



## Summertime, And the Livin' Is...Busy



Preparing for a stern tow during a QE. Left to right: Al Linden; Diane Berman; Harold Imhoff, QE; Dudley Davis, QE; Larry Berman, coxswain.

Photo by  
Paul Jordan

## Division 15 Bridge

Division Commander	Division Vice Commander	Immediate Past Division Commander
Diane Berman <a href="mailto:dhberman@yahoo.com">dhberman@yahoo.com</a>	Andrew Render <a href="mailto:ajrsmail@aol.com">ajrsmail@aol.com</a>	Paul Pelletier <a href="mailto:paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org">paul.pelletier@uscgaux-fl.org</a>

## 2016 Division 15 Flotilla Bridge Officers

<b>15-1</b>	<b>15-2</b>	<b>15-3</b>
Linda Jones, FC Stephen Hampton, VFC	Leslie Moore, FC John Caddigan, VFC	Mary Patton, FC Randy Patton, VFC
<b>15-4</b>	<b>15-7</b>	<b>15-8</b>
Robert Currie, FC D. Rusty Hays, VFC	Josef Weiss, FC Donald Sorli, Sr., VFC	James Nastelli, FC Bruce Ristich, VFC

## July Division Meeting Review

The meeting commenced at 9:08 am. Diane Berman, DCDR, welcomed guests Judith Hudson, D7 Chief of Staff; Paulette Parent, DCAPT-W; and CWO Robert Whitmore, USCG, OIC, Station Yankee town.

Diane Berman, DCDR, presented Coast Guard awards for participation in *Operation Unified Resolve* to Auxiliaries Richard Culp, 15-1; Nacshon Limor, 15-3; Kevin Blake, Robert Ward and Ron O'Connell, 15-4. Award description reads:

*Operation UNIFIED RESOLVE is a joint operation to deter, detect, and disrupt illicit maritime drug trafficking in the central and eastern Caribbean. Participating agencies include the U.S. Coast Guard, elements of Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice, the Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Southern Command, and law enforcement agencies of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. A multitude of Coast Guard Cutters, patrol boats, law enforcement units, rotary and fixed wing aircraft, combined with Customs and Border Patrol and allied nation maritime assets to significantly reduce the flow of illicit drugs in the area. Overall results of the operation included a 40 percent reduction in homicides in Puerto Ri-*

*co, interdiction of 52 vessels, the arrest of 99 drug traffickers, and the removal of more than 39,279 kilograms of cocaine and 10,993 pounds of marijuana with an estimated value of \$1.3 billion.*

Paulette Parent, DCAPT (W), presented Leslie Moore, FC, 15-2, with a certificate and banner for her flotilla's 50 years of service. The certificate was signed by National Commodore Mark Simoni. Next, Joseph Weiss, SO-VE, presented nine members with division certificates for performing many vessel exams:

For VEs:		
William Schultz	15-4	57
Andy Render	15-1	55
Robert Currie	15-4	29
For 30 or more Paddlecraft VEs:		
Leslie Moore	15-2	30
Ray O'Connell	15-8	30
John Fahey	15-8	30
Craig Elliott	15-8	30
Charles Dolan	15-8	30
Vera Bystry-Wells	15-8	30

Tricia Dooris, SO-NS, gave an update on ATONs in the Homosassa

River. Many of the ATONs that had been reported as damaged were recently repaired or replaced by the Coast Guard.

Flotilla 15-8 reported that on Saturday, August 27, it will present all eight (8) mandatory courses. The program will begin at 8:00 am. Any member needing any of the mandatory courses should contact Jim Nastelli, FC, 15-8, for further information. Flotilla 15-4 is also offering many of the courses as well. These courses are open to all members of Division 15. A 4-hour TCT class will be held at 15-1's building on October 15—civilian attire only. Ms. Berman reported that 43% of division members still do not have the mandated training completed, but that most of those members do not attend flotilla meetings or participate in flotilla events. Members who do not complete the mandated training will not be able to renew ID cards or hold elected or appointed office, to name but a few of the many reasons to complete the training courses.

