

USCG AUX Flotilla 1-5, Mission Bay, California

COMPASS ROSE

N e w s l e t t e r

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Word from Our Commander:

Flotilla 1-5: New Members.

Do you know the origin of our flotilla? We started out as an air operation flotilla to support USCG missions. I am going to post related information about our history and past leaders in the subsequent newsletters. Peter Marto, Flotilla Historian put this together.

Part 1: Origins of Flotilla 1-5

The genesis of Flotilla 1-5 was in 1986. At that time the Coast Guard and Auxiliary reported to the Department of Transportation. Flotilla 1-5 was chartered as a unit of Division 114-01 on March 26, 1986. The interests of the members then were primarily oriented towards air operations since many of the members were also private pilots. After taking Air Operations Coast Guard training, these members were qualified as Coast Guard Auxiliary pilots and or observers/air crew. Air operations in those days involved flying patrols for "Coast Guard Activities San Diego" (which in 2005 became part of Coast Guard Sector San Diego). Members used their own private aircraft which had to be certified as operational facilities by the Coast Guard. The patrols consisted mainly of flying reconnaissance missions over the Colorado River.

Later, Air Operations were curtailed by the Coast Guard "Activities San Diego" Commander and subsequently halted due to budget concerns. This action led to a slowdown in Flotilla missions. Members then focused on additional training especially in communications and operational specialties. Membership started falling off and eventually Flotilla 1-2 and Flotilla 1-5 combined forces under individual command and held joint membership meetings at "Activities San Diego".

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After the September 11, 2001 attacks on our Country, the National Strategy for Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Act of 2002 called for the formation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which was established to provide a unifying agency for the many national organizations that serve to secure the United States. Consequently, the Coast Guard reported to the DHS as an independent service. This historical milestone began a transformation of the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary where operations began to focus on national security in addition to the traditional maritime missions.

This led to a renewed interest in joining the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Flotilla 1-5 started to increase its membership base. The Flotilla Commander in those days was Oliver Cromwell, a long time member and former Division Captain. New and existing members had to undergo DHS security screening and recruiting and administrative procedures which were time consuming. Commander Cromwell along with his Vice Commander, Judy Stafford began expanding Flotilla Staff officer positions and involving new members. Air Operations were renewed by the Coast Guard "Activities San Diego" Commander. Auxiliary Air Operations training and qualifications were sustained.



US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

AIR OPERATIONS



- **Air Operations Is Looking for a Few Good Volunteers!**
- **Air Crew and Observer Qualifications Do Not Require**
- **Previous Aviation Experience – We train you!**
- **Great Fellowship/Camaraderie; Pilots/Aircrew - Build up Flight Time & Contribute to the Security of our Nation**

We need Pilots Aircrew to Fly Coast Guard & Homeland Security Missions

JOIN NOW!

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"Heads-Up" From Flotilla 1-5 Communications Officer

As your FSO-CM over the past year, I have to say that our Flotilla's accomplishments have exceeded my expectations. As a group we stand out in several missions, including communications.

We started 2013 with a TCO class with some members taking it for the first time and others as a refresher. We also had one additional member pass the proctored AuxComm test.

The Division held several meetings led by the DSO-CM to coordinate activities and pass along ideas. I was able to attend at least two of these this year at Sector San Diego.

A stand-out activity was our antenna workshop that we held in June. The purpose of the workshop was to build a more efficient antenna for use with handheld radios. I had expected that we would choose to build either a flexible J-Pole or a vertical dipole antenna and we had procured parts for both. To my surprise, there was such energy and enthusiasm that each participant created one of each. Additionally, a ground plane antenna was built. This was really an over-achievement to be able to build so many antennas and is a great credit to the group.

Another important accomplishment was the creation of a phone-tree for use during emergency call-outs. A drill was held in August and we will continue to refine this tool.

I also want to mention our consistent participation in the weekly Division VHF radio nets. We have 5 members on the list as regulars (thanks in part to the improved antennas we built earlier), and typically 4 or 5 of the regulars will check-in every week. The net provides another means of staying in touch and communicating current activities for the Division.

