Coast Guard's need. Phase two is investigating ways to close those gaps.
- The Coast Guard requested assistance at the **Regional Exams Centers** and the Auxiliary immediately responded with a plan of action.
- New technology brings change. Adapting and embracing that change, the Auxiliary launched an educational campaign to help boaters understand the proper use of **Digital Select Calling radios**.

We are **RESOLUTE** in our commitment to our members and our missions, adopting the Coast Guard values; valuing our members' skills and dedication, valuing life by our dedication to safety and security at sea.

- Our involvement with the **International Search and Rescue** organizations illustrates our commitment to safety and security at sea. We are resolute in our commitment to share the valuable skills and dedication of our members to help others save lives.
- We are resolute in our commitment to improve mission execution through the study of **Performance Measures**.

As we examine our progress and anticipate future growth, we will review the last 100 days and anticipate the opportunities of the next 100 days in light of our Strategic Plan.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LAST 100 DAYS: APRIL-JUNE 2006

During the last hundred days, the Coast Guard Auxiliary continued its efforts to move forward with tactical actions in support of strategic imperatives.

Recreational Boating Safety Directorate

- **State Liaison Officers Certification Process.**

The Boating Department developed a certification process for State Liaison Officers that was implemented on 5 March 2006. Based on a newly developed SLO Qualification Guide, candidates for office take a written test to verify their knowledge of state liaison duties prior to assuming office.

RESULTS: ONGOING: To date several Regions/Districts have used the certification process with good results. The system will come into widespread use by State Liaison Officers appointed for calendar years 2007-2008.

- **Soundings Magazine Partnership.**

The Boating Department developed a partnership agreement with *Soundings* magazine which was signed at N-Train meetings in January 2006. The magazine has agreed to publish articles promoting Auxiliary programs and boating safety. An article announcing the partnership appeared in the April issue.

RESULTS: ONGOING / COMPLETED: In the June issue of *Soundings*, an article on America's Waterway Watch appeared on page 10. The article presents essential program elements as well as contact information for Coast Guard program managers. Also, the editor of *Soundings*, Bill Sisson, will present a workshop, entitled "Troubled Waters – Boating Mishaps," at the Coast Guard Auxiliary National Conference, to be held in Dallas during late August. The Boating Department initiated partnership agreement with *Soundings* magazine continues to make progress. The web links with the magazine are complete and, over the coming months, members can now access subscription services and provide inputs to the public education course calendar.

- **Instructor Development Course.**

The Education Department has developed an Instructor Development Course that is closely modeled on the Coast Guard course. The completed program was submitted to G-PCX and is under review.

- RESULTS: ONGOING: A recent SOP for new or revised training courses requires the preparation of an extensive submission packet, with training and enabling objectives, which is now close to completion for the Instructor Development Course. While we do not expect any significant changes to the course, the submission packet is a necessary step in the approval process. The course should be ready for implementation by late summer.

- **Skier's Choice.**

Skier's Choice, a manufacturer of recreational boats, is providing a coupon to each new boat owner that entitles them to receive an America's Boating Course from the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The program was rolled out during a national dealers meeting in January and letters from the Education Department announcing the program were sent to each Flotilla.

RESULT: COMPLETED: The largest Skier's Choice dealer, located in Atlanta, has enthusiastically embraced the program and is encouraging customers to take an America's Boating Course. The dealer is working with one of the local Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotillas and the unit is scheduling a series of classes to handle the referrals. As an added bonus, a dealer not connected with Skier's Choice has expressed interest in adopting the program as their own initiative. Over the next quarter, results will be cataloged and evaluated for consideration in planning a continuing campaign in 2007.

- ***Boating Skills & Seamanship 13th Edition.***

Working with McGraw-Hill, a 13th Edition of *Boating Skills & Seamanship* is under development. The publisher's vast resources and expertise will bring a fresh look and improved contents to one of our mainstream boating safety courses. The new edition is targeted for introduction in the fall of 2006.

RESULTS: ONGOING: All chapters have been updated and reviewed. All images have been received, cataloged and matched to relevant content. All of this raw data is now with the publisher for a process called "paging" which will lead to proof copy late this summer.

