

Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23 5SR



Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 13 Issue 4

Winter 2021

National First Place Division Newsletter



Happy New Year Division 23 members

As incoming Division Commander (DCDR), I am extremely proud and overwhelmed by the unquestionable strength, courage and character you have all shown as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX) to your shipmates and to your community. Mark Campbell, Vice Division Commander (VCDR) and I consider it an honor and privilege to serve as your incoming DCDR and VDCDR for the next twelve months. Like many organizations impacted by of COVID-19 and the variants that have challenged our steadfast resolve, we are encouraged by the outpouring of support you have provided. The messages of gratitude, acts of generosity and words of encouragement are powerful affirmations for our team of dedicated Auxiliarist. We must continue to tell the story of our CORE Values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty.

In 2022, as DCDR my key objectives are ***Diversity & Inclusion, Collaboration, Training & Recruitment.*** We must continue to remain vigilant, prepare and ready ourselves in advance for other types of global disruptions—whether it's a slow-rising tide or a sudden overwhelming surge—we must be ready to adapt and rebound.

As we move into the unknown frontier and impact of other global disruptors, every member of Division 23, needs to vigorously support the mission of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX) with resilience and determination. Let's continue to implement agile strategies, innovative training, foster adaptive cultures, and integrate advanced technologies to reach our external stakeholder in our local communities. Thank you for maintaining your readiness to answer the call and your continued support of each other. It means so much to the USCG and USCGAUX. Your commitment and dedication have been an inspiration to me and for those who will join our

organization in the future and beyond.

I'm reminded of the meaning of the solemn pledge each of us make when we first became members or assume an elected or appointed office to *"solemnly and sincerely pledge myself to support the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and its purposes, to promote its authorized activities, to properly discharge the duties of my office, and to abide by the governing policies established by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard"*.

Over the next 12 months of my term as DCDR, I intend to remind myself and our Division Staff Officer team what those words look like demonstrated every day as we execute the mission of the USCG and USCGAUX. Join me as we look at servant leadership, service, and commitment in 2022.

Margaret Butler
DCDR

Awards

Since the last issue of the Chatter the following members received awards. Congratulations to all



Meritorious Team Commendation

Joe Espino and Jim Welday from 1 December 2020 to 15 February 2021 for their efforts on the Length of Service Award Program Volunteers Team in automating the State of Maryland LOSAP point accounting and form generation.

Meritorious Team Commendation

Ray Feller and Harry Scott as part of the Medical Emergency Team on Aboard Operational Facility 25331

Membership service award

20 years' service

Harry Scott, 23-6

15 years' service

Ray West and Steven Birchfield



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2021 Board & Staff

DCDR: Willie Witters

VCDR: Marie Squillace

IPDCDR: John Fewer

23-1 - Annapolis

Margaret Butler, Flotilla Commander

David Sire, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-2 - Solomons

Lawrence Butts, Flotilla Commander

Richard Sikorski, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-3 - West Annapolis

Roy Culley, Flotilla Commander

Kirby Garland, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-4 - South River

Bruce Petro, Flotilla Commander

James Regensburg, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-6 - Drum Point

Steve Birchfield, Flotilla Commander

Tom Hardisty, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-7 - Herring Bay

Paul Manicone, Flotilla Commander

Chris Jensen, Vice Flotilla Commander

Division Staff

SO-AS—Michael Taylor

SO-CM - Jim Welday

SO-CS - Wendy Norwitz

SO-DV - vacant

SO-FN - Michael Taylor

SO-FS - Ron Hillarad

SO-HR - Dave Keyser

SO-IS - Ronald Hillard

SO-MA -Christopher Jensen

SO-MS - Ronald Price

SO-MT - Ray Feller

SO-NS - Jeffrey Conopask

SO-OP - Phil Wentz

SO-PA - Le Roy Culley

SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove

SO-PE - vacant

SO-PV - Christopher Jensen

SO-SR - Mark Campbell

SO-VE - Kirby Garland

Cover Photos:

Top—Mace Coleman and 1st SGT Davis talking to JROTC cadets

Left—Ray Feller and Harry Scott carry in food donations for Chesapeake Cares food Pantry

Right—Toys collected for Toys Tots

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8 April 2022

Articles and pictures are encouraged and appreciated. Please email to the editor: Connie Cosgrove at cjcosgrove@earthlink.net

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Virtual Change of Watch Held

For the second year in a row, Division 23 has had to hold their Change of Watch (COW) virtual due to concerns over COVID. The COW was held on 15 January. It was streamed over YouTube for members while those with a speaking role or those taking the oath of office used Zoom.

The ceremony began with Willie Witters, the Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCDR) welcoming everyone. He turned the program over to Margaret Butler, Division Commander (DCDR) for 2021. Margaret thanked the membership for maintaining their readiness during the pandemic and thanked the members of the COW committee for their tireless effort in make the COW a success.

Jim Welday led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Christian Converse gave the invocation and described the missing man table that honored those in our division lost in 2021; Auxiliarists Gary Smith from 23-02 and Ronald Sauer from 23-06. Jim Welday gave the final salute and Paul Defenbaugh played TAPS.

Auxiliarist Ken Barlow was the master of ceremonies for the event. He introduced our guests LCDR Samuel Danus, Division Chief of Waterway Management, Sector Maryland, National Capitol Region (MD-NCR), Lt. Andrew Lauf, Auxiliary Liaison Officer (AUXLO), MD-NCR; CWO3 Heath Smith representing DIRAUX; Nick Lomangino, District Captain (DCAPT) MD-NCR (2022); Woodrow Johnson, DCAPT MD-NCR (2021); and John Fewer, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator (ASC), SMDM-NCR.

Before the oath of office portion of the program began there was a brief slideshow "The Year in Review" put together by Margaret of pictures taken of missions during 2021. Ken Barlow also had a brief commercial for VFH radios singing his ad to Thank God I am Country Boy. Take time to listen in on YouTube.

Margaret Butler, DCDR and Mark Campbell, VCDR received the oath of office from LCDR Danus. Lt. Lauf assisted by reading the prologue. Nick

Lomangino gave the oath of office to the incoming Flotilla Commanders and Vice Flotilla Commanders. Margaret read the prologue and Mark gave the oath of office to the incoming staff officers.

