

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 17 Issue 1

Winter 2025

National First Place Division Newsletter—2021 & 2022

5DSR Publication of the Year—2023



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The 2025 Change of Watch (COW) was held at the Renditions Country Club in celebration of the Division 23's 50th Anniversary. We were saluted with an outstanding guest list of attendees from Sector Maryland National Capital Region. The program highlighted USCG, Auxiliary and DIRAUX tributes to honor our members in 2024.

Commander Damon reflected on the challenges overcome by the Auxiliary and highlighted some of the members noted contributions in terms of service hours in 2024 and their impact to the Coast Guard and US Government. She also highlighted a few major contributors in her talking points as follows:

John Fewer, Darian Pringle, and Dave Sire had in excess of 80 underway hours each. Aids to Navigation verifications were conducted by John Fewer, Bruce Johnson, Ed Martin, and Dave Sire.

Public Affairs: Hector Corrales contributed over 500 hours in USCG PA Augmentation and Community Relations.

Public Education: Mark Bertacchi, Mace Coleman, Joe Distefano were leaders in public education.

Watch Standing: Nancy Hames, Harry Scott, and Bryan Teague contributed well in excess of 100 hours each to watch standing.

Member Training: Hector Corrales, Bruce Johnson, Ed Martin, and Dave Sire provided most of the member training.

Marine Safety: Tom Hardisty conducted over 100 vessel safety checks. Wendy Norwitz and Ron Price conducted all of the division's commercial fishing vessel outreach.

Sector Support: John Fewer is the sector coordinator.

After receiving an Exceptional Service Award, Joanne Revis, Administrative Auxiliary Specialist spoke about the values of Division 054-23 and their history and significant contributions over the years.

BMCS Barbara Elkins, Officer in Charge from St Inigoes addressed the importance and influence of the Auxiliary in her professional career.

David Gamble, District Chief of Staff spoke on the importance of shared experiences and the culture of leadership for Division 23 and support to district.

In my closing remarks I said "while hearing all the remarks it's good to remember in an Olympic Year where we celebrated champions; the Auxiliary exemplified that same championship spirit embodying honor, respect, integrity and character. We supported various missions, promoted recreational boating safety, augmented the Coast Guard and enhanced safety and security of our ports, waterways and coastlines. Following strategies, policies and executing action plans to provide operational, administrative and logistical support.



I thank the COW committee for their time over the last six months and diligence to create an exceptional program for the COW ceremony. Thanks, to everyone who braved the cold to come out and support your

fellow Auxiliaries.

*Mark Campbell*  
DCDR

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## 2025 Board & Staff

DCDR: Mark Campbell

VCDR: Rick Corrales

IPDCDR: Margaret Butler

### 23-1 - Annapolis

Lenny Butler, Flotilla Commander

Margaret Butler, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-2 - Solomons

Rick Sikorski, Flotilla Commander

George Weston, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-3 - Greater Annapolis

Jamel Lee, Flotilla Commander

John Krisko, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-4 - South River

Paul Feinberg, Flotilla Commander

Tam Cragg, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-6 - Drum Point

Larry Mattivi, Flotilla Commander

Joseph Enchill, Vice Flotilla Commander

### 23-7 - Herring Bay

Joseph Distefano, Flotilla Commander

Helen Gemignani, Vice Flotilla Commander

## Division Staff

SO-AS—

SO-CM - Jim Welday

SO-CS - Steven Hildebrand

SO-FN - Michael Taylor

SO-HR - Dave Keyser

SO-IS - Ellen Hatcher

SO-MA -Willie Witters

SO-MS - Wendy Norwitz

SO-MT - Willie Witters

SO-NS - Dave Sire

SO-OP - Justin Cashman

SO-PA - Jamal Lee

SO-PB - Connie Cosgrove

SO-PE - Joseph Distefano

SO-PV - Ron Price

SO-SR - Susan Casler

SO-VE - vacant

## Table of Contents

DCDR article.....	2
Division 23 Holds Annual COW.....	4
Awards Presented at COW.....	6
Division Turns 50.....	7
Yeckley Crosses the Bar.....	8
Lomangino Crosses the Bar.....	8
Sector Training Returns.....	9
Commander's Intent.....	10
2025 National Workshops.....	11
Auxiliary Mission Activity Codes.....	13
Flying High with AUXAIR.....	14
Auxiliary Sea Scout Program.....	15

## Front Page Photos

**Top Left:** CMDR Damon, Sector MD NCR

**Top Right:** Joanne Revis, DIRAUX

**Middle Left:** Margaret Butler, IPDCR, Connie Cosgrove, SO-PB and Mark Campbell, DCDR

**Middle right:** Display table for 50th anniversary

**Middle right:** Margaret Butler, Mark Campbell, Joanne Revis and David Gamble, District Chief of Staff (DCOS)

**Bottom Left:** Mark Campbell, and David Gamble

**Bottom Right:** Aux Aircrew members Joe and Kimberle Sheehan, conducting AUXAIR mission aboard Aux C-8131 with Gary Goldberg, Aircraft Commander. Photo by Joe Sheehan.

