



Second Quarter 2014



The Gazetteer

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Effective Communications and Mission Success

Whether it is a voicemail about a change to a patrol schedule or an e-mail confirming receipt of some important documents, a fluid stream of communications is critical to the success of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We can never assume that just because we sent you an important message you have received it. Your shipmates need to know when you have things heard, understood, and acknowledged – only then can we progress most efficiently and effectively. We all are busy people in our non-Auxiliary lives, but so long as we are members serving the United States Coast Guard, we must make time to communicate effectively. That is being devoted to our duty. That is being *Semper Paratus*.

Commander's Message

“Be proud of the uniform you wear, be proud of the service you represent, be proud of what you do, and be proud to be part of the Coast Guard family.”

- Division Commander Michelle Thornton



Your Division Commander, pictured here, has always been very proud to serve the Coast Guard.

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Spring Message from the Vice Commander

“Flotilla Commanders do not have to accept and repeat the same passive behavior from previous years. To break out, pick something fun, move the goal posts, and lead the charge. It makes a difference.”

- Division Vice Commander Al Coke



You were just elected as the Flotilla Commander of a lethargic unit. The story has been the same for years. Of the sixty members, only a few participate in the flotilla meetings or show up for any events. The others pay dues and remain invisible. The excuses are many, but the reason for non-participation is fairly simple: The flotilla has no value proposition to offer. With dull meetings, boring training, and low activity levels, why would a member stay connected?

Here is the question: How do you create a vibrant, excited organization from one that has lost its edge? Try these four proven techniques –

- (1) *Pick a single focus.* Determine what your flotilla may be good at or interested in and concentrate on that one dimension. While you cannot ignore any of the four cornerstones of the Auxiliary, you can put emphasis on one above the other. If you try to be all things to all members, you will do none well. For example, your membership may get fired up at the opportunity to do safety patrols twelve months out of the year. Or maybe they like to interact with the public and a Public Affairs emphasis is your energizer. Still, some members like to crawl around boats checking gear and talking to skippers. Focus them on the Vessel Examination Program. The opportunities are there for the taking. Pick one and go for it. Your flotilla should be known for something.
- (2) *Set impossible goals.* Challenge the flotilla to reach for the stars. Too often we are satisfied with minimums. Instead of the required 12 hours underway time, why not an expectation of 60? That level of performance comes with recognition and a ribbon. You may push your unit toward the Fourth Level of Auxiliary Membership by working toward the AUXOPS Device. Just over 14 percent of the Auxiliary is permitted to wear it. Can your flotilla beat that number? Internal competition never hurts.
- (3) *Talk up your success.* Success breeds success. Advertise your success to prospective members. Include your stories in the Flotilla Commander’s Report at the Division meeting. Publicly sharing your success will create an intrinsic reward for your membership. It builds pride in the flotilla and esprit-de-corps for the Auxiliary.
- (4) *Demonstrate leadership by leading.* None of the above works unless you, the Flotilla Commander, are at the front of the activity. You are the first one to put on a dry suit and climb aboard. You are the last one to leave the flotilla meeting because you stayed to rearrange the room. Consistently you are the one who files the 7029 on time. Nothing energizes a flotilla better than actively involved leaders who walk the walk. It’s called referent power.

Division Leadership

The following individuals are your elected and appointed officers for 2014. Feel free to appropriately contact any of them with questions and concerns!

Division Commander:	Michelle Thornton	seachele00@gmail.com
Vice Division Commander:	Alfred Coke	dralcoke@gmail.com
Navigation Services:	VACANT	
Communications:	William Photinos, III	photinos@flotilla51.net
Communication Services:	Rawl Gelinias	rawl@keyops.com
Diversity:	Gerard Williams	gerardaw@aol.com
Finance:	Colleen O'Neil	cattraigne63@gmail.com
Human Resources:	Michelle Thornton	seachele00@gmail.com
Information Systems:	George Langdon	gnautical@gmail.com
Materials:	Alfred Coke	dralcoke@gmail.com
Maritime Safety:	Richard Mayes, Sr.	rickmayes@cox.net
Member Training:	Russell Brawsell, II	andersonbraswell@gmail.com
Operations:	Richard Dunnington	asc@flotilla51.net
Public Affairs:	Francis Hilliker	fhilliker45@yahoo.com
Publications:	Garrett Hendrickson	garrett.hendrickson@cgauxnet.us
Program Visitor:	Peter Faleski	peter.faleski@gmail.com
Secretary:	Maurice Clifton, III	mclifton.uscgaux.53@outlook.com
Vessel Examinations:	Michael Hanson	mrhanson1@cox.net



On the Horizon

May 17 - 24:

National Safe Boating Week. Encourage your friends, family, and coworkers to be safe on the water and wear their life jacket!