Following the oath of office a video of an interview of Jim Farrell entitled Semper Paratus – Always Ready was shown. In the video Jim described what transpired the day they were on patrol and answered the call for a boat fire where three lives were saved. Stan Green, a qualified examiner also spoke of a lifesaving event that happened to him while on patrol on 14 August. He thanked those involved with saving his life. (See separate article on page 6).

The speakers for the afternoon were John Fewer, ASC; Nick Lomangino, CWO3 Heath Smith and LCDR Danus.

John Fewer was our first speaker and said, "I would like to thank Willie and Marie for leading Division 23 during the past two years. It was not easy, but they stepped up and assured that Division 23 continued to engage in its mission as best possible under the guidance of Coast Guard MD-NCR and our Sector and Auxiliary leaders. When I stepped down as the Division 23 DCDR at the end of 2019, the word pandemic was certainly not in our everyday vocabulary. That certainly changed for me and everyone else in early 2020 as the virus impacted the Auxiliary's mission to serve and support the Coast Guard.

In January 2020, I volunteered to be the ASC for MD-NCR. The ASC position is probably one of the most interesting positions in the Auxiliary as it enables the member to directly discuss and coordinate with the Sector Command the many activities the Auxiliary membership participates in throughout the year.

I recall sitting in then Sector Commander Captain Loring's monthly Senior Management Team meeting wherein a new illness, called COVID 19, was mentioned. At that time, no one knew how

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this new illness might affect the Sector, much less the world. That quickly changed and the rest, as the saying goes was history, as we faced a total shut down in 2020 for most of the Auxiliary interaction with the Coast Guard and the public. It seemed that during 2020 there was a never-ending revision of the Auxiliary's rules-of-participation as the Coast Guard and Auxiliary leaders tried to keep up with the ever-changing interaction guidelines issued by the federal and state governments. I recall the many hours spent discussing with LT Lauf the "what's and how's" of informing the members about the guidelines promulgated from above.

Fortunately, in early 2021 the majority of the Stand down activities were discontinued. While all of us in the Auxiliary were eager to figure out how to re-engage in our Mission, the Coast Guard's own active-duty units were, and still are to this day, continually adjusting procedures needed to assure the safe conduct of its responsibilities and duties.

By the beginning of 2021, the development of a COVID vaccine combined with society knowing more about the illness, enabled us to re-engage in many of the Auxiliary mission activities that we were unable to perform in 2020. Even then there were new questions that had to be answered. Our AUXLO, LT Lauf and I communicated on a weekly, and sometimes daily, basis to identify issues that were impacting the Auxiliary's re-engagement. LT Lauf and I continue to virtually meet bi-monthly with the Sector Deputy, CDR Jim Bendle, to review the Auxiliary's interaction and re-engagement. I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank both CDR Bendle and LT Lauf for their making themselves always available to discuss and assist coordinating Auxiliary related matters so we could re-engage in our Mission.

It is important that we all recognize and thank the Sector leadership for their efforts to keep us safe during a pandemic that has affected so many. LCDR Samuel Danus, Head of the Waterways Management Section and LT Lauf are with us today. I want to "Shout out" a loud Bravo Zulu to them and everyone at MD-NCR for enabling

Division 23 and all Auxiliaries in the Sector to safely re-engage, as best we can, in support of the Auxiliary's Mission.

As I mentioned earlier, 2020 was a year of shut down for most of the Auxiliary's interaction with the active duty and public. At the beginning of 2021, our DIRAUX leadership, headed by CDR David Block, recognized that "On the Water" boat crews had been "standing down" for a lengthy time and most likely were quite "rusty" when it came to performing boat crew duties. CDR Block issued an Order that all Auxiliary boat crew members in D5S were to participate in "Stand Up" exercises to "get the rust off". The training was to have shoreside and on the water components. CWO3 Heath Smith, Operational Training Officer, is here with us today representing DIRAUX. On behalf of all boat crew members, we would appreciate your taking back to CDR Block that we highly appreciated DIRAUX's recognizing the need for "refresher training". Many of us found out just how rusty we were during our refresher training patrol. I would also like to thank Phil Wentz, Ray Feller, the QE's and OPFAC owners for making themselves always available to conduct the shoreside and on the water refresher training. I would be remiss to not mention and thank Darian Pringle who kept all the training records for the entire Sector along with Jim Farrell who made his OPFAC "Sun Room" available for many training missions.

Earlier in today's COW Program, a video was shown that talked about a fire rescue at Little Round Bay on the Severn River. It could be said that CDR Block's Order to conduct refresher training directly saved three lives, because it is doubtful there would have been any close-by assistance available to instruct the boaters on the burning boat to put on their life jackets and jump in the water before the internal gas tanks exploded. Certainly, serious injuries if not deaths were prevented. So, Bosun, thanks to everyone at DIRAUX for the training we receive, and we look forward to continuing that training in order to be even more proficient in 2022.

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On the Auxiliary District and Sector side, I especially want to thank our Commodore Allen Fredd and Woodrow Johnson for their leadership and support during the past two years as they provided needed guidance to myself and all the Sector's Division leaders during some pretty intense and trying times.

Margaret and Mark, welcome to the 2022 Division leadership positions. I look forward to assuring the interaction between Division 23 and MD-NCR active duty is in the best interest of Division 23, the U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary in 2022."

Nick Lomangino, DCAPT MD-NCR congratulated the incoming elected and appointed officers. He said "the pandemic will still be around and no doubt we will face some challenges. I encourage you to stay positive. Our attitude, knowledge and dedication will carry us through 2022 as it has in the past.

CWO3 Smith from DIRAUX thanked everyone for their time and dedication to the Auxiliary. He asked the leaders to stay positive and to address concerns in a timely manner. He said "if we persevere through the challenging times, the Auxiliary will have a bright future. The Auxiliary is amazing." In his 25-year career he was the Auxiliary Liaison at two small boat stations. He said, "I appreciate your dedication and everything you do. You are outstanding volunteers and the Coast Guard would not function without the Auxiliary."