Larry Berman, DDC-P, gave an R&S update. Division 15 is doing reasonably well and is way ahead of northern divisions. We have equipment needed for patrols and we are up on POBs for patrols. Larry



Berman, SO-IS, asked FCs to start sending award recommendations in now—not to wait. It takes time to write up the awards and get them submitted so they are received in time for division and flotilla Changes of Watch. The Division 15 Change of Watch luncheon is scheduled for November 12 at the Citrus Hills Country Club in Hernando. More information will be forthcoming. Checks should be sent no later than October 28 to Don Jones, SO-FN.

A division election screening committee was appointed with Paul Pelletier, IPDCDR, chair, and members Larry Berman and George Dooris. Anyone interested in running for division commander or division vice commander should send a letter of intent to committee chair Paul Pelletier.

Discussion was held on division Navigation Rules. Everyone had received a copy of the rules and after the discussion, a motion to accept the presented Nav Rules was made. With all in favor, the motion passed.

CWO Whitmore will be leaving Station Yankeetown after the Change of Command ceremony on August 3 at the Station. Chief Eric Tookey will be the new OIC. Mr. Whitmore and his family will be heading to California to join the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf. His new position will be First Lieutenant of the cutter (position, not rank.) The Bertholf is the first Legend-class maritime security cutter. She is 418 feet long with a 54-foot

beam and was launched in September 2006. We wish Mr. Whitmore and his family well in their cross-country relocation. Mr. Whitmore thanked the Auxiliary for all of its on-the-water assistance and for fellowship such as the Great Chili Cook-Off, Cookies for Coasties, and the Easter and Holiday treats for the station. He cautioned members to “keep your head on a swivel” and “if you see something, say something—keep your eyes open.”

Paulette Parent, DCAPT-W, remarked that AUXFS will soon have a DSO-FS position and an SO-FS staff position at the division level. She cautioned members not to post meeting notices on social media because the public doesn't distinguish between the gold side and the Auxiliary.

Judith Hudson, DCOS, gave members some statistics for the District: in the last five years, the Auxiliary rescued \$157 million in property, 785 lives were saved and 11,000 lives assisted. D7 also had a 12% increase in NSBW events over last year and the Wear-It campaign is having a positive effect on boaters. In Division 15, we have volunteered 20,000 hours this year so far and have accomplished 1150 marine patrols. Ms. Hudson coined a new name for the district: the *Sensational Seventh!*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.



**Division Meeting Photos**

All photos by Mary Patton

Randy Patton, 15-3 and Ray O'Connell, 15-8



Leslie Moore, 15-2 and Diane Berman, DCDR

Bridge at head table.



# Division Commander's Report

by Diane Berman, DCDR



## Are You All In?

Sometimes being an Auxiliary seems quite demanding. You must take this course, you must take that class. You say, hey! I volunteered! Why am I doing all this?

Maybe it is time to take a look inside yourself to determine why you are in the Auxiliary. Is it the neat uniform? Could it be the name Coast Guard Auxiliary? How about the panache of being part of an elite group or could it be having an important-looking ID card?

Maybe it's the desire to serve with

a group as distinctive as the Coast Guard. Maybe it's to give back for all the good things in your life. Maybe you are a veteran and you wish to continue the feeling of being "Brothers in Arms." Maybe it's none of the above. Our reasons are myriad and often times personal. No one reason is more or less important than another.

Looking inwards, a more important question to ask yourself is, "How much am I in the Auxiliary?" Am I all in? Or, have I just dipped my toe in?

Just how committed am I?

Being a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary does take commitment. ICS training is important because you may be needed to assist at a disaster scene at some point and that ICS training would be essential to the mission. The Coast Guard expects us to be trained on the same level as their active duty members. That is why we are required to take the same mandated courses as they do.



## Division Vice Commander's Report

by Andy Render, VCDR

At NACON in Phoenix, the Auxiliary will elect a new National Commodore, Vice National Commodore and three Deputy National Commodores. During D-TRAIN in September, we will elect a new District Commodore, Chief of Staff and several District Captains. Shortly after that we conduct division and flotilla elections.

All of this leads me to the point that we are always looking for individuals to step forward and assume a leadership role. I know, you just don't have the time or experience to step forward and help lead your flotilla. If not you—then, who?

Taking on the responsibilities of a flotilla elected officer may seem daunting, but there is a lot of support to help ensure your success. Your biggest

supporters are the members of your flotilla. They entrusted you with the leadership role and will do all they can to help you be successful. The new FC has a flotilla staff for support and the Division Bridge to help guide them through the initial ins and outs of the position.