June 5 - 8:

Harbor Fest. Contact SO-OPS if you can assist during this busy and important time!

July 25 - 27:

AUXFS Class at Station Little Creek in Virginia Beach.

Flotilla 53 Boating Safety Class:

Join Flotilla 53 from 0800 – 1700 at the Towne Bank Conference Room in Chesapeake for their boating safety class on the fourth Saturday of each month. Cost is \$35.00. Register by contacting Colleen O’Neil at 757-482-1931 or Ed Cart at 757-482-2942.

Division Meetings:

The second Tuesday of each month at 1900 in the Wheelhouse Facility on USCG Base Portsmouth.

Next Issue of The Gazetteer:

Expect the next issue of The Gazetteer to be made available around August 2014.

Trainer's Corner: Vessel Examiners

Attention all **Vessel Examiners!**

Have you taken the mandatory 2014 vessel examiner workshop yet? The purpose of this required workshop is to provide refresher training for Vessel Examiners. It includes current and new requirements, and it provides practical and relevant knowledge to assist in serving the boating public. This activity focuses on four areas: Process and Procedures, Conducting the VSC, Paddle Craft, and Operational Facilities.

How to complete the workshop:

Step 1: Log in to AUXLMS (<https://auxlearning.uscg.mil/>)

Step 2: Search for "VEX(WK-05)"

Step 3: Enroll in the course.

Step 4: Open the course.

Step 5: Follow the directions provided in the video.

The course consists of a 27-minute video on Vessel Safety Checks. It also includes a quiz divided into four parts. You must make a 90 percent or higher to receive credit for completing the workshop.

For additional assistance locating and signing up for the course, including more detailed instructions and screenshots of the process, please go to Flotilla 05-09's website (a0540509.wow.uscgaux.info) and click "Member Training" and then "VE Resources."

Guest Column: Having Things Your Way

By: Commodore Robert Smekta, DIR-HD

“Auxiliarists must make a personal effort to become aware of the requirements of our volunteer service and refrain from adhering to only those policies and procedures that fit their own needs and interests.”

- Commodore Robert Smekta



While most Auxiliary members adhere to policies established by the Commandant, some have chosen to disobey policies that are inconvenient for them. Examples of failure to follow policies include refusal to comply with uniform regulations such as the requirement to wear ODUs aboard Operational Facilities when under orders and making inappropriate remarks about women, mentally or physically challenged people, minority members, or potential Auxiliary members. Other examples of selective adherence include refusing to follow the rules regarding use of social media, interaction with Coast Guard Active Duty members, and participation in political activity while in uniform.

We all took the Pledge when we joined the Auxiliary. It may serve us well to review it from time to time.

I, (your name), solemnly and sincerely pledge myself to support the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and its purposes, to faithfully execute my duties, and to abide by the governing policies established by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

The Pledge provides broad guidance for proper conduct of Auxiliary members. The Auxiliary Manual provides the specific details of the expectations for all of us. It is important for Auxiliarists to remember that in the minds of the public, the Auxiliary is the Coast Guard and any actions contrary to the "governing policies established by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard" reflect badly on the Coast Guard.

The Auxiliary's role is to support the Coast Guard and its missions. To do that, Auxiliarists must make a personal effort to become aware of the requirements of our volunteer service and refrain from adhering to only those policies and procedures that fit their own needs and interests.

Use the Auxiliary Manual as a resource to answer questions about personal conduct, use of social media, uniform etiquette, involvement in political activity, or any other aspect of your life in the Auxiliary. It is your responsibility to know what is or is not acceptable Auxiliary conduct.



