

# WATERWAYS 78

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Vancouver, Washington



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## Fort Vancouver Veteran's Day Parade



VANCOUVER, Washington—The United States Coast Guard Color Guard at the Fort Vancouver, annual Veterans' Day Parade. Photo courtesy of Jim Leicht.

**Check the Activities  
and Events Calendar  
for important dates**

See Page 6 for more parade photos.



## From the Commander



Thank you to those who say “yes”. When you joined Flotilla 78 you said, “yes” to the challenges and rewards of volunteering as a member of what I consider to be the best service organization available. Thank you to Joel Hernandez who said “yes” and was elected as our next Vice Commander. Thank you to every appointed officer who responded “yes” to the commitment of precious time and energy that provides vital support for our good work. Thank you to every member who said “yes” to accept the challenge of vessel exams, program visits, public affairs events, instruction, communications, publications, operations and all other components that are the heart of our volunteer life saving work.

How often does the opportunity arise for something you never imagined yourself doing, or that is far removed from anything you normally find interesting come along?

Say “yes” and you could be the key person who will move a Flotilla 78 program into high gear. Say “yes” and you will likely find yourself surprised with the amount of personal satisfaction you gain from your efforts.

Weary and wary with too much responsibility and too little time, the decision to procrastinate is appealing. The problem with choosing “No” is the danger that it poses to potentially rewarding experiences and opportunities that might not come again. What if you said “yes” more often to the opportunities, challenges, risks and requests the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary offers?

October and the first few weeks of November were highly productive. We were well represented in the Veterans Day Parade. Three ABS courses were completed on October 27<sup>th</sup>, and November 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Flotilla elections took place in November and change of watch is set for December as well as time patrolling a paddle craft race in dry suits. Members were active performing vessel exams and program visits in the rain and cold weather. Normally, we try to take a month free from teaching to come up for air, but the State of Washington has increased its age requirement by ten years instead of the five year jump that it has historically taken.

All volunteer members of the Flotilla need a vacation. The regular USCG receive 30 days per year of vacation. Our members spend time every day doing Auxiliary work, program visits, vessel exams, waterway watch, etc. Then, on weekends, members are still involved in Coast Guard tasks, teaching ABS classes, more vessel exams, program visits and patrols. We have members that work 40 plus hours per week and do their Coast guard correspondence, preparation, and take classes in the evenings. They additionally patrol on their weekends; week in and week out. The members choose to do this because it saves lives and they want to save lives.

Now, how about those boaters that we do not contact - the kayakers, canoe, paddlers, paddle craft, rowers, and sail craft operators. These are the boaters with the highest fatality rates. We are missing this group unless we happen to catch an occasional one during vessel exams or encourage them to attend. But boater education is not required for these craft, and yet, they have the highest number of fatalities in our district that covers Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hall Guttormsen  
Flotilla Commander—78



## Awards and Recognition

**Certificate of Membership**

*Karen Harmon*

**Auxiliary Seamanship Specialty course**

*Hall Guttormsen*

*Todd Miller*

*Barry Owens*

**Aid to Navigation Verifier**

*Barry Owens*

**Division 7—2nd Place for Public Education 2011**

*Flotilla 78*

**Telecommunications Operator**

*John Hilbrands*

**Auxiliary Membership Award—Bronze Star for 15 years**

*Archie Murphy*

**Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation**

*Joann McCollum*

**District 13—Auxiliariast of the Year**

*Gay Sipes*

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Visit us on the web !

*Visit* [www.flotilla78.org](http://www.flotilla78.org)



## Flotilla Spotlight



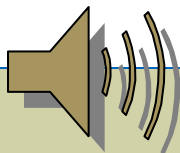
**Warren Cook**

FSO-CM

Warren Cook joined Flotilla 78 in 2010. Warren is currently the FSO-CM and is very involved in the Recreational Boating Safety program. He has increased RBS program partners this year through countless hours of visits.

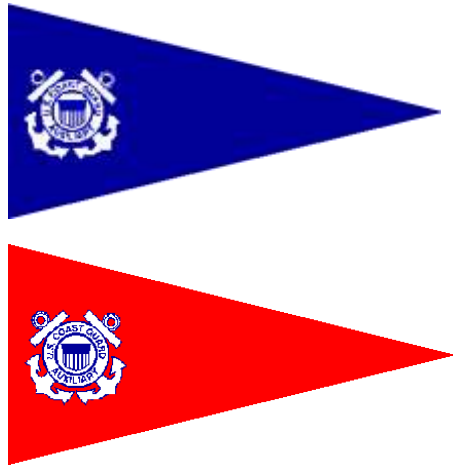
Warren is a competent Instructor and professor by trade. Additionally, he holds FCC radio communication licenses and is the driving force toward getting more TCOs in the Flotilla and Division 7. Warren is also a member of the Clark County Amateur Radio Club in Vancouver, Washington.

