

Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23 5SR



Top: Coast Guard display at Touch a Truck at Bowie Bay Sox game. Emily Guzman, Ethan Woodruff, Coast Guard Curtis Bay, Mark Campbell, Mark Bertacchi, Maurice Butler, CG Recruiter. and Tam Cragg.

Middle Left: 23-2 PA booth during Waterman's festival. L-R: BM1 Steven Stefanisin, FC George Weston, FSO-MS Ed May, SO-DV Bob Banks

Middle Right: National Night Out event at Broomes Island MD Community Center. Ariel and Briar Tregonna

Bottom: Flotilla 23-6 and 23-1 support Super Heroes Day sponsored by Calvert Parks and Rec.. Carter Rardon, Jason Copeland and his son Kieran.

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From the Division Bridge



Our Change of Watch is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2025, 1300-1630 at Renditions Country Club in Davidsonville Maryland.

The Change of Watch Ceremony for Division 23 will be a joint opportunity for all the flotillas in Central Chesapeake to gather for fellowship and celebration. We will celebrate our members enthusiasm to our mission readiness and focus throughout the calendar year. It is never too early to say thanks in appreciation for your contributions and hard work. Your dedication and training support the district mission of preparedness, enabling our strategic plans framework to be effective daily. You offer your talents professionally in the interest of perpetuating the services of the USCG Auxiliary.

We applaud our members as they continue to recruit at a record setting pace to help our district lead the Nation in developing the next generation of Auxiliarist who will shape our future. We salute your perseverance in training and education to encourage involvement, mentoring and safety. Without your energy the business at hand would be difficult to navigate.

We are thankful for our bridge of officers who serve tirelessly to build and shape the business at hand and answer the call to keep the momentum going. I want to commend the flotilla commanders and their officers for a job well done. Special thanks to all the division and flotilla staff officers who as I have mentioned previously are the pillars of our division. Without their sacrifice, diligence and dedication, we could not thrive.

Last, I want to express the significance and impact of each member, as well as our most tenured devotees and our newest builders that everything we do starts with you. The planning, to continue the progress Sector wide begins with the diversity of our base. Our members training, qualifications, operations, interpreter, instructions, vessel

examiners, program visitors, C-school attendees, etc. are pivotal to our performance metrics. When you stand tall the Team shines. Your relevance strengthens our local Coast Guard units. You are the assets that contribute the manpower to engineer the USCG budget yearly. Those hours count and are significant. Your time is not measured in just minutes but by the fruits of your labor. Your integrity and wisdom speak volumes of your character. We are fortunate and proud to have each and every one of you in Central Chesapeake.

We celebrate you always, with sincere appreciation and gratitude.

Mark Campbell and Roy Culley

DCDR and VCDR

Awards

Since the last issue of the Chatter the following members have received awards. Congratulations to all. Please congratulate them.

Vessel Examiner

Shawn Moore, 23-2

Justin Cashman, 23-4

Advanced Instructor Annual Performance Gold Key Award

– more than 50 hours of instructor

time in PE and MT

Dave Sire, 23-1

Hector Corrales, 23-3

National Public Affairs Contest

23-3 won first place in the social media category for an Instagram Post

Save the Data

January 26, 2025—Change of Watch., Renditions Golf and Country Club. See flyer for details.

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2024 Board & Staff

DCDR: Mark Campbell

VCDR: Roy Culley

IPDCDR: Margaret Butler

23-1 - Annapolis

Lenny Butler, Flotilla Commander

Douglas Casler, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-2 - Solomons

George Weston, Flotilla Commander

Richard Sikorski, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-3 - Greater Annapolis

Hector Richardo Corrales, Flotilla Commander

Mace Coleman, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-4 - South River

Tamm Cragg, Flotilla Commander

Paul Feinberg, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-6 - Drum Point

