



# the 7:15 express

your Division communicator - November 10, 2017

## A message from the Vice Division Commander



**, By Auxiliary policy, the role of the Division Vice Commander is to assist the Division Commander in advancing the goals of the Division.**

To do that, I serve primarily as the Chief of Staff, working directly with the Division's Staff Officers to implement the specific objectives of the Division. I am in contact with the SOs as often as necessary to stay current on their areas of responsibility and to assist to the extent I am able to do so.

The amount of contact varies based on the time of year and which major tasks a particular SO has to accomplish. My goal is to simply stay informed and not to micromanage the SOs. Most of the SOs report their progress to me and to their DSOs on a monthly basis, and I then compile a Division report for the DCDR.

The purpose of the Division report is to document the many accomplishments of the Division's members as we progress through the year. In essence, the VCDR's report is a 'vital signs' review each month. How are we doing? What's coming up? What might we want to change? I rely heavily on the Division Staff Officers for the information that goes into the report. While I could pull raw data from AUXDATA or AUXINFO, the SOs are able to provide me with the important details of how those numbers were achieved. Their reports breathe life into what would otherwise be a dull collection of counts and percentages.

In addition to my duties as Chief of Staff, I am in regular contact with the DCDR. Since I am expected to substitute for the DCDR in his absence, I need to understand his role and the issues he faces on a daily basis. In addition to frequent phone and email exchanges, Andy and I meet approximately every other week at Station Yankeetown for review and planning purposes. Meeting there also gives us the opportunity to stay in close contact with Chief Tookey and BM1 Waters. Through this frequent contact, Andy keeps me fully informed of all the important Division matters.

Finally, the unwritten responsibility of the VCDR is to learn what is required to serve as DCDR. From a succession planning perspective, there is an implied expectation that if you accept the role of VCDR, you will prepare yourself to stand for election as DCDR after two years. Of course, the final decision of who serves in that role is decided by the Division election. I have found that transitioning from a flotilla to division focus requires some adjustment. After slightly less than one year in the role, I am only now beginning to understand the 'yearly flow' of Division 15.

**Semper Paratus**

**Ray O'Connell, Vice Division Commander, 15**

"Leadership competencies are the knowledge, skills, and expertise the Coast Guard expects of leaders."



are you new a new officer or need to perfect your skills? Now is the time to plan a C-School. [Click here](#) to see the 2018 training schedule.



## Annual Holiday Luncheon for Station Yankeetown and "Cookies for Coasties"

December 18, 2017 - [Visit our website for details and RSVP information.](#)



## Change of Watch

Saturday November 18,  
2017 Citrus Hills Golf County  
Club 12:00-3:00 pm

[Click here for details and  
RSVP](#)



## New Updates

[Life Jacket Labels](#)

[Assignment to Duty  
Orders](#)

[Information Systems](#)



## Caps For Coasties

[Visit our website for  
photos.](#)

For those members who ordered individual caps you will be getting them shortly.

## From Commodore Judith Hudson

1. The new **Best Practice** web pages are now on the District 7 Website. [Click here](#) to learn how you can get your Best Practice listed.
2. Commodore Judith Hudson will be attending the Division Change Of Watch Saturday November 18th along with Captain Najarian USCG, Commander, Sector St. Petersburg.



## Your Division Website - Resources For You

**DID YOU KNOW**, the Division Reports for [September](#) and [October](#) are now available.

Check out the new web page "[What's New](#)" under the Members Only section. This page delivers valuable updates from varies Auxiliary departments.



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**Holiday shopping time!**



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**USCG Auxiliary Division 15**

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