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15 June 2025



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

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## Division 23 holds annual Change of Watch

January 26 was a cool but bright day. After a week of temperatures below freezing, we had a high near 40. Committee members arrived earlier to make sure everything was setup and ready for members when they arrived for the social hour.

The formal program kicked off at 1300 with Brian Shrift, Master of Ceremonies asking everyone to take their seats so the program could begin. Margaret Butler, Immediate Past Division Commander (IPDCDR) lead us in prayer with the invocation. Sea Scout Troop 1959, under the leadership of Skipper Howard Kea posted the colors and let the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following an hour for dinner Brian introduced Paul Feinberg, Flotilla Commander 23-4 who rang the bell for those who crossed the bar in 2024. Paul also read the Crossing of the Bar poem written by Alfred Tennyson. Margaret had put together a very moving presentation for those who had crossed the bar – Bruce Petro, Joe Barry, Douglas Yeckley and Carol Nimmer. Karen Petro and Peggy Barry accepted a plaque from the Division to honor Bruce and Joe.



Before the remarks section of the program, a video of the year in review was presented. Margaret had put the presentation together from pictures sent in to her by the Flotilla Commanders.

Dave Gamble, District Chief of Staff (DCOS) kicked off the remarks section of the program. He began by thanking Mark and Margaret for inviting him and said they had set the bar high for Change of Watches. He thanked Margaret for stepping up and agreeing to be the district videographer. Dave said our division had done great things and listed our many accomplishments.



Dave talked about C-Schools and said that they had been very costly for the Coast Guard to fund our members to attend. So, the EXCOM decided to fund instructors to travel to us instead. He said there would be 30 slots for Flotilla Leadership course, 15 slots for PA AUX-12 and 20 slots for ICS-300

Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents.

Dave told us the National Commodore's top 4 priorities are:

- #1 – Recreational Boating Safety
- #2 – Member Engagement and Growth
- #3 – Integrate Auxiliary Resources with Coast Guard Units and Missions
- #4 – Innovation and Prepare for the future

Dave ended his comments saying we need mentors for all new members.

Commander Damon began by congratulating the Division for its 50 years of service. She also thanked everyone for coming.

She told us that Division 23 had participated in the State of Union security, the Key Bridge event and just recently the 3 national events. She said we had provided 14,000 hours of support.

She thanked me for the Chatter and the content we have in it. She said "it was one of her favorite reads and looked forward to the next one."

Joanne Revis was representing DIRAUX and thanked us all for our contributions. She told us that when we send in new member applications now, we must once again send in the biometrics. Joanne reported that the machine for ID cards was back up and that they are sending ID cards directly to the members in the mail.

Continued on page 5—see COW

# Chesapeake Chatter

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5DSR Publication of the Year—2023

COW—continued from page 4

BM1 Nicholas Meehan Officer in Charge (OIC), attended from Station Annapolis. He said he had worked with the Auxiliary for 18 years. He spoke about how the Auxiliary became into being. He said “Our selflessness was inspiring and that he was in awe of what each of us do.”

BM1 Benjamin Jensen, OIC Aids to Navigation Team Potomac from Station St. Inigoes thanked everyone involved with putting together the event. He told us that the Auxiliary will continue to play a vital role in day-to-day activity of the Coast Guard. He encouraged us to become more involved with Coast Guard recruiting, AuxAir and Private Aids to Navigation.

BMCS Barbara Elkins, OIC of Station St. Inigoes said she had two Auxiliary mentors during her career. She said, “I commend you from the bottom of my heart for what you do.”



The awards portion of the program began following the guest remarks. Mark presented Joanne Revis an Exceptional Service Award for her help with all the paperwork, etc. for Division 23. Dave Gamble was presented with an Auxiliary paper weight by

Mark. Joanne told us that Dave worked in the DIRAUX office several years ago. She also said she was looking forward to working with the new leadership. Other awards presented are reported in a separate article.

CMDR Damon read the prologue and swore in all new coming elected and appointed officers.

The event came to a close with Marks closing remarks.

