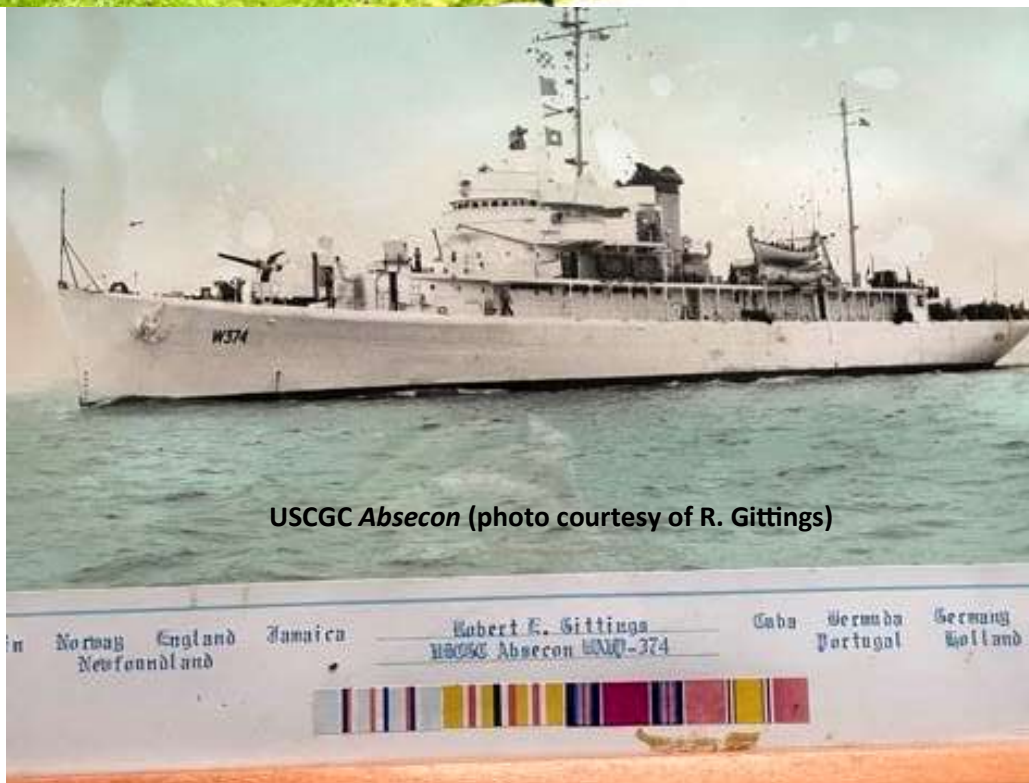


# Chesapeake Chatter

## Division 23 5SR



Solomons Maritime Festival



USCGC Absecon (photo courtesy of R. Gittings)

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

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## Division 23 Stands Up

After a one year stand down in District 5SR, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary activities resumed for Division 23. John Fewer, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator (ASC); Philip Wentz, DSO-OP; Ray Feller and Marie Squillace, Division Vice Commander, played a major role in advising and training all Division leaders and Flotilla Commanders regarding the reconstitution plan for District 5SR.

Multiple reconstitution briefings were conducted by John Fewer, ASC with a focus on compliance with enclosures 13 and the February 2, 2021 Covid-19 reconstitution Guidelines. All members have been requested to follow all guidelines in order to safely resume United States Coast Guard activities. The following plan has been initiated to bring D5SR back to operational status:

1. A review of highlights of Covid-19 reconstitution guidelines GG BSX-8 Feb, 2021
2. Sector Md NCR-Reconstitution Guidance was provided to all DCDRs on 2 April 2021
3. Documentation requirements for all members:
4. Risk Assessment
5. PPE Requirements
6. Mission Notification
7. Refresher training
8. Pre-Underway guideline
9. Vessel Examiners refresher course

All members have been encouraged to pursue these essential tasks aggressively to return back to normal operational status.

*Willie Witters*

Division Commander



## Are you ready to stand-up?

We have received the green-light to resume all underway and shoreside tasks consistent with the new Auxiliary COVID-19 Reconstitution Guidelines (which supersedes prior guidance). Are you ready to stand-up?

