
2021 DIVISION AUXILIARIST OF THE YEAR

ROBERT QUACKENBUSH,

ADSO-AVIATION, SECTOR MARYLAND

BY: SCOTT SIMPSON, FC, 24-04

Robert Quackenbush was chosen as Flotilla 24-04's Auxiliarist of the Year for 2021. He was proclaimed Division Auxiliarist of the Year by John Sill Division Commander at the Change of Watch on January 9, 2022.



In 2021, Robert Quackenbush has shown dedication and support to the mission of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Serving as the Assistant Division Staff Officer (ADSO) for Aviation in District 5 Southern, Sector Maryland, Mr. Quackenbush advanced the AUXAIR readiness and support of Flotilla 24-04 and all those who participate in this mission throughout Sector Maryland. He worked diligently to have a Letter of Authorization (LOA) signed with the Wilmington and Rehoboth air traffic controls (ATCs). This is especially important when the President travels to his home in Delaware because it allows our pilots to use the same unique code as within the DC special flight rules area (SFRA) to fly through the area when performing a mission. This work was above and

beyond what is required of the ADSO-AV and is of tremendous importance to the Coast Guard and Auxiliary missions.

As the Auxiliary has returned to operations, Mr. Quackenbush has also been instrumental in working our Auxiliary Liaison (AUXLO) in Air Station Atlantic City (our Order Issuing Authority) to ensure we are complying with all of the correct rules. This has been especially difficult because Air Station Atlantic City is located in District 5 Northern, who have sometimes issued different rules from District 5 Southern. Mr. Quackenbush has expertly navigated this additional complexity and confusion to advise our Auxair members.

Mr. Quackenbush has done all of this while continuing to perform his regular ADSO-AV duties of scheduling missions with the AUXLO and OIA, coordinating schedules with our facility owners, creating a positive and welcoming environment for new members, and personally participating as Aircrew. Mr. Quackenbush's efforts this year have been truly inspiring and have advanced the mission of the Auxiliary in ways that really matter.



Let's all meet this inspiring and outstanding Auxiliarist:

Bob Quackenbush serves full-time as the Deputy Chief of Staff at Arlington National Cemetery where he oversees the integration of the staff to connect visitors to the rich history of the cemetery and synchronizes critical staff support functions

in support of the Chief of Staff and Superintendent.

He transitioned to working at Arlington Cemetery upon retirement from active duty in October 2014 after almost 30 years of service as an Army officer and helicopter pilot. His last job on active duty was leading a U.S. Army Inspector General Agency inspection team which conducted systemic inspections at the direction of the Secretary of the Army.

In his career as an Army officer, Bob led several Army Aviation units as an attack and assault helicopter pilot from platoon through battalion level command. During his non- flying assignments, Bob served in several executive staff positions including Deputy Director for Army Aviation at the Department of the Army and as Deputy Director for Operations for 3rd U.S. Army, ARCENT, in the Middle East.

Bob earned a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University and a master's degree in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University.

Bob joined the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in 2014 in conjunction with retiring from the Army as a way to continue to serve our Nation, in a way that combined his love for aviation. Bob progressed from Observer to Aircrew and is beginning his pilot qualifications since recently receiving his FAA instrument rating in airplanes. Bob has served in appointed FSO positions such as FSO-IS, and he served previously as both vice and flotilla commander for Flotilla 24-04. He currently serves as the Assistant District Staff Officer-Aviation for Sector Maryland.

He enjoys flying missions in support of the United States Coast Guard over the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays conducting ship registration, pollution detection, ice detection, search and rescue, and other missions.



Gaithersburg, MD. Bob Quackenbush (left), Air Crew and Brian Reilly (right), Air Observer, just before take-off for an ice patrol (photo by Ali Talebpour, Aircraft Commander)

Bob is married to Priscilla Quackenbush, a retired Army Nurse Corps officer and currently, a family nurse practitioner at the National Institutes of Health. They are extremely proud of their three children Will, an Army officer stationed at Fort Polk, LA, Dan, an Army officer currently undergoing flight training at Fort Rucker, AL, and Mary, a junior at the University of Delaware.