LCDR Danus was introduced by Roy Culley. LCDR Danus thanked everyone for what they do. He said, "the work that the Auxiliary does with patrols, aids to navigation, boating safety is so important. Recreational boating is increasing. Bravo Zulu to Willie and Marie. Congratulations to Margaret and Mark. LCDR Danus shared statistics of the hours that Division 23 committed in 2021. He said we had made significant contributions to the Coast Guard as soon as operations opened up which was shown by the saving of three lives. He

told us we had a pivotable role in getting the public to wear a life jacket. He said, "The Coast Guard cannot successfully undertake the recreational boating mission without us."

Following the presentation of awards Willie gave his closing remarks. He thanked everyone for attending. He thanked Joe Espino for his technical expertise and Ken Barlow for being Master of Ceremony. He ended with thanking everyone for a great 24 months in office.

Connie Cosgrove
SO-PB

Qualified Examiner gives testimony at Change of Watch

On 14 August I was the Qualified Examiner (QE) on Ray Feller's boat (25331) when I was overcome by the heat. It was very hot (88°F/64% humidity) and there was no breeze; this is the top of the "Extreme Caution" zone on the NOAA Temperature/Humidity chart. In addition to me, there were four people on board the boat, Ray, Harry Scott and two people from Division 24. We had been doing "Stand-up Refresher Training" and it was our turn to be the victim boat. I began to feel ill and requested that we return to shore. Ray turned to go back, but before we made it to shore, I passed out. They told me that I was unconscious for about 10 minutes.

By the time we got to land, where we were met by an ambulance, the crew had stabilized my condition and I was able to walk off the boat. I was transported to the hospital and released after a few hours.

On Monday morning, I went to see my primary care physician who told me that I was very lucky to have been with people who knew what to do and promptly applied the correct treatment. He

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Presentation of Awards at Change of Watch

Lt. Andrew Lauf, AUXLO, Sector Maryland National Capital Region presented a Meritorious Team Accommodation Award to Leonard Butler, Margaret Butler, Roy Culley, John Fewer, John Johnson, Darian Pringle, Dave Sire, Michael Taylor and Willie Witters for their work with the Sea Scouts at Safety at Sea Day on 11 September 2021.

Willie Witters presented the following division awards:

Roy Culley for outstanding work in Public Affairs in 2021

John Fewer for everything he has done as the Auxiliary Sector Coordinator, MD-NCR with the reconstitution guide that got us back performing missions

Greg Askew for his long years of work as a qualification examiner and coxswain

Carter Reardon as crewmen of the year

Laurie Markovitz for her initiative to take waypoint measurements in the Bay over the last four to five years

India Ouch as an instructor for diversity training

Dave Sadler for a team member and team leader for diversity training

Ed Martin for all his work in aids to navigation verification

Leslie Nicholson for Vessel Safety Exams

Phil Wentz for all his member training in operation and other areas

Christopher Jensen for over 3,000 boat ramp surveillances

Michael Taylor as finance officer

Ron Hillard for all his work as SO-IS

Jim Welday coxswain of the year

Robin Ouellette for his crew hours over the years as he retires

Jo Ann Reeves – thank you for all her help

Margaret Butler, DCDR announced the Auxiliarist of the Year Connie Cosgrove. She also presented Willie Witters with his Division Commander plaque.

Woodrow Johnson, District Captain, MD-NCR (2021) presented Willie Witters with the Auxiliary Achievement Medal for his service as Vice Division Commander (VCDR) and Division Commander (DCDR) from 2018 to 2021. In the citation it states that while he was VDCR he organized safety standdowns at Joint Base Andrew and Patuxent River that led to boating safety training to over 400 naval reservists. During the prolonged government shutdown, he was instrumental in the helping hand initiative that provided over \$700 in gift cards to needy Coast Guard members. As division commander he organized multiple vessel safety check days and increased training missions. Woodrow said Willie was a no-nonsense type of guy and the mission always came first.

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB



went on to relate his previous experience with heat exhaustion cases (he had done his residency training at a Dallas hospital) where the victims had died. He added that without the prompt treatment I might not be alive today.

I want to thank Ray, Harry, Alice Kottmeyer and Lynn Barnes for the “doing the right thing”. I also want to thank John Fewer who came to the hospital and took me back to my car where my wife and son were waiting to get me home.

You guys are great! Bravo Zulu!

Stan Green

QE

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Member's Corner – Connie Cosgrove

Congratulations

This past year you were honored with the National Award for Publication of the Year. It was a great honor and unexpected but an award long overdue! To be honest Connie Cosgrove was quite thrilled and surprised at the same time. She never anticipated receiving first place Nationally but nonetheless lamented that the years of hard work were well worth it.

She became a member of Flotilla 23-06 (Drum) previously numbered Flotilla 15-06 in October 1987. Her late husband John Cosgrove, a retiree from the US Air Force and original Long Island native, enjoyed recreational boating and was invited to become a member of Flotilla 15-06. He was mentored into the Auxiliary by the founder of Division 15, Phil Loomis and the incoming Division Captain Al Heim who relieved outgoing Division Captain Robert Hammond. During that time the correct nomenclature for the office currently known this day as Division Commander was Division Captain. Connie also soon joined her husband and the two remained members of the Solomon's Yacht club for several years. During her tenure she also donned the stripes of Division Captain following in the proud tradition of those who served.

While employed as a newspaper typist, the Auxiliary also recognized her literary talents and approached her regarding the possibility of an appointment to their publication named the Chesapeake Chatter. Despite working and raising a family with a big heart and a pension to never having the sense to say no, she was offered an opportunity by Division Captain Al Heim and was hooked like a fish in the water to a new adventure and career in the Auxiliary. Her appointment was in 1988 and her first Chatter was in March of 1988. In 1997 the Press Corps was set up at the National level by Betty Smith, a member of Division 11. What followed was an opportunity to have orders from the Coast Guard for a week in Baltimore with an assignment to write a series of

articles featuring the Whitbread around the World sailing race and all its festivities. The assignment was to attend the events, come home, write an article and get it to National for electronic publication the next day. This opportunity repeated itself several times over the years with the Tall Ships coming to Baltimore as well as the second Whitbread race and later the Volvo sailing race. These events gave her the opportunity to meet many dignitaries and interact with Admirals and Congress members. Other opportunities included serving as a tour guide on the Eagle. These events interested her and she was well on her way to finding her knitch and sustaining a long and active tenure in public affairs for Drum Flotilla throughout the years and as the Chatter editor highlighted by many activities, and accomplishments.