Q. Where do I send the Auxiliary COVID-19 High-Risk Assessment (ANSC-7101) form?

A. Submit ANSC-7101 to each OIA where orders are requested.

Q. If I received a COVID-19 vaccine (and checked "no" on the ANSC-7101 previously), do I need to resubmit form ANSC-7101 again?

A. Yes. If vaccinated, re-submit form ANSC-7101 to each OIA where orders are requested.

Q. Where do I send my Blood Borne Pathogens Training Course (#100293) certificate?

A. Submit once to each OIA where orders are requested and to your IS Officer for input into AUXDATA II.

Q. Are there any new guidelines for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for this year?

A. Yes. COVID-19 PPE "band" guidance is detailed in the COVID-19 Reconstitution Guide. Most Auxiliary activities fall within "band" control options A (face covering) and B (face covering, gloves, goggles, coveralls, voluntary use of N95 mask).

Q. What are the required workshops I need to participate in operations this year?

A. 1) OPS and, 2) How Well are You Trained

Q. Are workshops required for other mission areas?

A. Yes. VE, Instructor, and Food Service workshops are required prior to participation.

Q. Are there any new underway operational requirements that I need to complete this year?

A. Yes. Members are required to perform a

Continued on page 4 - see COVID

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## 2021 Board & Staff

DCDR: Willie Witters  
VCDR: Marie Squillace  
IPDCDR: John Fewer

### 23-1 - Annapolis

Margaret Butler, Flotilla Commander  
David Sire, Flotilla Vice Commander

### 23-2 - Solomons

Lawrence Butts, Flotilla Commander  
Richard Sikorski, Flotilla Vice Commander

### 23-3 – West Annapolis

Roy Culley, Flotilla Commander  
Kirby Garland, Flotilla Vice Commander

### 23-4 – South River

Bruce Petro, Flotilla Commander  
James Regensburg, Flotilla Vice Commander

### 23-6 – Drum Point

Steve Birchfield, Flotilla Commander  
Tom Hardisty, Flotilla Vice Commander

### 23-7 – Herring Bay

Paul Manicone, Flotilla Commander  
Christopher Jensen, Flotilla Vice Commander

### Division Staff

SO-AS—Michael Taylor  
SO-CM - Jim Welday  
SO-CS - Wendy Norwitz  
SO-DV - vacant  
SO-FN - Michael Taylor  
SO-FS - Ron Hillard  
SO-HR - Dave Keyser  
SO-IS - Ronald Hillard  
SO-MA -Christopher Jensen  
SO-MS - Ronald Price  
SO-MT - Ray Feller  
SO-NS - Jeffrey Conopask  
SO-OP - Phil Wentz  
SO-PA - Le Roy Culley  
SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove  
SO-PE - vacant  
SO-PV - Christopher Jensen  
SO-SR - Mark Campbell  
SO-VE - Kirby Garland

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6 July 2021



Articles and pictures are encouraged and appreciated. Please email to the editor: Connie Cosgrove at [cjcosgrove@earthlink.net](mailto:cjcosgrove@earthlink.net)

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(COVID—continued from page 2)

“refresher training” with Auxiliary Qualification Examiners. This training is different than (and does not substitute for) a required “check-ride” needed to maintain currency. It is intended to help members “shake off the rust” and stand up with confidence.

Q. Has the risk-assessment process changed this year for Auxiliary missions?

A. Yes. A detailed risk assessment will occur before every mission that incorporates the added risk of COVID-19 in the operating environment. You should be familiar with and comply with all CDC, state and local guidelines for COVID-19.

Q. Has anything changed with activities that do not require Coast Guard orders?

A. Yes. All VE, PV, PA, PE, UPV, and CFV activities require members to use the “Notification of Mission/Activity” form monthly and receive pre-approval to participate in these missions. A copy of the form is on the inside back cover.

Q. Can the Auxiliary COVID-19 Reconstitution Guidance change in the coming days, weeks, or months?

A. Yes. DIRAUX, Coast Guard Units, and OIAs are continually assessing operational risks during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. Be prepared for change and adapt accordingly!

Q. Do I have to participate in the Auxiliary in the areas for which I am qualified during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A. No. Your participation in the USCG Auxiliary is voluntary and a personal choice. If you feel unable to participate during the COVID-19 pandemic (for whatever reason), consider contributing to the Auxiliary in other ways. For example, by teaching boating safety classes on-line from the comfort of your home; by asking your FC how you may be able to contribute to the flotilla from home; and/or by taking courses on-line to advance your Auxiliary qualifications at home.

