



**United States Coast Guard**  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

10 MAY 2024  
FM: CHDIRAUX  
TO: ALAUX  
ALAUX 018/24

Subj: 2023 FLOTILLA OF THE YEAR

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1. I am pleased to announce National Commodore Gus Formato's selection of the Auxiliary's Eighth District – Coastal Region's Flotilla 68 Station Galveston as the 2023 Flotilla of the Year. Congratulations to all Flotilla members for their dedication and achievement! Bravo Zulu!
2. First chartered in 1960, Flotilla 68 welcomed several new members in 2023 resulting in a total membership of 31. Members have shown tremendous commitment to serving as a true force multiplier, identifying and following through on a well-defined set of goals and objectives to promote Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) while also providing enhanced Coast Guard active duty support through close integration with Station Galveston.
3. Over the course of 2023, Flotilla 68's achievements included:
  - a. Executing 86 vessel safety checks and 70 program visits.
  - b. Contributing 48 original and educational RBS articles to the boating community.
  - c. Performing 34 separate surface patrols and one major search and rescue (SAR) tasking.
  - d. Executing 803 hours of Auxiliary culinary assistance program support over 91 different missions.
  - e. Conducting over 488 hours of public affairs (PA) missions, including supporting the 2023 Houston Boat Show PA event, the largest boat show in the Eighth District.
  - f. Conducting six uninspected passenger vessel inspections.
  - g. Recruiting new Coast Guard active duty officers through an Auxiliary University Program chapter at Texas A&M University Galveston and Texas A&M Maritime Academy.
  - h. Supporting the successful development of the Coast Guard Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program, with a flotilla member serving as one of the first Auxiliary UAS pilots.
  - i. Contributing to the Coast Guard SAR / Artificial Intelligence project, with a flotilla member serving as a team lead.

- j. Providing assistance to the Aids-to-Navigation (ATON) Galveston Team with six members serving as qualified ATON Verifiers and twelve official ATON discrepancy reports filed.
- k. Improving morale and camaraderie between Coast Guard active duty and Auxiliary personnel by hosting monthly lunch events.

4. The members of Flotilla 68 have earned our utmost regard and respect for their dedication to the Coast Guard Auxiliary's success during the last year and for their numerous and substantial contributions to the Coast Guard. They will be formally recognized as the 2023 Flotilla of the Year on June 29, 2024.

5. Internet release is authorized.

Respectfully,

S. J. Minutolo  
Chief, Administration Branch (CG-BSX-11)  
Chief Director of Auxiliary, Acting

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\*\*\*For many reasons including the value of keeping communication lines clear and open as well as facilitating access to training and educational tools, all Auxiliarists are urged to have their own email address and to keep it updated in AUXDATA II.\*\*\*

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\*All ALAUX's are posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary web site located at: [CHDIRAUX  
ALAUX](#)

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If you have a question regarding this ALAUX, please seek resolution within your Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) including up to your servicing District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX). If your question still cannot be resolved after that, then please email [CGAUX@uscg.mil](mailto:CGAUX@uscg.mil).