Locally, I'm not sure we are doing enough to help our members understand what all is involved in an elected officer position. There needs to be a way to help prepare you to step into the FC and VFC role.

I look forward to our division developing a local "Flotilla Commander Academy", consisting of Saturday or Sunday workshops conducted at Station Yankeetown for anyone and everyone interested in attending. It would

be designed for members who would like to learn more about the inner-workings of the Auxiliary and for those who might be interested in advancing their Auxiliary experience. Subjects might include: the structure of the Auxiliary, how to use AUXDATA / AUXINFO, leadership styles, understanding the maze of Auxiliary forms, conducting successful meetings and any number of other subjects.

With enough interest, we could move ahead within the next several months and have our first workshop before the beginning of the year.



## Flotilla Commander Reports



### 15-1 Crystal River by Linda Jones, FC

Flotilla 15-1 remains a very active unit in the second quarter of 2016. Our members have logged 7,118 hours year-to-date. We continue to provide two watchstanders for Station Yankeetown two days a week, and two AUXFS to prepare meals at the station. Flotilla 15-1 provided 1317.15 hours of support in the areas of food service and radio watchstanding for Station Yankeetown during the first 6 months of 2016. Station Yankeetown called on our flotilla to do search and rescues and post Tropical Storm Collin patrols from Hernando to Withlacoochee. Seven members of 15-1 attended the Promotion Ceremony at Station Yankeetown for Chief Whitmore. Two members donated nine dozen cookies for the event.

The Division 15 Memorial Day program was held at the USCG Douglas Munro Monument in Little Springs Park, Crystal River. Forty people attended. Included in the program was an Honor guard, bagpiper, the soloist who sang the Star Spangled Banner, and a USCG bugler from Station Yankeetown who played *Taps*. Eighteen members of Flotilla 15-1 attended.

Our operations program has accumulated 250 underway hours in the second quarter on the water, 9.40 as AUX-AIR, 25 patrols equaling 50 for the first six months. A QE for one crew trainee was held during this time. At present, we have two crew trainees and one coxswain trainee. Within our flotilla, we have held several training sessions on operations and more recently, a training session on administrative procedures. For the first six months of 2016, we conducted 152 Vessel safety checks, 175 Program Visitations, and 37 Aids to Navigation were checked. *Boating Skills and Seamanship* and *About Boating Safely* classes were held during the second quarter with 11 students. We have 72.5 hours year-to-date in PE.

For recreational boating safety, 15-1 members participated in several events. During the months of April and May, we had local newspaper and TV coverage for National Safe Boating Week.

Vessel safety checks were conducted. A "Wear It" picnic was held as a kick off to NSBW. Crystal River City Councilman Robert Holmes presented a proclamation to the flotilla in support of NSBW.

A display of boating safety equipment and life jackets was set up for public viewing at Crystal River Preserve State Park.

Our monthly Fellowship dinners continue with great success, usually having between 15-25 people attending. We continue to foster inter-flotilla cooperation. 15-4 members Tricia and George Dooris have helped out with radio watch at our radio room during some patrols. Robert Currie, Tricia and George Dooris have assisted the Public Education program by teaching chapters in the "Boating Skills and Seamanship" class.

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### 15-3 Ocala by Mary Patton, FC

Flotilla 15-3 had no direct support activity to the Coast Guard.

Most of our active members have completed the Mandated Training. Mary Patton, FC, attended AUX-02 C-School at NACON in Phoenix, and Randy Patton served as an instructor for the AUX-04 C-School on setting up WOW websites and PowerPoint presentations.