Larry Mattivi, Flotilla Commander

Connie Cosgrove, Vice Flotilla Commander

23-7 - Herring Bay

Gini Shrift, Flotilla Commander

Brian Shrift, Vice Flotilla Commander

Division Staff

SO-AS—

SO-CM - Jim Welday

SO-CS - Steven Hildebrand

SO-DV - Robert Banks

SO-FN - Michael Taylor

SO-HR - Dave Keyser

SO-IS - Ellen Hatcher

SO-MA -vacant

SO-MS - Wendy Norwitz

SO-MT - Willie Witters

SO-NS - Dave Sire

SO-OP - Kimberle Sheehan

SO-PA - Rick Corrales

SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove

SO-PE - Joseph Distefano

SO-PV - Ron Price

SO-SR - Susan Casler

SO-VE - Joseph Sheehan

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1 December 2024



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

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District Training and Elections Held

The topics hosted by the District 5 Southern Region (D5SR) D-Train from September 5-8, 2024, were: Public Affairs EM0105, AUXLAMs A&B, The District Board Meeting and Sector Leadership Forum for Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.

Thursday's sessions began the weekend festivities with the main training for C schools EM105 and AUXLAMs which continued all weekend through Sunday. While these students were busy other attendees who were still arriving, registering and receiving their packets, settled in their rooms prior to the welcoming fellowship dinner. Auxiliary personnel from various areas had the opportunity to review their itinerary, customized prior to arrival in preparation of each day.

Friday morning and afternoon sessions featured the opening kickoff of each sector's Leadership Forum followed by part 1 of the district board meeting. The daily roll call to establish a quorum, acknowledged the representatives from each region, moment of silence, and safety initiative. D5SR was the number one region as far as net gains and new members recruited nationally. These were some of the business highlights prior to introduction of the governing board for D5SR and the general business of the day.

The current district board consists of Allen Fredd, Immediate Past District Commodore and newly elected Deputy National Commodore Mission Support and Atlantic East, Commander David Otani, Director of the Auxiliary; District Commodore John Krogman; Jim Thomas, Vice District Commodore, David Gamble, District Captain (DCAPT) Sector Virginia; Henry Hayes, DCAPT Sector Baltimore, Joe Nemeth, DCAPT Sector NC.

Elections for the 2025 Bridge occurred and the elected nominees were Jim Thomas as new District Commodore, David Gamble as new Chief of Staff, Henry Hayes as DCAPT Sector Maryland, Northern Capital Region, William Curry as DCAPT,

Sector North Carolina and Fred Hetzel as DCAPT Sector Virginia.

Post-election Jim Thomas presented a Culture of Safety briefing reinforcing the goals of the strategic plan for the safety management system (SMS). and Henry Hayes provided a summary on the Key Bridge Response.

The meeting concluded with setting the calendar of events from Safety Day at Curtis Bay on September 14, 2024, and proposed dates for D-Train 2025.

Sessions for Saturday involved continuation of Friday theme with Sector Roundtable featured SWOT (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats) Analytics, Part 2 of Business meeting followed by the Past Division Commanders Association (PDCA) Luncheon.

Guest speakers who addressed the assembly on Saturday included Deputy Commander Peggy Britton, and Master Chief Travis Park, and Commander Otani.

Deputy Commander Peggy Britton, Sector Virginia reminded the Auxiliary of the importance of building coalition, and we need to converse *with* Auxiliary *not* to the Auxiliary for an effective personal strategy. She conveyed the USCG mission objectives will be different, as a force re-alignment focusing on Air, surface and assets. The Auxiliary role will increase and will be needed greater than ever in the future. Emphasis on core values and suicide awareness prevention for Team Coast Guard, gold side and Auxiliary for transparency, reaffirming professional culture and energizing our talent base. Our Team Coast Guard University Program is growing and building momentum at VMI, Virginia Tech and Elizabeth State. She reminded the Auxiliary "we can use you, but don't forget it's about building relationships, trust, having dialogue one on one so we know the faces and people that we are

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District—continued from page 4

dependent on and working on critical factors that are vital to our success.”

Commander Otani reminded us DIRAUX is here to help, but we have guidelines to follow and accountability to the Auxiliary as an organization, feedback is crucial. He said, “DIRAUX doesn't set policy district sets policy. Tactical discussions are important to all. Communicate your problems through the shared inbox. Work with your officer in charge at various Stations.”

Master Chief Travis Park, Chief Auxiliary Operation Management Branch, Coast Guard Headquarters spoke of organizational and operational issues impacting the USCG mission at hand. Application background checks and citizen verification (Steve Keel Security), C school budget funding shortfalls, recruitment for each service to increase quotas; structural overhaul of uniform policy to implement new uniform interactive guidance, initial challenge for NEXCOM from previous year SWOT analysis.

