

Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23 5SR



Boating Safety Day—Joint Base Andrews



Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 10 Issue 1

Spring 2018

Judged 5SR Runner-Up Division Publication for 2016



The Division has been busy

We have seen the end of the snow for the 2017 – 2018 winter season. Now the sun has to focus on warming the Chesapeake Bay so water temperatures can start climbing to a more comfortable level and we can get out of dry suits and into Mustangs in the near future before eventually shedding all the cold water protection gear

Division 23 was very active in promoting the Auxiliary's missions during the winter months.

The Winter Workshop at Southern High School was, once again, a great success. Congratulations and thanks to the many Division 23 members that attended the full day sessions. A special thanks for organizing and teaching the classes goes to Greg Askew, Margaret Butler, Jim Farrell, Ordice Gallups, Ron Hillard, Dave Keyser, Steve Klein, Dan McConnell, Phil Wentz, Ray Feller, and Jim Welday for the time and effort they put in to assure the event was a success. I apologize if I missed any names!!!

During the winter months, the Division has been conducting numerous Public Affairs events to promote boating safety including the Baltimore Boat Show. Spring time is when the boating public starts to get the "itch" to get back out on the water. This is an excellent time for the Auxiliary to deliver the "Safe Boating" message to the public. There will be numerous PA events and boat shows around the region in the coming months. Please contact Dale Helms (SO PA) to offer your help. All FSO-PA should send a monthly report to Dale on activities they have planned or executed.

Public Education classes, taught by Division 23 Auxiliaries, are well underway. Flotilla Commanders are requested to send a report to Margaret Butler SO-PE to update him on the progress of PE classes being conducted by your Flotilla.

Boat Crew Qualification classes for Coxswains and Crew members are also underway. Flotilla FSO-MT

and FSO-OP should coordinate with John Sill (ADSO-MT) and Jim Farrell (FSO-OP) to offer OPFAC's for on the water training sessions.

PE classes are a great opportunity to take photos of your flotilla's effort to promote boating safety. Send a brief write up to Connie Cosgrove (SO PB) for the *Chatter*. Remember you need to get parent's permission for any photos of children under 18.

John Fewer

Division Commander

Boat Safety Day at Joint Base Andrews

On 7 April, a team from Flotilla 23-6 participated in a boat safety training day at Joint Base Andrews. Presentations were for two groups of Navy Reservists from Navy Squadron VR-53.

Our liaison for the project was Safety officer LCDR Kyle L. Thompson. The presentation was originally scheduled in the hanger but was changed to two separate classrooms with Dan McConnell leading one and R.T. West the other.

They had the exceptional support of their Flotilla team members William Smith, Ray Feller, Harry Scott, and Willie Witters. They set the example to Model the Way and never wavered in their ability to act, challenging the process and Encouraging the Heart.

They demonstrated the core values of Leadership principles and I believe it was received well.

Mark Campbell

Flotilla Commander, 23-6

Pictures on the front cover:

Top—Navy Reservists from VR-53 in Dan McConnell's class. Photo by Bill Smith

Bottom— left to right: Bill Smith, RT West, Dan McConnell, LCDR Kyle Thompson, Ray Feller, Willie Witters, Mark Campbell and Harry Scott.

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2017 Board & Staff

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VCDR: Willie Witter

IPDCDR: Dale Helms

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Earl Kaufman, Vice Flotilla Commander

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Bruce Petro, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-6 - Drum Point

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7 July 2018

Articles and pictures are encouraged and appreciated. Please email to the editor, Connie Cosgrove at cjcosgrove@earthlink.net

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Honor and Remember

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Flotilla 23-1—Spotlight on Service

One of the greatest strengths of our flotilla is the large number of highly experienced and veteran Auxiliary members. Last summer, we held a recognition picnic honoring six of our members who each had over 20 years of service to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This story highlights just one of those individuals who has recently decided to retire.