Nautical News

Something that all Virginia auxiliarists need to know about: the passing of Virginia HB 650. Passed on April 23, 2014, this law has important impacts on Virginia boaters and their knowledge requirements.

Summary as Passed: Boating safety course. Exempts from the requirements of the boating safety education course persons who hold various landing and aquaculture licenses and permits from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and persons 45 years of age or older who have possessed a Virginia registration certificate for a motorboat for at least six continuous years.

So, what does this mean for us? Boaters who are over the age of 45 and who have owned a boat for at least six years no longer need to take and pass the boating safety education course. Boaters over the age of 45 make up some of the largest portions of people who need to take the safe boating course, and we can expect to see a drop in the number of people showing up to our classes. In light of this law, continue to make every attempt as Coast Guard auxiliarists to promote safe boating practices to everyone you come in contact with!



Training and Readiness Go Together

By: Patrick Hickey

U.S. Coast Guard Mandated Training for the Auxiliary is essential for building awareness and enhancing knowledge, skills, abilities, and readiness. The question is—are you ready?

Mandated Training (MT) is a broad category of training which is needed to introduce, reinforce or clarify the law to improve the function of the federal government or protect the safety of its people; influence the behaviors and/or attitudes of the workforce towards Coast Guard core values; or is critical to improve the function of the Coast Guard or protect the safety of its people. The Coast Guard is committed to supporting Auxiliary training by providing training materials, courses, and electronic delivery systems to impart the skills and knowledge needed.

As part of this commitment, the Auxiliary launched the Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS) to systematize the instructional system and improve the efficiency of training processes for members. All Auxiliarists must complete the mandated training courses; however, new Auxiliarists must successfully complete the following mandated training during their first year of enrollment. All Auxiliarists have to complete the courses once every five years:

- Suicide Prevention
- Security Education and Training Awareness (SETA)
- Privacy Awareness
- Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH)
- Sexual Assault Prevention
- Civil Rights Awareness

In addition, Auxiliarists must successfully complete the following training only once:

- Ethics Training
- Influenza Training

For this purpose, the first year of enrollment will extend to 31 December of the year following their base enrollment date. For example, if a new enrollee has a base enrollment date of 15 March 2014, that individual will have until 31 December 2015 to complete mandated training. The subsequent five-year cycle for each of the first six courses listed above will start after each respective course completion.

You are encouraged to consult with your Flotilla Member Training Officer (FSO-MT) or Flotilla Human Resources Officer (FSO-HR) about mandated training requirements. For more information on mandated training for the Auxiliary, visit <http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/training/auxlms.asp>.


Are You Ready?



Officer Report: Public Affairs

By: Francis Hilliker

As your division public affairs officer, I often find myself in the public eye along with my shipmates. Unfortunately, I also find myself noticing some of our shipmates are improperly wearing their uniform. Not only does improperly wearing your uniform reflect poorly upon the Coast Guard Auxiliary, but it also reflects poorly on the Gold Side. Because we share the same uniform with our Gold Side shipmates, the general public often cannot tell an auxiliarist apart from an active duty member. In addition to wearing your uniform in strict compliance with the AUXMAN, I suggest you keep your uniform well pressed. If you're going to be attending an event (for example, a public affairs booth), everyone should wear the same uniform. It looks unprofessional when some are wearing tropes and some are wearing ODUs – know what the most appropriate uniform is, and wear it! Our tropes always require straight nametags and ribbons, and their distance should be about a quarter-inch above and parallel with the breast pocket (you can use a pencil as a space reference). If your shoes aren't shined, shine them! A lot can be said for an auxiliarist who takes his work so seriously he always has well-buffed shoes. The Auxiliary allows you to wear a beard with your uniform, but it should be neatly trimmed to a reasonable length, and it should not look "sloppy." Ladies, make sure your hair is not touching the collar of your uniform! If you intend to do some vessel examinations, determine the uniform everyone should wear (probably your ODUs – which in the summer will have sleeves rolled neatly up), and send them home if they're not wearing their uniform correctly and with pride. Remember with all uniforms that if you are outside, have on your cover (ball cap with ODUs and garrison/combo cover with tropes) – and take your cover off as soon as you come indoors, don't stand inside under cover! If you're not entirely sure how to wear your uniform, or if you think you saw something being worn incorrectly, consult the AUXMAN.