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### 15-4 Homosassa by Robert Currie, FC

Flotilla 15-4 is still four staff officers short, but other members are filling in as needed. There have not been as many patrols as requested due mainly to weather, winds and low tides. Rusty Hays has offered his 27' Boston Whaler as a facility vessel and it has been approved. The first patrol will be on April 16. On March 19 and 20, we participated in the Homosassa Marine Boat Show. Unfortunately, Saturday was mostly rained out, but Sunday had a much better turnout. We met with two new potential members, a husband and wife who have just retired. We will be meeting with them this week to start the paperwork. Hopefully that will go smoothly. Mike Mooney, who assumed the FSO-IS position from George Dooris, has been accepted at the AUX10 "C" School in Durham, NC. He will be leaving in April. We are fortunate to have him step up to this as our flotilla is short an IS person. As requested, our TCOs have manned the flotilla radios a number of times when Rescue 21 has been down for updates. We will be on station March 28 and 29. The AUXCOM course is about complete at this time. There is one individual from our flotilla who will be following up to complete the TCO requirements, which will bring us up to 5 watchstanders. We continue to work with Flotilla 15-1 to provide instructors as needed for their PE courses. We participated in the March ABS course for the Sea Cadets and again for an ABS course for the public. The intention is to utilize the instructors from both flotillas for the programs. We anticipate April, May, and June to be busy months for patrols and requalification of boat crew and coxswain prior to scallop season.

## 15-7 Suwannee by Josef Weiss, FC

Flotilla 15-7 started the year off welcoming our new flotilla staff officers, and wiped the slate clean by relocating our meetings to a nice, clean, friendly environment that was close to a majority of our active members at the Newberry Public Library. We constantly discuss the importance of training, and supporting and growing our membership base. We are working on expanding our training and meeting capabilities with internet access. We have gained a new coxswain, and also lost a coxswain and crew member. We have accepted one new member into the flotilla. With 3 active members, the only activity the flotilla has conducted is a series of VSCs.

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## 15-8 Hernando by James Nastelli, FC

The second quarter of 2016 was a busy one at the Beach. In the area of public education under FSO-PE Jeff Hoff, 189 students from the Gulf Coast Academy graduated from the About Boating Safely course. Eight classes were offered including ABS, BS&S, GPS, Boating Communication, How to Read a Nautical Chart, and Introduction to Navigation.

Public Affairs under FSO-PA Kitty Dolan obtained a proclamation from the Hernando County Commissioner for National Safe Boating Week. This was presented to us at a regular Commission meeting with about 20 members present all wearing PFD's. The annual Life Jacket – Wear It coloring contest was held in area elementary schools. Three students shared the top prize out of 562 contestants and were invited to attend our June General Meeting. The top winner, Isabel Lopez, was invited to lead the flotilla in the Pledge of Allegiance. 35 students were presented life vests thanks to a large donation from the Eagles Lodge. The annual Blessing of the Fleet took place on 23 April and the Flotilla provided a boat and crew for safety patrol and to lead the procession around the channels.

Member training continued under FSO-MT Ray O'Connell with mandated training classes offered immediately prior to each general meeting. A full day session is scheduled for 27 August and **all members of our Division are welcome to attend, however, you must contact Ray at [roc44722@hotmail.com](mailto:roc44722@hotmail.com) if you want to attend.** All eight classes will be presented starting at 0800. If you only need specific classes, you may attend only those classes.

Three new members were sworn in. Welcome aboard to Steve Kuffell, Jim Gunther, and Dave Griffith. We are happy you joined and look forward to your service.

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### Staff Officer Reports



#### SO-CM, George Dooris—Communication Services

There were no requests from Station Yankeetown for Auxiliary radio facilities to be opened as a result of required maintenance on the Rescue 21 system. However, Auxiliary radio facilities were opened at the request of Station on July 8.

An AUXCOM class was concluded in April with three students. The class was a joint effort of Flotillas 15-1 and 15-4.

At least two members are engaged in training to qualify as a TCO.

There has been a continuing problem of communication between 15-1 Auxiliary vessel facilities and Station Yankeetown. Two tests have been conducted attempting to find the solution to the problem. With the cooperation of BOSN 2 Whitmore and his staff, we have found that the communication problem would probably be fixed by use of the Ross Station radio with a new antenna/cable in possibly a new location. Mr. Whitmore has indicated that he would look into this fix.

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## Editor's Note:

**This is my final issue as the editor/publisher of *Charlie Noble*. I have had a wonderful time producing the *Charlie Noble*, and it has received Second Place in the D7 newsletter contest for the past two years. My thanks to everyone who wrote articles and submitted photos. I couldn't have done it without you!**



## SO-HR, Maia Jefferson—Human Resources

We have been quite busy in the Human Resource (HR) Department! In 2016, we have gained 19 new members (3 out of the 19 members were generated from the e-responder reporting system). In addition, we had a total of 8 e-responder inquiries which has decreased from 14 inquiries in 2015. To our credit, we only had two members disenroll from service (2015 had a total of 55 disenrollments) and no retirements to date. Sadly, we had three members who crossed the bar and one member transferred to another division.