*Connie Cosgrove*  
SO-PB



Mark Campbell, Jamal Lee, Nailah Lee & Margaret Butler



Missing man table



New Members Michael Berger, Kathleen Feinberg, Jamel Lee, Dave Gamble

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Volume 17 Issue 1

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National First Place Division Newsletter—2021 & 2022

5DSR Publication of the Year—2023

## Awards presented at the Change of Watch

There were many members from Division 23 who received recognition and awards at the Change of Watch (COW).

To begin the awards portion of the program members and former members of the division who had crossed the bar in 2024 were honored. Four past or present members were recognized for their contribution to the division and the Auxiliary during their service. The four were Bruce Petro, Past Flotilla Commander of 23-4, Douglas Yeckley, retired member of 23-2, Joe Barry, former member of 23-7 and Carol Nimmer Palmer who was the original editor of the Chatter. Karen Petro and Peggy Barry attended the COW and was presented with a plaque in honor of Bruce and Joe.



CMDR Damon, Deputy Commander Sector MD National

Capitol Region (SM-NCR) presented an award to John Fewer, Willie Witter and Roy Culley who participated in Safety at Sea 2024 which was held at Curtis Bay with the Sea Scouts. Other members to receive this award are Charles Eames, Marie Squillace, Kathleen Sullivan, John Krisko, and Henry Murray.

Mark Campbell presented Jamel Lee with a certificate of advancement for qualifying as a Public Affairs Specialist I.



Mark presented the Bridge Builder

Achievement Award to Margaret Butler, John Fewer, Willie Witters and Roy Culley. He also presented an Exemplary Service Leadership award to Dave Sire.



Joseph and Kimberle Sheehan was awarded Coast Guard Auxiliary Superior Operations Service Award.

To my surprise I as given an Exceptional Service Leadership award along with a beautiful clock in recognition of 37 years of dedicated service.



Paul Deafenbaugh was awarded the Division Lifetime Achievement award. Paul was unable to be present so his Flotilla Commander, Jamel Lee excepted the award on his behalf.

Mark announced that the Division Auxiliarist of the Year was Ellen Hatcher who stepped up to fill the SO-IS position mid-year. Lenny Butler, FC 23-1 accepted the award.



Outgoing flotilla commanders (FC) were honored for their service in 2024. They also received the NACO 3-star diversity award. The outgoing FC were: Lenny Butler, George Weston, Rick Corrales, Tam Cragg, Larry Mattivi, and Gini Shrift.

*Connie Cosgrove*  
SO-PB

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## Division turns 50

Division 23 has served the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Coast Guard for 50 years. The division had its 50th anniversary on 17 January 2025.

In January of 2000 I was DCP of Division 15. At our 25th anniversary dinner and Change of Watch (COW) I was fortunate enough to have been presented a box of Division 15 minutes dating back to 1975 by Carol Nimmer Palmer. I know many of you would say “that was fortunate?” The answer was definitely yes. Because of her gift, I was able to fill-in many blanks in our history. When I was asked by Steve McElroy, DCO in 2008 to be a committee member for the 70th history of the Auxiliary, I knew I would also work with my division and my flotilla to update their records. This box proved to be invaluable. I was able to document all the division captains and all but two vice captains from 1975 until today. I have also been able to document who the staff officers were during our 34 years except for the same two years. I also found out that in the early years of the Auxiliary there was a position entitled DIVWAC which stood for Division Women’s activity coordinator. Who would have ever thought that!

About two weeks before the COW, the realization came to me that we were about to make the 50-year mark of being a division. Below is just a very brief snippet of how Division 23 came into being. I hope to update the complete history I have worked on since the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Auxiliary. I have some work ahead of me since the last time I worked on it in 2014. My goal is to print it in the Chatter in the Fall issue. So, stay tuned.

*Division 23 was known as Division 15 until 2009 when the district reorganized. The division was originally part of Division VII and was chartered on 17 January 1975. The first division meeting was held on 28 Feb 1975 at Douglas Elementary School in Upper Marlboro. The original flotillas were 15-1*

*(originally Flotilla 76), 15-2 (originally Flotilla 73), 15-3 originally (Flotilla 78), 15-4 (originally Flotilla 79) and 15-5 (formerly Flotilla 7-12). On 1 May 1978 Flotilla 15-7, formerly Flotilla 77 was chartered. Flotilla 15-6 was chartered on 8 November 1980 with a core of the membership coming from Flotilla 15-1 who lived in the Drum Point area. Flotilla 15-5 was disbanded in 1980 and the original Flotilla 15-4 disbanded on 12 Feb. 1987. Flotilla 15-4 was rechartered on 5-Dec-1999.*