For more detailed information about standing-up, please review the *Auxiliary COVID-19*

*Reconstitution Guidance* document, and check with your FC and FSO’s-OP and MT for more information. Also, check the Division 23 training calendar for upcoming training opportunities. As guidance continues to evolve, stay flexible and keep in mind that the intention is to provide us all with a safe way of moving forward during the pandemic. When in doubt, ask questions!

*Marie Squillace*

Division Vice Commander

## **Auxiliary Association Inc. - Recipient of The Coast Guard Mutual Assistance "So Others May Live" Award**

Congratulations to all Auxiliarists and Associate Members of the Auxiliary Association Inc. (AuxA) for AuxA’s recent selection for the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) “So Others May Live” Award!

This selection recognizes AuxA’s generous support and monetary contributions to CGMA’s Operation Extended Hands which provided immediate financial relief to Coast Guard families affected by a devastating housing complex fire near Coast Guard Station Cape Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina in October 2020. Over \$31,000 quickly raised by AuxA members helped these families pay for relocation costs, replacement of household goods and personal effects, funeral expenses, and other unexpected costs. The award will be presented to the Coast Guard Auxiliary at the CGMA annual Board meeting on April 23, 2021.

The Auxiliary Association Inc. (AuxA) is the only 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation authorized by the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard to exist in support of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. All Auxiliarists are members of AuxA by virtue of their current enrollment. To learn more about the AuxA, please visit the AuxA web site available through the Coast Guard Auxiliary web site (<http://www.cgaux.org/>) or directly at <https://www.cgauxa.org/>

Editor’s note: The above information was received in an email through the CG delivery service



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## 2021 National Workshops

**National Operations Workshops.** The Surface and Air Operations Workshops are required for 2021. The Telecommunications Workshop is optional for 2021 but is highly recommended. Similar to 2020, the National Operations Workshops (Surface/Air/Telecommunications) may be completed via webinar. The workshop training material(s) must be delivered by an Auxiliarist qualified in the respective operations program provided they are either a certified instructor or are under the supervision of a certified instructor. Instructors may use any webinar delivery platform that is available in their region. Instructors are encouraged to work with their Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) to determine the proper delivery platform. Details for the 2021 **required** National Operations Workshops are listed below:

Surface Operations Workshop. This workshop is required for all boat crew coxswains, boat crew members, personal water craft operators, paddle craft operators, and those currently training for any of these competencies, including members in Required Yearly Not Met (REYR) status who intend to regain their certification.

Air Operations Workshop. This workshop is required for all pilots, air crew, air observers, and those currently training for any of these competencies, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification.

The 2021 National Operations Workshop presentations (Air, Surface, and Telecommunications) are located at the National Response Directorate web page at the following link: R-Directorate What's New Website.

Instructors of these workshops must submit a Workshop Mission and Attendance Report (ANSC-7039) to their IS officer for entry into AUXDATA II.

**National Vessel Examiner and Instructor Workshops.** The Vessel Examiner (VE) and Instructor (IT) Workshops are required for 2021. These workshops are intended to be viewed by

members and completion logged via a self-attestation form as described below. These workshops may also be facilitated by an Instructor via webinar or in person as District COVID Protocols permit.

VE Workshop. This workshop is required for all certified Vessel Examiners, and those currently training to become Vessel Examiners, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. The VE workshop presentations are located at the National V-Directorate website.

IT Workshop. This workshop is required for all certified Instructors, and those currently training to become Instructors, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. The IT workshop is located at the E-Directorate website.

Members who individually view the VE or IT workshops in their entirety must submit a Workshop Attestation Form to their FSO-IS for entry into AUXDATA II. In order to make data entry easier, IS officers may collect forms for all of their members required to complete these workshops and make one entry into AUXDATA II using the last day of the month of the Activity/Task Completion date. This form is located in the same location as the VE and IT Workshop presentations listed above. Note: When adding the VE workshop task to Activity Logs in AUXDATA II use the task named "Vessel Examinations Workshop" in the Workshops task category list.

