

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard
(Authorized by Congress in 1939)

August 15, 2019

**To: Joseph Nemeth DCDR
Howard Sprow VCDR
Barry Rice SO-MT**

The start of 2019 was slower than previous years, mainly because of the government shutdown. There were a notable number of Program Partners that were still recovering from the damage caused by hurricane Florence. Partners that conduct on the water marine and rental businesses were at least a month behind previous years. The PV program never really took off this year and performance has been the lowest in recent memory.

At the beginning of 2019 the following goal was communicated by our 5th Southern Region DSO-PV for 2019. "The Goals for PVs are really simple: Each PV is to do 12 more visits this year than they did last year. If each PV meets the goal, we will increase the number of PV visits by 3,144 for 2019." Clearly a sustainable program needs to be established with clear communication and inclusion of PVs.

The quantitative number of PVs performed is important for the District and is an easy measure of active performance but does not reflect the quality of the PV. This measure doesn't provide how our work is actually affecting boating safety in our AOR.

Division 10 by Flotilla

In 2019, Division 10 has logged 496 Program visits to date. This is a reduction of 56% from the 2018 total of 1,140. This year's dramatic reduction in numbers has been experienced across 5th Southern District as well. Some have suggested to me that this is because of the government shutdown and the slow start to the season of Auxiliary activities. I agree that this is a rational explanation for fewer PVs being done this year but may not explain the falling trend within both our Division and District. Since 2015, Division 10 has steadily decreased the number of PVs from 1,902 to our current number of 496. Chart 1 below displays the number of PVs performed by each Flotilla 2015-2019. Considering each Flotilla has varying membership levels, it would be unfair to compare PV counts between them. Rather, the change in PVs over the past four years for each Flotilla should be considered. As you can see, Division 10 has experienced an ever-decreasing number of PVs at each Flotilla. It is also important to note that the quality of PVs with our RBS partners cannot be considered into these charts.

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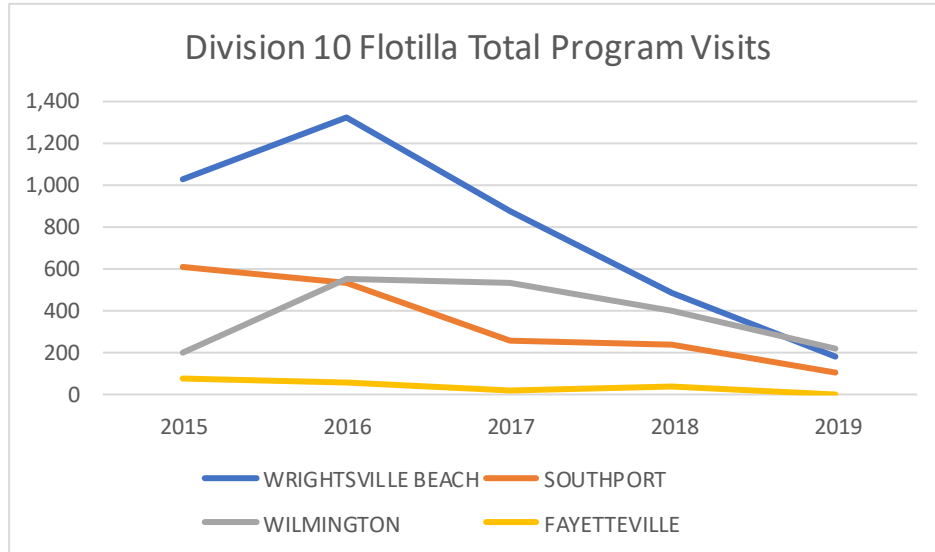


Chart 1

Division 10 Aggregate

Chart 2, below, displays the aggregate number of Program Visits and the continuing trend across the Division of an ever-decreasing number of PVs. It is unclear from just the data what changes have occurred at any level to create the reduction in performance numbers that starts between calendar year 2016 and 2017.