- **Marina Safe Boater Program.**

In January, the Vessel Examination Department introduced the Marina Safe Boater program. Auxiliary flotillas are working with local marinas to integrate RBS programs into focused boating safety initiatives at each location. Based on their level of performance, participating marinas will receive recognition in the form of a certificate and plaque that can be displayed on the premises. The program is being piloted and evaluated in 2006 and, if successful, will be fully implemented in 2007.

RESULT: ONGOING: This is a work in progress and too early for reportable results.

Member Services Directorate

- **Web-based Data Entry.**

The Information Technology Department will support the first version of a web-based member entry system. Using two of the most commonly used forms for recording mission hours; the IT department has developed an on line reporting process into AUXDATA rather than paper/keyboarding entry.

RESULTS: ONGOING: AUX AR (formerly 7029EZ) is making steady progress to developing the best methodology for data transfer between AUXDATA and POMS. While progress has been slower than anticipated, progress is being made. The data transfer function is the key to implementing AUX AR. OSC and FINCEN are working together towards the successful data transfer.

- **April Recruiting Drive.**

The Personnel Department conducted an April 2006 recruiting drive. At this time, the rapidly declining membership is holding steady at about 30,500 active members with about 680 in the applicant pool. Roughly same number of members lost negated the result of the last membership drive.

RESULTS: COMPLETED/ONGOING: The April Membership Drive was conducted and reports from AUXDATA indicate that 1,000 new member goal set for this campaign was attained.

- **Membership Retention.**

The Personnel Department will develop guidelines recognizing signs in members in danger of leaving and train Personnel Services Officers in methods of retention. Too many members just fade out of touch and then leave the Auxiliary. This program seeks to train Personnel Services officers to look for early warning signs and help the member reconnect.

RESULTS: ONGOING: While the April membership drive resulted in a spike in the number of new members added, the same report shows a spike (albeit not as sharp as the incoming spike) in the number of personnel that were disenrolled or had died. The Retention Division is working on programs designed to combat this upward trend. As part of that analysis, initial reports suggest that the “U” shaped curve is true but that there is a larger than expected loss of members at the two to five year benchmark.

- **Leadership Development.**

The Training Department will support Coast Guard and the Auxiliary leadership development by promoting AUXLAMS and AMLOC course delivery in the field. These two courses train first-line supervisors and mid-level officers to become the future senior leaders. Using both C-Schools and road shows, the Training Department is increasing their efforts to reach more personnel.

RESULTS: ONGOING: The Training Department made a major solicitation to District Commodores to encourage member attendance at three additional classes made available by funding secured through G-PCX.

- **America’s Waterway Watch Video.**

The Public Affairs Department will produce an updated America’s Waterway Watch video. The current video has some copyright questions and was the first version immediately following standing up the program. This version will update and refine the message and production.

RESULT: COMPLETED: The Coast Guard has produced a new video which removed the need for Auxiliary Public Affairs involvement.

Operations and Marine Safety Directorate

- **Contingency Planning.**

The Operations Department continues to encourage and improve field level contingency planning by providing additional training and exercises. Given the complexities of this process, the Auxiliary Operations Department developed an easy to understand “job aid” for field units to assist in planning and presented this tool at the National Training Meeting in late January.

RESULT: ONGOING: Development of an OMS Directorate website was initiated to focus on contingency planning processes. The target date for completion is August 2006. A Contingency Planning workshop will be presented by the Operations and Marine Safety Departments at NACON in September. The materials presented will be made available via the website for local unit training and planning.

- **USCG Auxiliary Dive Program.**

Over the past 10 months, the Auxiliary Dive Program COMDTINST (policy guidance), an Auxiliary Safe Diving Practices Manual and an Auxiliary Dive Program Personal Qualifications Standard (PQS) have been developed and refined.

RESULT: ONGOING: We are awaiting the assignment of a CG Dive Program Manager to review the work done to date before proceeding to the concurrent clearance process.

- **HF Program and Contingency Response.**

The Telecommunications Division of the Department of Operations has been working with the CG Office of Spectrum Management (CG-622) to obtain official approval for USCG Auxiliary use of a set of High Frequency channels to support contingency operations.

RESULTS: COMPLETED/ONGOING: Authorization has now been obtained to permit the Auxiliary to use a set of 33 different HF channel spread between 2 MHz and 23 MHz. These channels will be used with the voice mode, data modes, and Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). The division has subsequently been developing policies and procedures to support the use of those channels with the assistance of G-PCX and field input.