*The division newsletter, Chesapeake Chatter, was first published in August 1979 by Carol Nimmer. The name was chosen from 60 suggestions that were submitted by members for consideration. From all records I have reviewed there appears to have been three editors since the Chatter first went to print. Editors were Carol Nimmer, Delores Presnell and myself.*

*Connie Cosgrove*  
Editor



Display at the Change of Watch. On the left is a ship's wheel that was awarded to Flotillas back in the late 80s early 90s to Flotillas who made their AMOS goals. Next to it is the framed copy of the front page of the first Chatter that was presented to me at the 25 anniversary celebration. The framed item to the right is the invitation to the first COW for the division. The silver frame contains the front page of the Chatter.

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

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5DSR Publication of the Year—2023



## Retired Member Douglas Yeckley Crosses the Bar

Douglas Eugene Yeckley, 87, of Lusby, Maryland passed away peacefully on November 26, 2024 with his loving wife, Natalie at his side.

Doug completed high school at Phelps Central School and graduated from American University with a BS degree in Administration of Criminal Justice. He served in the US Army for 3 years as a Military Policemen and in the Coast Guard Reserve for 24 years and retired as a Senior Chief Port Security man. In the last years of his Reserve Duty, he joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary which he served until his death. Doug joined the Auxiliary on 16 September 1987 and retired on 14 December 2018. He was a member of 23-2. During his time in the Auxiliary, Doug held many positions that include Flotilla Staff Officer (FSO) for finance, human resource (also known as member resources), operations and Division Staff Officer for Human Resources. Doug also served his Flotilla as Flotilla Commander. Doug was very active in Operations. He was a coxswain and on 30 August 1991, he and his crew aboard his Auxiliary Vessel, *Captain Crunch*, were on patrol when a person decided to jump from the Thomas Johnson Bridge in Solomons. The victim was rescued by a good Samaritan who radioed Captain Crunch for assistance. Captain Crunch transported the victim to the dock near the bridge and the victim was flown to a hospital where he made a full recovery. During this service to his country, he received 23 ribbons and awards including the Army Achievement Medal. Doug was also a qualified instructor, program visitor, vessel examiner and fingerprint technician.

Doug had a passion for scouting and in 1972, Doug became the founder of Sea Scout Ship 1071 in Tacoma Park, MD and became its Skipper. In 1980 he became Skipper of Ship 909 in Prince Frederick, MD. Still later, in 1998, he became the Skipper of Ship 548 in Avenue, MD. He was elected Commodore of Sea Scouting in the Rear

Commodore of Sea Scouting in the Southeast Region and the Northeast Region for many years.

He attended 8 BSA National Jamborees from 1980 to 2010 in the Coast Guard contingent.

*Connie Cosgrove*

SO-PB



## Nicholas Lomangino Crosses the Bar

Dr. Nicholas Lomangino, crossed the bar on January 27, 2025. Nick joined the Auxiliary in 2016. During his service in the Auxiliary, he served as Vice Flotilla Commander, Flotilla Commander, and in multiple Flotilla Staff Officer positions. He also served as Vice Division Commander and Division Commander and in several Division Staff Officer positions. He served his district as an Assistant District Staff Officer, served as District Captain for Sector Maryland-NCR, and served on the Auxiliary National Staff.

Nick held multiple competencies, including Culinary Assistant 2, Boat Crew, Fingerprint Technician, Instructor, RBS Program Visitor, Telecommunications Operator, Vessel Examiner, and Watchstander.

He received many individual and team awards, including the Coast Guard Unit Commendation, the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation, the Auxiliary Commendation Award, the Auxiliary Achievement Award, multiple Auxiliary PE Service Awards, and ten Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards.

Please keep Nick's wife, Antonietta, three children, grandson, and extended family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

*Connie Cosgrove*

SO-PB



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## Sector training returns

Sector MD-NCR's S-Train is back! Join us on Saturday, March 1, 2025. The Coast Guard has invited us to use their facilities at the Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay, MD, and they will participate in our S-Train. There will be many training opportunities for all members. The sessions will include "Meet the Coast Guard," new member orientation, Operations Workshop, RM/TCT Refresher, introductions and training regarding several mission areas, AUXDATA Help Desk, and much more.

This event is different than past years, it will focus on unilateral operational possibilities for all members of Team Coast Guard, the Gold Side, Reserves and the Auxiliary to work side by side under one event. This is to build collaboration, encourage participation and provide unique objectives for all.