As always, we all have the responsibility to recruit new members....so, let get out there and recruit!

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## SO-MT, Ray O'Connell—Member Training

**15-1:** *June Member Training Activities:* One member continued underway "Coxswain" training.

*Progress on Mandated Training:* Mandatory classes continue to be an issue with several members not completing the requirement, however, Flotilla 15-1 overall has a large percentage of members who have met the requirement.

**15-4:** *Member training events scheduled:*

- The next scheduled class is the Auxiliary Weather course (AUXWEA) which will commence 07SEP at 1900 hrs at the Flotilla's building on Green Acres St.
- The 1-hour TCT class will be held at the regular Flotilla 15-4 meeting on 04OCT at 1900 hrs. The 4-hour TCT class will be held on 05NOV at 0930 hrs at the Flotilla's building on Green Acres St.
- A Mandated Training workshop is scheduled for Saturday, 05NOV at 1330 in the flotilla's facility on Green Acres St in Homosassa
- Members completing this workshop will satisfy the requirement for these six courses. These courses have to be completed to remain qualified in most areas of the Auxiliary.
- Training is also available for qualifying as Telecommunications Operator (TCO), boat crew and coxswain. Other classes will be held as requested. All members are welcome to attend any class.
- Anyone who is interested in attending any of the scheduled classes or who would like other classes on specific topics are asked to contact me at 352-232-2580 or [pdooris@dooris-assoc.com](mailto:pdooris@dooris-assoc.com).

**15-8:** Requalification training for three boat crew members will take place during July.

The final mandated training class, Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide (SP 502379), will be presented immediately prior to the July flotilla meeting. All eight mandated training classes have been offered in conjunction with regular monthly flotilla meetings.

In an effort to reach our inactive members, a full day Member Training session is scheduled for 27 Aug. All eight mandated training classes will be offered that day. We will advertise this session within the flotilla and also open it to other members of Division 15.

SO-MT Comments: While there is some incremental progress on the completion of MT requirements, overall it is quite slow in spite of the best efforts of the FC's and FSO-MT's within the Division.

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## SO-MS, Paul Pelletier—Marine Safety

For the past couple of years, Division 15 led the way in the Red Tide program, when it was first started at FSU and then taken over by FWC. We remained with the program, and I would like to thank all the members who were part of the program and assisted FSU and FWC. We led the nation and received national recognition for this program.

The new Auxiliary rules are that the only members that can be under orders to obtain a water sample are members who are IPI's.

Anyone interested in collecting water samples as a private citizen can contact FWC to be part of the program.

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## SO-OP, Andy Render—Operations

During the July division meeting, the board adopted a set of Navigation Standards for surface operations in our Division. These will be very similar to the Nav Standards that each Coast Guard Station and vessel are required to have. Basically, it's a "mini overview" of the main topics contained in the manuals, publications, bulletins, etc., which govern our operations program. Nav Standards are a reference guide we can use to help ensure we continue to operate within our expected guidelines. About the only things new in the Nav Standards are our definition of a "shallow water vessel" and the minimum water depths in which our assets should operate.

With the board's approval of the Division Nav Standards, they will be forwarded to the DCDR for final approval. Once approved, they will be posted on the division web site. Flotillas are encouraged to conduct a workshop to review this new document. It is recommended this be reviewed with all new crew trainees.

On another topic, over the last several weeks, we have been working with Station Yankeetown regarding issuing "Case Numbers" when we are called out from home to respond to a SAR. We agreed that anytime we launch a vessel (and actually get the boat wet), in response to a SAR callout, we will receive a case number. The Station OODs are aware of this practice.

If the SAR is cancelled while we are at the ramp and the boat is still on the trailer, there will "not" be a case number issued. There may be instances where a crew travels some distance to a launch ramp only to have the SAR cancelled before actually launching the vessel. We will review each of these on a case by case basis to determine how best to handle the occurrence.

There are no changes to our current practices regarding SAR missions while an OPFAC is out on routine patrol.