- **Land Patrol Guidelines.**

Survey and analyze all present Land Patrol activities and integrate Marine Domain Awareness activities into a proposed Land Patrol Guidelines.

RESULT: ONGOING: The Operations and Marine Safety Departments are collaborating on the development of these guidelines and completion is targeted for September 2006.

- **Auxiliary Waterways Management Security Coordinator implementation plan.** The AWMSC pilot program has been finalized and report submitted.

RESULT: COMPLETED: The program was turned over for District level implementation. The Marine Safety Division will continue to facilitate sharing of Best Practices in this program.

- **CG Auxiliary CFV Policies and Procedures Guidelines.** The Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Department is participating in development of the Coast Guard's business plan for Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety and plans approval of the proposed Coast Guard Auxiliary Commercial Fishing Vessel Policies and Procedures Guidelines.

RESULTS: ONGOING: The Auxiliary CFV Policies and Procedures Guidelines were revisited by G-PVC and the decision was made to include the Uninspected Passenger and Uninspected Towing Vessels. The document is presently under review and approval is anticipated in the near future.

AUXILIARY RESOURCE ALIGNMENT STUDY

The first phase of the Alignment Study was reported in the April Quarterly Report and the final report will be presented at NACON in September. Since April, selected team members have continued to work to fill the gaps established by phase-one of the study.

Gap 1 – Contingency Plans are incomplete.

District Contingency Plans are progressing and the team continues to review their progress. Contingency Planning job aides and power point lessons have been provided as guidelines.

Gap 2 – Input into the Auxiliary data collection system is not complete.

A plan has been initiated to allow individual members to provide the information that will correct their personal data. While the technical aspects are being put into place, we are preparing to announce the plan to the membership in January at N-Train, just prior to issuing a 2006 Letter of Accomplishments to each member.

Gap 3 – Interoperability of Auxiliary and Coast Guard systems

The Mobilization Readiness Tracking Tool (MRTT) is now in place and being piloted in Districts 5 and 13 with the Reserve system. Once the pilot is successfully completed, the

Auxiliary systems will be interfaced with the Contingency Personnel Management System (CPMS).

Meeting with RDML Hewitt

In conjunction with Gaps 2 and 3, a meeting was held on 30 June 2006 with Auxiliary Chief of Staff, the Chief Director, RDML Hewitt and his staff. The meeting started with a discussion of the current status of the Auxiliary information system and progressed to future concerns and the need for AUXDATA to become better linked with other CG systems. AUXDATA needs to be more user friendly, a better management tool and accessible to Auxiliary members via normal internet access.

As a result of this initial meeting, the Auxiliary Information System Requirements Team was formed. Chaired by the Chief of Staff, the team consists of representatives from the Auxiliary, CG-6, G-PCX, the AUXDATA Tiger Team, OSC, and G-RPP. The Auxiliary members of the team are currently collecting input from various communities throughout the Auxiliary to bring to a meeting scheduled for early August at TISCOM. This group will meet as needed with the objective of brainstorming, organizing input and producing a plan that can be acted upon by CG-6 to initiate the future development of an Auxiliary information system that will meet the needs of the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard. Our target date for the initial proposal is January 2007.

Gap 4 – Current mobilization systems are inefficient
This is dependent upon the resolution of Gaps 2 and 3.

Gap 5 – Not all Sectors are engaged in collaborative planning with their Auxiliary resources. This will be reported on at NACON.

AUXILIARY REC SURGE OPERATION

Background:

An interim rule went into effect on 13 January 2006 requiring Merchant Mariners to present themselves to the Coast Guard for ID verification and fingerprinting. This has resulted in an increase of approximately 40 percent in walk-in traffic at the Coast Guard's 17 Regional Examination Centers (REC) and burdened the staffs with processing this additional business.

The support of the RECs is of the highest importance and essential to maintaining the safety and security of our ports and waterways. This is an opportunity for Auxiliarists to make a needed and appreciated contribution of direct support to the USCG. This SURGE OPERATION will be 12 to 18 months duration and is of the utmost importance to the USCG Homeland Security Mission.

Needs Assessment:

A discussion on utilizing the Auxiliary fingerprint technicians in meeting the needs of the RECs was conducted with the Auxiliary M Department, CAPT Smith (G-PCX) and CAPT Fink, CO of the National Maritime Center. This discussion resulted in a survey of each REC to identify and quantify their needs and ideas on how the Auxiliary could supplement their staff to meet this new challenge.

