

Bravo Zulu

Flotilla 17, Point Bonita District 11NR-Division 1
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Volume 1 Issue 3 Fall, 2012

Flotilla Commander's Message



It is my pleasure to bring to you our third issue of Bravo Zulu for the Fall of 2012.

It has been an exciting quarter since I last

communicated with you on these pages. As you will see in the articles that follow, we held a successful dinner meeting in August where we were privileged to have our Liaison from the Gold Side as our special guest speaker.

In September, we toured the Pacific Strike Team headquarters in Novato.

October saw our involvement in Fleet Week activities and a great turnout by our members in support of the Division's efforts. Our elections were held at the October meeting, and we are currently planning for the Change of Watch Luncheon which will be held at Neptune's Palace Restaurant in San Francisco on Saturday afternoon, December 15th.

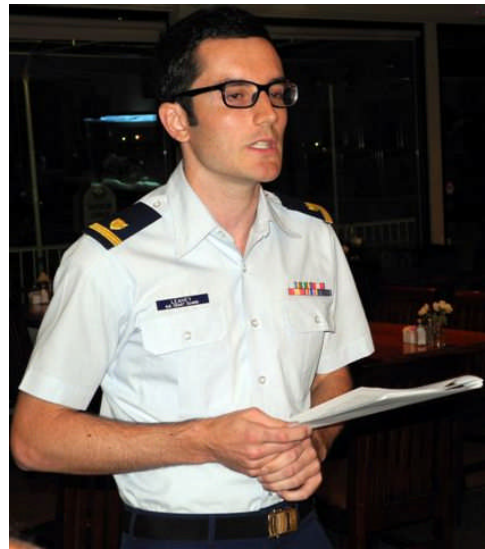
Our website was activated during the Quarter. Go to www.Flottilla17.org to check it out and contribute your content and photos.

I personally encourage all of you to get involved and make 1-7 the best Flotilla in the Division again this coming year.

Joel Hammer
Flotilla Commander

Flotilla 17 Dinner

On Wednesday, August 8th, the Flotilla held its monthly meeting as a dinner at Pier 29 restaurant in Alameda. We had a nice turnout for the event and our guest speaker for the evening was Ensign Mark Leahey of the Gold Side. Ensign Leahey is in his second year of duty at Coast Guard Sector San Francisco. He is currently the supervisor of the Sector Boarding Team, where he is in charge of 19 people who conduct armed boardings of tank and cargo ships that come into the San Francisco Bay.



*Sector Vessel Boarding and Security Team
Supervisor, Ensign Mark Leahey, guest speaker.
Liaison to USCGAUX*

Member of the month . . . Joel Hammer

Flotilla Commander Joel Hammer has been a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary since March, 2008. He has served as the Flotilla's HR Staff Officer (FSO-HR) for the

Bravo Zulu

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past 3 years as well as the Division 1 HR Staff Officer (SO-HR).

Originally from New York City, he spent 35 years in the Securities Industry where he held senior level Financial and Operations positions with a number of Wall Street firms including Morgan Stanley, Salomon Brothers, Colonial Investment Management and the National Securities Clearing Corp. (NSCC) where he was responsible for developing a clearing and trade execution system for the Mutual Fund Industry which is now in use by virtually every Mutual Fund in the United States (Fund/SERV).

Joel moved out to California in 1993, and for the past 5 years after making a major career change, has been employed at the San Francisco VA Medical Center as an Occupational Safety and Health Specialist.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy Reserve, he served aboard the U.S.S. Suribachi (AE-21), an ammunition ship attached to the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

On his service in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Joel says that "I am proud of the role of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and everything it stands for, and to wear the uniform and serve in any way that I can. The Auxiliary offers so many members opportunities for service to the community and to our country."

Joel lives in San Francisco with his wife Joan and their 5 year old, 12 pound Shih-Tzu, Theodore, (the son he never had) He has two married daughters and four grandchildren that live in New England. He enjoys music, especially Jazz and Country, and is an avid Baseball fan. An avowed

Political Junkie, he keeps up to date on the current scene by doing lots of reading and watching talking heads incessantly.



Joel Hammer and a 108 lb. Halibut he caught off Baranoff Island, Alaska (Joel's on the left)

Salute to the Endeavor

On Sept 21, Friday morning at 10:30 AM, I went to my corner intersection in the Sunnyside neighborhood of San Francisco to say 'good bye' to the Endeavor on her final flight to a Southern California museum. I was in my pajamas, no less, with camera

Bravo Zulu

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in hand. I had waited patiently for almost 45 minutes when quite suddenly she popped out of the clouds directly over me. I thought I could have reached up and touched her at 1500 feet. The Endeavor was perfectly piggybacked on a 747 with an escort of an Air Force F-18. She almost knocked me over as I bent backwards for the view. All the time, the roar of the escort made your bones rattle! To add the cherry on top, within a few minutes, she made a huge circle, popping out of a new puff of clouds and flew over me one more time and then headed South.

One news report said this was one of the most complicated machines ever made – it is a sort of rocket, space station and airplane all in one. You may remember this was built to replace the Challenger.