Other topics were challenges facing the Human Resources Directorate such as uniform shortages and delays, BSX -12 Standardization of Operations tools management of equipment in ADII for inventory control and maintenance. Correlation of survival gear from FSO up to DSO of OPs, Technology supported inspection, C school request of Yorktown for Auxiliary- Aids to Navigation center renewal and continuation. Improvement National Help Desk (ADII), Patrol Orders end of fiscal term/September-funding, Your hours matter! VSE-Type III lifejackets, inspection and inventory, Inflatable's justification no updates or changes in our district.

Additional topics including Coast Guard and Auxiliary Support, fellowship, apathy, culture of Safety initiatives, and increase awareness of National Commodore. All of these concerns are being evaluated but it takes time, funding and personnel during the National Executive Committee yearly agenda.

Sunday sessions included the closing ceremonies involving Sector Commander comments, evaluations and training, a presentation by J Stockhall, USCG Virginia, regarding Accountability Transferability Report (ATR) used as metrics for Military service Respect in Professional environments. Laws/policies were different 30 years ago. We systematically cannot address old issues with outdated policies as we resolve problems, moving ahead to support Inclusion and diversity principles. Our Auxiliary University Program, positive cultivation of seeds shape up to date attitudes/opinions 2024, to encourage generational input and resolutions in the future of Coast Guard missions. Also, labor force alignment issues involve a workforce of 4500 < 10% not meeting current goals or expectations. Unpredictability, model-failures, laid up cutters, riverboats, due to numbers and personnel shortages (downsize personnel) increase our demands throughout our branches for all involved with unique vision. Scheduled future missions - still responsive but different- What role will Auxiliary play??

Mark Campbell

DCDR

Chatter wins Fifth District Publications Award



At the District Board Meeting in September, it was announced that the Chatter had won the Past Captains Association award for the best Division Publication for 2023.

I would like to thank everyone who sent me pictures and articles to make the Chatter a great publication. I cannot do it without a lot of help from the members.

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB

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Bruce Petro Crosses the Bar

Bruce Petro crossed the bar on July 19, 2024. He was born on March 2, 1946, in Buffalo, New York. He attended the University of Buffalo, where he received his

Masters in Industrial Engineering. Before joining the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Bruce worked for the Federal Emergency Management Administration, the Veterans Administration, the United States Postal Service, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Bruce Served in the United States Army Reserve, the Anne Arundel County Police Reserve Officer Unit from 2006 to the present where he attained the rank of Reserve Major, Secretary of Anne Arundel County Reserve Officer Foundation, Natural Resources Police Officer, CG Auxiliary Southern District, and the Civil Air Patrol Apollo Squadron from 2007-2016 where he attained the rank of Lieutenant.

As a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary since 7-31-2008. He completed his boat crew training on 8-2-2008, and AUXCT - Core training on 12-13-2015. During the past fifteen years, Bruce held several positions within Flotilla 23-04. He was the Flotilla Staff Officer for Operations, Finance, Human Resources, Member Training, and Program Visitor, and a Vice Flotilla Commander. Bruce earned the CG Meritorious Team Commendation, Auxiliary Membership Service Award, CG Unit Commendation (4th Award), Sustained Auxiliary Service Award (2nd Award), and the Department of Homeland Security Outstanding Unit Award.

Bruce owned a 1986 F242 Formula, which is 24 feet long and was documented in AUX-II that she could top out at 50 knots. Bruce is survived by his wife of 51 years, Karen E. Petro.



Joe Barry Crosses the Bar

It was with heavy heart to announce the passing of Leonard Joseph Barry, a former flotilla commander of Flotilla 15-04,

the forerunner of 23-07. Joe passed away on September 22 after a long illness.

Joe was born and raised in Annapolis, Maryland and after serving four years with the U.S. Air Force, he returned to his home state where he worked for the National Security Agency retiring from there in 1995 after 31 years of service. He also served in the Eastport Volunteer Fire Company from 1965 – 1974, reaching the rank of Lieutenant. As an avid woodworker, Joe was a member of the Chesapeake Woodturners, serving as President for several years in addition to making and selling his wood art.