Overall, this has been a very productive quarter with a great deal of patrol activity.

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## SO-PB, Mary Patton—Publications

Three flotillas published newsletters during the quarter. The Spring issue of the Division 15 award-winning publication, *Charlie Noble*, was published. Three issues of *Charlie Noble* were submitted to the D7 Publications Contest.

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## SO-PE, Dolores Spain—Public Education

According to my PE records, the only flotilla that enrolled and completed a PE class in June was Flotilla 15-8. Jeff Hoff, PE staff officer, stated he enrolled six students in an ABS class on June, 7, 8, and 9<sup>th</sup>.

Thus far, comments I have received from public education staff officers of flotillas in Division 15 indicate that some students who pre-register for a Coast Guard Auxiliary public education course change their mind just before class begins, and then register for a State of Florida online safe boating course.

This has caused a problem for instructors who had planned on having seven students in a class to only having one student enrolled for the class. Some flotillas had to cancel their classes due to low enrollment, while several flotillas offered the course for one student.

Enrollment has been down in all of our division PE classes, even though the classes have been posted on the National and Division websites, and flotillas have advertised the classes in various types of news media along with flyers being posted at program visitor sites. Cost of the course text or materials did not seem to be the problem for low enrollment, since some courses were offered without any cost.

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## SO-VE, Josef Weiss—Vessel Examination

**15-7:** Nothing to report.

**15-8:** Even though we had a loss of two active VEs this year our numbers are still pretty impressive for the second half of the year. Active recruiting of new members to get qualified as a Vessel Examiner and involvement thru our new mentoring program will hopefully improve our flotilla's numbers for VSCs. During the first quarter, we had a total of 27, but in our second quarter, we had a total of 241. This brings the first half total to 268. With the summer under way, I expect our VSC numbers to improve further.



## On the Water!

Dead boat waiting to be towed for a side tow on a recent QE.  
L to r: 15-1 members Jim Simon, Angie Wright and Jodi Simon. Photo by Paul Jordan



Michael Wells, 15-8, performing a VSC at Bayport ramp in Hernando Beach. Photo by Vera Bystry-Wells



## USCG Operation Unified Resolve

Commander, USCG Atlantic Area, VADM W.D. Lee, has approved the award of the Coast Guard Special Operations Service (SOS) Ribbon to personnel assigned to units that played an important role during Operation UNIFIED RESOLVE for the period 18 September 2012 to 31 December 2014. Air Station Clearwater and all personnel assigned, including Auxiliarists who provided significant operational or administrative support to the Air Station during the period, receive the award. A list of the recipients is attached. SOS ribbons, and ribbons w/stars where appropriate, were forwarded to you earlier today. An extra ribbon is included in each packet. Ribbons for Division 11 will be hand delivered. There is no citation for the SOS ribbon. Awards have been entered in AUXDATA.

Operation UNIFIED RESOLVE is a joint operation to deter, detect, and disrupt illicit maritime drug trafficking in the central and eastern Caribbean. Participating agencies include the U.S. Coast Guard, elements of Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice, the Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Southern Command, and law enforcement agencies of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. A multitude of Coast Guard Cutters, patrol boats, law enforcement units, rotary and fixed wing aircraft, combined with Customs and Border Patrol and allied nation maritime assets to significantly reduce the flow of illicit drugs in the area. Overall results of the operation included a 40 percent reduction in homicides in Puerto Rico, interdiction of 52 vessels, the arrest of 99 drug traffickers, and the removal of more than 39,279 kilograms of cocaine and 10,993 pounds of marijuana with an estimated value of \$1.3 billion.

Division 15 recipients of the award are: Richard Culp, 15-1; Nachshon Limor, 15-3; Kevin Blake, 15-4; Ronald O'Connell, 15-4 and Robert Ward, 15-4. We thank them for their service in support of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Don Hoge

Auxiliary Coordinator

Air Station Clearwater

# The Common Typo That Can Steal Your Computer

*Adapted from AARP's Blog via Facebook*

Reprinted with permission from the Division 11 newsletter, *Chip Log*



The latest ploy cybercrooks are using to spread ransom-ware and other types of computer malware to provide them with remote access to PCs and Macs or to steal log-in credentials: After buying domain names with a missing or misplaced letter in website addresses belonging to well-known companies, they simply wait for you to make a typo.