I look forward to continuing our momentum in the future.

Tom Paine
FSO-CM 01-05

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SALUTING OUR ACTIVE DUTY AUXILIARISTS



Darren Kasai
(US Navy Reserve)

Darren Kasai is a healthcare administrator and an officer in the US Navy Reserves. He hopes to return back to Southern California in mid-2014.

Military Service

Shortly after the attacks on September 11, 2001, Darren enlisted in the US Naval Reserves as an Intelligence Specialist and went through Petty Officer indoctrination in NAS North Island. In December 2002, Darren received his commission in the US Army Reserves and served in a variety of units to include Medical, Psychological Operations, and Civil Affairs. He was deployed to Fort Sam Houston in 2009 to serve as the Assistant Operations Officer of the Community Based Warrior Transition Task Force at the Southern Regional Medical Command. After eight years of commissioned service in the US Army, Darren transferred back into the US Navy Reserve and was deployed to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (Germany) to serve as the Assistant Officer-In-Charge of the Deployed Warrior Medical Management Center where his unit was responsible for the medical evacuation and medical management of all US and Coalition Forces wounded from Afghanistan, Iraq, & Horn of Africa. Currently, Darren serves as a Medical Planner for Commander, US Naval Forces Korea and has participated in exercises such as Ulchi Freedom Guardian in South Korea in 2012 & 2013. Darren will be reassigned to a new unit in March 2014.

Personal

Darren enjoys traveling, eating foreign cuisine, and photography. He is also a NAUI certified scuba diver and hopes to dive around the world. Darren is married to Sarah, an optometrist, who also looks forward to returning to San Diego.

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**Andrea Seay Rice
(USCG)**

LT Andrea Seay Rice: Is active duty in the United States Coast Guard and serves as a Deck Watch Officer and Training Liaison Officer. She is currently working towards earning a Cutterman insignia. **Military Experience:** I graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut where I attended Officer Candidate School, receiving my Commission in the USCG in 2009. I was a Deck Watch Officer onboard CGC MORGENTHAU in Alameda, CA from 2009-2011 then went to CGC MIDGETT in Seattle, WA and served as the Weapons Officer from 2011-2013. My two tours on 378ft High Endurance Cutters (WHECs) focused primarily on deployment to D17 Fishery Patrols in the Bering Sea and Eastern Pacific Counter-narcotic patrols. My tours of duty have taken me as far west/east as Japan waters, north above the Arctic Circle, as far south as Colombia, and East to the Panama Canal. I am currently the Training Liaison Officer with the Afloat Training Group located at the Naval offices at the 32nd street base. I liaise with the Navy and CG cutters and lead a team of "subject matter experts", E-6s to Warrant Officers, to board cutters and assess their readiness. We also travel up and down the West Coast to train crews of the WHEC fleet and the new National Security Cutter (WMSL) fleet in various drills. Our training and assessments ensure that the fleet is operational and proficient. I am looking forward to the exciting opportunities open to me now in San Diego and if time allows, renew involvement with USCG-AUX. **Personal:** I graduated from the University of Alabama then moved to San Diego where I worked at the University of California, San Diego in student leadership. From there I joined the USCG-AUX and was a member of Flotilla 1-3. After joining the Coast Guard and moving around a bit, I got married and bought a house in San Diego. I start my masters degree in December and hope to stick around San Diego for awhile. I love to surf and swim in La Jolla. I have a passion for photography and am currently trying to renovate our 1960s home. **5**



**Takeru Tajiri
(US Navy)**

Ensign Tajiri, was born and raised in Raleigh, NC and graduated from the University of Rochester, NY with a bachelor of arts in political science. He arrived in San Diego, CA after receiving a commission as an officer in the United States Navy and currently serves as a first lieutenant aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor. Takeru's interests include archery, electronics, and military history. He decided to join the USCG-AUX for fellowship and for additional practical experience in all aspects of his profession.

Our New Members



Alena Sellari.