During the production years, she developed a devotion to the Chesapeake Chatter just like it was another one of her children and earned many honors and awards.

Historically she has witnessed the evolution of the magazine and the different operating mechanisms from cutting and pasting onto a template used for laying out the old version of the Chatter versus the series performed during the advent to the current digital era.

It wasn't always easy or without trepidation going into the digital age. She said she lost many articles while teaching herself the software PageMaker but , her family understood the preparation and labor with lost articles and restarting the process was at times trying. Nonetheless she wouldn't change a thing!

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Over the years she has attended many events to keep up with the production of the publication, but soon realized one person can't be everywhere, relying on a network of members to provide articles and photos of the missions. This allowed for more time to focus on the publication and tailor the development of its ideas, stories and layout.

Connie said that years ago when she started, getting the Chatter out was in the form of producing 150-200 magazines, sealing, labeling and stamping by hand after days of layout. She's grateful to those who volunteered along the way to do the copy work but glad that method is gone in the wind. Today circulation includes emailed versions with a printing duplication that is much simpler to manage.

Her advice to members accepting new responsibilities and appointments is don't be afraid to say yes and never give up, you never know where it may lead you, reach for the stars and look to the challenges, they are your inspiration and true rewards.

Mark Campbell

VCDR



AUXDATA II - Resuming Patrol Order Processing

All testing and interfacing of AUXDATA II (ADII) and the Financial Systems Modernization Solution (FSMS) has been successful. The FSMS cutover period that began 01 October 2021 concluded on 26 January 2022. ADII is resuming normal operations.

Patrol orders with patrol dates **on or after 01 October 2021** that were entered in ADII or issued via paper copy should now be entered into ADII for approval, completion, claims processing, and cancellations. Do not enter cancelled paper patrol orders in ADII.

In order to receive reimbursement for actual patrol expenses incurred during the FSMS cutover period, all corresponding patrol orders must be entered into ADII no later than 31 March 2022.

Information will be provided later for processing patrols conducted prior to 01 October 2021. Order Issuing Authorities (OIA) shall not approve any patrols with a patrol date prior to 01 October 2021.

When a patrol lead or facility owner requests patrol orders in ADII, they must include estimated reimbursable expenses. The OIA will perform a "Funds Check" during its approval process to ensure that funds are available to cover the estimated reimbursable expenses. When completing patrol orders, the patrol lead or facility owner must then include the final actual reimbursable expense amount and comment if that amount exceeds the initial estimate by 10% or more.

"How to Guides" have been developed to help assist members and OIAs in the patrol request and approval process. To view or download these guides go to: AUXDATA II / Files / Libraries / USCG Auxiliary Guides.

The guides will also be available at CGAUX.ORG > AUXDATA II > Member How To

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2022 NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

1. **National Operations Workshops.** The Surface and Telecommunications Workshops are required for 2022. The Aviation Workshop is now a mandatory task included as part of the Aviation Air Safety Workshop. Like 2021, the National Operations Workshops (Surface/Air/Telecommunications) may be completed via webinar. The workshop training material(s) must be delivered by an Auxiliarist qualified in the respective operations program provided they are either a certified instructor or are under the supervision of a certified instructor. Instructors may use any webinar delivery platform that is available in their region. Instructors are encouraged to work with their Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) to determine the proper delivery platform. Details for the 2022 **required** National Operations Workshops are listed below:

a. Surface Operations Workshop. This workshop is required for all boat crew coxswains, boat crew members, personal water craft operators, paddle craft operators, and those currently training for any of these competencies, including members in Required Yearly Not Met (REYR) status who intend to regain their certification.

b. Air Operations Workshop. This workshop is required for all pilots, air crew, air observers, and those currently training for any of these competencies, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification.

c. Telecommunications Workshop. This workshop is required of all operators and owners of Auxiliary Radio Facilities. It is required of those currently holding Telecommunications Officer (TCO), or in training for TCO qualification, and those who are using AUXCOM as their "grandfathered" qualification for radio operation. This does not apply to operation of radios on aircraft or vessels which are covered by crew certification.

d. The 2022 National Operations Workshop presentations (Air, Surface, and

Telecommunications) are located at the National Response Directorate web page at the following link: R-Directorate What's New Website

e. Instructors of these workshops must submit a Workshop Mission and Attendance Report (ANSC -7039) to their IS officer for entry into AUXDATA II.

2. **National Vessel Examiner and Instructor Workshops.** The Vessel Examiner (VE) and Instructor (IT) Workshops are required for 2022. These workshops are intended to be viewed by members and completion logged via a self-attestation form as described below. These workshops may also be facilitated by an Instructor via webinar or in person as District COVID Protocols permit.

a. VE Workshop. This workshop is required for all certified Vessel Examiners, and those currently training to become Vessel Examiners, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. The VE workshop presentations are located at the National V-Directorate website (in the Member Zone) at: 2022 National VE Workshop



b. IT Workshop. This workshop is required for all certified Instructors, and those currently training to become Instructors, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. The IT workshop is located at the E-Directorate website

"What's New!" page (in the Member Zone) at: 2022 E-Directorate Workshop

c. Members who individually view the VE or IT workshops in their entirety must submit a Workshop Attestation Form to their FSO-IS for entry into AUXDATA II. In order to make data entry easier, IS officers may collect forms for all of their members required to complete these workshops and make one entry into AUXDATA II using the last

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day of the month of the Activity/Task Completion date. This form is located in the same location as the VE and IT Workshop presentations listed above. Note: When adding the VE workshop task to Activity Logs in AUXDATA II use the task named "Vessel Examinations Workshop" in the Workshops task category list.

d. If the workshop is facilitated by an Instructor in a webinar or group setting, the Instructor must submit a Workshop Mission and Attendance Report (ANSC-7039) to their IS officer for entry into AUXDATA II.

