

Vice- Division Commander's Report as of 9 January 2016

The following is a summarization of the SO reports submitted in January that covers the month of December 2015 and discusses upcoming plans for 2016. As always, Division 17 was active in all areas and although the holiday period impacted total activity, there was still a lot of good work done by our flotillas in December.

As we commence 2016 the Division would like to express its appreciation to the outgoing SOs for their hard work and service. I look forward to working with the incoming staff members and look forward to even more success in the new year.

V/R,

Jim Parker

Division 17 VICE-Division Commander

SO-OPS Jack Miller

A practice SAR mission utilizing the Division's Air and surface assets will be conducted on January 23rd with a back-up date of the 24th. This exercise will be observed by Sector Jacksonville personnel.

If any coxswain needs a SAR Number for completing their paperwork, if one is not forthcoming from the Coast Guard, contact Mr. Miller who will issue you one.

Mr. Miller has supplied a copy of a new GAR form for Coxswains to use if they wish.

Two of our Coxswains are unable to currently pull orders due to not having completed the Sector Jacksonville requirements including night hours and the observed ride.

Mr. Miller also received a commendation at the Division COW for his efforts in supporting a "First Light Search" to locate a general aviation aircraft that crashed in the Banana River. Due to his diligence and the efforts of himself and crew, the wreckage was quickly located, the scene secured, and important evidence retrieved and passed over to the appropriate authorities.

SO-NS Mike Kanis

Mr. Kanis wrote a report describing the status of AV in the Division and a detailed attachment with a lot of the numbers and a suggested process for maintaining a viable status in the AV program. Included in Mr. Kanis' report:

Division 17 had 31 AVs in 2015. As a result of the currency requirements implemented by the District, we only have 7 certified AVs in 2016. One of these is new and another is not shown as current in AUXDATA due to an error. All AVs that are in REYR will have to meet the process to be recertified.

Mr. Kanis has proposed a system with 127 Class II and 55 Class III Division PATONs as a verification goal in 2016. The rationale and system are described in the attachment to his report. The Flotillas are expected to establish their own goals and submit them to Mr. Kanis.

A suggestion of at least one Member Training session for NS personnel be held in 2016 to review reporting procedures (ATON, PATON, and Bridges). This is to clear up some minor problems in the basic elements of the reporting process on some reports.

It has been suggested that in 2016 a new currency requirement for an Annual NS PQS Member Training Session will be released. Mr. Kanis is planning to comply with this requirement as soon as the details are finalized.

Two AV PQS qualified members are still providing direct support on a regular basis to the ANT at Ponce de Leon Inlet. This will continue in 2016.

SO-FN Donna Miller

Our outgoing SO-FN, Donna Miller, has reported on the Division's Finances for the end of the 2015 Fiscal Year, and has gathered all the information required for the year-end 7025 Financial Report. She has everything ready to transition to our new SO-FN, Andy Santorelli, and will turn over all the records and go over everything with him after the 9 January Division Meeting.

SO-HR Sharon Breece

Ms. Breece reported the division gained a total of 33 new members and by Flotilla:

17-02 Recruited one new member, and is working one new applicant.

17-06 Recruited sixteen (16) new members and has four (4) applicants pending approval. In addition, three transfers were received in 2015, netting a total of nineteen (19) new members. Growth in this Flotilla was strong in 2015 and the trend continues to be positive.

17-09 HR reported a decrease in current members' renewals in 2015 primarily due to complaints about the costs of uniforms and dues. These are common complaints and trends experienced in other areas of District 7 as well. The Flotilla did recruit seven (7) new members in 2015.

17-10 A new FSO-HR has been installed for this year. This will be their second full year as a Flotilla and recruitment in the Osceola County area should start to pick-up in 2016.

17-11 Recruited eight (8) new members and two (2) more are pending approval. Two of these were re-enrollments which don't count in the new member numbers. This Flotilla has recovered from the transfer of personnel to Flotilla 17-10 after the detachment received its charter in 2015.

Ms. Breece will work with the Flotilla's this year to assist the FSO-HRs in their recruiting, retention, and proper completion of paperwork.

SO-CS Donna Miller

The Flotillas verified that their CS links were functioning properly.

Ms. Miller has forwarded Flotilla 17-10's request to have their website approved by National, but hasn't heard anything back yet. She will follow-up with the ADSO-CE-N.

All of the 2015 staff reports and minutes have been loaded to the Members Only area.

Ms. Miller will prepare an area for the 2016 reports and minutes.

The Division 17 website needs new photos of the bridge and staff. Ms. Miller will have her camera at the meeting to take any officer's photo.

Any Flotilla that has submitted awards can contact Ms. Miller for assistance in determining the status of said awards.