You can also register via the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/250004999314457> (Note that you might have to copy this link and paste it into your browser). The S-Train schedule and a Coast Guard Yard map are also available. Final details on parking will be determined, but the tentative location is shown on the CG Yard map.

The uniform of the day will be Tropical Blue or Winter Dress Blue. Please make sure you are wearing the uniform correctly. If you are unsure if your uniform is correct, please have a uniform inspection before S-Train. Appropriate civilian attire (business casual - no jeans) for those who do not have a proper uniform.

Please check your Auxiliary ID card to make sure it is current. For those who do not have a current AUX ID Card, instructions will be provided on what and where to submit information for access to the CG Yard.

There will be a Lucky Bag. If you bring items to share, please make sure they are serviceable and

take any remaining items with you when you leave. We all have storage limitations, and the S-Train committee does not have room for more items.

This is an excellent time for members to get their required training, uniform inspection behind you and for members without a uniform this is a great opportunity to get what you need.

Plan to join your shipmates at Curtis Bay for excellent training, fun, and fellowship.

We look forward to seeing you in March!

*Henry Hayes*

District Captain

## Cancellation Of DEIA-Related Programs and Activities

ALCOAST 026/25 – CANCELLATION OF DEIA-RELATED PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES announces the cancellation of the following directives and their associated programs:

- a. Diversity and Inclusion Education and Awareness Program, COMDTINST 5360.1
- b. Leadership and Diversity Councils, COMDTINST 5350.9A
- c. U.S. Coast Guard Affinity Group Program, COMDTINST 5350.10
- d. U.S. Coast Guard Diversity Outreach Program; and
- e. U.S. Coast Guard Academy Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2024-2026

ALAUX 025/22, which announced the promulgation of the Diversity and Inclusion Education and Awareness Program, COMDTINST 5360.1, is also cancelled.

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5DSR Publication of the Year—2023

## Commander's Intent

Acting Commandant Admiral Kevin E. Lunday recently emailed the following to the Coast Guard workforce:

### Coast Guard Men and Women:

The Coast Guard provides enduring value in service to the American people. We are part of the Department of Homeland Security team protecting our nation and are at all times a military service and part of the joint force defending it. We are in greater demand now than ever before, and that is a credit to your commitment to serve and deliver mission results.

We are in a period of dynamic change within the Coast Guard. We are implementing new national priorities and orders from the President and other senior civilian leadership through executing our missions in service to the American people.

This provides my initial direction and intent for the Service going forward.

Like every Coast Guard cutter, we must do three things: **Float, Fight, and Navigate.**

### Float

First, we must *float*: build and sustain a well-led, trained, ready, and resilient force that operates as a cohesive crew. We trust and respect our teammates. We depend on each other. We live our Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. Service readiness starts with the readiness of every Coast Guard man and woman, and their families. Upon that cornerstone we build readiness of the crew, unit, and force. And we maintain the strong support, respect, and trust of the American people we serve—a sacred trust we must work every day to keep.

### Fight

Second, we must *fight*: conduct disciplined operations with excellence to deliver mission results in all we do. We save lives, control the U.S.

maritime border and approaches, assure the operation and defense of U.S. maritime critical infrastructure in physical and cyberspace, and safeguard navigation and marine resources in U.S. waters and on the high seas. We fight in our nation's wars. And much more. We conduct our missions in a dangerous and unforgiving maritime environment often against those who would do us harm. We will do it right—through disciplined operations with warranted risk. We will lead our crews to get the mission done and safely return.

### Navigate

Third, we must navigate: set the course to a future destination and navigate with others through uncertain weather and challenges to prevail. We must be agile to adapt to changing mission demands, where and how the Nation needs. That is what we are undertaking now. As we conduct continuous regular operations, we must always be ready to respond to a major crisis or contingency that may come with little or no warning. We will not be surprised. We will prevail.

In response to new Presidential Executive Orders and DHS priorities, on Tuesday I directed the Area Commanders and Deputy Commandant for Operations to take immediate action to increase Coast Guard operational presence in key areas of the U.S. maritime border and approaches. These steps and future actions will require adjustments to other operations as we balance readiness to sustain mission execution.

Going forward we will communicate additional direction.

We are undaunted by the uncertainty that may come with change because we are filled with certain hope for the future, confident that together we will navigate the Coast Guard forward. For over 234 years, the American people have depended on our missions and the unique value the Coast Guard provides to assure our economic prosperity and national security. If there

Continued on page 11—See Intent

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 17 Issue 1

Winter 2025

National First Place Division Newsletter—2021 & 2022

5DSR Publication of the Year—2023

Intent—Continued from page 10

is one thing our distinguished Service history in both peace and in war shows: with a ready Coast Guard crew there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

We are incredibly proud to serve as your Acting Commandant and the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard.