Joe will best be remembered by us as a founding member of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 15-04 here in Herring Bay where he served as Flotilla Commander. Joe also held positions of coxswain, boat crew, instructor, and vessel examiner as well as a number of division and flotilla staff positions. In 2005, he moved from Deale, Maryland to Pasadena, Maryland and became a member of Flotilla 22-01, continuing in his dedication to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Frank Voltaggio

FSO-PB 23-07

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23-06 Participates in National Night Out

What a field of kids who participated in National Night Out (NNO) on Tuesday August 6, at North Beach. There were plenty of vendors and booths representing various organizations from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, North Beach volunteer Fire Department, Calvert Center for Change, Calvert County Health Department, local Library, USCG Auxiliary and many more.

The kids had an abundance of activities to keep them busy, from football, baseball batter's cage, bean bags, etc. to fill the evening. Yearly this event has a good turnout of families and children, and the parking was at a premium with the line of automobiles attempting to canvas the scene. Luckily the waterpark across the way offered additional amenities so fun could be enjoyed by all.

This year it seemed the kids were more engaged with the activities than circulating around the tables. Nonetheless somehow the coloring books, stickers, whistles, pencils and crayons have a habit of disappearing quickly.

The Auxiliary was represented at this year's event by Roy Culley, VDCR, from 23-03 and Willie Witters, Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for Member Training, and Mark Campbell, DCDR from 23-06. Fun was had by all as we got an opportunity to share with many of the parents the importance of Boating safety and Remember to Wear it theme for Life Jackets. It's wonderful to hear that many share in the ideals of the Auxiliary and the Safe Boating Campaign of exercising good judgement on the water and following the rules of the road. It's important not only to spread the message but encouraged to hear that people are actively participating in those principles.

As long as we continue to keep up close and personal, engage the mariners and dealers, capitalizing on our opportunities and areas where public affairs are centered around community events these are our best chances to remain visible and offer greetings to as many people as possible and remind them that the Auxiliary is supporting them as well.



Other members from 23-6 were at two other locations sharing their safe boating knowledge, answering questions and passing out

coloring books, whistles, pencils, etc. Bill Smith, FSO for Public Affairs was at White Sands in Lusby. Larry Mattivi, Flotilla Commander and Connie Cosgrove, Vice Flotilla Commander were at Broomes Island along with Dave Keyser, Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for Information Systems and Harry Scott, FSO for Human Relations. Lacking additional manpower for the evening, Connie Cosgrove provided materials to the Patuxent View community for their NNO event.

Mark Campbell,

DCDR

Connie Cosgrove

SO-PB

Photos: Above —Larry Mattivi, Harry Scott, Dave Keyser at Broomes Island event.

Left: Mark Campbell, Roy Culley and Willie Witters at Chesapeake Beach.

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23-2 supports Waterman's Festival

Members of Solomons Flotilla 23-02 attended the 23rd Calvert County Watermen's Festival and Boat Docking Competition on 15 September. The event was held at Watermen's Wharf on Solomons Island, Maryland.

The Calvert County Watermen's Association was established in 1975 as a non-profit organization. The goal of the Calvert County Watermen's Association is to improve water quality to ensure future harvest of seafood. The competition was fierce and the crowd loved it!

We had plenty of interaction with the attendees, answering their boating questions and stressing safety on the water.

George Weston

Flotilla Commander

23-2



Flotilla holds Fall Personal Protective Equipment Check

Solomons Flotilla 23-02 held their Fall PPE Inspection and Family BBQ on 13 October at Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO)-DV Bob and Maloree Banks' beautiful house on the water at Solomons Island.

We also held our monthly Flotilla meeting that was originally scheduled for 14 October. Shawn Moore, our FSO-OP performed the inspection and will compile the results to send to Division for AuxData II entry.

We had plenty of burgers, brats and dogs, along with some great sides and desserts. Amber Delikat brought her famous huge veggie platter that everyone loved!

During the meeting portion of our event, George Weston, Flotilla Commander conducted the New Member Pledge with our newest member, Michael Berger. Michael was recruited when we held a Vessel Examination Day at the Corinthian Yacht Club. The weather was beautiful – a perfect day for a BBQ and fellowship among our flotilla members.