3. **National Culinary Assistance Specialists Sanitation Workshop**. This workshop is required for all Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Specialists and those currently training for this competency, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. Please follow the instructions on the Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Specialists Website for completing the Annual AUXCA Sanitation Update. After completing the required test, course completion will be logged into AUXDATA II via the National Testing Center course results upload. There is no need to create separate activity logs for completion of this course in AUXDATA II. The workshop is available through the Auxiliary Human Resources Directorate web page at: National Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Website

4. Per chapter 8.B.1.g of reference (a), all **required** workshops must be completed no later than **30 June 2022**. If not completed by 30 June 2022, members required to complete those workshops will have their affected competencies place into Required Workshop Not Met (REWK). If a required workshop is not completed by 31 December 2022, the affected competencies will be placed in REYR status.

Auxiliary Currency Maintenance Changes for CY 2022

The Coast Guard continues to recognize the unprecedented challenges imposed on its Auxiliarists since the outset of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and greatly appreciates the understanding and responsibility demonstrated by all Auxiliarists in preserving their health and well-being as well as that of our Nation's maritime public.

Significant constraints were again levied upon Auxiliarists' ability to perform authorized activities in Calendar Year (CY) 2021 by the COVID-19 virus. These constraints significantly and detrimentally impacted the ability of many Auxiliarists to apply their competencies, perform their authorized activities, and maintain their currencies. Consequently, the following changes to CY 2021 currency maintenance requirements apply for CY 2022:

a. General Qualification and Currency Maintenance Requirements.

(1) All annual currency maintenance requirements for CY 2021 (e.g., the five vessel safety checks required to maintain currency as a vessel examiner) and other-than-annual requirements that were due in CY 2021 (e.g., the 3-year check ride required to maintain currency as a coxswain if due in 2021) are again waived *except* the tests and workshops that were able to be completed online through the Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS) or Auxiliary National Classroom.

(2) These waived currency maintenance requirements must now be completed by 31 December 2022 (e.g., the five vessel safety checks that were originally required by 31 December 2021 in order to maintain currency as a Vessel Examiner must now be completed by 31 December 2022). Currency maintenance requirements that were applicable for CY 2021

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are cancelled (e.g., a Vessel Examiner will only have to perform five vessel safety checks in CY 2022 in order to maintain currency).

(3) CY 2021 completion of the Team Coordination Training (TCT) Refresher and the Crew Resource Management (CRM) Refresher is not waived because these refreshers were available through webinars.

(4) If an Auxiliarist started CY 2020 in REYR status in a competency and was unable to fulfill the requirements to regain certification during CY 2020 and CY 2021, then the Auxiliarist will remain in REYR status in that competency and will have until 31 December 2022 to complete those same requirements in order to regain certification.

(5) All requirements for initial qualification/certification remain in effect and will not be waived.

b. Auxiliary Aviation Specifics: The currency task requirements listed below are waived for CY 2021 and must be completed by the dates specified:

(1) The semi-annual Air Mission Currency task (3 missions totaling at least 6 hours) with a currency expiration date of 30 June 2021 and/or 31 December 2021 must be completed by 30 June 2022.

(2) Annual and greater-than-annual cycle (2-year/5-year) currency tasks with a currency expiration date no later than 31 December 2021 must be completed by 31 December 2022 (e.g., a biennial check ride that was originally required by 31 December 2021 in order to maintain currency as a pilot must now be completed by 31 December 2022). Please see chart of tasks later in this edition of the Chatter.

(3) In addition, all Auxiliary aviation pilots will then be required to:

(a) Maintain all FAA license and flight requirements including biennial check flights and

holding a minimum of a valid Third Class FAA Medical Certificate.

(b) Maintain Passenger Currency requirements (for pilots carrying passengers or crew).

(c) Fly and log a minimum of 12 hours Pilot-In-Command (PIC) time each semi-annual period (may be General Aviation or Auxiliary flight).

(d) Complete the CRM Refresher.

3. These waivers of CY 2021 currency maintenance requirements represent a second consecutive year of doing so. A third consecutive year of such is not envisioned regardless of COVID-19-induced circumstances and should not be expected. Questions should be directed to the servicing District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) and Operations Training Officer (OTO).

Division 23 Flotilla Elections held

Flotilla elections were held in the month of November and December. The new Flotilla Commanders (FC) and Vice Flotilla Commanders (VFC) are as follows:

Flotilla 054-23-01

David Sire, FC and Dave Stadler VFC

Flotilla 054-23-02

Phil DeMaris, FC and George Weston, VFC

Flotilla 054-23-03

India Ochs, FC and Kirby Garland, VFC

Flotilla 054-23-04

FC - Bruce Petro and VFC - James Regensburg

Flotilla 054-23-06

Thomas Hardisty, FC and Steven Birchfield, VFC

Flotilla 054-23-07

Brian Shrift, FC and Christopher Jensen, VFC

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Flotilla 23-6 annual food drive

Once again in 2021, Flotilla 23-6 members decided to help people in need through their annual food drive with Chesapeake Cares Food Pantry.



Members could donate food items or mail checks to Connie Cosgrove made out to the food pantry.

On 9 November Harry Scott, Ray Feller and Connie Cosgrove delivered the food and checks to Chesapeake Food Pantry. They were presented to Debbie Weber, the director of

Community Care. On member donated over 29 pounds of non-perishable food items. The Flotilla donated \$220 to the food pantry.

Debbie told us that they use the funds to buy foods from the Maryland Food Bank and at times use the funds to buy personal care type things at local stores. Debbie told us that they were currently serving between 450 and 500 families a week.



We enjoyed are time talking with Debbie and becoming more knowledgeable about the need in Southern Maryland.

Connie Cosgrove

FSO-PA 23-6

Archived photo

Cold Weather Kills

On December 9, Flotilla members Paul Manicone, Steve Gershman, Chris Jensen, and Frank Voltaggio gave a presentation to members of the Maryland Natural Resources Reserve Officers on the topic of Cold-Water Immersion and Survivability. The class took place at the Department of Natural Resources Broadneck facility located in Annapolis just outside of Sandy Point State Park.