Thank you for your service to the Coast Guard and the nation.

Semper Paratus,  
*Admiral Kevin E. Lunday*

## 2025 National Workshops

Ref: (a) Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 (series)

**National Operations Workshops.** The Surface and Telecommunications Workshops are required for 2025. The Air Operations Workshop is a mandatory task included as part of the Air Station Safety Workshop. Similar to 2024, 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. Self-Attestation is NOT permitted for any of these National Operations Workshops. The workshops will relay significant, needed information, and will take longer than one to two hours to complete so please plan accordingly. Details for the 2025 National Operations Workshops are listed below:

a. Surface Operations Workshop. This workshop is required for all boat crew coxswains, boat crew members, personal watercraft operators, paddle craft operators, associated Qualification Examiners (QE), 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. The Air Operations Workshop is a required element of the annual Air Station Safety Workshop and must be completed by 31 Dec 2025. It is required for all pilots, air crew, air observers, Instructor Pilot/Flight Examiners (IP/FE), 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 for all operators and owners of Auxiliary radio facilities. It is strongly recommended for those currently holding Telecommunications Operator (TCO), in training for TCO qualification, and using AUXCOM as their “grandfathered” qualification for radio operation. This does not apply to the operation of radios on aircraft or vessels which are covered by crew certification.

d. The 2025 National Operations Workshop presentations (Air, Surface, and Telecommunications) are located at the following link: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=R-DEPT&category=operations-workshops-1>.

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, Program Visitor, and Instructor Workshops.** The Vessel Examiner (VE) and Program Visitor (PV) Workshops are recommended for 2025. The Instructor (IT) Workshop is strongly encouraged. These

Continued on page 12—see Workshops

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 17 Issue 1

Winter 2025

National First Place Division Newsletter—2021 & 2022

5DSR Publication of the Year—2023

Workshops—continued from page 11

workshops are intended to be viewed by members and completion logged via a self-attestation form as described below.

a. VE Workshop. This workshop is recommended for all certified Vessel Examiners, and those currently training to become Vessel Examiners. The VE Workshop presentations are located at the National V-Directorate website (in the Member Zone) at: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=member-training>.

b. PV Workshop. This workshop is recommended for all certified Program Visitors, and those currently training to become Program Visitors. The PV Workshop presentations are located at the National V-Directorate website (in the Member Zone) at: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=V-DEPT&category=member-training>.

c. IT Workshop. This workshop is strongly encouraged for all certified Instructors and those currently training to become Instructors, including members in Required Yearly Not Met (REYR) status who intend to regain their certification. The IT Workshop presentation is located in the "What's New!" Page at: [wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=E-DEPT&category=WHATSNEW](http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=E-DEPT&category=WHATSNEW).

d. Members who individually view the VE, PV, or IT Workshops in their entirety must submit a Workshop Attestation Form to their Flotilla Staff Officer-Information Services (FSO-IS) for entry into AUXDATA II (this form is located in the same location as the VE, PV, and IT Workshop presentations listed above). In order to make data entry easier, IS officers may collect forms for all their members required to complete these workshops and make one entry into AUXDATA II using the last day of the month of the Activity/Task Completion date. 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. Similarly, when adding the IT Workshop to the Activity Logs in AUXDATA II, use the task named "Instructor Workshop" in the Workshops task list.

e. 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 Exam and Sanitation Workshop.** The AUX FS\_SAN exam is required for all Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Specialists 1 and 2 (AUXCA-1/2) and those currently training for these competencies, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. The AUX FS\_SAN exam is available through the following website: <https://ntc2.cgaux.org/NTC/membersHome.php>. After passing the required exam on the National Testing Center, 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 2025 Sanitation workshop is recommended for all Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Specialists 1 and 2 (AUXCA-1/2) and those currently training for these competencies, including members in REYR status who intend to regain their certification. The 2025 Sanitation Workshop will soon be available through the Human Resources Directorate Training Catalog on the Auxiliary Online Classroom/Moodle: <https://classroom2.cgaux.org/moodle/>. There is no need to create separate activity log for completion of this workshop in AUXDATA II.

4. Per chapter 8.B.1.g of reference (a), all required workshops must be completed no later than 30 June 2024. If not completed by that date, members required to complete those workshops will have their affected competencies placed in Required Workshop Not Met (REWK) status. If the required workshop is not completed by 31 December 2025, the affected competencies will be placed in REYR status.