George Weston

Flotilla Commander, 23-2



Ron Fields and Shawn Moore with PPE equipment



*Happy
Thanksgiving*

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Auxiliary Core Training Requirement – Suicide Prevention

1. Last year, ALAUX 030/23 announced that the Auxiliary Core Training (AUXCT) course “Workforce Resilience” was renamed “Sexual Assault Prevention, Response and Recovery” (course code 502379). As part of that change, training content on the topic of suicide prevention that had previously been combined into course 502379 was removed and was effectively lost as a training requirement among all Coast Guard personnel.

2. The Coast Guard recognizes that suicide is a preventable personnel loss that impacts unit readiness, morale, and mission effectiveness. It remains committed to the goals of its suicide prevention program; foremost of which is to minimize suicidal behavior among all Coast Guard personnel and their family members by empowering all Coast Guard personnel to recognize persons in distress and to take supportive action to help them. Consequently, the Coast Guard has since adapted suicide prevention training content into a standalone course titled “Suicide Prevention (100643),” which has become a required training course for Coast Guard personnel. This new Suicide Prevention course is now also an AUXCT requirement for all Auxiliarists. It is available on the USCG Auxiliary Online Classroom and the estimated time needed for completion is 10-20 minutes.

3. Effective immediately, the following new requirements must be met in order to maintain AUXCT currency.

a. Like all AUXCT courses, newly enrolled Auxiliarists must successfully complete the Suicide Prevention course (100643) by the end of their first full calendar year of enrollment. This course must then be completed once every five years thereafter.

b. For Auxiliarists who are already currently enrolled, the initial deadline for successfully

completing the Suicide Prevention course (100643) is December 31, 2025. After the initial completion it must be completed once every five years thereafter.

c. Failure to complete the course by the deadline will carry the same consequences as failure to complete any AUXCT requirement.

4. **AUXCT Course Requirements:** As a reminder, AUXCT is comprised of the following repeatable and one-time courses:

a. Repeatable Courses: To be successfully completed by the end of the first full year of enrollment and then once every five years thereafter:

(1) Suicide Prevention (100643).

(2) Sexual Assault Prevention, Response and Recovery (502379).

(3) Security Fundamentals (810030).

(4) Privacy at DHS: Protecting Personal Information (810015).

(5) Sexual Harassment Prevention (810000).

(6) Civil Rights Awareness (502319).

b. One-time Courses: To be successfully completed only once (new enrollees must complete them by the end of the first full year of enrollment):

(1) Ethics 1 / Personal Gifts (502306).

(2) Basic Qualification Course II (BQ II).*

*This AUXCT requirement only applies to Auxiliarists enrolled on or after February 1, 2018.

5. Auxiliarists may access all AUXCT courses via the Auxiliary Online Classroom. A link to this website is found at USCG Auxiliary Classroom. The Auxiliary Training Directorate’s AUXCT Training page (<https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=core-training>) provides additional information about options for completing the AUXCT courses.

Editor’s Note: the above was received email.

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Bowie Baysox sponsors "Touch A Truck" Event

Vendors from around neighboring counties were once again invited to participate in this year annual Touch A Truck Day sponsored by the Baltimore Orioles minor league affiliate Bowie Baysox at the Prince George's Stadium. This year's event included many assorted utility vehicles and exhibits for kids to play on and things that emphasize safety and recreation on display. There was music, safety vest, hoops, towels and many more give a ways for the kids to grab and go prior to the double header featuring the Bowie Baysox versus the Harrisburg Senators.

The Coast Guard exhibit featured a 29-foot Coast Guard facility out of Curtis Bay. This vessel was a big attraction of many visitors and passerby's who dropped by the public affairs table to pay homage to the Coast Guard and thank them for their service. The area display featured two tables; one for the Coast Guard members Emily Guzman, Ethan Woodruff and recruiter Maurice Butler, and one for the Auxiliary members Roy Culley, Tam Crag, Mark Bertacchi and Mark Campbell One inside the main concourse on the 3rd base side and the other outside next to the recruiter table and facility. Honored guest in attendance of the Baseball game included Nick Lomangino and his wife, John Fewer and his wife and Henry Hayes, District Captain, Sector Maryland, National Capitol Region.