I was born in Hawaii, but raised in Colorado and San Diego. I have a B.A in History from the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Several of my hobbies are; mountain biking, science fiction, gaming, and running. I look forward the volunteer opportunities that the Auxiliary presents, and getting to know my fellow members.



Daniel Lancaster.

I am a high school senior at Olympian High School; a native San Diegan, Daniel is new to Flotilla 1-5 this year and plans to contribute to the Auxiliary as much as he can in the coming months. Ultimately dedicated to the Coast Guard at heart, Daniel plans to become active duty through either the Coast Guard Academy or through the California Maritime Academy and serve in the Coast Guard as an officer. Intense school work, college applications, and water polo occupy most of Daniel's time in his very strenuous senior year, but his dedication to all things Coast Guard will prevail despite time constraints in the future.



Veliota Drakopoulou

I recently relocated to San Diego from NYC. I have a PhD in Applied Management and Decision Sciences program with concentration in Accounting from Walden University, an MBA from New York Institute of Technology, and a B.S. from the State University of New York at New Paltz. I am a NYSE equities day- trader with a diverse experience in fundamental teaching and research. I am from Greece and I have lived in New York City the last 16 years. I am a kayak enthusiast and I extensively enjoyed open- water kayaking in the NYC waterways. I was a volunteer at Long Island City Community Boathouse and I worked closely with the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance in a common effort to make the New York waterways cleaner and more accessible and a vibrant place to enjoy the water. In an attempt to explore San Diego boundless sea vistas, I decided to join the USCG-AUX. Auxiliary I believe volunteer work is the best way to pay back society.



Julie Rueckheim

Is new to San Diego as of January 2013, and originally from Truckee California where she was first introduced to the USCG Auxiliary while working for a boat rental company on Lake Tahoe. She was intrigued and wanted to join the Flotilla in Lake Tahoe but the summer seasons are too short in the mountains. She graduated with a B.S. in Hydrology from UC Santa Barbara and obtained her MMC 50 ton captain's license in 2011 from the Maritime Institute in Pt. Loma. Julie enjoys boating, water sports, running, marine science, and also volunteers for Birch Aquarium at Scripps and Coastkeeper.org.



Charles Jackson "Chuck"

Has been a resident of San Diego since 1986. He served in Vietnam as Helicopter Gunship Pilot from December 1966 to December 1967. Subsequently, joined the Navy in 1980 as an Audiologist retiring as a Commander (1995). He continued with the Navy as civilian Audiologist at Naval Medical Center until 2006. He is an active volunteer with the La Mesa, CA Police Department.



Michael Borovsky



Ghassan Elkhoury



Mary Bell

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My Experience at Stand Down

Stand Down...

Stand down is an opportunity for the Auxiliaries to lend a helping hand for Veterans ,both male and female, to help them get off the streets, and help them with legal issues. Some were also fitted with new eyeglasses.

On the Women's showers SFO-PB, Kathleen Slayton stood watch from 05:55AM to 12:55PM. She got up at 04:00 AM to be on time for her 06:00 duty. No one showed up until 09:00 hours. I was given 6 High School seniors from a ROTC program, and no instructions. So I broke the girls up into a team of making shower packets for the women. Two worked on a small table folding towels with all their amenities in it. Two emptied the boxes that blocked the entryway, handing them to the girls making the packets. One girl took the empty boxes and packed the finished care packages, and kept the number so we could match the number of women who came for showers. Fortunately we finished the 235 packets by the time the first woman arrived at 10:30 AM.

The packets consisted of the towel, soap, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, toothbrush, tooth paste, shower cap, mouthwash, and shower shoes. One girl was on gate duty to direct the men & women to their appropriate showers. Things moved like a well oiled machine.

Some suggestions for making it run smoother. Inform all workers of the orientation meeting held the day before. Assign one girl to the water controls. Shut them off after 5 minutes, so that the hot water doesn't run out. Provide a cloth bag for each person at the clothing tent, so they can easily manage their new clothes. Inform the women about the other services, such as dental, optical and hair cutting. Someone from the beauticians came to the showers to let them know that hair cuts were available.