If the workshop is facilitated by an Instructor in a webinar or group setting, the Instructor must submit a Workshop Mission and Attendance Report (ANSC-7039) to their IS officer for entry into AUXDATA II.

**National Food Service Sanitation Workshop.** This workshop is required for all Auxiliary Food Service Specialists and those currently training for this competency, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. Please

Continued on page 6—see workshops

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Workshops—continued from page 5

follow the instructions on the Auxiliary Food Services Website for completing the Annual AUXFS Sanitation Update. After completing the required test, course completion will be logged into AUXDATA II via the National Testing Center course results upload. There is no need to create separate activity logs for completion of this course in AUXDATA II. The workshop is available through the Auxiliary Human Resources Directorate web page at: National Auxiliary Food Services Website.

All workshops (except food service) and the Workshop Self-Attestation form may also be downloaded from AUXDATA II. From the AUXDATA II Navigation Bar select "More," then "Files," and then select "Libraries." The workshops and form are located in the 2021 Workshops Library.

Per chapter 8.B.1.g of reference (a), all **required** workshops must be completed no later than **30 June 2021**. If not completed by 30 June 2021, members required to complete those workshops will have their affected competencies place into Required Workshop Not Met (REWK). If a required workshop is not completed by 31 December 2021, the affected competencies will be placed in REYR status.

Questions should be directed to the appropriate Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM).



*Happy Memorial Day*

## Awards

The following members have received awards since the last issue of the Chatter.

### Membership Service Award

5 years

Richard James, 23-3

15 years

Gerald Davit and Edward May, 23-2

10 years

Dee Latham, 23-2



### Annual Service Performance Award 2019 for Operations

Robin Ouellette, 23-2



### AUXOP

George Weston and  
Lawrence Butts, 23-2  
Roy Culley, 23-3

## Prohibited Wearing of the Auxiliary Uniform

For those members who may need a reminder of when *not* to wear the uniform:

- In public places of dubious reputation
- When engaged in political activities
- When in a foreign country unless specifically authorized
- Don't wear distinctive parts of the uniform or insignia with civilian clothes when not on duty
- Auxiliarists must adhere to uniform policies when engaged in U.S. Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary programs and activities

*Reprinted from Coast Guard Auxiliary Uniforms, An Overview*

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## AUXDATA II SKILLS AND AVAILABILITY UPDATE

1. When AUXDATA II was brought online, it incorporated the Skills Bank database which had served as the system-of-record repository for Auxiliarists' various non-Coast Guard skills, expertise, and availability for potential assignments to duty. In the interest of having updates in place by the start of the 2021 hurricane season, all Auxiliarists are asked to log-in and complete any updates by May 15, 2021 to ensure that your skills, expertise, and availability are updated and accurate in AUXDATA II.

2. The following steps will enable you to perform this update:

- a. Log into AUXDATA II.
- b. Click the "Members" menu at the top of the screen.
- c. Enter your Name or Member number into then Search box on the top right of the screen (use the master search bar not the "Search this list" box) and hit ENTER.
- d. Click your name under the word "Members" in the search results on the left side of the screen.
- e. There are four "pages". You will open on the Detail page where your name and Unit number will be found.
- f. Click the "Skills and Availability." Page to the right of the "Related" page.
- g. Under "Availability for Coast Guard Support Operations," confirm what is displayed for the

following:

1. Your availability during the week.
2. Your willingness to travel outside your home area.
3. Your ability to perform the duties for which you are qualified.
4. Your willingness to do Coast Guard or Auxiliary administrative support missions.
5. Your Auxiliary photo ID card status.
- h. If you want to make changes, then select or deselect appropriate boxes and click the green "Save Availability" button when done.

i. Proceed to the bottom half of the screen where the "My Skills" menu is shown and confirm what is displayed.

j. If you want to make additions, first select "Skill Group."

k. Next select the skill group you want to add.

l. Click "Add Skill." The skill will appear under the "My Skills" section. If the exact term is not found, select the closest equivalent. You can add other skills by repeating steps j-l.

m. You can select your Occupation using the same approach only instead of clicking on "Add Skill", click the "Set Occupation" button. The skill you selected will then appear on your "Detail" page in the "Occupation" field.

n. When you are finished making changes, click the green "Save Skills and Occupation" to complete.

o. If you would like to remove a skill, click the red "Remove" button to the left of the skill you wish to remove.

p. Click "Save Skills and Occupation" when finished with all changes to complete.