We estimated about 75-100 visitors stopped by our tables for the day. There was quite a turnout of families and kids to participate overall in a digger pit, sandboxes filled with Tonka trucks, tractors for sitting in to grab those special photos.

There were at least two dozen trucks for the families to step in and out of and check out those cabs and blow those horns, just make sure you watched your first step. You would be amazed to realize how much height and leverage is needed to climb in and out of utility vehicles, although there was plenty of help in abundance.

A disc jockey provided entertainment as the spectators filled the parking lots, full and energetic eager beavers to see where their favorite truck stop or fun activity was next on their journey. Their were long lines for the hula hoops derby and face painting and many pictures of the Coast Guard vessel.

The Baysox parking attendants did an awesome job providing logistics for all the vendors, providing water, and just checking on the vendors to see what their needs were. Since it was an exceptionally hot day, in the future we will definitely need to bring a canopy for some shade.

I want to thank all who took time out of their Saturday to support this event, no one person can handle the magnitude of people who have questions or want information regarding the Coast Guard and what we do, but the experience and expertise of the team works to support the Auxiliary in all its missions. A special thank you to the Bowie Baysox for supporting this annual event and the invitation to produce such a wonderful turnout.

Afterwards the Coast Guard and Auxiliary members assembled in Sky Box Suite one and engaged in fellowship with our honored guest and had refreshments and just enjoy some of the game. All in all, it was a fantastic and fun day.

Mark Campbell
DCDR

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National Recognition Award

Not many Auxiliarists receive a recognition award outside of our organization but this year, the International Boating and Water Safety Summit which celebrates how recreational boating and water safety communities collaborate to save lives around the world, has honored the Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP) for providing boating safety education to Spanish-speaking boaters. Jose Pena de la Guardia, a native of Panama and both a Flotilla 23-07 Auxiliarist and a Reserve Officer of the Maryland NRP is this year's recipient.

Jose was instrumental in translating the Maryland Boating Safety course, a summary of boating laws and regulations for Maryland, from English into Spanish, spending well over 100 hours in the process.

The course includes information on boater registration and proper licensing, safety requirements, "rules of the road," and life saving tips. Maryland is also one of the first states now to offer the state's boater safety course in Spanish.

In the past five years, Hispanic residents of Maryland have registered more than 6,000 boats. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources issues more than 30,000 fishing licenses to members of the Hispanic population annually. That amounts for nearly 10 percent of all licensed anglers in the state. Learning the rules and regulations in their own language will go a long way in preventing boating accidents.

Congratulations to Jose on all his hard-earned efforts. Bravo Zulu!

Frank Voltaggio,

FSO-PB 23-07

Auxiliary Inclusion in American Forces Travel Service

1. ALAUX 035/24 serves as a reminder of the eligibility of active Coast Guard Auxiliarists to take advantage of the American Forces Travel Service (AFTS).

2. The AFTS is the official online leisure travel website for Coast Guard Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs, designed exclusively for Coast Guard personnel and their families. The AFTS offers the largest leisure travel service program dedicated solely to Coast Guard and other military service patrons.

3. [ALAUX 012/19 of 24 Jul 2019](#) announced the eligibility of active Coast Guard Auxiliarists in the AFTS. The Coast Guard Community Services Command oversees MWR programs and applicability of the AFTS to Coast Guard personnel. It recently issued a flyer as a reminder of the incredible travel opportunities and services provided by the AFTS including a full-service booking platform that assists with:

- a. Airfare (all flights cancelable within 24 hours).
- b. Over 70,000 hotels worldwide at discounts up to 60%.
- c. Access to major car rental brands globally.
- d. Travel packages and cruises with discounts up to 80%.

