

District 130

DCO Report: Q2 2025

TO: Mary Kirkwood
National Commodore

DATE: 07 JULY 2025

FROM: Klaas Nijhuis
District 130 (Northwest) Commodore

Via: Michael D. Bozarth
DNACO – PACAREA & Operations

SUBJECT: D130 DCO Report - Q2 2025

Executive Summary

All three areas of the District were engaged in mission support during the Second Quarter, focused on accomplishing routine as well as Plan specific objectives. I am delighted to report that our leaders took the initiative to expand our offerings such as Division, Area and District offerings of a New Member Academy, a Northern Area Training supplementing the offerings at our Spring and Fall DTRAINS, a leadership strategic planning retreat yielding three focus areas for improving recruiting/retention and communication and work on our website to make it the go-to resources for membership. Our Divisions held Town Halls where the membership could hear firsthand about our Operational Plan from and ask questions of senior leadership. At this point all but one Division (7) have had these Town Halls. IN the Eastern area the idea has caught on so well that they are having them monthly now. We have a group working earnestly to implement both shoreside and on the water AUXPAD program. We have committed to supporting the PACAREA Communications Initiative and brought a trainer to the Eastern area to help get members qualified at TCOs. We are partnering with District 7 on using Artificial Intelligence to make the member experience “Easy-Peasy” as well as help leadership with administrative tasks.

Our commitment to developing leaders started at our Spring DTRAIN. We held a first inquiry session for members contemplating an electeds leadership position and will be starting an four-week on-line District-specific AFLC class on 12 July. That course will be repeated again at our Fall DTRAIN along with numerous other courses fitting in the framework of Growing Leadership, Growing Skills, Growing Effectiveness and Growing the Auxiliary.

We are using every opportunity to reach the public, both to get the word out about RBS but also for recruiting. We are capitalizing on the Eagle Port of Call for this purpose as well as events that we haven’t attended in the past. A military family fishing derby at Joint Base Lewis McCord attracts over 20,000 visitors each year to American Lake. We have reached out to be part of that. We are providing support to the active duty Partnerships in Education program to reach children, we are in schools and our relationship with the Sea Scouts is growing under new leadership. This year we again reached out r to jurisdictions for National Boating Safety Week proclamations and we supported information booths at chandleries.

All these efforts and more are in addition to the work we do each year in the communities we serve. Public Education, member development, culinary assistance, on-the-water operations in support of major events and regular patrols, program visits and vessel exams all continue. But we are expanding our offerings as well. We just trained 4 new Uninspected Passenger Vessel (UPV) inspectors and are using that as leverage to bring Commercial Fishing Vessel inspections to the northernmost area of the District.

Support of the Auxiliary National Strategic Plan and District Operational Plan

RBS

- Public Education Classes: Boat American, Suddenly in Command, Weekend Navigator, and Boating Skills and Seamanship have been and continue to be offered
- Information Booths at Boat Shows and Chandleries
- Getting the message out via appearances before Councils during NBSW
- Safety Patrols at events and over weekends

Engagement

- Range of fellowship events for members, Active Duty and the community
- Town Hall meetings with the entire membership
- Strategic Planning Retreat where senior leadership agreed on and developed framework for tackling top three issues
- Making our D13 website the go-to for members questions and information on upcoming opportunities
- Recognition such as Challenge Coins for completing BQ in 30 days or less

Integration

- Helo ops training
- Culinary Assistance
- A/D Commanders' Sync (conversations between AUX and A/D operations, exploring and acting on opportunities for integration)
- Color Guard training and performance
- Supporting tours of CG facilities such as the Alki Point Light House and CG Museum
- Integration in Emergency Response planning at Sector Puget Sound
- Supporting Changes of Commands and A/D fellowship events
- Supporting Veteran Honor Flights
- Taking over the formal portraiture function from District
- RS Officers working with OTO on centralized inventory and repositories for PPE

Innovation

- Website improvements
- Commitment to P-ACT (PACAREA Contingent and Emergency Comms)
- Integration of Artificial Intelligence in support of our administrative tasks

Accomplishments in Recruiting and Retention:

Disenrollments

After a significant loss last year, we are seeing a significant turnaround. We had 2 disenrollments in Q2 compared to 3 in Q1

New Members

Our EXCOM has endorsed the Net 3 Program conceptualized in D11. We will have focused training at our Fall DTRAIN on recruiting. We have nominated one of our high achieving members to attend the PA Train-the-trainer course at NTS and expect him to offer this training on a recurring basis throughout the District.

Several of our HR officers have been very successful in bringing in new members, although most continue to come in as national website inquiries.

We had 23 new members join us in Q2 compared to 11 in Q1.

% in AP Status

Just shy of 8% of the District's membership is in AP status. Most of those are new members, however, I have handed out over two dozen 30-day Challenge Coins to new members who have become BQ in as short as 4 days. This statistic compares to 17% of our members who are AX. Some units have upwards of a third of their members as AX.

Recruiting & Retention Activities

All PA activities as well as our Public Ed offerings are seen as recruiting opportunities. The Eagle port of call will be our next opportunity for doing recruiting. At our September DTRAIN we will have a whole track on Growing the Auxiliary with courses on communication, recruiting, mentoring and coaching. A team from D13 and D17 has been asked to present their Mentoring course at NTS.

Program Performance:

Key District Program Stats

Our most significant areas of impact have been Program Visits and Vessel Exams. There has been a significant uptick in these areas in Q2 over Q1. In addition, so far this year, D13 members have educated well over a thousand members of the public in boating safety through our formal courses, about 3/4 of those under 17 years of age. We have touched countless others at our formal PA activities. D13 also provides significant commitments of time in Radio Watchstanding, Culinary Assistance and Chaplain Support

Problems/Obstacles/Challenges (known or potential) and suggested solutions:

When we lose a key member who has done most of the heavy lifting in a mission area (such as relationships with Boat Shows organizers and jurisdictions) there is a scramble to recover. Succession Planning is a formal training to be presented at Fall DTRAIN, but then we will task leadership to hold all levels accountable for implementation and feedback on how successful it is.

Getting a broader slice of the membership to our DTRAINS has been a priority. Our Ways and Means Committee just last month recommended up to 45 scholarships be funded for the fall DTRAIN. Those scholarships will be awarded based on a pledged return on investment.

Action items:

2025 District Priorities

1. Engagement: Intra-unit cooperation, fellowship, encouraging members to take initiative. Town Halls. Improvements to website.
2. Empowerment: Deliberate in offering trainings tied to the objectives of the District Operational Plan

Upcoming Deliverables

1. Eagle Port of Call 9 - 11 July
2. AFLC Zoom class starts 12 July
3. AUXPAD QEs 19 July
4. Change of Command, Station Seattle 21 July
5. EXCOM Monthly Meeting 21 July. Take action on recommendation of Ways and Means
6. Change of Command, District 13 25 July
7. Taking advantage of training opportunities at NTS: mid-August
8. DTRAIN 19 - 21 September

Assistance needed from the Coast Guard, NEXCOM, or National Staff:

We have had to rely on National for a couple of investigations. We have appreciated the Investigations 101 training offered by National.

Future Plans and Milestones:

- See dates under upcoming deliverables, above
- New Member Academy 9 July
- SeaFair 31 July - 4 August
- Regular weekend patrols throughout the season
- Additional facilities and Boat Crew/Coxswains qualified - Aug - Oct 2025
- Fall Boat's Afloat Show Sept 2025, Seattle

Respectfully submitted,

Klaas Nijhuis
D130 Commodore