

Shorelines

TWIN CITIES METRO
DIVISION 11
8TH WESTERN RIVERS
DISTRICT

A PUBLICATION OF
THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
AND
THE UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Winter 2024

The Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul
Trent Jensen
Division Commander

Winter 2024

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Hello Shipmates:

As I write this column, our weather seems to have a mind of its own. I'm not complaining, as it's been on the warm side of the equation. It's been great aside from a few subzero days coinciding (of course) with the 2024 Change of Watch! And, to that end, a hearty congratulations and thanks to all involved with this event. A special thanks to Lt. Kwolek, MSD, Sector North Capt. Jon Knutson and a "well-done" to Mr. Jensen continuing as Division Commander and Mr. Berg, as the new, Division Vice-Commander.

Of course, living where we do, one cannot complain too much about the weather. It's reminds us that now is a good time to dig into areas of training and education that we all need or want. To that end, Flotilla 08 is leading the Division in setting up a Vessel Examiner evening of training. With the expertise of Mr. Don Garvey and Chris Kotys to name just a couple, we will have a chance to refresh ourselves with this very important activity. A special thanks to everyone engaged in this presentation. Looking a little further downstream, we see an annual TCT refresher training being offered at the

District-level in February (see page 11). This training will prepare us for getting back to a variety of operations by the spring. And speaking spring, we also have the opportunity to plan and get ready not only for getting on the water but receiving a variety of courses and training opportunities at the District's 2024 D-Train event on 17-21 April, in St. Louis, Mo. That's also a great chance to see our Shipmates from the whole of 8th Western Rivers.

And, let's not forget the job well-done by our Shipmates who assisted with the Minneapolis Boat Show. A particular *Bravo Zulu* to Mr. Mark and Ms. Kathryn Clingan who worked tirelessly to help get things off the ground. Thanks for "walking the walk"!

And, as summer approaches, we'll have even greater chances to fellowship and learn about what it means to be an Auxiliarist. On 22 June, Division Vice-Commander Berg will lead us in a day of learning about military protocol and traditions. Since we often relate to, and mix with, other military personnel, we must know who we are, what's expected of us and absorb some of the traditions and understandings of being in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

In the meantime, let's be *Semper Paratus!*

Announcements, Upcoming Training, Meetings Etc.

Flotilla Annual Holiday Parties

Many Flotillas hosted annual holiday parties for themselves and their friends. In the midst of the dark, and cold early evenings of December and January, we gathered in various rooms to celebrate the end of the year holidays. Our fellowship was warm and offered plenty of food and drink to celebrate the season. Bravo Zulu to all who closed out the year with these warm gatherings.

Division Change of Watch 6 January 2024

The annual Change of Watch took place on 6 January 2024, at the Double Tree-Hilton located in Edina. In a well-decorated room, Coast Guard leaders, Division leaders and Flotilla leaders were sworn in for the upcoming 2024 calendar year.

The Oath of Office was conducted by Lt. Kwolek of the MSD detachment. Division 085-11 will be led again by Trent Jensen as its Commander. Mr. Jensen led the Division in 2023 and will continue to serve for 2024. Mr. Jensen has more than 15 years of membership and has numerous qualifications including the esteemed "Trident" qualification. Likewise, Mr. Barry Berg brings his numerous qualifications and experience which also includes the Trident qualification. In fact, Division 11 also has Commodore Heinz and Mr. Don Garvey as Trident holders. Additionally, Mr. Berg brings 15 plus-years to the table, with previous military experience as an Army Vietnam veteran.

And, we are grateful for the participation of our "new" Sector-North Captain, our very own, Mr. Jon Knutson of Flotilla 01. Mr. Knutson has served in numerous leadership positions and was both, our past Division Commander and past Flotilla 01 Commander. Thank you, Sir, for taking the time to visit our COWs among the many in your sector.



Above: Photo by Commodore R.E. Heinz; Minneapolis, 01/06/2024, (L-R): Sector-Captain, Jon Knutson, Lieutenant Kwolek, U.S Coast Guard, MSD Mpls./St. Paul; Division 11 Commander, Mr. Trent Jensen, Vice-Division Commander, Mr. Barry Berg.

Lt. Kwolek acknowledged the ongoing and valuable role of Auxiliary in assisting the regular Coast Guard. He noted that our efforts are not wasted thanked us for our services.



Above: Photo by Commodore R.E. Heinz; Minneapolis, 01/06/2024; Lt. Kwolek, MSD Mpls./St. Paul speaks to members and guests on behalf of the U.S.. Coast Guard

And we, likewise, thank him and his MSD shipmates for their service. Lt. Kwolek conducted "The Oath of Office". Mr. Jensen led the Division in 2023 and will continue to serve for 2024.

And lastly, but my no means of lesser importance, we wish to thank Mr. Don Garvey for his service as Division Vice-Commander in 2023. Again, Mr. Garvey brought a wealth of experience and professionalism to the position and led the Division's staff officer complement with dedication and distinction. Mr. Garvey, has provided a strong example to every staff officer in the Division. Thank you, Sir!