The first part of the training session was given by Paul and centered on cold water immersion and hypothermia. Drawing on his medical background, Paul spoke of the effects of mild, moderate and severe hypothermia on the human body and he stressed the points of Flotation, Insulation and Communication as the best foundation for survivability. Paul analyzed some case studies with conclusions to better emphasize proper survivability in cold water.

Steve followed with a discussion on cold water considerations, such as: boating accident statistics, first aid concerns, items to have onboard, and safe boating tips before you get underway.

The last portion of the class was a showing of the U.S. Coast Guard Cold Water Boot Camp video. In this film, eight individuals from various water rescue organizations from around the country participated in a week-long training exercise in the challenge to learn cold water survivability techniques.

Frank Voltaggio

FSO-PB

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Flotilla 23-6 holds Christmas Party

Flotilla 23-6 was once again able to hold an in-person Christmas Party on 11 December. About 20 members attended with two of them being retired members Don and Peggy Haskin and our division guest, Margret Butler, the incoming Division Commander. The party was held at Adams Taphouse.

The Flotilla had once again held their annual toy drive for Toys for Tots. Connie Cosgrove had once again volunteered to shop for members. Over \$300 was donated for Connie to shop with. Gifts were purchased for children from infants to teenagers. Gifts included blocks, cars, balls, dolls, games, stuffed toys, make up sets, etc. Connie Cosgrove arranged for a local representative to join the Flotilla for lunch and collect the toys. Jake Kepich joined us for lunch and said how wonderful we had done. He told us must of the time people forget about the infants and older children.



The Flotilla also said thank you to our outgoing Flotilla Commander Steve Birchfield. He received an engraved oar from the Flotilla.

Connie

Military Appreciation Night at the Ball Park

On 18 September 2021, the Bowie Baysox Minor League Baseball Team hosted a Fireworks Display, and Military Appreciation Night during the team's final regular season home game at Prince George's Stadium in Bowie, Maryland. All Branches of the U.S. Military were represented and honored, particularly during the pre-game activities; up to and including the singing of the National Anthem.

Sector Maryland, National Capital Region's (MD-NCR) Auxiliary Sector Coordinator (ASC) John Fewer was in attendance along with MD-NCR Auxiliary Liaison (AUXLO) LT Lauf and his family.

In support of the event, Division 23 staffed a Public Affairs booth in the Stadium, just behind first base. The two watch standers on hand were Willie Witters Jr., Division Commander and myself.

The home team fans along with their families and friends were on hand to cheer their team onto victory, and to show their support and appreciation of the U.S. Military. The booth was well visited, with questions about the US Coast Guard, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and safe boating.

We were quite honored to be visited by an Air Force Colonel who stopped by from his own Display; and even more so when John Fewer, ASC and, LT Lauf, AUXLO stopped by to say hello on their way to the concession area.

After our watch concluded, Willie Witters and I had the opportunity to join ASC Fewer, Ms. Fewer, and LT Lauf and his family for food, refreshments and later, a spectacular Fireworks Display in honor of the United States Military.

It was a great evening out, and all but capped off our public affairs for the wanning months of the 2021 recreational boating season.

Roy Culley
SO-PA

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You Are Never Alone

On Wednesday, November 10th the JROTC Class at Roosevelt High School in Washington DC hosted a Veterans Day Celebration. 1st SGT Useeth Davis, who is the instructor for the Roosevelt JROTC program, assembled a group of veterans to form a panel from whom the Cadets and other students could ask questions about their military service. The USCG Auxiliary was included along with those who had been active duty. 1st SGT Davis is a family friend of Mace Coleman, coxswain, and likes to have her students exposed to all types of volunteers and their respective organizations.

The event began with welcoming remarks from Principal Ralston and then the presiding Cadet, Clarissa Merino, continued with a Moment of Silence for Our Fallen Veterans, followed by the Posting of the Colors, and the National Anthem. Cadet Kendrick Richardson then introduced the select panel members, followed by his presenting members of the Roosevelt High Choir, whose accompanying performance was outstanding.

The music was followed by the Guest Speaker, Mr. Elliot Tommingo, USMC Reserves, who is the Director of the DC Mayor's Office of Veteran's Affairs. Mr. Tommingo gave an effective run down of the district's many programs which have been designed to assist Veterans with the ups and downs that may occur in life after their service to our country is completed. The District of Columbia is serious about being there for her Vets.

Next was a question-and-answer period with the Guest Panel. Many questions were asked of Clinton Townsend, as he is a combat veteran of the War in Vietnam. Clinton was drafted into the US Army in 1970 at eighteen years of age, and served as a machine gunner under some very dire circumstances. The cadets and students surely benefited from his teenage remembrances - the tough times experienced as he became of age in the jungles of South Vietnam.

Jennifer Coleman who retired as a Major in the US Army was asked about her experiences. She was

especially proud of all the education she received while serving, which led to her attaining several college degrees.

When a student asked Auxiliarist Coleman about the Auxiliary, he explained that while it is not a branch of the armed forces, it is similar in that there is an excellent spirit of duty and commitment to one another. Coleman related something which was told to him and a group of Auxiliarists during a training event, by a gold side member:

"Remember, you are never alone. Should you need us, you will have the full strength of the USCG on its way".

After Coleman's comments several of the panel members reiterated similar feelings, that someone will always be by your side when you serve in the United States Military.

After the formal event in the Auditorium, panel members were invited back to the JROTC classroom for lunch and further discussion with the Cadets. 1st SGT Davis has created a demanding, yet very accepting atmosphere in the JROTC program. The students certainly respect 1st SGT Davis, as her Army career of 22 years included deployments to Sarajevo, with a peace keeping force, and to Kuwait, supporting ongoing missions throughout the Middle East. In addition to these deployments, Davis was stationed in Korea, Germany, and Italy. 1st SGT Davis is extremely proud of her Cadets. She admires how they show up every day ready to learn, even though their lives outside of Roosevelt High are full of tremendous challenges.