3. If you have any questions about how to complete these changes, contact your FSO-IS officer, who can make these changes on your behalf.

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## Gary Smith, former member of 23-2 Crosses the Bar

A long time Flotilla 23-02 Auxiliarist Gary L Smith crossed the bar on Friday, February 26,



2021. Gary joined the Auxiliary on March 23, 2006 and served the Coast Guard Auxiliary for 14 years. Gary served in the

elected positions of Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander. He also served and as the Flotilla Staff Officer for Operations, Public Education and as Flotilla Secretary.

Gary qualified as Coxswain on 13 Dec 2007. He was an instructor, mentor, and was qualified as an AUXOP. He was also a qualified Communications Watch Stander at Station St. Inigoes. He led countless patrols at the helm of his trusty trawler AUXOP "Splash" training new boat crew candidates and impressing the old salts. In his role as Operations lead, he was instrumental in supporting afloat activities such as MOMs, PATONS, Gold side support or special event safety support such as during the local races and firework events.

Ashore he led the way on supporting Station St Inigoes and our yearly season opener in operations exercises. It is no surprise that he was named Auxiliarist of the Year on four separate occasions.

Gary spent his earlier days serving our country as a Naval Officer in the United States Navy where at one time in his career he inspired young Midshipmen at the Naval Academy. Gary was friend, inspirational leader, and someone you could count on. He will be sorely missed.

*Lawrence Butts*



Gary Smith, his wife and daughter pre-COVID

## State Instructors Workshop

On Saturday, March 14, six members of Flotilla 23 -07 along with other Auxiliary personnel attended a virtual Maryland Instructor's workshop. Julie Brown, from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, conducted the event which was originally planned to be given last year but was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ms. Brown discussed how to conduct on line boating safety classes including specific techniques for keeping students engaged while in a virtual environment. She also passed on information about National Association of State Boating Law Administrators new certificate card for completing the boating safety course, somewhat different in appearance from the old version, as well as the new life jacket label that is now being used. Also mentioned was the fact that the USCG will be requiring an engine propulsion cutoff switch (EPOS) on motorized boats 26 feet and smaller built after 2020. Further information for Vessel Examiners and how to inspect for it will be available at a later date.

*Frank Voltaggio*  
FSO-PB



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## Focused Lens Boat Ramp Verification Team Award

Sector Maryland-National Capital Region (SM-NCR) recognized three members from Division 23 with a



Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation. Those

members were: John Fewer and LeRoy Culley from 23-3 and Christopher Jensen, 23-7.

The citation reads:

“For exceptionally meritorious service from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, the SM-NCR Auxiliary Focused Lens Boat Ramp Verification Team distinguished themselves with exceptional service while locating and verifying, and documenting over 1,050 public and private boat ramps throughout the State of Maryland. Despite the COVID-19 global pandemic spreading uncontrollably in the local region, the team displayed unwavering dedication by astutely managing time and resources to safely conduct virtual verification for over 1,050 boat ramp sites across the Sector’s Area of Responsibility. The Focused Lens program provided valuable Maritime Domain Awareness to the Sector Commander, Area Maritime Security Committee and pollution responders. This information allows SM-NCR Response and Enforcement Officers to accurately access risk to critical infrastructure and allocate Coast Guard and other Government Agency assets to appropriate patrol sectors. The Focused Lens Boat Ramp Verification Team, which consisted of only three personnel, managed to carry out this vital mission through the use of local knowledge and ingenuity. The team provided accurate latitude and longitude coordinates and google imagery, which was inputted into GIS mapping. This process greatly increased the usability of this incredibly critical information. Identifying where a possible nefarious actor may exploit a vulnerability, or a spill impacting the waterway may occur, was particularly important during the recent increase in recreational boating due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The dedication, pride, and professionalism displayed by the members of the

SM-NCR Focused Lens Team reflect credit on each team member, their team, and the USCG.

The operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

## Uniforms and Protocol

The proper uniform sets the standard for public perception about the United States Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The proper courtesy and protocol must be adhered in order to maintain the respect with the Public and our peers.