Well Done Shipmates!

Recently, Jon Knutson, F01 and Ms. Kathryn Clingan, F08, passed their Auxiliary Marine Safety Management (AUX-MSAM) and their Marine Safety Environmental Outreach Specialist (AUX-MEES). These are two of the four qualifications towards getting their Tridents as well. Bravo Zulu folks!

2024 Minneapolis Boat Show

As usual, January in Minnesota is the start of a new year and for many of us a time when we gear up for the Minnesota Boat Show. For many years our



Photo Above: Members of Flotilla 085-11-08 "stand tall" for the Auxiliary at the Minneapolis Boat Show.(L-R): Mark Clingan, Don Garvey, and Chris Kotys.

Auxiliary Division has faithfully attended and staffed a booth at this large, early year event. Here, we spread the important word of boating safety to the public. It's a fun time to share our knowledge and our fellowship. It's also an

excellent place to recruit possible members and have a fun time meeting other groups. There are dozens of non-profits, boat and pontoon vendors, and other state agencies concerned with water safety and law enforcement. Well done to everyone who participated. Our members have the chance to directly engage the public and other interested organizations. It's always been a great place to let folks know about the Auxiliary and the message of. Boating Safety. Bravo Zulu, Division 11 members.

Photo Below: Twin Cities Division 11, Boat Show Booth.



The Optional Communications Workshop

Mr. Jon Knutson of F01 has noted that there will be a special "Optional Communications Workshop" being offered on 2 April, 2024@ 1900 hrs.

The Optional Communications Workshop to be presented is for all TCO's and Grandfathered Aux Coms (prior to 2008). This includes anyone interested in working as a communications specialist, watch stander, offering the use of a Communications Facility, or communications in general. Shipmates, this is another great opportunity to renew and revitalize these specialties. This training offers ourselves the type of skills that regular Coast Guard, law enforcement and military personnel find extremely valuable and useful.

Hampton Roads Braces for Effects of Coast Guard's Temporary Deactivation of Units amid Staffing Shortages

The Virginian-Pilot | By Caitlyn Burchett
Published January 12, 2024 at 9:33am ET



The USCG Cutter Legare returns to USCG Base Portsmouth on July 13, 2023, after returning from a 69-day patrol in the Florida Straits. (Billy Schuerman/The Virginian-Pilot)

Coast Guard units will be temporarily deactivated in a consolidation this year as the service grapples with one of the largest workforce shortages in its history.

What this means for Hampton Roads — home to the [Coast Guard City of Portsmouth](#) and a hub for the service's Atlantic operations — is unknown, an official said.

"While there is new stress with change, the Coast Guard cannot maintain the same level of operations with a workforce shortfall of this magnitude. We cannot do the same with less people," said Lt. Luke Pinneo, public affairs officer for Portsmouth-based District 5.

The deactivation is part of a service wide "force alignment initiative" that will begin taking effect this summer. Across the Coast Guard, units with redundant capabilities nearby will be consolidated for the foreseeable future. Members assigned to the affected units will be "strategically relocated" in the coming months.

The Coast Guard has reported missing its recruiting targets for four consecutive years, and as of April 2023, the service was understaffed by 10% — or around 5,000 members. The shortage exceeds 10% in some mission-critical jobs, such as cyberspace, specialized forces and marine inspectors.

"This is a dynamic, challenging, and changing situation," Pinneo said. "We recognize it as a multiyear challenge and expect that shortage to grow throughout 2024. Exact numbers are unknown as decisions will continue to be fluid."

The Coast Guard hasn't said publicly which units — in Hampton Roads or elsewhere — will be deactivated.

But the service detailed in October that three 210-foot cutters will be removed from service, pending decommissioning, and seven 87-foot patrol boats will also be laid up, pending reactivation. Additionally, 19 boat stations whose search and rescue capabilities are deemed redundant will be reclassified to operate on an as-needed basis and six non-response boat units will suspend operations entirely.

The Coast Guard has a strong foothold in Hampton Roads. The local Coast Guard community is comprised of 480 active-duty and civilian personnel, 130 reservists and 1,300 civilian volunteers.

Portsmouth-based Sector Virginia's assets are spread across Portsmouth and Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach. Its footprint encompasses six multi-mission boat stations, five 87-foot patrol boats, three aids-to-navigation teams and a sector field office.

Eight 270-foot cutters homeported in Portsmouth and two 210-foot cutters at Little Creek represent about 850 personnel.

Additionally, Yorktown is home to one of the Coast Guard's eight major training centers. The facility funnels active-duty and reserve members into the

area for 10 to 19 weeks for entry-level training courses as an introduction to their primary job.

Sector Virginia's area of responsibility covers the Atlantic coast from border to the Virginia- Maryland to the Virginia- North Carolina border, to the Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, the Virginia portion of the Intracoastal Waterway, some inland lakes and the busy commercial terminals that comprise the Port of Virginia.

Hampton Roads-based crews are responsible for search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, port safety and security, aids to navigation, commercial vessel inspections and maritime migration.