I will never forget this awesome slice of history! – Cynthia Dragon

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Shuttle_Endeavour

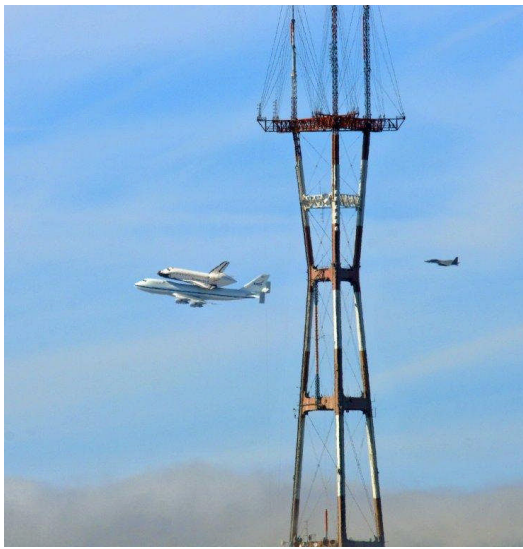


photo courtesy of Roger Bazeley

Pacific Strike Team, Novato

On Sept 15, 19 of our members went to visit the Pacific Strike Team at Hamilton Air Force Base, Novato. We started with a powerful power point presentation then took a tour of the hangers. Here is where the Coast Guard will respond to National disasters, such as effects of weapons of mass destruction events, hazardous substance releases, oil discharges and other emergencies on behalf of the American public; and including the Japanese tsunami and the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. This is one of 3 National Strike Force Teams in our country.

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/nsfweb/PST/pstdefault.asp>

All teams stand by ready to deploy 2 members immediately, 4 members within 2 hours, 12 members and equipment within 6 hours. Though, they have a small number of personnel, they can rapidly put together large teams anywhere they are needed.



viewing some of the equipment to measure radiation and toxins

Bravo Zulu

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Joel Hammer & Jim McDermott in front of 26' flat bottom TANB's



these trailers can fit into a C130 along with the truck

Fleet Week in San Francisco

On October 5th, I reported in at Pier 80 and was assigned as a greeter for the USCGC Sherman. I must say she was well hidden as we didn't get a lot of foot traffic that morning. Our neighbors just to our North were 3 Canadian ships: 2 mine sweepers – the HMCS Edmonton, the HMCS Brandon & the HMCS Algonquin (destroyer) along with the USS Preble the USS Spruance – both guided missile destroyers



inside one of the rolling command centers above



the Sherman just returned from San Diego

Bravo Zulu

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Early morning shot near Pier 32 of the USS Makin Island (Amphibious Assault Carrier) and race boats from America's Cup from a MUNI bus

– article and photos by Cynthia Dragon

To All Fleet Week Participants,

I want to thank you personally for making San Francisco Fleet Week 2012 a success. All Key Leads Rich Celia, Jack Kane, Neil Nevesny, Richard Niemi, Jim Blackburn, Chester Bartalini, Rich Thomas, JoAnn & Ray Dunaway and all other Daily Leads and Shoreside Volunteers that participated.

Thanks for your willingness to serve on the Fleet Week Team. Your unselfish contributions of time made this great event possible. This brought positive responses and inquiries about the Auxiliary from the public and Active Duty.

With gratitude,

Sonia Foster POC Shoreside Supervisor

Calendar of Events

October

4th -7th Fleet Week

13th Flotilla meeting, elections

26th -29th Urban Shield

<http://www.urbanshield.org>

November

10th - Special Training Meeting, YBI (Requal of REYR status members)

December

15th - Change of Watch (COW) Dinner at Neptune's Palace, Pier 39 – installation of new officers

Possible 2013 Events Being Planned

- Tour of USCGC Bertholf
- 2nd Tour of Bay Bridge Construction Project
- Baseball game SF Giants vs. ?
- Others to be announced. Stay tuned.

*Looking for DeeBee Tailors?
Frank and his crew are in their main store 2064 Lincoln Ave, Alameda, 510.522.1531. His email has changed to:
dtailors@att.net*

*Please submit your photos and stories to Cynthia Dragon / e:
sergequeen@aol.com*

Bravo Zulu

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mystery photo of the month – what are these?



2012 Flotilla Leadership

Flotilla Commander (FC) Joel Hammer
Flotilla Vice Commander (VFC)
Julie Vincenzini
Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC)
Diana Serchia

Communications (CM) A J Thorsson
Communication Services (CS) A J Thorsson
Diversity Advisor (DV) Sonia Foster
Finance (FN) Arlene Huber
Human Resources (HR) Joel Hammer
Information Services (IS) Joel Hammer
Materials (MA) Ron White
Marine Safety (MS) William W Burns
Member Training (MT) Paul Charlton
Navigation Systems (NS) Paul Charlton
Operations (OP) Paul Charlton
Public Affairs (PA) Jim McDermott
Publications (PB) Cynthia Calhoun Dragon
Public Education (PE) vacant
Program Visitor (PV) Gerald K Norton
Secretary of Records (SR) Robin Stewart
Vessel Examinations (VE) Julie Vincenzini

**Flotilla 17
District 113 – Division 1
Yerba Buena Island**

**Meetings – 2nd Saturday of each
month. 10:00 AM**

Building 100 IOC Training Room

www.Flottilla17.org