SO-MA Richard Barada

Mr. Barada travelled to the FWC office in Tallahassee and received 1,000 total Florida Boating Regulation books. Any Flotilla requiring these or needing other materials assistance please contact Mr. Barada.

Mr. Barada also served on the Honor Guard for Flotilla 17-11's Change of Watch in December.

SO-PB Jules Moquin

In December Mr. Moquin prepared a special COW edition of the Division's newsletter "THE LIFELINE" which he distributed on 5 January.

SOs please remind your FSOs to take photos of their activities through the year with a short article describing the event. If a member has a training article, or other article of interest to the membership submit those to Mr. Moquin for possible use in an upcoming edition. Mr. Moquin requests articles be submitted by the 20th of the month in order to allow time for layout and editing in order to get the issue out in a timely manner for each month.

SO-PV Mark Perni (For Bob Dicicco)

In December six (6) MDVs were performed for the month.

Flotilla 17-02 reported they exceeded their 2015 goal of 240 visits by 23.

Congratulations to 17-06's Jonathan Urdaneta for receiving his MDV certification.

The MDV database was modified to report only those businesses that were active in 2015. This results in a total of 102 businesses in Division 17.

Goals for 2016 are being set by the Flotillas. These goals include continuing visits to businesses in the database with concentration of those in the Port Canaveral SR-520 area. Verification and accuracy of the info in the MDV database is also a priority.

SO-PE Dan McIntyre

Progress with the Mandated Training continues at a slow pace.

Currently, 94 members have completed the requirements out of 264 members in Division 17 for a 35.6% completion rate.

Flotillas will be scheduling workshops to assist members complete this priority training and any workshop will be open to any member of the Division.

Mr. McIntyre discussed the upcoming FWC Boating Safety Instructor workshops that will be held in various cities in 2016. An important update to the boating law that will take effect in July 2016 is raising the minimum age to operate any vessel to 16 years of age, and a mandatory age for completion of a boating safety course.

Mr. McIntyre will be meeting with the Brevard County Schools Curriculum Coordinator to discuss getting several of our boating safety classes into the Brevard County Schools. Mr. McIntyre is also willing to help with other counties to get this program initiated with them.

SO-MT Nevin Lantry

The incoming MT for 2016, Nevin Lantry, has called a 2016 Member Training Planning session for 11 AM, Thursday, 21 January at Harbortown Marina.

SO-IS Gil Steinfort

Mr. Steinfort reports that the 7007 forms for all five flotillas has been successfully input.

2015 data entry should be completed by 8 January and on 9 January the FSO-ISs can start downloading and distributing the Member's Annual Letters.

FSO-ISs should prepare and provide training to new members on the various forms and how to properly submit them. 17-6 will be conducting such a training session on Saturday, 27 February. Any Division 17 member is invited to attend.

IS is a critical resource and has a long lead-time in order to have a member qualified in this specialty. It is highly recommended all Flotillas determine a back-up to their designated FSO-IS and begin the training and qualification process.

The SO-IS will be on a trip commencing 11 January and will be gone about a week. He will have email and limited AUXDATA access during this period.

SO-CM Pete Anderson

Division 17 will continue to answer the scheduled net calls and other communications requirements requested by the Coast Guard.

Training sessions will be held in 2016 in order to qualify additional communications personnel as required and technical assistance will be provided any member who wants to establish a mobile or fixed facility.

SO-PA Jim Nickles

Mr. Nickles reported on plans for 2016 including National Safe Boating Week. He requested all flotillas inform him ASAP of the Committee Chairperson and plans of each Flotilla.

The Orlando Solar Bears (Hockey Team) are continuing their "Hometown Heroes" program where a local active duty or reserve service person is recognized at a home Solar Bears game. Mr. Nickles will contact Chief Holt, OIC of the ANT at Ponce Inlet, and BM1 Caferella, our AUXLO at Station Port Canaveral, in order to schedule and submit them for participation.

The movie "Their Finest Hour" which is about a particularly courageous rescue of the crew of a freighter disabled in a major storm off the coast of Cape Cod by four members of the USCG in 1952 is opening at theatres soon. Mr. Grier is looking for support in the Brevard County area to attend as a group in uniform. Mr. Nickles is doing something similar in Osceola County. All Central Florida members are invited to attend either of these two events, or Flotilla Commanders can schedule their own event at a local theatre.

SO-MS Gary Gunter

Mr. Gunter discussed accomplishments of 2015 including progress made in training and qualifying UPV inspectors and Commercial Fishing inspections. This training will recommence in 2016 at which time several new inspectors should be qualified.

Support of the MSD at Station Port Canaveral was also discussed including plans for several drills and exercises in 2016.