While the Coast Guard will be less visible in some communities, Pinneo said the service will maintain its geographical coverage and responsiveness. There will be no impact to search and rescue operations.

The consolidation, Pinneo emphasized, is temporary. The Coast Guard will evaluate future manpower requirements while focusing on improving recruitment and retention efforts.

"If we fail to adapt, we would be putting our crews and the American public at risk," Pinneo said.



Photo by Seaman Christian Lower; Recruits from boot camp at U.S. Coast Guard training center Cape May.

The service is targeting its afloat fleet, working to have 10,000 new members assigned to the cutter forces in the coming years.

"What is known about the future is Coast Guard men and women will continue to serve the nation and save lives every day," Pinneo said. "That is not changing."

Navy Now Forgiving Recruits' Prior Marijuana Use as It Looks to Cut More Losses at Boot Camp

Military.com | By [Konstantin Toropin](#)
Published February 08, 2024 at 5:44pm ET

The [Navy](#) is no longer immediately kicking out recruits who arrive at boot camp at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois, with detectable amounts of marijuana in their system.

The service has expanded the authority to grant waivers for any recruits who initially test positive for THC, the main psychoactive compound in marijuana, [Rear Adm. James Waters](#), the director of the Navy's military personnel plans and policy division, told a group of reporters Thursday.

"If they fail that test and own up -- 'Yes, I smoke marijuana' -- we do an evaluation of the young person to make sure there's not something else going on," Waters said. "But we trust that through the process of boot camp that we have an opportunity to bring them along with our culture."

Waters explained that the move was driven in part to be "reflective of where legislation is in society." "We recognize that many states have legalized marijuana," he said.

However, the admiral stressed that there are no conversations about offering a similar leniency for any other drugs and noted that "we don't do drugs in the military."

The move joins a host of other recent changes that the Navy has put in place to help reduce the number of sailors who drop out of boot camp and are unable to continue on in their military career. The result is that the current dropout rate in boot camp is around 10% -- one of the lowest in recent history.

The move to decrease the number of recruits that the Navy loses throughout the boot camp process is part of its effort to deal with the [recruiting](#) crisis that [has plagued all the services](#) for the last several years.

Waters' boss, Vice Adm. Rick Cheeseman, [has previously said that only about 10% of scheduled recruiter appointments convert](#) into sailors entering the delayed-entry program or boot camp after about five months.

While that percentage increases if the potential recruit has mentorship from someone with Navy experience, according to Cheeseman, the sea service is still looking to minimize any further losses as those interested civilians become recruits and, eventually, sailors.

“Service is never a simple act; it’s about sacrifice for others and about accomplishment for ourselves, about reaching out, one person to another, about all our choices gathered together as a country to reach across all our divides.”

U.S. President, George H.W. Bush



U.S. Navy Recruit Training Command's Pass in Review in Great Lakes, Illinois, Jan. 25, 2024. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Christopher M. O'Grady.

"If we're going to recruit 40,000 sailors," Waters said, referring to the Navy's recruiting goal for 2024, losing 4,000 recruits through boot camp "is really, really unhelpful and so we want to try to continue to work on that."

In addition to being more accepting of positive THC results, Waters noted that the [pre-boot camp](#)

[physical training regimen](#) that the Navy borrowed from the [Army](#) is yielding results as well.

"We have about 400 additional sailors in the Navy today because of the physical Future Sailor Prep Course," Waters said.

Navy officials also noted that the prep course is having a secondary, positive impact on boot camp by injecting recruits with even just a few more weeks of Navy experience into the ranks of boot camp divisions.

"I think having some of those young men and women to the right or left of you that kind of experienced [the Navy] a little bit helps tremendously to reduce that anxiety," [Force Master Chief Delbert Terrell](#) told reporters.

"Recruit division commanders are actually competing for these kids as they come out of the Future Sailor Prep Course because they're more ready to run and lead in the boot camp," Waters added.

[In February 2023, the Navy also started to allow](#) recruits to use alternative cardiovascular exercises to pass that component of the physical fitness test. In the fleet, sailors are able to complete that fitness requirement by swimming, biking or rowing, among other options.

Before this change, sailors in boot camp were able only to run for their first test in the Navy.

"We went from losing 400 to 500 a year because they couldn't finish the run to ... one," Waters said. "All it took was buying some bikes."

Waters also says that he's not satisfied with the 10% dropout rate. "I want to get past that," he said.

"I think [Adm. \[Craig\] Mattingly, who is the commander there \[at Great Lakes\]](#) wants to get past that," he added.

Meeting Room Safety

By Don Garvey, 085-11-08,
D-AD-DSS

Prior to getting underway, boat crews and air crews will check their vehicles for safety. Proper equipment in safe, working condition helps to reduce the risk of accidents and mitigate adverse outcomes if they do occur. The same should also apply to our flotilla meeting areas. Buildings without proper equipment in safe working condition can create or exacerbate a hazard.