In the 6 hours I was there only 4 women had come for showers. This indicates that better broadcasting of this program is needed for the women.

Kathleen Slayton,

My Experience at Stand Down 2013

This was my first time volunteering at the Veterans Stand Down. I volunteered all 3 days, Friday afternoon at the Photo ID station, Saturday and Sunday at the “Optical Clinic”.

Having taught at SD High School, the host location for Stand Down, I knew the parking situation was not fantastic and with a ton of volunteers space was at a premium. I then hiked in from near the far end of the parking lot to the volunteer’s gate and checked in. Staff was very helpful and showed me to my duty station and got to work. We assisted a fair number of participants creating a” Stand Down 2013” souvenir photo ID card. While on a break I checked out some of the other provider facilities and found my duty station for Saturday and Sunday. During this time I saw several other auxiliaries including Tom Paine and Jim and Mary Counter (1-1). Cold bottled water was being passed out freely from several locations. About 1630 my station shut down for the day and I took the liberty to pack up and go. I met Paul Stein at the gate and chatted for a bit and then headed home in HORRIBLE Friday afternoon traffic.

Saturday and Sunday, I worked as a dispensing optician. Navy opticians were assembling glasses and doing auto refractions. Some of the staff knew instructors I knew at NOSTRA the Navy Opticians C-School in Virginia. During my time at the optical dispensary I am certain I delivered OVER 350 pair of glasses to Stand Down attendees. 99% of the attendees were very thankful for new glasses, you cannot satisfy everyone though.

I was happy to volunteer at this event and will be happy to return next year.

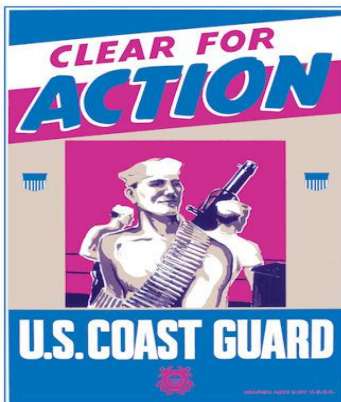
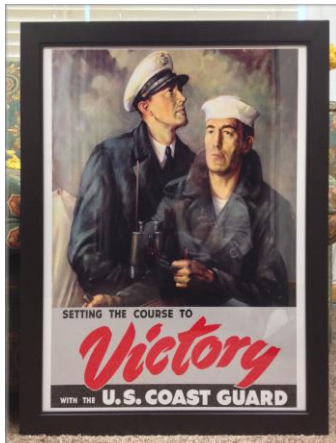
Ed Samsen,
VFC1-5

My Experience at Stand Down 2013

The last time I was involved in the "Stand Down" I was doing data entry for the 2 days. This time I lucked out, I was security! For the 2 days, I was posted at one or the other of 2 access points to the area on the playing field set-up with tents and facilities to provide support services to our veterans. The mission was simple, be sure those who have registered were allowed back on-site. And to inform those wishing to exit, they better have their registration information available when they return. It was hot both days, and being able to find some shade, a plus. What I enjoyed most was being able to talk to our veterans about anything on their minds at the time and to let them know how much their service is appreciated. I will do this again, as it is the least I can do for the families and veterans who are down on their luck and a helping hand is sometimes all they need to get their lives back on track.

Paul Stein, FC 1-5

"BYGONE ERA"



Member Anniversaries in November:

William Beacom

Manual Garcia

Michael Patrick

Bruce Renne

Paul Stein

Herbert Thompson

Our Website:

[http://wow.uscgaux.info
/content.php?unit=114-
01-05](http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=114-01-05)

Our Meetings:

1st Monday of the Month
at Marina Village Convention Center,
1936 Quivira Way, Mission Bay, CA at
1700-1900. Perspective members
always welcome to attend.

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FLOTILLA ACTIVITES NOVEMBER -FEBRUARY

Veterans Day Parade: November 11th

D-train: Jan 10-12, Costa Mesa Hilton: Conference

COW- Awards Night: 8 FEB at MCAS