In addition to the survey, CAPT Fink met with all the REC Chiefs/Assistant Chiefs on April 25th and asked them to be prepared to work directly with the Auxiliary. COMO Helmut Hertle, NADCO-OMS also contacted each of the REC Coordinators to deal with any concerns or issues and ensure the program's smooth start.

There are at least two potential areas of Auxiliary direct support to the RECs. One area is on-site at each REC, where trained and qualified Auxiliarist would take over the fingerprinting and document verification tasks, under the direct supervision of their designated REC supervisor. The second area is providing the same service at a Coast Guard installation (Station, or Sector) remote from the REC. This opportunity would be especially helpful in those areas where there are licensed mariners in locations distant from an REC.

Program approach:

In order for this operation to be successful, it must be fully supported by the Auxiliary, the National Executive Committee (NEXCOM) and the District Commodores. Specifically, the National Area Commodores and District Commodores will actively support and monitor this operation.

Each District DIRAUX is also essential to the success of this operation. They have access to the pool of trained fingerprint technicians. In addition, they may be called upon to assist in the issuance of orders and the guidance to the RECs in dealing with volunteers.

An Auxiliary REC Coordinator has been appointed by the District Commodore to directly interact with each REC. The initial purpose of this Auxiliary REC Coordinator is to meet with the REC Chief/Assistant Chief and discuss the needs of the REC and how the Auxiliary may assist in meeting these needs. They are the communications link to the rest of the Auxiliary in recruiting members to assist at the REC and in communicating the needs of the REC to the Auxiliary, and of the Auxiliary to the REC.

Training:

The USCG, under the leadership of CAPT Fink, CO of the National Maritime Center is preparing and "fast-tracking" the approval of the training program for the Auxiliarists to participate in this operation. This fast action is being directly supported by RDML Craig Bone.

In addition to the special training that may be required of Auxiliary participants, many Auxiliarists already have received training in fingerprinting and document examination while being trained to perform these services for the Auxiliary as a part of the PSI operation. These trained members are a natural source of talent to meet this new need, especially as their level of operations is decreasing.

REC support to the Auxiliary:

As a part of the comprehensive survey completed by the RECs, the importance of support to the Auxiliary members who would be supporting them was addressed. The need to provide basic “out of pocket” reimbursement to the Auxiliarists who are supporting the REC was addressed.

National Program Oversight:

National program oversight will be through the Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Department. A Branch Chief under the Marine Safety Division will be appointed to liaise with the District Auxiliary REC Coordinators, through the District Staff Officers for Marine Safety.

The purpose of this program oversight is to provide a venue to gather and publicize Best Practices, share and disseminate information, and to provide a resource for supporting and expanding the program as the opportunities and needs are identified.

DIGITAL SELECT CALLING (DSC) VHF RADIOS

Background:

A key feature of the DSC marine radio requires that the owner obtain a Maritime Mobile Service Identifier (MMSI). The MMSI can currently be obtained from the FCC or BoatUS. The potential problem is three-fold:

1. Only about 10% of the approximately 250,000 DSC radios sold to date have obtained the MMSI.
2. A secondary issue questions whether or not the MMSI has been programmed correctly, allowing transmission of the MAYDAY signal.
3. And finally, those boaters with a functional DSC radio need to understand when the Rescue 21 system will be functional in their AOR.

As key recreational boating safety educators, the Auxiliary has been asked to help identify the extent of, and to help rectify these potential problem.

Issues to be resolved:

1. Do the recreational and commercial boating communities understand the importance of the MMSI?
2. Have the MMSI been properly installed?
3. Are there any roadblocks to obtaining the MMSI?

Action Plan:

An educational effort is being conducted. The Recreational Boating Safety Directorate is focusing on the recreational boating community through its public education, vessel safety check, and partner visitor missions. In addition, an educational campaign has been initiated with various marine industry partners in both print and electronic media. The Marine Safety Department has also initiated a similar educational effort within the commercial boating community. A Fact Sheet was created and is being used as an educational model and distributed to the boating community.