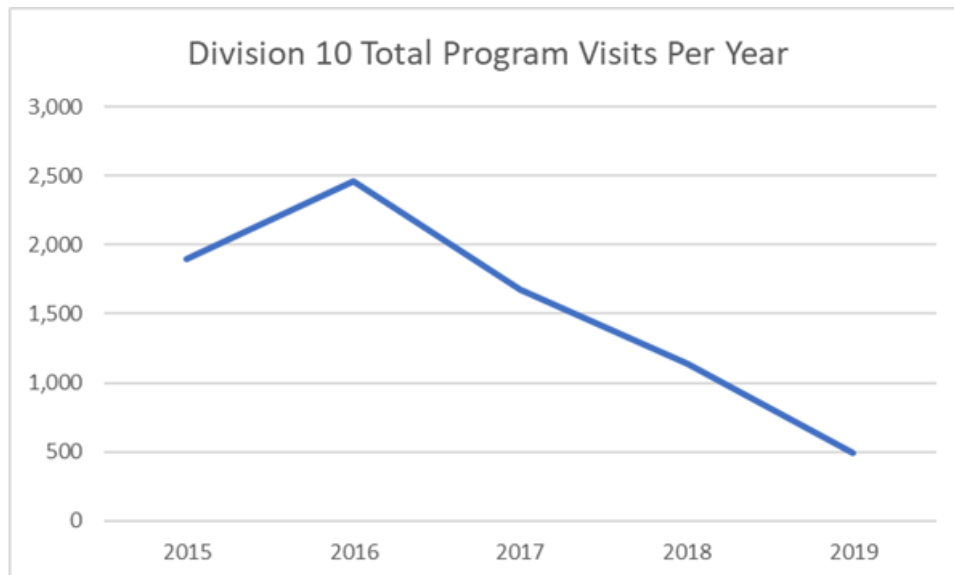


Chart 2

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District

In Chart 3, the total number of Program Visitations performed across the 5th Southern District per year are displayed. As you can see, the trend appears to begin in 2016 and has steadily worsened at a shocking rate since. In four years, the number of PVs has decreased from 12,295 to just above 4,000.

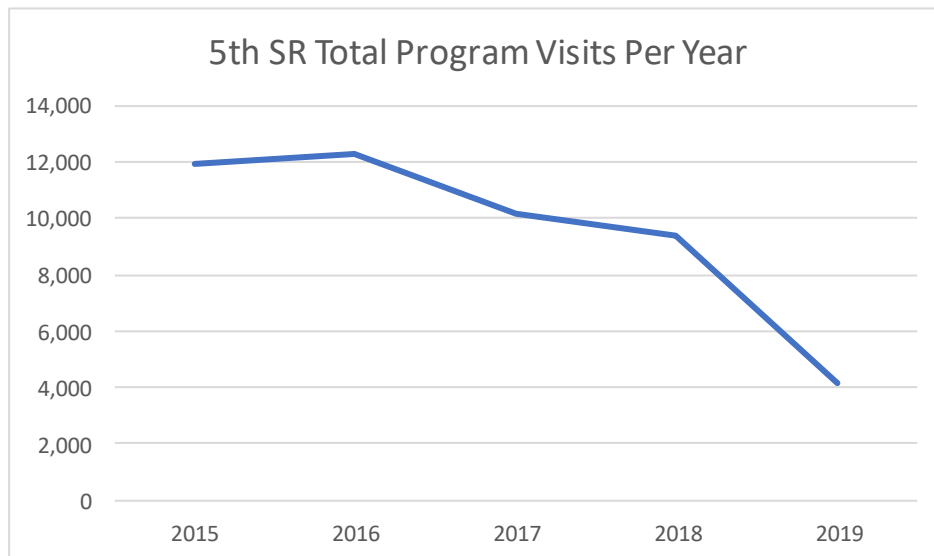
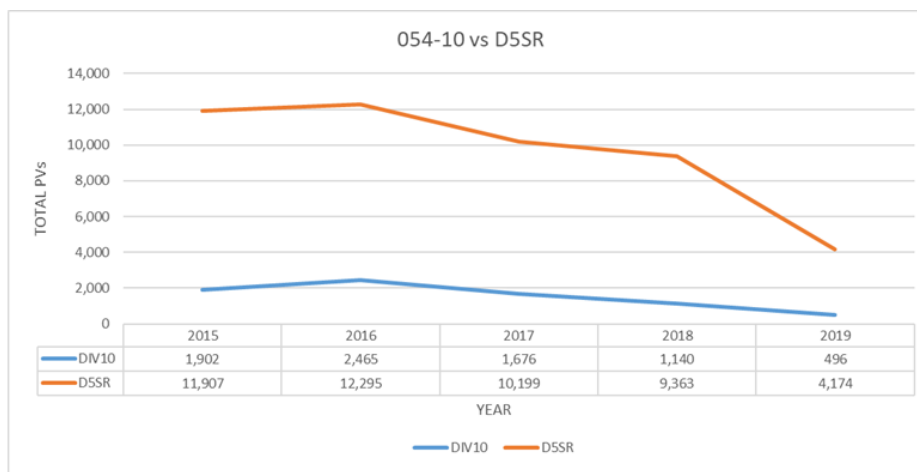


Chart 3

To further illustrate the downward trend, Chart 4 also displays the rate of change in Division 10 compared to that of the whole District. External events like the government shutdown may have contributed to recent reductions, but it does not appear to have started it. This trend is alarming, and immediate action and adjustments must be made for the continuation of this program to be effective.



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Chart 4

Recommendations

My recommendation is to create a committee to explore what factors could be responsible for the drop in PVs. Obviously, something changed from 2016 to 2017 that has negatively impacted at least one of the programs within RBS. Changes in policy, directives, awards, and other potential structural changes should be explored. A survey should be created to assess the level of interest and commitment to the RBS program throughout the Division and District. Are these trends occurring through other mission areas should be explored? The committee should be comprised of members who have been active in the period of 2015 to present and can articulate changes, both positive and negative, on levels above and below the division over the past few years. The committee should also explore the performance of other RBS activities (PE, PA, VE) and operations to see if this trend is crossing into other mission areas. The outcome of this committee should be the identification of specific initiatives for Division 10 management to activate, monitor, and adjust regularly.

Respectfully submitted.

**Michael Lewis Butt
SO-PV D10**