ANITA MURRAY – 37 YEARS



QUALIFICATIONS – CREW, INSTRUCTOR

Numbers, statistics and awards can never fully capture the spirit or dedication shown by Mrs. Murray to our flotilla and the Annapolis boating community.

What is truly significant about her service is not only just the amount of time but the variety of duties and tasks she took on with great success.

Mission Hours

Aux Administrative Support - 1,642 hours
Marine Patrols – 387 hours
CG Administrative Support – 641 hours
Marine Safety – 243 hours
Member Training – 181 hours
Recreational Boating Safety – 233 hours
Public Education – 160 hours

Awards

Auxiliary Membership Service Award – 7

Auxiliary PE Service Award – 1
CG Bicentennial Unit Commendation – 1
CG Meritorious Team Commendation – 2
CG Unit Commendation – 4
DOT Secretary’s Outstanding Unit Award – 1
Presidential Unit Citation – 1
Sustained Auxiliary Service Award – 9

Offices Held

National - Division Chief – 3 years
Division Staff Officer – Public Education – 9 years
Flotilla Commander—1 year
Flotilla Human Resources—9 years
Flotilla Information Services – 1 year

Her Legacy Continues

In 2017, we found a New Member guide which Anita had developed many years ago. We were completely impressed with how detailed and thorough it was while still being easy to understand. We have since updated it and now provide a copy to all prospective members. This document is invaluable in helping guide them through the maze of gaining membership, understanding the various volunteer opportunities, and provides website links for valuable references.



Flotilla 23-1 honors Anita Murray

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Awards

Since the last issue of the Chatter the following members have received awards.

Commandant's Meritorious Commendation

Paul Feinburg, 23-4 for Safe Boating Life Jacket Program



AUXOP

Dorothy Neiman, 23-3

Membership Service Award

25 years

Tom Hardisty, 23-6

20 years

Ginger Sauer, 23-6

15 years

Harry Scott, 23-6

10 year

Steve Birchfield and
Raymond T. West, 23-6



Auxiliary Annual Service Performance Award for Operations in excess of 60 hours

Don Parker, Time Clarke, Walt Discenza, and Dorothy Neiman, 23-3
James Jefferson, Ray Feller and William Smith, 23-6



Auxiliary Annual Service Performance Award for Operations Support in excess of 200 hours

Dale Helms, 23-3
Harry Scott, 23-6



Excess of 60 vessel examinations and/or Program Visits

Peggy J Whilden, 23-6

Excess of 30 hours of Public Education/Member Training

R.T. West and Ray Feller



Auxiliary Reciprocity with U.S. Power Squadrons for Vessel Examiner and Instructor Competencies -003/18

1. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadrons (USPS) have long shared the vital mission of educating and assisting members of our Nation's boating public to safely conduct their recreational activities on the water. Both the Coast Guard Auxiliary and USPS have leveraged their long-standing histories and experience to develop outstanding training programs that are used to qualify members of their respective organizations in competencies that are essential to successfully performing these mission: Vessel Examiner (VE) and Instructor (IT). Pursuant to discussion and agreement between U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary National Commodore Richard Washburn and U.S. Power Squadrons Chief Commander Louie Ojeda, it is therefore appropriate, prudent, and fitting for both organizations to extend reciprocity to their members who have achieved these competencies.

2. **USPS Members Who Join the Coast Guard Auxiliary:** Effective immediately, any USPS member who has achieved certification in the USPS VE or IT competency and subsequently joins the Coast Guard Auxiliary:

a. Shall have the Auxiliary VE or IT competency assigned to them without need to perform or have signed off any training or tasks associated with those Auxiliary competencies. Based upon their USPS certification, the cognizant Director of Auxiliary shall credit them with completion of all tasks required for certification.

b. Shall be authorized to perform any VE or IT mission in their capacity as an Auxiliarist (including the conduct of Auxiliary surface facility inspections using the appropriate facility inspection form).

c. Shall be recognized as currently certified in the Auxiliary as long as they maintain their certification and currency in accordance with terms of

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the USPS VE or IT program and provide proof of such currency to their Auxiliary Flotilla Commander no later than 15 January each year. In order to enable AUXDATA to reflect their sustained currency under these circumstances, the Flotilla Commander shall then notify the cognizant Director of Auxiliary who shall make the appropriate manual adjustments to AUXDATA in order to recertify them. The VE or IT shall also inform their Flotilla Staff Officer for Vessel Examinations (FSO-VE) or Public Education (FSO-PE) when they notify their Flotilla Commander.