The Vessel Safety Check Department is using a survey of recreational vessels while performing vessel safety checks. The survey results will be forwarded to Communications Division of the Operations Department for evaluation. A packet has been provided to each vessel examiner (Auxiliary and USPS) containing an instructional letter, the fact sheet, and a survey record form. Distribution was made via the staff chain, and other electronic outlets: web sites, and the VE net. The survey work will be completed by 31 August.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEMS TRAINING

As a function of our readiness for contingency situations, Auxiliary members with specific qualifications have been completing ICS 100 and 200 and NIMS 700 and 800 training. As of 10 July, the status of trained Auxiliarists is as follows:

	ICS 100	ICS 200	IS 700	IS 800
Tasks Completed	100	200	700	800
1NR - First Northern	578	435	511	367
1SR - First Southern	987	544	799	452
5NR - Fifth Northern	622	262	470	180
5SR - Fifth Southern	1379	575	948	346
Seventh	1725	996	1422	900
8CR - Eighth Coastal	1011	694	516	349
8ER - Eighth Eastern	803	666	415	407
8WR - Eighth Western	532	387	421	258
9CR - Ninth Central	491	318	392	213
9ER - Ninth Eastern	435	376	392	366
9WR - Ninth Western	365	213	212	134
11NR - Eleventh Northern	536	302	338	173
11SR - Eleventh Southern	719	478	583	397
13 - Thirteenth	596	397	420	283
14 - Fourteenth	87	64	70	57
17 - Seventeenth	80	56	28	12
All Units	10946	6763	7937	4894

SMARTUPDATE

Coast Guard Owned/Auxiliary Operated “Self-contained Mobile Auxiliary Response Teams” (SMART) Units.

With the understanding that communications is vital to emergency response, a proposal for Coast Guard owned, Auxiliary operated Recreational Vehicles (RV) for use in the development of the Auxiliary’s “Self-contained Mobile Auxiliary Response Teams” (SMART) units was forwarded to the Commandant for review in March 2006.

While awaiting a decision, a concept paper on “SMART” was developed, taking into consideration our equipment needs, personnel needs and requirements (special training and physical requirements), etc. Likewise, we are addressing answers to such questions as: our ability to deliver the product(s) to the emergency site(s); does it have a short implementation cycle that lends itself to prompt deployment in emergencies; and will this concept be simple to use under high-stress emergency conditions.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Caribbean Search and Rescue (CSAR) Initiative.

Objectives:

The USCG Auxiliary is directed to enhance security, stability and safety of life at sea in the Caribbean Region through:

- The establishment and/or strengthening of government affiliated volunteer SAR organizations,
- The institution of boating safety education and public outreach, and
- The development of maritime domain awareness programs involving the volunteer organizations and the boating public.

The United States Southern Command has teamed with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to promote the use of volunteers; encourage governmental coordination, cooperation and sponsorship of volunteer SAR efforts; and host events to further this objective.

Strategic Plan:

The Caribbean Initiative’s Strategic Plan for 2006-2010 is based on helping others to help themselves. Together with Caribbean Nation Coast Guards and Volunteer SAR Organizations, the Auxiliary will inform and demonstrate to Caribbean governments the potential benefits of establishing and nurturing volunteer components to enhance the safety of life at sea, free limited government resources to focus on law enforcement and security missions and increase maritime security.

The 'Caribbean Boating Education Course,' Waterway Watch program, the *Model Maritime Auxiliary Guide*, and the CSAR internet site to encourage the sharing of ideas and dissemination of information regarding SAR and vessel safety matters, are all important facets of this Caribbean initiative.

Coordination with SOUTHCOM and Traditional Commander's Activities (TCA) funding support enables the USCG Auxiliary to hold a Caribbean Volunteer Maritime conference every 18 months, and upon request, a Subject Matter Expert Exchange, and participate in joint operational exercises.

Significant Achievements:

- 2002, 2004, 2006 – with SOUTHCOM funding and support, Caribbean Volunteer Maritime Conferences held.
- 2003 – Bahamas Air-Sea Rescue initiates *America's Boating Course* public education program.
- 2003 – Turks & Caicos Rescue Organization re-established.
- 2003 – Grenada establishes a volunteer SAR organization (SARA).
- 2004 – Jamaica SAR Association (JASAR) established.
- 2004 – USCGAUX initiates promotion of Waterway Watch Program for Caribbean nations.
- 2004 – SAR Federation- Aruba (SARFA) initiates public boating safety education.
- 2005 – Antigua & Barbuda, Curacao, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Turks & Caicos announce plans to initiate boating safety courses with USCGAUX assistance.
- 2005 – Cayman Islands (SARCI) establishes volunteer SAR unit.
- 2005 – USCGAUX establishes dedicated CSAR internet site.
- 2006 – USCGAUX supports TRADEWINDS Exercises along with Jamaican SAR volunteers.