The word uniform implies consistency and conformance to certain standards. How to wear the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform:

### General information:

- Hats should be worn squarely on the head.
- Shirts will be buttoned.
- Sleeves should not be rolled up, except when authorized.
- Bottom of pants should touch shoe top.
- Women’s Skirt hemline will be:
- No higher than the crease in the back of the knee.
- No lower than 2 inches below the crease in the back of the knee.
- Bracelets, necklaces, wristwatches, ID bracelets and rings must be Conservative, noncontroversial, and in good taste.
- No more than 2 rings on each hand.
- The Operational dress blues uniform requires blackened safety boots
- Shined for office wear. Boat shoes are authorized for Auxiliarist.

### What is courtesy and what is protocol?

Courtesy is the key to successful human relationships (with courtesy goes respect). Courtesy is proper consideration for the feelings and rights of others.

Continued on page 10—see Protocol

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Protocol: Universally accepted customs and regulations that govern the formality and etiquette practiced in a civilized society. Protocol is the body of accepted rules of social behavior practiced by thoughtful and considerate people.

As a Flotilla Commander, the practice of courtesy and protocol are necessary requirements for successful duty performance. They lead to a spirit of teamwork. Courtesy and protocol are part of the ceremonial procedures that contributes dignity and color to Team Coast Guard.

## Saluting

The questions are, "When do we, as Auxiliarists, salute and under what conditions do we render a military salute?" Let's take a look at some guidelines below: (Note: saluting is a greeting and sign of respect.)

Outdoors in uniform and under cover. *Note: When outdoors and in uniform the cover should always be worn.*

Indoors in uniform and under arms. *Note: Under arms means you are assigned to duties where you are required to wear a military small arms web belt. A primary assignment for Auxiliarists would be the color guard.*

Saluting between Auxiliarists is not usually the custom but is not out of protocol to do so.

Render a salute to a senior military officer. *Note: It is customary to exchange a greeting with the salute and with a smile, i.e., good morning sir or ma'am.*

In the Auxiliary we do not hold a rank, but our insignia does identify the office we hold. Most members of the armed forces are unaware that we have no rank and therefore, when on a military installation we are seen as Coast Guard officers with rank. Let's take a look at rank terminology in the Navy and Coast Guard:

- Junior Officers: Ensign, Lieutenant (junior grade), Lieutenant, and Lieutenant Commander
- Senior Officers: Commander and Captain
- Flag Officers: Rear Admiral lower half, Rear Admiral, Vice admiral, and Admiral

Let's take a look at Auxiliary position terminology and how it equates to CG rank:

- Junior Officers: FSO, SO, VFC, FC, DSO, AND VCDR
- Senior Officers: DCDR, DCAPT
- Flag Officers: DCO, VNACO, AND NACO

*Willie Witters*

DCDR

## Secure for Sea

Definition: *The procedure for securing loose items above and below decks in the preparation for getting underway and for heavy seas.*

Having grown up on and spent most of my career in destroyers (AKA Tin Cans, for obvious reasons); there was a standard routine before going to sea. The word would be passed, "Now go to your stations all the special sea and anchor detail, the Officer of the Deck is switching his watch from the Quarterdeck to the Bridge. Now secure the ship for sea".

After getting under way and upon clearing the breakwater and entering blue water you would go up to full power (30+ knots) and make several hard turns to Port and Starboard, rolling about 30+ degrees to make sure nothing was adrift. It only took once to make sure you were in fact "secure for sea". On several occasions going out on patrol with the Auxiliary, I have thought this might be appropriate but never tried it.

*Ray Walsh*

23-7

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## Memorable time of my Life

It was during my first weather station patrol as an SA that I was assigned lookout duty on top of the ships bridge and during one of my first on station watches. I spotted a bright object moving very fast in the sky. I notified the Officer of the Deck who came out to see it himself. The spotting was transmitted to CG Washington, D.C. We were then ordered to specifically watch for this unknown craft and report all pertinent info such as elevation, estimated speed, direction of travel from and to and times of spotting and length of visibility. I was later informed that I may have been one of the earliest spotters of the Russian Sputnik.

We also successfully completed the rescue of an injured Portuguese fishing boat on the Grand Banks and searched for evidence for a lost atomic weapon near the Azores. We never learned where it was lost from but it was assumed that it was either from a submarine or plane. We did find some flotsam but it provided the crew no clue to its origin. We also searched for a plane lost in the Bermuda Triangle with no success.