3. Coast Guard Auxiliarists Who Join the USPS: Effective immediately, any Auxiliarist who has achieved certification in the Auxiliary VE or IT competency and subsequently joins the USPS:

a. Shall have the USPS VE or IT competency assigned to them without need to perform or have signed off any training or tasks associated with those USPS competencies.

b. Shall be authorized to perform any VE or IT mission in their capacity as a USPS member.

c. Shall be recognized as currently certified in the USPS as long as they maintain their certification in accordance with terms of the Auxiliary VE or IT program and provide proof of such currency to their USPS Unit Commander as the USPS Unit Commander may require.

4. Currency Maintenance: Any individual who is certified in the VE or IT competencies in both organizations shall be recognized as currently certified by each organization as long as they maintain their currency in accordance with terms of either organization's VE or IT program. Proof of currency maintained in one organization must be provided to the other organization no later than 15 January each year. For example, an Auxiliary VE who maintains their currency by performing five Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) by the end of the calendar year must provide proof of their Auxiliary currency

to their USPS Unit Commander by 15 January in order to continue being able to perform VSCs as a USPS VE. In effect, as long as VE or IT currency is maintained in one organization, it shall be recognized as current in the other organization. Currency maintenance requirements must be met in whole in at least one organization.

5. Workshops and Targeted Training: Workshops or any other sort of targeted training that are mandated by either organization during any given year must be completed in order to perform that organization's VE or IT activities. For example, if the annual Auxiliary VE workshop is mandated for completion in 2018, then it must be completed by any VE in order to perform VE activities in an individual's capacity as an Auxiliarist. It does not have to be completed in order to perform VE activities in an individual's capacity as a USPS member. Similarly, if a common workshop or any other sort of common targeted training is mandated by both organizations during any given year, then such workshop or training must only be completed once from either organization in order to maintain currency.

6. VE and IT program effort may not be double-counted. An individual who is a certified VE or IT in the Auxiliary and the USPS must claim their effort in only one organization. For example, an individual who performs VSCs pursuant to assignment to duty in the Auxiliary (e.g., in an Auxiliary uniform) shall only claim such activity in their capacity as an Auxiliarist. Likewise, an individual who teaches a boating safety class as a USPS instructor (e.g., in a USPS uniform) shall only claim such activity in their capacity as a USPS member.

7. This reciprocity only pertains to each organization's VE and IT competencies. All other respective membership requirements for each organization must be met. For example, a USPS VE who joins the Auxiliary must undergo the Auxiliary background check process, have completed an approved boating safety course, and have completed Auxiliary Mandated Training in order to conduct VSCs as an Auxiliarist.

Continued on page 7—see Power

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8. These provisions shall be appropriately incorporated in any Coast Guard Auxiliary VE or IT program material revisions, and shall be memorialized in the next changes to the relevant Coast Guard Auxiliary program's Commandant Instructions and manuals.

Editor's Note: The above was distributed through the Auxiliary message system



New AUXCOM Course Announcement

The training directorate is pleased to announce the release of the newly approved Auxiliary communications specialty course (AUXCOM). Members have until 30 April to complete the current version of the course and exam before the new training materials and test are released. Beginning 01 May 2018 the exam will be based on the new materials.

Editor's Note: The above was received email through the chain of leadership



Mark Campbell demonstrates how to do the hula hoop at NBC's health fair booth titled "Let's Play America

Auxiliary New Member Advancement Process

Beginning 01 February 2018, all newly enrolled members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary are required to complete the Basic Qualification II (BQII) Course to move forward from Approval Pending (AP) status to any other Auxiliary membership status.