Below is a quick check list to help assess a meeting area for hazards. As flotillas meet in various locations and types of buildings, this is only a general list. Each flotilla should review its meeting area for building and location specific hazards.

- **General Facility Conditions:**
 - Floors clean, dry and free of debris
 - Heating and air conditioning systems operational & effective
 - Adequate air quality
 - All occupied areas adequately illuminated
 - Furniture sturdy and in good repair
 - Adequate lavatory facilities, and stocked with supplies
 - No mold, mildew or hazardous materials present
 - No evidence of vermin and insect infestation

- **Life Safety:**
 - Building equipped with functional smoke detectors/fire alarm
 - Fire extinguishers available, accessible and serviced annually
 - First aid kit available. Contents within service life
 - AED available
 - Potential trip hazards addressed – e.g. loose carpeting, uneven flooring, phone cords, cables. Extension cords covered or secured
 - Adequate, secure parking with appropriate external lighting

- Are there security issues with the surrounding environment – need for escorts?
- Adequate power outlets – proper use of extension cords
- No open wiring or electrical work
- Overhead, stacked items properly secured to prevent falls

- **Exits:**
 - Exit signs clearly visible
 - Facility layout does not impede evacuation
 - Exits not blocked - both inside and outside building
 - Exits not locked from the inside
 - Door panic bars function properly
 - Post-evacuation rally point and head count established
 - Evacuation procedures reviewed regularly

Sources: University of California
USCG SOFR Job Aid 101
US Coast Guard Auxiliary Meeting Checklist

Annual Risk Management/TCT Refresher

Members in need of Annual Risk Management TCT Refresher, please note the District Calendar’s stated times for Annual Risk Management Refresher. There are two times in February in which to participate. However, individuals in need of the training and refreshment must contact appropriate District 085 personnel for details, i.e., former D-Capt. Steve Gress: and/or C. Susan Lowe.

Title: Annual Risk Management TCT Refresher

To Register: [Contact Steve Gress- sgress52@gmail.com](mailto:sgress52@gmail.com)
Include your member number, District, Div. and Flotilla.

Time: 2 hrs each eve
Date / Feb 12, 2024 @ 1700 MST/1800 CST
Feb 13, 2024 @ 1700 MST/1800 CST
Feb 19, 2024 @ 1700 MST/1800 CST
Feb 20, 2024 @ 1700 MST/1800 CST
Feb 27, 2024 @ 1700 MST/1800 CST
Feb 29, 2024 @ 1700 MST/1800 CST (cont.)

Risk Management (cont.)

Annual Risk Management TCT Refresher

To Register: Contact, C. Susan Lowe cslowe4@verizon.net

Include your member number, District, Div. and Flotilla.

2 hrs each eve

March 4, 2024 @ 1700 MST/1800 CST

March 6, 2024 @ 1700 MST/1800 CST

March 16, 2024 @ 1000 MDT/1100 CDT

March 20, 2024 @ 1000 MDT/1100 CDT

March 24, 2024 @ 1300 MDT/1400 CDT

March 26, 2024 @ 1700 MDT/1800 CDT

March 27, 2024 @ 1700 MDT/1800 CDT

Shipmates: Please note changeover from Standard to Day Light Savings on 13 March 2024.



Photo U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; Auxiliary member completing a checklist during boat examination.

You may have already completed the workshop but may have lingering questions that that Don could answer address. Flotilla Commander Kotys hopes that many you can the training.

Division 11 Vessel Examiner Workshop (via Zoom)

February 26, 1900 hrs.



Chris Kotys our shipmate and FC for Flotilla 08, has announced a new VE workshop. It's an opportunity for our Division to go over the VE workshop with one of our best VE examiners--Mr. Don Garvey.

Don has multiple years of experience and tons of tips to make your VE experience a successful and rewarding one. All Division 11 members are invited, regardless if you are currently a VE or wish to become a VE this year. First-hand experience is one of the best ways to discover what this qualification is and how you can benefit.

Before you go out!
Make sure you're checked-out!

Time: Feb 26, 2024 19:00 Central Time Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86453168219?pwd=mETpCDwTc1AZ3oxA627zS7efhL50qp.1>

Vessel Safety Checks OFFICIAL COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FLYER

EVEN EXPERIENCED BOATERS NEED A VESSEL SAFETY CHECK!
15 minutes could save your life and the life of your family

A Vessel Safety Check (VSC) is performed at your boat – ranging in locations from boat to your driveway. A vessel safety check usually takes 15 to 30 minutes, depending upon the size of your boat.

What's In it For Me?

Vessels passing safety checks are awarded a U.S. Coast Guard / Auxiliary Decal that informs:

- Coast Guard / Auxiliary
- Harbor Patrol
- Sheriff's & Police
- other boating law-enforcement & safety agency's

that your boat was in full compliance with all Federal and State boating laws during a safety check for that year. Best of all every Vessel Safety Check is 100% Free of charge!

What if I Don't Pass?

If your boat does not pass, no citation is issued at that time. Instead, you are provided a written report in how to correct any discrepancies.

Why Receive a Vessel Safety Check?