At the end of the days activities many veterans and their achievements had been honored, and a new generation of volunteers continued on a path to a future which includes service to their country.

Mace Coleman

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Spreading the Good Word

As this past summer wound down Lois Wilson and Roy Culley gave a presentation to the McLean Rotary Club about both the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary.

Lois and Roy have been active in Annapolis Flotilla 23-03 for many years. Both enjoy operations, with Roy being crew qualified, and Lois in the midst of completing her crew member sign offs. Roy has additionally added current Flotilla Commander and Division Public Affairs Officer to his Auxiliary contributions.

The opportunity for this presentation came about as Lois was speaking with a fellow Rotarian and learned that her grandson had recently joined the active duty CG, prompting this proud grandmother and other fellow Rotarians to express their lack of knowledge relating to the CG and its various duties and missions. At this point Lois mentioned her Auxiliary activities, specifically Boat Crew Training and how many facets of this training are the same as those taught to active duty boat crew personnel. By stepping up and offering a few details about the CG and the Auxiliary Lois piqued the interest of many members, and the invitation to have a formal presentation was offered.

As with most Flotillas there are members with qualified experience who are available to assist with all kinds of Public Affairs opportunities. Mark Bertacci, the Public Affairs Officer for 23-03, was unfortunately scheduled to be out of town on the date made available by the Rotary Club, however, in the wings Lois had a very capable backup. When Lois asked Roy to help out he was all in, and as SO-PA he had access to a newly developed "Get to Know the Auxiliary" presentation. Roy felt good about the new presentation as its delivery encompassed what he has learned is so critical to a successful PA presentation, "Tell the story, tell it timely, tell it well".

Roy and Lois prepared thoroughly for their Rotary Club Mission, evidenced by the lively questions

asked, and the feedback offered after their presentation. A well-received event came about as a result of Lois bringing up her service in the Auxiliary.

Fortunately, she was "Semper Paratus"!
Mace Coleman
FSO-PB 23-3

New Auxiliary Online Classroom

On 19 January 2022 the Auxiliary Online Classroom (<https://classroom2.cgaux.org/moodle/>) was rebuilt as New AUX Classroom.

Everyone is now a first-time learner to this specific site and will need to create a new account using your Member ID, associated email address and a new password. Once a new account is created, you will be given access to the New AUX Classroom.

The New AUX Classroom requires all users to create a STRONG password with 10-characters, UPPER & lower case letters, numbers, and special characters. To better visualize, here is an example of a STRONG password: ABCdef12#\$

Follow this link to access a Job Aide: How to Create a New Account in the New AUX Classroom."

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eo494DVX_8IUKvHJiwWf64fie8kvejz5/view?usp=sharing

There is also a Video Tutorial at this link:
<https://vimeo.com/660519472/4bbe7a5aff>

These links are also available on the system Log-in page

Another significant change is the way in which you register for a self-paced course. This is a part of our security upgrade. The new protocols require that every course have an extra layer of security at the course level. This is accomplished using **enrollment keys** for self-paced

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courses. An enrollment key is simply a 4-6 character code unique to each course that unlocks the course for individual learners.

Within the new AUX Classroom, there are now 2 types of enrollments.

1. **Manual Enrollment:** This is used for courses that have specialized enrollment criteria such as C-Schools or courses with limited enrollment. Learners will be enrolled directly by the course instructor.

2. **Self-Enrollment/Self-Paced:** Any course open for self-enrollment such as Core Training, BQC2 or other courses that do not require an instructor. *For security purposes, these courses now require an enrollment key.*

Each Directorate is responsible for securely maintaining a list of enrollment keys associated with their self-paced courses. Each Directorate also has a special page on their WOW site called "**Enrollment Keys**". You can access enrollment keys using your Member Zone (MZ) password. A video showing the process is available to view after login to the New AUX Classroom.

Your access or password for the Member Zone (MZ) and for the National Testing Center (<http://ntc2.cgaux.org/NTC/>) have not changed.

A few other points of consideration:

- Due to the changeover and enhanced security, prior enrollments and past learning history from the OLD AUX Classroom could not be rolled into the new system. Nothing transferred to the New AUX Classroom. Users will have to re-register for any self-paced courses they were engaged in prior to the transition.
- Any training completed in the old system and **verified through the National Testing Center** is safely recorded in AUXDATA. This includes Core Training and the Basic Qualification Course as well as the AUXOP courses.
- Some old/outdated training content from multiple directorates were not transitioned to the

new system because they were unable to run in the new secured system.

- Certain other valid training courses transitioned to the new system but are hidden for now while they are being updated. Once complete, they will be available again.
- Users enrolled in self-paced training can re-enroll in the same course within the new system. Unlike the old system the new system can track user progress and even generate certificates of completion.

Like any transition, this one is not without a few challenges. But once we make it out of the inlet, it will be fair winds and following seas as we take the Auxiliary into the future.

Jonathan M. Ahlbrand

Division Chief, Advance Distance Learning and Program Management
National Training Directorate

Fostering Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity during a COVID-19 Era

Global crises are far-reaching and disruptive, leaving an impact on society as a whole. But they also affect government operations, workplaces, and more importantly personal lives. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX) has not been immune to the impact of the COVID-19 virus as the numbers continue to climb with the Omicron variant of the virus. In FY21, the USCG and USCGAUX was resilient in achieving its goal to promote and improve recreational boating safety (RBS) and to provide a diverse array of specialized skills, trained crews, and capable facilities to augment the USCG to enhance safety and security of our ports, waterways, a coastal region. Division 23 has achieved the aforementioned initiatives by fostering and promoting Diversity, inclusion, and Equity throughout its RBS initiatives. During the global COVID-19 pandemic, resilience—the ability to respond to the crisis—will enable the

Continued on page 18—see Diversity

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Diversity—continued from page 18

USCGAUX to survive a very turbulent year in CY22. Our resilience as a volunteer organization is as much about reconnaissance as it is about recovery. In keeping with this reconnaissance, the NACON 3 Star Award for Diversity Excellence has been modified to engage D5S Flotillas as well as Division 23 more fully with the goal to increase participation in the annual recognition. The updated application now includes an alternative Division-wide component that allows its Flotillas to collectively participate by pooling its resources as a unit when submitting the award application. The option for individual Flotillas to submit its' application independently is still available.