During this time period I was able to earn promotions to Quartermaster (QM) 3 which got me to where I wanted to be which was on the bridge of the ship. Prior to promotion to QM, I was selected as one of the primary helmsmen and loved the atmosphere of being in an area of the ship where decisions were being made and where all were totally involved. I found it similar to being a catcher in baseball where one is always involved in the game. Besides that, I had been told that a Boatswains Mate was simply a Quartermaster with their brains knocked out. That wasn't as appealing.

The one lasting great thing resulting from that time is that many shipmates have stayed in touch throughout these many years and that is impressive.

All in all it was a very memorable time in my life.

*Bob Gittings*

23-7 Member

## 23-6 supports Solomons Maritime Festival

After a long year of no Public Affairs activity, Bill Smith and Connie Cosgrove, Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Affairs, were able to support Solomon's Maritime Festival with a safety booth on 1 May. The weather was windy in the morning and cool but by noon the wind died down and the sun warmed things up.

Along with safety pamphlets for the adults, coloring books, crayons, book marks, pencils and flying disks were passed out to the children. Visitors were able to sign up for vessel safety checks and public education classes. Oil pads for the bilge was a hot item for adults as was the orange stickers for boats, canoes and kayaks.



During the event we had a good opportunity to interact with boaters and answered many good questions about cutoff switches, the new labeling on personal floatation devices and vessel safety check items.

*Connie Cosgrove*

FSO-PA 23-6

Pictured above is Bill Smith discussing cut off switch requirements with Lee Norris and Bobby Russell

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Capt. David O'Connell salutes Rear Adm. Laura Dickey, commander of the Coast Guard Fifth District, as he relieves Capt. Joseph Loring as the commanding officer of Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region during change-of-command ceremony at Sector Maryland-National Capital Region, in Baltimore, April 30, 2021. (U.S. Coast Guard Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Kimberly Reaves/Released)

## Sector Change of Command Held

Coast Guard Capt. David O'Connell relieved Capt. Joseph Loring as commander of Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region in an official change of command ceremony held at the Coast Guard Yard in Curtis Bay on 30 April.

Rear Adm. Laura Dickey, commander of the Fifth Coast Guard District, presided over the ceremony. Loring is retiring from the Coast Guard after 27 years of service.

O'Connell most recently served as Chief of Prevention for the Coast Guard Fifth District in Portsmouth, Virginia, where he oversaw maritime

safety, security, inspections, investigations, recreational boating safety, aids to navigation, ice breaking and bridge management for the Mid-Atlantic region, spanning from the North and South Carolina border and throughout much of New Jersey. His previous assignments include Executive Officer of the Leadership Development Center, Chief of Prevention at Coast Guard Sector

Boston. O'Connell served in a two-year detail to the Department of Justice, Environmental Crimes Section, where he prosecuted numerous vessel pollution cases.

O'Connell graduated with honors from the University of Florida Levin's College of Law in May of 1998 and received a direct commission into the Coast Guard Legal program in 1999. His personal awards include four Meritorious Service Medals, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal and two Coast Guard Achievement Medals.

Coast Guard Sector Maryland-NCR is comprised of more than 400 active, 150 reserve and 13 civilian members, as well as 1,400 auxiliary members. The Sector contains eight multi-mission small boat stations, three aids to navigation teams, and one Coast Guard cutter.

The area of responsibility for Sector Maryland-NCR spans the Potomac River, Chesapeake Bay north of the Virginia and Maryland line and its tributaries, as well as Ocean City. The sector and its sub-units conduct a wide variety missions such as marine environmental protection, living marine resources, aids to navigation, law enforcement, search and rescue, marine safety, security, and more.



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Date submitted										
Submitted by:										
Mission / Activity	Date of Mission (Month)	Expected # of Public Contacts	Member Name (Last, First, MI) <small>(list 1 member per line for each mission)</small>	Fleet # 054-xx-xx	Member Qualified <small>(confirmed per AUCDATA II)</small>	Core Tng. Complete <small>(confirmed per AUCDATA II)</small>	FC Approval	DCDR Approval	Notes / Location	
(example)	VSC	1	Smith, Trevor J.		YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO		
(example)	PV	1	Jones, Jane, A.		YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO		
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