4. Active Coast Guard Auxiliarists are strongly encouraged to consider the AFTS to meet their leisure travel plans.

Editor's Note: the above was received email

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Promulgation Of the Auxiliary Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Ambassador Program SOP - ALAUX 034/24

1. This ALAUX announces promulgation of Auxiliary Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Ambassador (AUX-CGMA) Program Standard Operating Procedures, AUX-SOP-014(A)
2. Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) is the official relief society of the United States Coast Guard, offering aid to the entire Coast Guard family: active duty and retired Coast Guard military personnel, members of the Coast Guard Reserve, Coast Guard civilian employees, Coast Guard Auxiliarists, Public Health Officers serving with the Coast Guard, chaplains, and surviving spouses.
3. CGMA recently launched its Ambassador program. CGMA Ambassadors are volunteers who possess a wealth of knowledge about the Coast Guard and serve in the role of outreach, acting as a force-multiplier in promoting a unified message of CGMA mission and programs.
4. AUX-SOP-014(A) details guidelines for how qualified Auxiliarists may participate as CGMA Ambassadors. It is the result of collaboration between CGMA, the Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1), and Auxiliary leadership including the Auxiliary's national Human Resources Directorate. The Division Chief for USCG Special Projects (DVC-HB) in the Auxiliary's national Human Resources Directorate will serve as the Auxiliary's AUX-CGMA program manager.
5. The timing of this SOP's promulgation currently coincides with a busy period for CGMA. Accordingly, an initial cohort of AUX-CGMA Ambassadors will involve a very small, pre-selected group of Auxiliary participants, while preparations are made to process more program

applicants. Auxiliarists who are interested in participating in the AUX-CGMA Ambassador program should familiarize themselves with this SOP and then begin pursuing the competency in January 2025 or later.

6. No paper distribution will be made of this SOP. An electronic version has been posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary section of the Coast Guard Auxiliary website: <https://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP&category=sop>. If the cited web link does not work, then access should be attempted by copying and pasting or typing the website address into the user's internet browser.

Editor's Note: The above received through email

National Elections Held at NACON

On Friday, August 16, elections were held at the Auxiliary National Conference in Orlando, Florida. The National Leadership team for the 2024-2026 term was elected by the Auxiliary National Bridge. Our leaders for this coming term are:

- National Commodore (NACO) - COMO Mary Kirkwood
- Vice National Commodore (VNACO) - COMO Patrick Feighery
- Deputy National Commodore - Atlantic Area East, Recreational Boating Safety (DNACO-RBS) - COMO John Krogmann
- Deputy National Commodore - Atlantic Area West, Mission Support (DNACO-MS) - COMO Sonny Thatch
- Deputy National Commodore - Pacific Area, Operations (DNACO-O) - COMO Michael Bozarth
- Deputy National Commodore - Information Technology & Planning (DNACO-ITP) - COMO Linda Merryman

Terms of office will begin November 1, 2024. Congratulations and best wishes to our new National Bridge team!

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5DSR Division Publication for 2023



**2024 JOINT CHANGE OF WATCH
CENTRAL CHESAPEAKE DIVISION 23
Flotillas 23-1, 23-02, 23-03, 23-04, 23-06 and 23-07**



**WHERE: Renditions Golf Course, 1380 West Central Avenue,
Davidsonville, MD 21035
410-798-9798 or 1-888-451-4144.**

**WHEN: Sunday, 26 January from 1200 to 1630 (12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
Uniform of the Day: Service Dress Blue, Tropical Blue or Business Attire**

**SOCIAL TIME CASH BAR: 1200 – 1300 (12:00 – 1 p.m.)
COW: 1300-1630 (1:00 p.m. –16:30 p.m.)**

BUFFET MENU: House Salad, Roasted Roast Beef, Herb Encrusted Baked Chicken, Baked Salmon Filet in a lemon herb marinade, Herb Roasted Red Potatoes, Wild Rice Pilaf, Steamed Vegetable Medley and Warm Rolls with butter. Coffee, tea, lemonade and water. Soft drinks available at the bar. If you require a vegetarian or special diet restriction, please let us know.

DESSERT: Cake

RESERVATION DEADLINE: 11 January 2025.

PRICE PER PERSON: \$55 INCLUDES GRATUITY.

CHECKS MADE OUT TO - USCGAUX DIV 23

NAME _____ FLOTILLA _____

NAME _____ FLOTILLA _____

Email -----

Phone Number

MAIL RESERVATION AND CHECKTO:

**CONNIE COSGROVE
1105 DAN BOWEN RD
PRINCE FREDERICK, MD 20678.**