Most recently, the highly successful 2006 Caribbean Search and Rescue Conference was held June 8-10 in Miami. Eighty four persons, representing civilian volunteer and government organizations from 26 nations and territories attended.

International Search and Rescue Competition (ISAR)

The International Directorate is coordinating the 2006 ISAR Competition between the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary. This year's competition will be held 27-28 October in Portsmouth, VA. In preparation, USCGAUX boat crews have been practicing and perfecting their skills. Competitions between the Districts have already taken place in order to select the best teams from each area to compete against the Canadians.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

As a result of our Strategic Planning process and the Auxiliary Resource Alignment Study, the Auxiliary is initiating a study of performance measures in our program areas. We will be examining our capabilities (people, equipment, supplies, infrastructure, information) so we can conduct our missions in order to produce anticipated results (cost/benefit) and meet the public's and Coast Guard's expectations and achieve our Strategic Goals.

Performance measures fall in line with our four broad Strategic Imperatives from our Strategic Plan: Transformation, Balance, Focus and Accountability. As 2006 is the Year of Recreational Boating Safety, we will begin by examining the Vessel Safety Check program and report out at NACON on the process and results.

PERSONNEL SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS (PSI)

The deadline for the completion of the PSI packages for current Auxiliarist is 31 December 2006. At that time, all Auxiliarists who have not submitted their PSI package will automatically be disenrolled. This continues to be an issue of constant concern and action on the part of our leaders at all levels of the organization. The current status on the number of members who have not yet submitted their paperwork is as follows:

	Members without PSI as of 7/10/06	Potential % loss
1NR - First Northern	623	26
1SR - First Southern	643	19
5NR - Fifth Northern	633	25
5SR - Fifth Southern	966	27
Seventh	564	11
8CR - Eighth Coastal	436	24
8ER - Eighth Eastern	219	16
8WR - Eighth Western	148	11
9CR - Ninth Central	592	45
9ER - Ninth Eastern	297	29
9WR - Ninth Western	499	38
11NR - Eleventh Northern	439	27
11SR - Eleventh Southern	583	31
Thirteenth	365	22
Fourteenth	81	22
Seventeenth	21	5
All Units	7,109	23%

A loss of members of this magnitude will have a great effect on our mission readiness and our resources. A campaign to educate and encourage members to complete their paperwork has been on-going. We are making every effort to retain these members.

THE COURSE AHEAD: THE NEXT 100 DAYS (JULY-SEPT.)

Recreational Boating Safety Directorate

- The Boating Department is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to implement the partnership agreement concluded last year. A USACE point of contact is actively working to identify a lake site, with no USCGAUX presence, where Corps personnel can be trained to conduct Vessel Safety Checks. When the pilot site is identified, Department members will train and qualify the Corps' officers.
- The Public Education Department will initiate a new edition of the *Sailing & Seamanship* course that will parallel *Boating Skills & Seamanship* and is targeted for delivery in early 2007.
- *Weekend Navigator* is under development to replace our Public Education basic and advanced coastal navigation course. Power Point presentations for Part One have been completed and this portion will be piloted within one month. Part Two is targeted to be ready to pilot in September 2006.
- The Vessel Safety Check Department will collect and compile the results of the Digital Select Calling radio survey and will forward to the Auxiliary Communications Division.

Member Services Directorate

- The Personnel Department is conducting the July membership drive.
- Staffing for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Volunteer Partners Auxiliary program will be completed by the Personnel Department and will be assigned within the Auxiliary for administration.
- Final testing of the automatic distribution system for online processing of potential member leads will be concluded by the Personnel Department and the program will be stood up. The program will automatically send public queries for information or potential membership to the nearest local flotilla and tracks the contact procedure.
- The Personnel Department will review, correct and rewrite the New Member Course materials currently in draft stage at ANSC.
- The Information and Technology Department will recommend changes to AUXDATA based on category consolidation. Each Department Chief is reviewing how to best implement the desired departmental goals, reduce paperwork, and

simplify data reporting and management. As an example, 41 of the Auxiliary's 133 active categories account for less than 00.4 percent of its total missions.