5. Questions should be directed to the appropriate COLM.

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 17 Issue 1

Winter 2025

National First Place Division Newsletter—2021 & 2022

5DSR Publication of the Year—2023

## Promulgation Of New Format of Auxiliary Mission Activity Codes and Descriptions

AL AUX 038/24 announces a new Excel spreadsheet format that makes it easier to search for and sort Auxiliary mission activity codes. In addition to changing the format, “Comments/ Requirements” have been removed from the mission activity code description and included in a separate column. Several mission activity code descriptions have been updated, and three new mission activity codes have been added.

New Mission Activity Codes and Descriptions: The following new mission activity codes have been added:

- a. **27 SR-UAS (U)** – Time spent as an Auxiliary Unmanned Aircraft System Short-Range Remote Pilot (AUXUAS-SRRP) or trainee conducting operations or training for the Active Duty Short-Range Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SR-UAS) program.
- b. **33 CHART and COAST PILOT UPDATES (U)** – Time spent on observing, researching, and reporting corrections or updates to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers (USACE) nautical charts and/or to NOAA’s Coast Pilot. The time spent casually observing and updating charts and Coast Pilots to the Coast Guard by an Auxiliarist are included as part of this mission.
- c. **34 ATON PROGRAM TRAINING (U)** – Time spent completing ATON program training. Below are some examples of ATON program training:
  - (1) P/ATON Workshop
  - (2) AUX-06 C-School
  - (3) Any P/ATON program approved training.

Mission Activity Code Name Change: The following mission activity code name has changed: **26 CG**

## CREW AUGMENTATION or NON-AUGMENTATION (U)

Revised Mission Activity Code Definitions: The following mission activity code definitions have been updated to better define when to use or reflect updated policy changes:

- a. **01B TRAILERING (B)** – Time spent trailering an Auxiliary Operational Surface/Radio Facility to and from a launch/patrol location for any authorized patrol order.
- b. **06A OPERATIONAL TRAINING (U)** – Time spent as a qualified instructor for any Operational Member Training activity. This may include any operational instruction and/or presenting the Operations/Air Workshop.
- c. **07B QE SHORE SIDE CHECKS (U)** – All QEs are to use this entry for performing shore side check-offs and oral boards.
- d. **07C QE UNDERWAY CHECKS (U)** – All QEs are to use this entry for performing underway evaluations/checkrides (including Operational Excellence evaluations).
- e. **22A OPERATIONS TRAINING (UNDERWAY) (A,B)** – Time spent performing underway training for surface or air operations.
- f. **26 CG CREW AUGMENTATION or NON-AUGMENTATION (U)** – Time spent airborne as a certified Auxiliary Pilot, Air Crewmember, or Air Crew Observer onboard a CG aircraft in a non-augmentation role or time spent underway as an Active Duty certified Boat Crewmember or Engineer onboard a standardized CG small boat (i.e., 45 RBM, 29 RBS, TANB) in an augmentation role, or as a certified Auxiliary Coxswain or Auxiliary Crewmember underway onboard a standardized CG small boat (i.e., 45 RBM, 29 RBS, TANB) in a non-augmentation role.

continued on page 14—see Codes

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 17 Issue 1

Winter 2025

National First Place Division Newsletter—2021 & 2022

5DSR Publication of the Year—2023

Codes—continued from page 13

## g. 55A AIR/VESSEL INTERCEPT COORDINATION

**(A,B)** – Time spent on an air or surface patrol working with CG units to provide practice in identifying and intercepting targets as well as time spent supporting CG Rotary Wing Air Intercept (RWAI) and other air asset operations, training, and support, to include supporting helicopter operations (basket hoisting and swimmer stand-by safety) and C-130 support (pump drop).

All previous versions of the Mission Activity Codes and Descriptions are obsolete. The updated Missions Activity Codes and Descriptions can be found at <https://forms.cgaux.org/forms1.php>. These changes have also been updated in AUXDATA II. CG-BSX-12 is working on updating these changes into the next revision of form ANSC-7030.

## Flying High With AUXAIR

Having phoned our General Assessment of Risk score into our Sector Maryland Watchstander, my Auxiliary wife Kimberle, and I (both aircrew) strapped into the small Grumman AA-5B Tiger along with our aircraft commander - pilot Gary Goldberg. The roar of the engine and the rush of adrenaline reminded us why we are so proud to be a part of the USCG Auxiliary's Air Program (AUXAIR). We are not just flying for fun; we are supporting the U.S. Coast Guard's 11 statutory missions, and that is a thrill like no other. We are soon aloft and checking in on our maritime radio on Channel-23A reporting our status and position and executing our planned mission.