Members will often see Warren presenting colors during Flotilla 78 meetings and interacting with all staff members. A big thanks goes to Warren for the time and knowledge that he brings to Flotilla 78.



### **ATTENTION PROGRAM VISITORS**

Winter is upon us and the colder months are an important time to remind hunters and boaters about the dangers of cold water and hypothermia. Stock up on your PV materials and keep your PV boxes filled throughout the winter!



# Flotilla 78 Election Results

The November member meeting resulted in the following officers being elected as your 2013 leadership. Congratulations to Hall Guttormsen, elected as Flotilla Commander and Joel Hernandez, elected as Vice Flotilla Commander for 2013.

The Change of Watch will take place at the December 20, 2012, membership meeting. Dinner will be served at this event. A flyer with more information about the Change of Watch will be sent out to all members with more details about the event.

**Congratulations to Hall and Joel !**

Thank you for your willingness to lead Flotilla 76.





## Fort Vancouver Veteran's Day Parade

By Dana Bergdahl, FSO-PB, Flotilla 78

The 26th annual Veterans Parade at Fort Vancouver presented by the Lough Legacy was held on Saturday, November 10, 2012. The event gave Flotilla 78 the opportunity to pay tribute to our nation's veterans and those who currently serve in the military. Among the many entries, the U.S. Coast Guard also made an

The U.S. Coast Guard and Flotilla 78  
Take Part in the 2012 Event  
Honoring Those who Have Served

appearance and attended the parade. Parade goers had the good fortune of viewing an Air Force flyover and a 21-gun salute that was fired off by howitzers from the parade grounds.

Those attending the parade were offered small American flags while the Red Cross provided free coffee, juice and donuts.



VANCOUVER, Washington—Auxiliarists John Hilbrands (left) and Todd Miller (right) motion to the crowd at the Veteran's Day Parade. Photo courtesy of Jim Leicht.



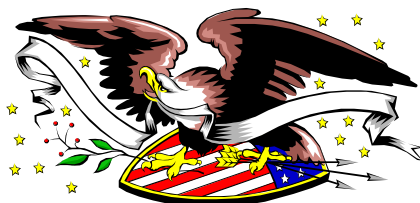
VANCOUVER, Wash- ington—Chief commu- nicator of Air Force One, Chief Master Sergeant E.E. “Van” Valkenberg, makes an appearance at the Vet- eran’s Day Parade . Photo courtesy of Jim Leicht.



VANCOUVER, Washington—(Right) Coast Guard Personnel wave to parade goers during the 26th annual Veteran’s Day Parade at Fort Vancouver. Photo courtesy of Jim Leicht.



VANCOUVER, WA—The U.S. Coast Guard Color Guard presents colors dur- ing the 2012 parade. Photo courtesy of Jim Leicht.







## Around the District

# Domestic Threats in the Division 7 AOR

By Dana Bergdahl, FSO-PB, Flotilla 78

The Columbia River serves as a major conduit for international import and export commerce in the Portland-Vancouver area. Nationally, 95% of the United States' foreign trade occurs via shipping. Annually, an estimated 5,400 ships carrying multinational crews and cargoes make more than 60,000 United States port calls. Drugs and illegal immigrants are routinely smuggled into the United States concealed among legitimate cargoes on commercial cargo ships. These same means provide opportunities for exploitation by extremist organizations or any person desiring to do harm to the United States surreptitiously. Ports and their surrounding areas are inherently vulnerable to extremist attack due to their size, open accessibility by water and land, location in metropolitan areas, and the ready access to transportation links. Many of these vulnerabilities stem from inadequate security measures as well as the challenge of monitoring the rapidly escalating volume of cargo, persons, and vessels passing through ports.

After 11 September 2001, the threat of internationally based Islamic extremism has dominated United States law enforcement concerns. While the threat posed by domestic Islamic extremism is increasing, the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicates that approximately two-thirds of extremist acts of violence in the United States have been carried out by non-Islamic extremists from 1980-2001. This has increased by 95%.