In 2022, the USCGAUX must continue to prepare in advance for disruption—whether it's a slow-rising tide or a sudden overwhelming surge—we must be ready to adapt, rebound and endure. Many will recall, the go no go suspension of our auxiliary programs due to COVID-19. Despite this, we began promoting agile strategies, innovative training, fostered adaptive cultures, and implemented and effectively used advanced technologies such as online forums to reach our external stakeholder in our local communities. Let's continue to ensure that all our current (or potential members) have equal access to technology virtually so that information is flowing up the Chain Of Leadership Management to everyone. Virtual fatigue is real, so ensure your meetings are engaging and fun. The USCGAUX must continue to employ commitment, courage, cognizance of bias, innovation, cultural intelligence, and collaboration. Practicing these behaviors can foster a more inclusive team environment within Division 23 during COVID-19, now and in the long-term.

Margaret Butler,

DCDR

FSO-DV, Flotilla 054 23-01

VIRTUAL Mini Boot Camp Training Summit on 18-19 February 2022.

We'll be facilitating this Training Summit using the Zoom and Breakout room functionality. EVERYONE'S Invited; however, pre-registration is mandatory. This is your opportunity to get "The Rust Off" and complete all your mandatory required courses in in the comfort of your own home in a short weekend. We will be sharing with you the new updates on COVID-19 Protocols and its impact on how we execute our RBS missions in FY22. We will have over 25 Dynamic Workshops for you to select from over the two-day weekend. Due to attendance requirements, registration for the two "Annual Operations mandated training" or "How well you are Trained" workshops facilitated by our very own Philip Wentz, DSO OP is mandatory. We currently have up to 26 reservations for TM/TCT Refresher and that session also has mandatory attendance requirements. ***So, HURRY and register here now!** *Copy & paste the JotForm in your browser. <https://form.jotform.com/220324945026046>

We have more than a dozen opportunities to complete the mandatory CORE/CT training (Privacy, Security Fundamentals, Civil Rights, Sexual Harassment, Workforce Resilience and Ethics). We will also have Refresher workshops on "Conducting Virtual MD Safe Boating Course", Vessel Examiner Refresher and offering the annual mandatory Instructor Training and AuxData basics course. There will also be informative workshops on Watchstander protocols, Diversity and Leveraging Social Media to Recruit and promote the USCGAUX.

* Out of courtesy for our facilitators and potential waitlisted members, please commit the entire length of the workshops before registering.

Our FY22 Division Theme is "Let's get Ready, Relevant and Responsive. Let's get it done.

(See page 19 for link and QR code)

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V– Train Weekend Schedule

The District Virtual Training Weekend is scheduled for 25-27 Feb. Registration is now open and you can register up until 1700 on 18 Feb.

The schedule for the classes on all three days is on page 19. Go to the District website at <http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=054> to register

FRIDAY 25 February 2022

0900– 0950 Emergency Management Emergency Management

0900– 1200 RM/TCT Refresher Limit 8 Students Per Class

*Vessel Examiner Qualification Prep (*See below)

1000– 1130 Operations Excellence

1100– 1150 Human Resource Processing Human Resource Processing

1100–1150 Communications Workshop

1200– 1250 LUNCH BREAK

1300– 1350 Conducting Hybrid Meetings

1300– 1350 Partner Visitor Qualification Prep

1400– 1450 Watchstander PQS Overview

1400– 1450 History of the USCG

1400– 1530 Boat Crew, How Well Are You Trained

1500– 1550 Role of the Auxiliary Sector Coordinator

1600– 1650 QE Check Rides: What to Expect

1700– 1750 Preparing for 2023

1800– 1900 Sector Roundtable

SATURDAY 26 February 2022

0900– 0950 Ethics 502306

0900-0950 Watchstander PQS Overview

0900– 1200 RM/TCT Refresher Limit 8 Students Per Class

1000– 1050 Security 810030

1000– 1050 Communications Workshop

1000– 1050 Entering AUXDATA II Forms

1000– 1050 Assignment to Duty

1100– 1150 Sexual Harassment Prevention 810000

1100– 1150 Human Resource Processing

1100– 1150 *Vessel Examiner Qualification Prep (*See below)

1100– 1150 Effective Flotilla Financial Processes

1200– 1250 LUNCH BREAK

1300– 1350 PPE Procedures

1300-135 Role of Auxiliary Sector Coordinator

1300– 1350 Privacy 81005

1600 RM/TCT Refresher Limit 8 Students Per Class

1400– 1450 Work Force 502379

1400– 1530 Operations Excellence

1500– 1550 Civil Rights 502319

SUNDAY 27 February 2022

0900– 0950 Ethics 502306

0900– 0950 History of the USCG

1000– 1050 Emergency Management

1100–1150 Sexual Harassment Prevention 810000

1100–1150 Communications Workshop

1100– 1150 PPE Procedures

1100– 1150 Human Resource Processing

1200– 1250 LUNCH BREAK

1300–1350 Privacy 81005

1300–1350 Entering AUXDATA II Forms

1300– 1350 Strong Flotilla Publications

1300– 1600 RM/TCT Refresher Limit 8 Students Per Class

1400– 1450 Workforce Resilience Training 502379

1400– 1450 Role of Auxiliary Sector Coordinator

1500– 1550 Civil Rights Awareness 502319

1500– 1550 *Vessel Examiner Qualification Prep (*See below)

*This is not the required VE Workshop Class for 2022 which has not been released yet



Mini Boot Camp Links

Division 23, Central Chesapeake will host a Virtual Mini Boot Camp Training Summit on 18-19 February 2022 (0830 to 1700) on the Zoom platform. The sessions offered include RM/TCT, How well are you trained, Annual Refresher Workshops for VE, PE as well as all the Mandatory AUXCT required Training. Everyone is invited; however, pre-registration reservations are required. Click on the QR code to register right from your smartphone or visit the Division 054 23 website for more information. Register here now <https://form.jotform.com/220324945026046> Take picture of the QR code from your smartphone