The biggest threat results in the most common typos — either a misplaced or missing “c” (such as typing amazonc.om or amazon.om) so a web address ends with “.om” instead of “.com”.

Those two Amazon domain names are among more than 300 .om-ending domain names that hackers have purchased for this new malware-spreading scheme. These also spoof Facebook, LinkedIn, AOL, banks including Bank of America and Wells Fargo, pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreens, retailers such as Walmart and JC Penney, too.

Scammers have long used website addresses with a missing, extra or misplaced letter to spoof those belonging to well-known brands for typo trickery. But the usual MO has been to lead consumers to copycat websites that sell counterfeit goods, aim to steal credit card info that people provide for supposed purchases, or promise a prize to those who complete a survey that actually mines for sensitive personal information.

In addition to .om-ending risks, other typosquatting tricks that may result in malware that gives hackers control of your computer and everything on it include website addresses with doubling characters (“google.com”), missing letters (“gogle.com”), adjacent keys (“googlw.com”) and letter swapping (“googel.com”). So, carefully read what you type before hitting Enter to access a website, especially if you’re a fast or fat-fingered typist. That’s also a good practice to follow before clicking on links that appear in search engine results or online advertisements; they, too, may have typos that spell trouble.



Memorial Day ceremony at Crystal River with 91-year old US Navy veteran in his white “choker” uniform.  
Photo by Paul Jordan

## Memorial Day Photos



Active duty members of Station Yankee-town at the Memorial Day ceremony at the Douglas Munro monument in Crystal River.  
Photo by Don Jones



## Photos Around the Division



ATON after Tropical Storm Colin. Photo by Jodi Simon



15-1 "Wear-It" group for NSBW. Photo by Paul Jordan



### Captain Holly L. Najarian Prospective Commander Sector St. Petersburg

Captain Najarian reports to Sector St. Petersburg from Coast Guard Headquarters in the Office of Budget and Programs. Her portfolio spans Inspections and Compliance, Commercial Regulations and Standards, Marine Environmental Response, and Incident Management and Preparedness Policy, including 15 program offices in the Operations Ashore Prevention and Response Communities. Her responsibilities included the drafting, review, analysis, and formulation of policy, resource proposals, legislation, and programmatic initiatives for the Coast Guard CFO, Vice, and Commandant.

She ensured program alignment with senior leadership direction, responded to external queries, prepared reports for Congress, DHS, and OMB, and prepared Flag Officers and staff for Congressional Hearings and briefs.

Captain Najarian received her commission in 1993 under the Coast Guard's Direct Commission Maritime Academy Graduate Program. Her career began as an inspector trainee at Marine Safety Office Jacksonville, Florida, where she acquired both of her major inspector designations. She was then assigned as Supervisor of Marine Safety Field Office Portsmouth, New Hampshire and made responsible for all marine safety and environmental response missions along the New Hampshire coastline.

After only two years at the field office she was selected to attend graduate school, followed by a tour as a Staff Engineer and Machinery Branch Chief at the Marine Safety Center in Washington D.C. She was responsible for the review of plans for the design, construction, and repair of vessels in accordance with international laws, regulations, and policies and specialized in fire suppression systems, lifesaving, and machinery design. She was then assigned as Chief of Inspections and Investigations at Sector Boston.

Captain Najarian followed up the tour in Boston with an assignment as the Senior Prevention Assignment Officer at the Coast Guard Personnel Service Center. She provided career counseling and mentorship and strategically placed senior career Prevention Officers into assignments to allow for career development and optimized mission execution.

In her following tour as Deputy Commander, Sector Long Island Sound, she supervised over 700 Active Duty, Reserve, and civilian employees, 1300 Auxiliary, three cutters, eight stations, two aids to navigation teams, one Marine Safety Detachment, and a Sector Field Office.

Captain Najarian is a graduate of Maine Maritime Academy and holds an Unlimited Third Assistant Engineer's license for steam and diesel vessels. She earned a Master's of Science in Fire Protection Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, as well as an additional Master's degree from WPI in Business. Her military awards include two Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, three Coast Guard Achievement Medals, the Outstanding Military Volunteer Service Medal and several unit, team, and special service awards.