Federal statutes define domestic terrorism as “[T]he unlawful use, or threatened use, of force or violence by a group of individuals based and operated entirely within the United States or Puerto Rico without foreign direction committed against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof in furtherance of political or social objectives.”



PORTLAND, Oregon—U.S. Coast Guard Rapid Response boats.  
Photo by Dana Bergdahl, FSO-PB.

While we are all somewhat familiar with international terrorism based upon our familiarity with the events of 11 September 2001, our understanding of domestic extremism/terrorism might be lacking. A May 2012 Congressional Research Service report lists 35 terrorist incidents occurring in the United States between the beginning of 2004 and September 2011. Of those, 25 were linked directly to domestic extremists. Since 2008, extremist groups have grown 755%, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). The SPLC reported 1,018 extremist groups operating in the United States last year, up from 1,002 in 2010.





Atypical of many extremist environments elsewhere in the world, where the delineations of left and right are not always identifiable, most political violence in the United States falls within them. Even nationalist and religious sources of such incidents more often than not reflect attributes of leftist or rightist motivations. It is alarming to note, that in Washington and Oregon, combined, there are 30 known and identified extremist groups. These represent the full spectrum of ideologies from animal rights/environmental to socialist motivations. In fact, one group has been noted by the FBI violent and prolific segments of white supremacist extremism.

The threat posed by extremists is fundamentally based upon three supporting elements. Each element supports the ability of the extremists to succeed in attacks and lends stability to their efforts. These elements are:

*While prohibited from engaging in the law enforcement activities of the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary can serve as additional eyes while patrolling the waterways in Division 7's area of responsibility (AOR).*

- Motivation: The willingness to strike against targets regardless of the difficulty presented.
- Means: The possession of, or ability to acquire, the resources necessary to carry out an attack.
- Opportunity: The ability to gain access to a target for the purpose of launching an act of violence.

The problem presented by these groups, is their decentralized nature. Most, if not all, of these groups generally operate on their own or in small, independent cells. A recent Department of Homeland Security study found that attacks by individuals constituted one-third of all extremist acts of violence since 1995, up from 6.5% in the 25 years prior. Their activities can range from sabotage to arson, and in some cases have involved homicide. The primary concern involves the use of incendiary devices and improvised explosive devices.

While prohibited from engaging in the law enforcement activities of the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary can serve as additional eyes while patrolling upon the waterways in Division 7's area of responsibility (AOR). The Auxiliary time and again has demonstrated its flexibility and diversity in adapting to any mission throughout the full spectrum of Coast Guard operations, thus characterizing the Auxiliary as a force multiplier.

*Continued on page 10...*



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As we patrol along the Willamette and Columbia rivers, there are numerous locations that present what are known as soft and hard targets. These targets include critical infrastructure such as transportation hubs and links, petroleum storage facilities, bridges, shipyards, etc. Beyond these, our local waterways provide places where countless people gather for various outdoor events throughout the year. It is in these locations where we must be ever vigilant in observing everything within our sight and hearing. Moreover, it is our duty and responsibility to report any threats or incidents that we observe.

We live in an ever changing world with evolving threats to our way of life. While performing our patrols upon the waterways, we must also analyze and compensate for the changing environment in which we operate. Each time we put our uniform on and take to the water we must realize that there are those who do not and will not differentiate between the Gold Side and Auxiliary. Therefore, it is our responsibility to remain alert to threats that enter the patrol's safety zone. The Coxswain and crewmembers must quickly assess any threat to the patrol and take appropriate action to reduce the threat or move the vessel. At the operational level, the Coxswain must establish a safety zone around his/her vessel. The safety zone is the immediate area around the vessel where threats or events could harm the patrol members or inflict casualties. At the end of each patrol we want all Auxiliarists to return home safely the way this is done is by having situational and security awareness as our guiding principle.

#### Resources:

Jerome P. Bjelopera, [The Domestic Terrorist Threat: Background and Issues for Congress](#). 15 May 2012 Congressional Research Service

State of Oregon Department of Justice, [Organized Crime in Oregon](#). September 2006

Federal Bureau of Investigation Counterterrorism Analysis Section, [Sovereign Citizens: A Growing Domestic Threat to Law Enforcement](#).

Lauren B. O'Brien, [The Evolution of Terrorism Since 9/11](#).

Department of Homeland Security, [Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2011-2016 \(Section 18 Terrorism\)](#).

Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Terrorism in the United States: 30 Years of Terrorism—A Special Retrospective Edition \(2000\)](#).

Jonathan Masters, [Militant Extremists in the United States](#), Council on Foreign Relations, Washington, DC, February 7, 2011, <http://www.cfr.org/terrorist-organizations/militant-extremists-united-states/p9236>

Peter R. Neumann, [Prisons and Terrorism: Radicalization and De-Radicalization in 15 Countries](#), International Center for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence, London, 2010

Department of Homeland Security, [Domestic Terrorism and Homegrown](#)

Department of the Army, [Field Manual 3-19.30 Physical Security](#).

Department of the Army, [Field Manual 3-19.4 Military Police Leaders Handbook](#).

United States Marine Corps, [MCO P5580.2A Marine Corps Law Enforcement Manual](#).



## About Boating Safely Classes Continue Into December

This year is unusually busy for the instructor team of Flotilla 78's **About Boating Safely** course. November and December are typically quiet months for classes, however, due to the State of Washington's age increase for boating cards, the Flotilla is ramped up to continue education for the community. The age requirement in 2012 was 12 to 40 years. The age requirement beginning January 2013 will be 12 to 50 years.



Classes were taught on November 10th and November 17th and an additional class is scheduled for December 15, 2012. This is a perfect time for boaters to beat the rush of getting their boating cards before the season gears up. Families of 3 or more were able to take the class for \$20 for the entire family in November and may take advantage of the special in December too!

The holidays often find us surrounded by loved ones more frequently. This is an ideal time to remind our boating friends and family about this important change in the law and boating requirements. See [www.flotilla78.org](http://www.flotilla78.org) for additional public boating course information and dates.

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For tips and information on Winter Dress Blues, check out the blog posting by Auxiliarist Daren Lewis on October 5, 2012, at:

<http://www.division7.org/>





## Auxiliarists Assist With Post-Sandy Cleanup in New Jersey

BRICK, NJ: 06NOV12, Coast Guard Auxiliary members Ken Christy, Paul Parravicini and Ash Kernan were among a dozen Auxiliarists from 053-02-76 helping dispose of damaged insulation and debris from a home in in Brick Township, NJ. during the post Hurricane Sandy cleanup. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Daniel Toms

Hurricane Sandy has devastated many areas on the East Coast. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliarists around the country continue to assist victims of this terrible storm. The damage is widespread among numerous East Coast states and communities.

Pollution, flood damage, power outages and communication difficulties continue to plague residents and businesses of affected areas in these regions. The Coast Guard is providing security, pollution response and other critical assistance to the area, while Coast Guard Auxiliarists are volunteering their time to help clean debris and assist in a variety of other missions.

Oftentimes, disasters bring out the best in people when it comes to helping others and the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy is not exception. Our hearts go out to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. We are thankful to the Coast Guard and those Auxiliarists who are able to give their time during this tragedy.





# Activities and Events Calendar

December 4	<b>Flotilla Staff Meeting</b> (Peachtree Restaurant, Hazel Dell)	1830
December 5	<b>Fellowship Breakfast</b> (Vancouver Plaza I-Hop)	0800
December 5	<b>Division Meeting</b> (MSU Portland)	1900
December 15	<b>About Boating Safely Class</b> (4700 NE 78th St, Bldg. B-1, Vancouver)	0830
December 15	<b>Fellowship Breakfast</b> (Hometown Buffet, Vancouver, WA)	0800
December 20	<b>Flotilla 78 Member Meeting</b> <i>Change of Watch</i> (WA Fish & Wildlife Bldg., Vancouver)	1930





# Semper Paratus

## 2012 OFFICERS

FC	Hall C. Guttormsen	FSO-MT	Joann P. McCollum
VFC	Gay Sipes	FSO-NS	Wayne A. Monroe
IPFC	George Sipes	FSO-OP	Donald G. Lewallen
FSO-CM	Warren Cook	FSO-PA	John F. Hilbrands
FSO-CS	Dana M. Bergdahl	FSO-PB	Dana M. Bergdahl
FSO-HR	Karen Harmon	FSO-PE	Karl Johnston
FSO-FN	Lance Harmon	FSO-PV	Elizabeth W. Allen
FSO-IS	Barry Owens	FSO-SR	Barry Owens
FSO-MA	Donald G. Lewallen	FSO-VE	Tammie Longpre
FSO-MS	Todd Miller		



*Don't miss the December 20th  
Change of Watch Meeting and Dinner!*

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