Safety! The peace of mind that your boat meets federal safety standards and that in an emergency you will have the necessary equipment to save lives and summon help.

In many cases boating insurance agencies offer discounts for vessels which undergo a Vessel Safety Check every year. All decals and safety checks are void December 31st of year they are inspected, they are also void should the operator /owner fail to maintain the vessels equipment or the vessel itself to the standard at the time of the safety check.

Find an Examiner

Are you ready to get started on your path to safer boating? Click the link below, then fill out the short request form and click the submit button. We will locate the closest volunteer vessel examiners within 30 miles of your location and request that they contact you and set up a Vessel Safety Check for your boat.

Spring D-TRAIN 2024

Editor's Note: Members, the above notice is all the information that I have on this conference. However, arrangements are being made now and if you are wanting to attend this conference on behalf of our Division, it is recommended that you begin obtaining the necessary permission, authorization and travel requirements as soon as possible.

8WR Members, mark your calendars to join District Officers in St. Louis for **Spring D-Train 2024!** This event will take place **April 17-21** at the Marriott St. Louis Airport.



Members: the following is **an example from last year's (2023) curriculum.** 2024 has not yet been made available. However, this should give you an example and some general idea of what the conference is like and what to expect. Contact your Division, Flotilla Commanders and Member Training Officers for further information.

GENERAL INTEREST

8WR Leadership/Membership Roundtable

8WR will hold an informal roundtable to discuss topics of interest to the district, any beyond, for leaders and members. This is an opportunity to take the pulse of our District and discuss issues, progress, changes, policy, and the future of our organization

A meeting with the DIRAUX & OTO

Meet the new DIRAUX and OTO! The DIRUX and OTO will host a session to inform members of topics of interest to the Auxiliary and provide information about operations.

Orientation for D-TRAIN First Timers

Is this your first-time attending D-TRAIN? This session is an opportunity to maximize your participation in D-TRAIN. Join us and learn more about the opportunities available during this event!

Training for AUXDATA II 101 & Support Session

AUXDATA II went live in 2020. Learn about the functions, applications, and program updates of the system. This is a must for Auxiliary IS and elected officers. AUXDATA II 101 will be immediately followed by an AUXDATA II support session.

Facility Mishap Case Study

An interactive case study regarding a mishap that occurred on September 14, 2022, on the Upper Mississippi River. The presenter's facility, under orders, struck what is believed to be a submerged rock pile. The Mission, what occurred, the most probable direct cause, contributing factors, and the life-long lessons learned will be discussed. The shared takeaways will be valuable to all operational personnel.

Gold-Side Recruiting Support

This session will discuss how Auxiliarists can support the gold side's recruiting efforts. Time will be available for Q&A with the active-duty recruiters.

ID Cards

Get a new ID card and ask questions errors and expedite ID card requests.

Introduction to Emergency Management –

This course will give attendees an understanding of the emergency management (EM) arena and the Q Directorate that oversees this Auxiliary function. This course will be a great tool for old hands, newbies, and those considering getting into the EM function of the Auxiliary. EM positions, competencies/PQSSs, and gold-side EM mission support opportunities will be discussed.

Introduction to Kayaks

Everything you ever wanted to know about kayaks. Introduction to the ACA – DDC-P Julie Carey.

This session will introduce Auxiliarists to the American Canoe Association (ACA). ACA courses, resources, and instructor certification will be discussed.

New Website Helpdesk Feature

Auxiliarists will learn about the new help desk feature. Time for Q&A with the DSO-CS will be available.

OPS Workshop

The 2023 mandatory operations workshop.

PowerPoint Basics

In this training class, Auxiliarists will learn some of the basic skills they will need to start building their next PowerPoint presentation. This course will require.

attendees to build a basic PowerPoint in class, so they are required to bring a computer with the PowerPoint application already installed. Attendees may also want to consider picking up a copy of the PowerPoints for Dummies book and bring it to class with them. This will be a lot of fun.

QE Training

Training and recertification of QEs.

RBS Training

A discussion of RBS activities facilitated by the division's RBS specialist.

RM-TCT

Deliberate risk management (RM) is critical to mission performance, safety, and asset

preservation. Risk assessments provide the necessary information to plan, brief, execute, and monitor operations. This training is intended to reinforce the principles and concepts of RM, and to demonstrate how the information collected during the RM process is used during the critical phases of mission analysis, mission briefing, mission execution, and mission debriefing.

This 4-hour class is required every year for members in surface operations (i.e., boat crew, coxswain, AUXPAD, PWC and all in training for operations), marine safety, culinary specialist, chaplains working with Coast Guard, any member augmenting with the Coast Guard on the water or on shore, and Auxiliary air crew. Students interested in attending this class must email the instructor. (cslowe4@verizon.net) to receive class materials before coming to D-Train.

Team Building

Developing a High Performing Team (HPT) is a critical goal for every leader. Come and explore ways of integrating and empowering all members to grow and enhance the overall productivity of your team and organization. You do not need to be in a formal leadership role to take this class; everyone is a leader.