## United States Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg Change of Command Ceremony



*June 30, 2016*



# Tropical Storm Colin and How Division 15 Met the Challenge

By Jim Simon, IPFC, 15-1



Tropical storm Colin spared Division 15's area with just moderate rain fall; however, Flotilla 15-1 was ready. On Sunday, June 5, the National Hurricane Center was predicting Colin to make landfall just north of Citrus County. Although Colin was predicted to produce a lot of rain, wind concern was not a major factor. With large amounts of rain, we were also facing extremely high tides along the Nature Coast. Based on the storm predictions, Flotilla 15-1 decided to cancel its regular scheduled meeting for Monday night June 6 which would have been during peak storm time as predicted. Flotilla 15-1's hurricane & disaster calling tree plan was set in place to notify members of the cancellation to be alert for more storm information.

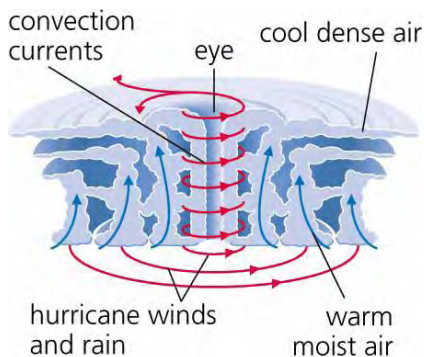
Monday, morning, June 6, the call came in that we were under "Condition One-Zulu". Flotilla members were again notified of the storm condition and Ralph Altavilla, Dan Farrar, and myself began to move the two flotilla vessels *Zero-Two* and *Zero-Three* to their designated storm locations. Our safety communication trailer was also relocated. All three facilities are stored at the Crystal River Preserve State Park on the Crystal River. This area is prone to serious flooding, especially with high tides. By 1100 hours, all facilities were relocated. As a precaution, sand bags were placed at entry doors to both our Flotilla buildings.

Reviewing the hurricane plan, Condition One-Zulu also calls for being prepared for call-out and for "post storm" activities such as going out in our AOR to check for ATON damage, debris in the water, etc. Calls went out to our operations personnel for availability upon the storm passing and the callout for post storm activities. Within a couple hours, we had at least two boat crews lined up for deployment; however, we faced the issue of several members who were available but had not yet had their personal protective equipment certified under the new R&S policy. A quick call to Larry Berman, and within a few hours he was able to certify an additional four operations personnel.

BMC Robert Whitmore, USCG, OIC at Station Yankeetown; and BM1 Michael Shallue, USCG, XPO; were notified that 15-1 was prepared for post storm activity after the storm passed at the discretion of Station Yankeetown. On Tuesday morning a call was received from Station Yankeetown requesting a boat crew, not for post storm activities but for a SAR callout. Many of you may have been aware of a SAR incident that began in the early morning hours of Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, where an elderly gentleman fell off his sailboat just off of Anclote Key. A Coast Guard all out search began and continued all day Sunday and into early Monday but Tropical Storm Colin required a stop to search efforts. Flotilla 15-1 was asked to report to Station Yankeetown Tuesday afternoon for a SAR briefing. Coxswains Steve Hampton, Vince Maida, and myself, along with boat crew member Jodi Simon, reported to the Station along with Steve Hampton's facility *LeeAnn*. At 1430 hours, search and rescue information was received from Sector St. Petersburg requesting that we conduct a Track Line search from the Withlacoochee River south to Hernando Beach. Our search began around 1530 hours. The search pattern covered just over 26 nautical miles and took about three hours to complete. Unfortunately, the search did not locate the missing boater. During our search, Division 11 also was involved in searching from their southern area north to Hernando Beach.

On Wednesday, June 8, Flotilla 15-1 was able to provide two vessel facilities for post storm activities. The *Zero-Two* covered the area of the Power Plant Canal, Barge Canal and Withlacoochee area. During their mission two ATON deficiencies were reported. The *Zero-Three* covered the Crystal Bay, Crystal River and King's Bay area, and one ATON deficiency was reported.

My compliments to all of the 15-1 members who took time out from their personal schedules to step forward to assist the Coast Guard prior to, during and after Tropical Storm Colin. Bravo Zulu to all!



ATON after TS Colin.  
Photo by Jodi Simon