 *Francis has been a member of the Auxiliary for nearly seven years.*

Note from the editor: We need to remember that when we put on our tropes or ODUs (or any other uniform, for that matter) we are not putting on a uniform belonging to a civilian volunteer organization – we are putting on the uniform of a branch of the United States Armed Forces. We owe it to every member of the U.S. military – past, present, and future – to not disgrace the uniform they sacrificed so much for. If you want to wear your uniform differently (no matter how minor the difference may be!), or improperly, or sloppily, leave it in the closet.

Deck Plate Leadership Series

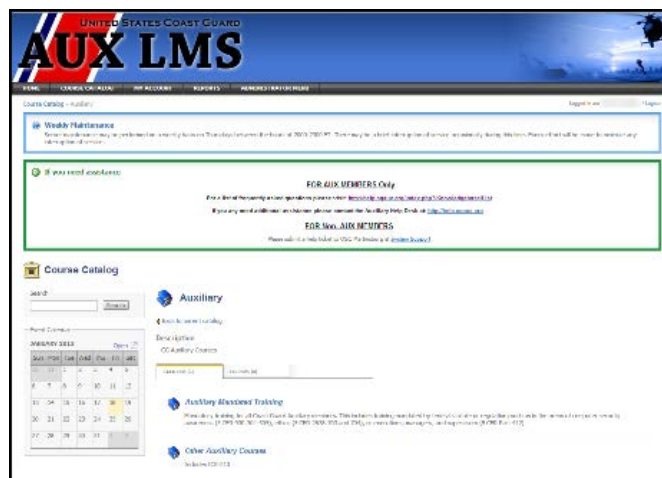
By: Michael Brzezicki

Auxiliary leadership training starts and through a continuum of courses progresses from the Flotilla Leadership Course (FLC), to the Auxiliary Leadership & Management School (AUXLAMS), to the Auxiliary Mid-Level Officer Course (AMLOC), the Auxiliary Upper-Level Officer Course (AULOC) and finishes with the Auxiliary Senior Officer Course (ASOC). However, most leadership training really takes place at the flotilla or division level, at the deck plate. This is accomplished either by leadership example and / or leadership training at flotilla / division meetings or other venues such as newsletters.

The Deck Plate Leadership Series was developed to provide modules or blocks of leadership instruction that any Auxiliary member can deliver in short segments. The series also provides leadership articles that can be used in the various Auxiliary newsletters to compliment the leadership blocks of instruction.

Over time more blocks of instruction and articles will be added to keep the material fresh and interesting. If you have a leadership block of instruction that has been effective in your flotilla / division and want to share it with the rest of the Auxiliary use the Deck Plate Leadership Series format and forward to me at michaelbrzezicki@sbcglobal.net. If you have a leadership article that you would like to share, again format it like the other articles and forward it to me at michaelbrzezicki@sbcglobal.net. As the series is updated ideas from the deck plate will be a welcome addition.

The new Deck Plate Leadership Series is now available at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=deck-plate-ldr> your password and member number is required to enter this site on the Dir-T website.





After a long day, Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel *Witchdoctor* cruises into the sunset on the Pagan river. Based out of Smithfield, Coast Guard Auxiliary unit 05-09 patrols an area of operation stretching from Jamestown to the Monitor-Merrimac Bridge Tunnel, including all the creeks and rivers in the area. (Coast Guard Photo by Auxiliarist Anderson Braswell).



RADM Steven Ratti inspects an honor platoon, composed of active duty, reserve, auxiliary and civilian Coast Guard personnel, from the Fifth Coast Guard District during the District's change of command ceremony, Wednesday, April 30, 2014, in Portsmouth, Va. RADM Stephen Metruck relieved RADM Ratti of the command. (Coast Guard Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class John Miller).



Smithfield's Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 05-09 recently set a new Coast Guard record for minimal leakage in the Damage Control portion of the District Search and Rescue Competition. Including teams from Maryland to North Carolina, the competition tested crews' skill in seamanship, navigation, teamwork, damage control and search and rescue. Flotilla 05-09 placed 3rd overall. (Coast Guard Photo by Auxiliarist Anderson Braswell).