Currently enrolled members, including those in AP status before 01 February 2018 are not required to take the course although it is highly recommended.

Upon completion of the seven BQII modules, both new and existing members will receive credit that is equivalent to completing the Administrative Procedures Course (APC) or the Flotilla Leadership Course (FLC) needed to advance in elected office and will be awarded one leadership credit toward their Auxiliary Operations (AUXOP) qualification.

Auxiliary members who are familiar with customs, traditions, and history of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, understand our missions and programs, the operational structure, the policies and regulations that guide us, and our protocols and uniform wear will be far better prepared to serve the Coast Guard than less knowledgeable members.

To find the BQII course, go to cgaux.org/training and click on Basic Qualification II Course in the menu on the left side of the page.

Editor's note: The above was received through the Auxiliary messaging system

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Auxiliary Uniform Wear at Formal and Ceremonial Occasions -004/18

1. Pursuant to section 1.A.4.a. of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Manual (Commandant Instruction Manual M16790.1 (series)), Auxiliarists are authorized to wear Coast Guard uniforms with the appropriate Auxiliary insignia, with the exception of full dress (swords, large medals, and white gloves) and dress (large medals and white gloves). Such uniform wear is as prescribed in the Coast Guard Uniform Regulations (Commandant Instruction Manual 1020.6 (series)), except as noted in chapter 10 of the Auxiliary Manual.

2. Chapter 10 of the Auxiliary Manual prescribes the wearing of the Auxiliary uniform by active or retired Auxiliarists for formal and ceremonial occasions as well as prohibited occasions for uniform wear. Respective guidelines are amended as follows:

10.A.8. Formal and Ceremonial Occasions

Wearing an appropriate Auxiliary uniform by active or retired Auxiliarists for formal and ceremonial occasions is authorized as follows:

a. At civilian, military, and Auxiliary ceremonies and events that are clearly military service-centric in nature (e.g., military changes of command; Auxiliary changes of watch; military and Auxiliary retirements; Coast Guard Foundation dinners; local community banquets in honor of military services; patriotic parades on national holidays; funerals of military veterans and Auxiliarists) and which require a uniform. Auxiliarists who do not own Dinner Dress Blue Jacket or Dinner Dress White Jacket may wear Service Dress Blue to such ceremonies and events for which such formal wear is prescribed.

b. Service Dress Blue or Service Dress White may be worn for occasions in which it is prescribed for military personnel. However, Service Dress White is also only authorized for wear by District Commodores, members of the National Executive Committee (NEXCOM), and Auxiliarists who are currently certified participants in the Auxiliary

Clergy Support program when it is the prescribed uniform for the ceremony or event in which they have been invited to participate.

c. Social or other functions when the invitation has been clearly influenced by military service (e.g., an Auxiliarist who has been invited to be part of the bridal party for a military bride and/or groom may wear Service Dress White only if it is the prescribed uniform and the Auxiliarist is authorized to wear that uniform as authorized above).

Coast Guard Uniform Regulations, (COMDTINST M1020.6 (series)), authorize retired Coast Guard personnel to wear the dress uniform that was prescribed at the time of their retirement, or any dress uniform that is currently authorized for active duty personnel, to certain formal and ceremonial events. The same holds true for Auxiliarists in retired status.

Due to the nature of certain formal Auxiliary events like changes of watch, conferences, and banquets, such events are recognized as falling within the general scope of military ceremony. They are nonetheless Auxiliary events, and Auxiliarists who are invited to them are so invited because of their Auxiliary membership status, not due to a retired military status as may be held by prior active duty or Reserve personnel. Accordingly, Auxiliarists who are also retired military personnel are strongly encouraged and recommended to wear their Auxiliary dress uniform under such circumstances in lieu of any authorized military dress uniform.