- At the request of PCX, the Information and Technology Department will teach an additional two C-School programs, *AUX-04 Web Design and PowerPoint* and *AUX-10 AUXDATA/AUXINFO*.
- *SmileTiger*, a no-cost online conferencing program that has been in use by National Departments, will be phased-in at District level by the IT Department.
- The Training Department has developed a course for Leadership Facilitator Training for the Flotilla Commander Academy and Auxiliary Mid-Level Officer course (AMLOC) that will be held for the first time during NACON in September.
- Working in conjunction with G-133, the criteria for the Charles S. Greanoff Inspirational Leadership Award for the outstanding Auxiliary Flotilla Commander has been written and approved. Introduction of this award criteria and process will take place at NACON.

Operations and Marine Safety Directorate

- The Marine Safety Department will work with the LANTAREA Coordinator in developing and implementing the Auxiliary Tiger Team initiative targeted for January 2007. One of LANTAREA's Prevention goals is to strengthen the partnership with the Auxiliary. The purpose of the Tiger Team that LANTAREA is pursuing is to raise the level of Auxiliary participation in the Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety (CFVS), Uninspected Passenger Towing Vessel (UTV), and Uninspected Passenger Vessel (UPV) programs. This Tiger Team will also coordinate LANTAREA Auxiliary activities with the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) programs. The Tiger Team will be a force multiplier for critically understaffed, yet important safety initiatives, while raising the Auxiliary programs' visibility within the Coast Guard.
- The Marine Environmental Protection Division will develop a presentation package to be delivered to community and environmental groups detailing the history of the Auxiliary and environmental missions of the Coast Guard. The package will be used to promote cooperation with community groups leading to increased recruiting of new members with interests in environmental activities.
- Discussion and coordination between the Commercial Fishing Vessel Examination Division and the District 5 CFV Coordinator is underway to initiate the Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety and Survivability Training Pilot. Timing of the pilot program will be dependent upon the D5 CFV coordinator and CVE division schedule.

- The Telecommunication Division of the Operations Department will work with CG Pacific Area Communications Command (CAMSPAC) to expand the Auxiliary Communications Monitoring Station (AUXMONSTA) program.
- The Operations Department will begin development of templates for testing Emergency Notification schemes when in MARSEC 2 and 3 conditions in support of Marine Domain Awareness.

SUMMARY

Within the next 100 days, our annual National Conference will take place in Dallas, Texas on Labor Day weekend. For a week preceding the actual conference, the National Executive Committee and Executive Staff will meet to discuss the progress that we have made on our strategic imperatives, problems encountered and solutions proposed. The National Operating Committee will report out on the program areas to the National Board, and then work in smaller groups together to discuss ways to improve program implementation in the field. The new Auxiliary Association Board will meet for the first time.

Our Learning Plan for the conference includes training sessions running concurrently with our meetings: C schools for aviation, operations training officers and leadership facilitators; Senior Staff and Vice Commodore specialized training and a multitude of workshops offered for all attendees, including contingency planning, recruiting, public affairs, instructor training, publicity, boating mishaps, commercial fishing vessel exams, diversity and uniforms. We will also have an INFO EXP of display booths educating the attendees about our programs, and products and services available from vendors that enhance boating safety and our Auxiliary experience. And International Panel discussions will take place. There is something of interest for everyone in attendance.

Our National Conference is a once a year event that gives our virtual organization an opportunity to come together, plan, work and learn together, and enjoy fellowship. This enables us to grow and transition as individuals and as an organization.

On behalf of the Auxiliary, I would like to thank Admiral Allen for the honor of serving on the Leadership Council. This recognition and responsibility is the ultimate inclusion of the Auxiliary into the Coast Guard. As a member of the Leadership Council, I look forward to making future contributions on behalf of the members of the Auxiliary.

As National Commodore, I will continue to stay the course that has been plotted, maintaining the balance between maritime security and recreational boating safety, keeping our focus on the Auxiliary's goal of service to our members, the Coast Guard and to the Nation.

Respectfully submitted,



Gene M. Seibert
National Commodore