Understanding Easy Reports

A review of the district's Easy Reports system. Includes tips and tricks, established reporting deadlines, and report expectations.

What's New in Marine Safety?

The Prevention Directorate recently announced a new Marine Safety Administrative Specialist (MSAM) and performance qualification standard (PQS). The District MS Team will present on the new PQS and give tips on how auxiliarists may earn their Marine Safety Training Ribbon.

Writing Awards

In this course, the 7002 (CG-1650) - Coast Guard Award Recommendation form will be discussed, as well as some best practices for writing award narratives. Additionally, the award submission and approval process will be explained.

Zoom Tools Class

This course is designed to enhance the virtual experience. This is not a class for only advanced Zoom users. This is a class designed for anyone at any level of virtual experience. Tools discussed will include, but are not limited to, Whiteboard, Breakout Groups, Purposeful Polling, and Learner Engagement Strategies. Come join us as we explore these tools and see how the virtual system works.

Uniform Policies-Inspections; Military Courtesy and Protocol; Division 11 Training Day

By Barry Berg, Vice-Commander
Division 11

Saturday
22 June 2024
0900 -- 1150 Hrs.
1300 -- 1730 Hrs.

We have received instruction regarding uniform inspections from the Chief Director's Office. I feel that the approximately 20% of Division Members who are prior service, will like myself, think this is no big deal. However, we wear USCG Uniforms, and at times interact with Active Duty & Reserve Armed Forces & National Guard Personnel. Additionally, we interact with various Governmental Agencies, such as Public Service, EMS, all which tend to have a higher percentage of employees with prior service experience. When assigned to duty, whether going to Flotilla Events, or on patrol or other such event and wearing our uniforms, these individuals have certain expectation of our behavior and military bearing.

Prior Service Veterans all received their initial military training, and understanding what was expected of them while in uniform during the crucible of Basic Training. This experience can be somewhat of a rude awakening for the young civilians immersed in that environment, but it also sets expectations, and develops standards of behavior. The U.S. Coast Guard has become concerned as to the image that a few Auxiliarists project to the American Public, Members of the Armed Forces/National Guard, and Public Service Agencies. **To that end effective 1 January 2024,**

all members of the Auxiliary are to undergo uniform inspection and verification of a current ID Card. The penalty for not completing this inspection by December 2024 will result in Administrative REYR as outlined in the enclosed memo from the Chief Director's Office.

In an attempt to make this easy and help take the sting out of the effort the Twin Cities Division will be holding an optional **Member Training Session on Saturday, 22 June 2024 at the U.S. Navy Reserve Center, located on the Ft Snelling Airbase. Access will require your membership ID card to get on the base.**

To provide a basis for experiencing what it is like to be a part of a unit, in the military sense, we will be providing training in Military Customs and Courtesies. Your attendance to these training sessions is entirely optional for either the morning and/or afternoon sessions. While we may be providing military style training, at no time will there be demeaning treatment. However, AT ALL TIMES while on the Air Base you will be expected to conform to all Military Customs, and act in a respectful manner while we are guests on base.

While times are approximate, the morning session estimated from 0930-1150 Hours CT will cover basic drill and ceremonies. We will attempt to teach members rudimentary marching, and formations. After lunch, on your own, we intend to cover from 1300-1700 CT the Legal Implications of Auxiliary Enrollment, Class Room Training in Military Customs & Courtesies, Forming up for Uniform Inspection, We hope to stand Retreat (End of day flag ceremony), Practice Boarding a US Flag Vessel (USN & CG), and forming up as a Division, and formation dismissal.

The accepted Uniforms for future inspection are outlined in the enclosed Policy Letter. Also please note the policy letter also includes instruction that in order to wear a particular uniform for Assignment To Duty while performing duty with a U.S. Coast Guard Unit, that uniform will need to be inspected. If it is the only uniform you might wear on assignment to duty, then this inspection will cover that. However, if

you need to wear multiple uniforms for different occasions, you may need to have each inspected. On line one can find the Auxiliary Policy Letter from the Chief Director, USCG HQ regarding this inspection. I suggest you read it, it's a 10 Minute Read. It covers grooming, and uniform wear, that will be the standard for these inspections. While some may make negative comments regarding this, we are being held to the same standard that the entire U.S. Coast Guard must conform to. I see this as a positive thing, as it also means that they consider us to be an integral part of the Coast Guard

Details are still forming; however, we hope to make this a One and Done Event. If you do not pass inspection, do not worry. We intend to treat these inspections like a Vessel Examination. If you do not pass, you will be informed what the discrepancies are, and allowed to come back at another time for the inspection, no harm, no foul.

As I read the policy letter, Inspections can be done by any elected leader at the flotilla, division, or district level. While we are given until 31 DEC 2024 to complete these inspections, don't assume that your elected leadership will drop everything, especially during the holiday season, to keep you out of REYR.

Feel free to comment to me, however, this is a widely distributed email, so please select "reply", and not "reply all".