10.A.9. Prohibited Occasions

The following prohibition is added to this section: Except as authorized in section 10.A.8., Auxiliary uniforms may not be worn for any personal ceremony or event (e.g., an Auxiliarist may not wear an Auxiliary uniform for their own wedding, college graduation, vacation, etc.).

Editor's Note: The above was received email through the Director's list server.

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Basic Qualification II (BQII) Course Requirement for Newly Enrolled Auxiliarists -002/18

1. ALAUX 013/17 issued on September 22, 2017 announced the application of the Basic Qualification II (BQII) Course towards elected office eligibility and the Operational Auxiliarist (AUXOP) program. The BQII course provides comprehensive familiarization with many aspects of Auxiliary service including missions, programs, organizational structure, uniforms, customs, courtesies, and their associated governing policies. Successful completion of the BQII course by the date of nomination meets the same elected office eligibility requirement as that met by successful completion of the Administrative Procedures Course (APC) or the Flotilla Leadership Course (FLC) for election to Flotilla Vice Commander, Flotilla Commander, and subsequent higher elected offices. It also earns one leadership credit toward the AUXOP qualification.

2. Effective February 1, 2018, all newly enrolled members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary are required to complete the BQII course in order to move forward from Approval Pending (AP) status to any other Auxiliary membership status. It becomes a new element in the Auxiliary Mandated Training (AUXMT) program for newly enrolled Auxiliarists. Currently enrolled Auxiliarists, including those in AP status prior to February 1, 2018, are not required to take the BQII course, although it is highly recommended.

3. The BQII course can be found on the Auxiliary training web site (www.cgaux.org/training) by clicking on the link for "Basic Qual II Course" in the menu on the left side of the page.

Editor's Note: The above was received through the Auxiliary message system

Fisherman's Flea Market

On Saturday February 10th, members of Flotilla 23 -7 were asked to participate in the annual Fisherman's Flea Market held at Tri State Marine in Deale, MD. Shop manager, Dawn Yoder extended the invitation to the Auxiliary to set up a table and provide literature and advice to the visitors that traditionally come to the five hour fishing jamboree of vendors.

This event draws a couple of hundred sportspeople from all over the area searching for bargains on rods, reels, lures, and all kinds of sundry fishing gear. Their options even go to buying outstanding original color prints of Chesapeake Bay wildlife, nautical household items and used boating hardware.

Auxiliarists Ray Walsh, Chris Jensen, Steve Gershman, and Frank Voltaggio manned the public affairs table, offering information on taking boating safety classes, vessel examinations and the latest on federal and state boating requirements.

Tri State Marine has had a long history of supporting the Auxiliary over the years and customarily hosts our tri-annual boating safety courses in their showroom facility.

Frank Voltaggio

FSO-PB



Auxiliarist Steve Gershman shares boating advice.

Photo by Frank Voltaggio

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Online Coast Guard Uniform Sales

1. Personnel Service Center (PSC) and Community Services Command (CSC) are excited to announce the return of online uniform and uniform accessory sales. All uniform sales processed through the Coast Guard Exchange System and fulfilled by the Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) will now be accessible to all authorized personnel 24/7 by visiting the Coast Guard Exchange System online store at <https://shopcgx.com/>, and selecting the Uniform section. The uniform inventory will be open for business and accepting orders starting on 1 MAR 2018.

2. Uniform purchases may only be made by authorized personnel, which include:

- a) Active Duty Coast Guard
- b) Coast Guard Reserve
- c) Coast Guard Retired
- d) Coast Guard Auxiliary
- e) Navy Chaplains and Public Health Service personnel assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard
- f) NOAA Officers
- g) Public Health Officers
- h) Merchant Marine Academy graduates commissioned into the U.S. Coast Guard

3. When accessing shopCGX.com to purchase uniforms for the first time, patrons will be required to establish a customer profile on a secure web page. Eligibility to purchase uniforms will be validated through DEERS or AUXDATA. Revalidation of patron eligibility must be done periodically to ensure an accurate and up to date customer profile. Users will be revalidated against their profile by submission of their name, last 4 digits of SSN, and birth date.