Photo by Kimberle Sheehan

On this day we are to provide photo

reconnaissance of the recently collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge (FSK) south of Baltimore Harbor.

In 2024, our AUXAIR crews have been busy flying **Aerial Maritime Observation Missions (MOM Patrols)** and **Rotary Wing Air Intercepts (RWAI Missions)** over the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Bay Areas of Responsibility (AOR). It is an exciting time to be a Coast Guard Auxiliarist, and I will give you a glimpse into the action-packed world of the AUXAIR program in District 5- North and South.

For those who may be unfamiliar with the AUXAIR program, let me tell you—it's a wild ride. As an Observer-Trainee then **Aerial Observer, Aircrew member, Co-Pilot, First Pilot or Aircraft Commander**, you'll have the opportunity to fly on a variety of missions, from maritime observation to search and rescue of overdue or missing boaters, to ensuring the security of our nation's critical infrastructure (Liquid Natural Gas port facilities, nuclear and conventional power plants, bridges, etc.). As a bonus, you may get to play the role of **"notional bad guy" or "bogey"** during RWAI missions, where our aircraft simulate a plane that has entered restricted airspace, and the USCG's MH-65-E Dolphin helicopters from CG Air Station Atlantic City get to chase us down. It's a thrilling experience that requires skill, teamwork, precise brevity of communications, and a healthy dose of situational awareness.

Our **District 5 North and South MOM patrols** have been instrumental in supporting the USCG's missions. We have contributed to Aids to Navigation (ATON) verification, helped Sector Maryland and Sector Delaware Bay locate missing and overdue recreational watercraft/kayakers, and even assisted in oil spill response efforts as well as the FSK Bridge incident. Additionally, both Auxiliary surface facilities (boats) and AUXAIR facilities support summer kayak and swimmer regatta safety missions in the vicinity of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge—it is a thrill to fly over the bridge, watching the athletes compete while we keep a sharp eye out for any potential hazards

Continued on page 15—see AUXAIR

# Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 17 Issue 1

Winter 2025

National First Place Division Newsletter—2021 & 2022

5DSR Publication of the Year—2023

AUXAIR—continued from page 14

such as recreational vessels attempting to bust the safety cordon. It is a rewarding job with perishable skills that must continuously be refreshed, and all AUXAIR members and trainees are proud to be a part of it.

As an Auxiliarist, you will have the opportunity to fly on a variety of aircraft as you progress through your PQS training syllabus, from single-engine planes to helicopters. With our state-of-the-art equipment and expert training, you will be equipped to handle whatever mission comes your way. Whether you are a seasoned aviator or just starting out, the AUXAIR program has something to offer. So, if you are looking for a new challenge to enhance your **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)** and want to support the USCG's vital missions, consider joining our team.

Now, you are likely thinking—"Isn't flying with the USCG Auxiliary just for experienced pilots?" Not necessarily. While having a pilot's license is certainly helpful, it is not the only requirement. We need skilled observers, aircrew members, and command pilots all working together to execute our missions seamlessly and safely. With our comprehensive training syllabus, you will be able to learn the skills you need to succeed.

In summary, the USCG Auxiliary's Air Program is an exciting and rewarding way to support the USCG's 11 statutory missions. With our variety of missions, state-of-the-art equipment, and expert training, you will be equipped to handle whatever comes your way. So, why not join us in the skies above our maritime Area of Responsibility? Who knows, you might just find yourself flying as a notional bad guy or bogey during an RWAI mission. Just remember, it is all in good fun, and is a critical training segment to qualify USCG MH-65 pilots in support of MD-NCR/national security and the USCG's vital missions.

*Joe Sheehan,*  
D5SR USCGA Aircrew

## Auxiliary-Sea Scout Youth Development (AUXSCOUT) Program Enrollments

Due to low enrollment and human resource management considerations, the enrollment of Sea Scouts 14 through 16 years of age in the Coast Guard Auxiliary described in the Auxiliary-Sea Scout Youth Development (AUXSCOUT) Program Standard Operating Procedures (AUX-SOP-002(D)) is not authorized. There are no Sea Scouts who are currently utilizing this provision. AUXSCOUT program activities remain open to Auxiliary-enrolled Sea Scouts 17 years of age and older. All other provisions of Auxiliary and Sea Scout engagement remain unchanged.

Associated provisions of AUX-SOP-002(D) and the Memorandum of Agreement Among the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Scouting America, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary

Editor's Note: the above was received email through Auxiliary communications. It is from ALAUX 002/25