A Letter from National Commodore for The Auxiliary

"Good day Shipmates: A brief reminder that Auxiliarists **may wear the uniform only when assigned to duty**. The Auxiliary Manual provides a few specific examples of when Auxiliary uniform wear is prohibited, but even if not specifically prohibited, uniform wear is only authorized when assigned to duty.

An Auxiliarist is assigned to duty **only** when these 3 prerequisites are satisfied:

1. The Auxiliarist is engaged in an activity in support of an *authorized* Auxiliary program.
2. The Auxiliarist is qualified to engage in that activity in accordance with CG Auxiliary policy.
3. The Auxiliarist is performing the activity in conformity with applicable CG or CG Auxiliary policy (i.e. the Auxiliarist is acting within the scope of duty).

When those three criteria are met, then, and only then, the Auxiliarist is assigned to duty and may wear the uniform. Also, it is only then that an Auxiliarist is deemed an employee of the United States for purposes of eligibility for the federal statutory protections described in the Auxiliary Manual. If ever in doubt, before donning the uniform, seek guidance from your elected unit leader, because violation of this rule may subject the member to severe sanctions.

Best Wishes for a very happy and healthy Holiday season. "Semper Paratus, Agostino "Gus" Formato

Wear it With Pride

Wear It With Authorization

Invitation For A Military Ball

Shipmates, we have been invited to a military ball on March 2, 2024. **Shipmates, please coordinate with either VDCR Mr. Berg or DCDR Mr. Jensen, if you plan to attend festivities.**


This Invitation is important to the Auxiliary, and our Division. It is recognition by the Military Active Duty and Reserve Units that we are part of their community.

Given USCG's HQ's focus, we want to make a good first impression. Many of these new leaders do not know we exist and that we are an integral part of the USCG. This is a chance to remind them that they are our shipmates and likewise, we are theirs.

The UOD is military dress uniforms, Dinner Dress Blue, Mess Dress White, or Mess Dress Blue

Save the Date

Fort Snelling Joint Military Ball



2 March 2024

Date, Time and Location:
Saturday March 2, 2024, from 1700-2330 at The Double Tree by Hilton,
7800 Normandale Blvd Bloomington, Minn.

Event Registration:
<https://416thcomassn.wildapricot.org/event-5515625>

Cost:
\$100.00 per ticket, \$139.00 per room (Fort Snelling J Joint Military Ball room block)

Dress Code:
Military: Service Dress Uniform/Formal Attire / Civilian: Formal Attire

Points of Contact:

U.S. Air Force: robin.barber@us.af.mil	U.S. Army: jessy.l.westfall.mil@army.mil
U.S. Navy: ntagnppao@gmail.com	U.S. Marine Corps: ricardo.santos@usmc.mil

(black). These are the **only** uniforms appropriate for this event. See Below:

Stand Tall

Stand Proud



Step-by-step instructions for self-rescue

Editor's Note: Created by the Minnesota DNR and KARE11, Minneapolis, MN and obtained from MN-DNR website.

Below: Photo: Courtesy of KARE 11 and the DNR of Minnesota.



What should you do if you fall through the ice? First, try not to panic. This may be easier said than done, unless you have worked out a survival plan in advance. Read through these steps so that you can be prepared.

1. Don't remove your winter clothing

Heavy clothes won't drag you down, but instead can trap air to provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true with a snowmobile suit.

2. Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface—

This is where a pair of nails, sharpened screwdrivers or ice picks come in handy providing the extra traction you need to pull yourself up onto the ice.

3. Kick your feet and dig in your ice picks to work your way back onto the solid ice—keep going!

4. If your clothes have trapped a lot of water- you may have to lift yourself partially out of the water on your elbows to let the water drain before starting forward—

5. Lie flat on the ice once you are out and roll away from the hole—

6. Helps to keep your weight spread out.
This may help prevent you from breaking through again.

7. Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area--

Re-warm yourself immediately. In moderate to severe cases of cold-water hypothermia, you must seek medical attention. Cold blood trapped in your extremities can come rushing back to your heart after you begin to rewarm. The shock of chilled blood may cause ventricular fibrillation leading to a heart attack and death!



Derek Allyn Hanson posted photos to Facebook on Saturday, Jan. 21, showing multiple trucks parked next to each other on the ice.

Coast Guard Cutter Confidence returns to Cape Canaveral after 60-day patrol.

Como Robert E. Heinz and former Division 11 Commander, Janet Heinz, have their grandson serving as a crew member of this ship. Bravo Zulu to the Confidence and the Heinz family.



Above: CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Confidence (WMEC 619) returned to their homeport in Cape Canaveral, Friday, following a 60-day deployment in the Windward Passage and Florida Straits. Photo: Courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard.

Confidence worked to promote maritime safety and secure maritime borders, in support of Homeland Security Task Force – Southeast’s Operation Vigilant Sentry within the Coast Guard Seventh District’s area of responsibility. During the patrol, Confidence’s crew interdicted and oversaw the humanitarian treatment and processing of 65 migrants from various countries of origin and assisted with one damaged vessel.