4. Eligible patrons will be able to browse the current selection of uniform items sold by the UDC. Customers will choose the size and order quantity of each item and place the item into an online shopping cart. In the secure check out, customers will provide shipping and billing address and payment details. Customer payment options include:

1) Credit Card (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express)

2) Military Star Card

Note: Charge-to-Pay (CTP) is not an option for online orders.

5. All customers are encouraged to use shopCGX.com or their local exchange stores. Orders by phone, fax, and e-mail will still be accepted during the initial opening of the system, but will eventually be phased out. Orders normally ship in 5-7 business days and customers can expect to receive their uniforms 10-14 days from placing their order. UDC Customer Service Agents will be available to answer questions regarding availability, status of orders, and to assist with questions regarding sizing or special measurement orders.

6. Like other orders for unit supplies, unit Purchasing Agents are authorized to use Government Purchase Cards on the web page to place unit orders for UDC supplied items. All purchase requests are subject to standard procurement policy and approvals prior to placing the order online.

7. For product return or exchanges, visit shopCGX.com and select the Return Policy Page to obtain a return authorization and shipping instructions, or by visiting one of the 64 Coast Guard Exchange (CGX) locations.

8. For questions specific to order status or uniform items (sizing, etc.), contact UDC Customer Service at (800) 874-6841 or (609) 861-1221, Monday-Friday, 0800 to 1530 Eastern Standard Time.

9. For questions specific to the shopCGX.com online shopping experience, contact CSC Customer Service by email at:customerservice@cgexchange.org or by phone at 800-572-0230, Monday-Friday, 0900 to 1630 Eastern Standard Time.

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Reporting Water Pollution

As the federal agency responsible for enforcing U.S. marine pollution prevention regulations, the U.S. Coast Guard is interested in receiving reports from citizens about pollution going into the water. Your presence on the water and your willingness to report marine pollution effectively increases federal and state agencies' ability to protect thousands of miles of waterways. Therefore, citizens who see pollution are encouraged to report their sightings.

Everyone has a vested interest in maintaining the quality of our nation's waterways. Our agriculture, commercial fishing, transportation and drinking water systems all depend on unpolluted water. Pollution in the water can have many harmful effects:

- **Oil** – kills wildlife, pollutes drinking water intakes, destroys coastal habitats, ruins beach community economies
- **Sewage** – Increases cost of water treatment, causes human health problems, closes recreational areas, causes bans on commercial shell fishing
- **Garbage** (particularly plastic) - entangles sea life, clogs vessel water intakes, depletes tourism in beach communities

When should you report?

- If you see a sheen of oil on the water (take video footage or photographs if you can)
- If you have knowledge of untreated sewage being dumped in coastal areas, lakes or rivers (Is it coming from a specific source?)
- If you see garbage, particularly plastics, being dumped from vessels (name of the vessel or number and location)

Contact the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 or the nearest Coast Guard Captain of the Port office (numbers in local phone books), or contact the Coast Guard via marine radio on VHF Channel 16.

Remember – you don't pollute ...why should you allow others?

Reprinted from the USCG publication How's the Water.

Announcement of the 26th Commandant and the 31ST Vice Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard - 006/18

To the men and women of our Coast Guard,

The Secretary selected and President Trump nominated Vice Admiral Karl Schultz as the 26th Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard! Please join me in applauding Vice Admiral Schultz, who will provide the sound leadership and steady hand needed to guide our global military service further into this dynamic and extraordinary era of our Nation.

Further, I am honored to announce that Vice Admiral Schultz selected and President Trump nominated Vice Admiral Charles Ray to become the 31st Vice Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Vice Admiral Schultz and Vice Admiral Ray will lead the world's best Coast Guard as our incredible men and women ensure the security and prosperity of this great Nation far into the future. Semper Paratus.

Admiral Paul F. Zukunft

Editor's Note: the above was received email from the Auxiliary messaging system

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

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