Confidence’s crew deterred two unsafe migrant ventures in the Windward Passage. Confidence escorted both vessels back to their countries of origin, ultimately ensuring safety of life at sea. Confidence’s crew assisted a damaged American flagged vessel low in fuel off the coast of Haiti. Confidence provided critical supplies to the vessel to ensure the safe voyage to its final destination.

Confidence’s crew demonstrated exceptional commitment and skill throughout the patrol,” said Cmdr. Thomas Martin. “I am incredibly proud of the

Confidence crew for exemplifying the cutter motto ‘Measure of Excellence’ in all facets of this patrol.”

Confidence is a 210-foot, Reliance-class medium endurance cutter. The cutter’s primary missions are counter drug operations, migrant interdiction, enforcement of federal fishery laws, and search and rescue in support of U.S. Coast Guard operations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Middle East Task Force Includes the Coast Guard.

A U.S. Coast Guard cutter operating under the French-led Combined Task Force 150 seized about \$8.1 million worth of illegal drugs from a vessel in the Arabian Sea on Jan. 16. USCGC *Emlen Tunnell* (WPC-1145) seized 173 kilograms of methamphetamines [following a boarding and search](#).

“This is the second interdiction by CTF 150 of the year and marks the 14th time they have seized illegal narcotics at sea since France took

command in July 2023,” the Task Force said in a news release. “During their tenure, more than 16 tons of illegal narcotics with a street value of over \$600 million were seized and disposed of, preventing criminal and terrorist organizations generating income from drug smuggling. The seizure came one day before France turned over command of the task force to the Royal Canadian Navy.”

U.S. Coast Guard Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutters (FRCs) are forward-deployed to the region under Patrol Forces Southwest Asia (PATFORSWA).

PATFORSWA deploys Coast Guard personnel and ships with U.S. and regional naval forces throughout the Middle East. Initially deployed in 2003 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, PATFORSWA is now a permanent presence based out of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Coast Guard Sentinel-class fast response cutter USCGC Emlen Tunnell (WPC-1145) seizes bags of illegal narcotics from a vessel in the Gulf of Oman, Jan. 5, 2024. US Coast Guard Photo

“There must be absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war”.

U.S President Woodrow Wilson

U.S. Destroyers, Fighters Join in Multi-National Strike Against 36 Houthi Targets

HEATHER MONGILIO FOR UNITED STATES NAVAL NEWS
UPDATED: FEBRUARY 3, 2024, 10:34 PM

Two U.S. destroyers and F/A18-E/F Super Hornets flying from USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN-69) joined in a multi-national strike on 13 locations in Yemen, USNI News has learned.

Guided-missile destroyers USS *Carney* (DDG-64) and USS *Gravelly* (DDG-107) fired an unspecified number of Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles at the Houthi targets in Yemen while the Super Hornets used Joint Direct Attack Munition against the targets, a defense official confirmed to USNI News on Saturday.

The U.S. and U.K. forces struck the targets with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and New Zealand, according to a Pentagon statement.

“These precision strikes are intended to disrupt and degrade the capabilities that the Houthis use to threaten global trade, and the lives of innocent mariners, and are in response to a series of illegal, dangerous, and destabilizing Houthi actions since previous coalition strikes on January 11 and 22, 2024, including the January 27 attack which struck and set ablaze the Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker *M/V Marlin Luanda*,” reads the statement. “Today’s strike specifically targeted sites associated with the Houthis’ deeply buried weapons storage facilities, missile systems and launchers, air defense systems and radars.”

Around 4 a.m. Sunday, local time, Central Command forces struck a Houthi anti-ship cruise missile that it said was posed to launch against Red Sea ships, according to a Central Command release. The release did not specify which forces were involved.

The weekend’s strikes follow retaliation strikes against Iranian-backed militias in Syria and Iraq that have continued to fire missiles and send attack drones at U.S. installations in the region.

strike on attack on Tower 22, an installation in Jordan perched on the boarder of both Iraq and Syria.



USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) conducts flight operations in response to increased Iranian-backed Houthi malign behavior in the Red Sea, Feb. 3, 2024. US Navy Photo

Sailors assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Carney* (DDG 64) stand watch in the ship's Combat Information Center during an operation to defeat a combination of Houthi missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles.

Below: US Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aaron Lau



“Events of October 1962 indicated, as they had all through history, that control of the sea means security. Control of the seas can mean peace. Control of the seas can mean victory. The United States must control the seas if it is to protect your security...” John F. Kennedy

February

Black History Month

March

14 February	Division 11 Meeting	1 March	Women’s History Month
2-29 February	District TCT Trgn	1 March	Disability Awareness Month
18 February	Division VE Training	04-27 March	District TCT Trgn
19 February	President’s Day	19 March	First Day of Spring

“Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty”. John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same”. Ronald Reagan

Shorelines is a quarterly publication of the Twin Cities Metro South, Division 11, 8 Western Rivers Region of the 8th Coast Guard District—U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Please send all articles, comments and/or suggestions to: Dr. Bruce M. Nauth at bruce.nauth@gmail.com.