



The Helm

Official Publication of Division 6
Miami-Dade County, Florida

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, 7th District

Vol. IV, No. 3, Fall 2010

Inside:

Local Auxilliary Serves Overseas
International Coastal Clean-Up 2010
Awards

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Division Leaders 2010


DCDR	Commander	Judith Hudson
VCDR	Vice Commander	Tom Walker
DC-L	Logistics	Bill Swank
DC-P	Prevention	Joel Aberbach
DC-R	Response	Jim Shea

Flotilla Commanders 2010

61	Homestead	George Zima
63	Coconut Grove	Luis Castro
65	Miami South	Armando Framil
67	Coral Gables	Gary Ellis
69	Opa Locka	Humberto Jahen
6-10	North Bay	Bob Bartley
6-11	Miami	Felipe Pazos

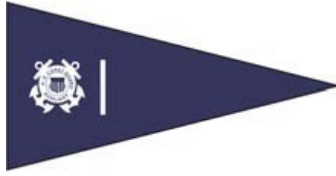
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 Division Website <http://a07006.uscgaux.info>

Cover Photograph: Ricardo Manzano of Flotilla 63 (Coconut Grove, Florida) on patrol aboard the *Relentless*, at sunset, on Biscayne Bay, Florida.  Photo by Luis Avila.

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From the Bridge

Hip! Hip! Hooray!

Sometimes on a daily basis, it is difficult to see progress, accomplishments, or improvements. Division 6, as always, has been creating, improving, and moving toward goals. So, I think in the third quarter of 2010, it is good to take a moment to look at what you have done so far this year.




Activity	2009	2010
New Members processed	55	79
New Boat Crew certified	10	24
New Coxswains	(not available)	11
New Instructors certified	9	11
New Vessel Examiners	12	4
New AUXOP course specialists	5	63
Marine Safety hours with number of missions	562 hours with 127 missions	1,038 hours with 174 missions
Member Training hours taught	832	1,167
Public Affairs hours contributed	1,537	1,825
Public Education sessions with hours of instruction	237 sessions with 628 hours	196 sessions with 686 hours
CG Operations support hours	2,742	1,486
Operation hours (safety, regatta, chart and MEP)	1,679	1,932
Surface Operations assists with lives saved	38 assists with 1 life saved	57 assists with 4 lives saved
Program Visitations	860	726
Vessel Safety checks	2,479	2,854

In addition to these statistics, we can congratulate ourselves for the following:

- Providing excellent support for both the Haiti Relief JIC (Joint Information Center) and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill,
- Teaching two abbreviated classes on “Suddenly in Command” at the Miami International Boat Show for the first time ever,
- Developing a new Division Orientation and Processing Program,
- Expanding our Public Education audiences to military personnel, boy scouts, disabled children, and more government agencies,


- Teaching more AUXOP classes in one year than ever before,
- Updating our Division Six Website,
- Executing more National Safe Boating Week activities with more members than ever before,
- Creating a Vessel Examination Showcase concept to partner with retail stores,
- Sending “We Care” packages to our CG teammates on the USCGC Baranof.

There are many more activities and projects you have accomplished that are not mentioned here, and for that I apologize. Our statistics are better than shown too, I am sure (submit your hours and missions to your FSO-IS). The point is you have contributed much, which has to give you a great deal of satisfaction. We all should be proud to be a part of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Division Six. I am very proud to be a member of your Team. Thank you for all you do. 

Judith Hudson, DCDR 6



Above: The USCGC *Eagle* at sea.


quarterdeck are made of three-inch thick teak over steel, as are the weather decks. *Eagle* eagerly takes to the element for which she was designed. Effortlessly and gracefully, she drives under full sail in the open ocean at speeds up to 17 knots.”  History available at <http://www.uscga.edu/display.aspx?id=360>. Image from USCG Image Library.

USCGC *Eagle* Visits Sector Miami

Port Everglades, Florida: The USCGC *Eagle* visited Sector Miami this past summer. The vessel is the only active duty square-rigger in the U.S., and it is fully crewed by USCG Academy Cadets. It arrived at Port Everglades on July 23rd and departed on July 26th, 2010. Visitors enjoyed speaking with the crew and learning about the history of the ship and its programs.

“USCGC *Eagle* is the seventh U.S. Coast Guard cutter to bear the name in a proud line dating back to 1792. The ship was built in 1936 by the Blohm and Voss Shipyard in Hamburg, Germany, and commissioned as *Horst Wessel*....Built during the twilight era of sail, the design and construction of *Eagle* embody centuries of development in the shipbuilder's art. The hull is steel four-tenths of an inch thick. There are two full-length steel decks with a platform deck below. The raised forecastle and


Radio: Spreading the Auxiliary Message

Miami, Florida: Radio is one of the most important means of communicating the message of the USCG Auxiliary. In June of 2010, members of Flotilla 63 participated in a radio interview on one of Miami's largest Spanish-language radio stations: La Poderosa 890 AM. George Navarini, Vice Flotilla Commander 63 (Coconut Grove), and Ernesto Sariol, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander 63, spoke about the many programs the USCG Auxiliary offers throughout Miami-Dade County.  Submitted by Raúl Fernández-Caliènes, Division 6 Staff Officer for Publications



Above (left to right): George Navarini, Vice Flotilla Commander 63 (Coconut Grove), and Ernesto Sariol, Immediate Past Flotilla Commander 63, speak with an interviewer on Spanish-language radio in June of 2010. Photo by Ray Lavin, Division 6 Staff Officer for Materials.

Division Website is Up and Running!

The new Division 6 Website is running! Please take some time to look and browse all around it. Any suggestions would be welcome as we continue working and updating it weekly. We want to have a site that is functional and useful, where both the public and members can easily find everything they need to know related to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. We need your support: Send us photos, program schedules, news, upcoming events, etc. We need you—that is what teamwork is all about. Enjoy your site at <http://www.a07006.uscgaux.info>  Submitted by Fabio Tomasello, Division 6 Staff Officer for Communications Services, so-cs@uscgauxmiami.org

Highlight: Local Auxiliarist Serves Overseas

South Florida Auxiliarist Augments Active Coast Guard, Serves Overseas

George Navarini, Flotilla 63
Branch Chief—International Affairs, Caribbean

Miami, Florida: When tasked to teach an advanced Incident Command System (ICS) course to elements of the Panamanian Government, the U.S. Coast Guard utilized all of the resources at its disposal, including a volunteer member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Auxiliarist George Navarini from Seventh District Flotilla 63 (Coconut Grove, Florida) was asked to team with Lieutenant Commander Hector Cintron, an Exercises Section Leader from Coast Guard Atlantic Area Command, go to Panama, and teach the ICS-300 course as part of the annual PANAMAX military exercises.

But what really set this class apart was the language—the course was completely taught ‘*en español*.’


“FEMA has nothing in Spanish for ICS-300” said Navarini, a homeland security consultant by profession. “I spoke to my contacts across the country, especially in states with large numbers of Hispanics, and nothing was found—not even a briefing paper, let alone a stand-alone ICS course,” he added.

So, Navarini and Cintron took on the challenge of translating the entire course, section by section. With only two weeks before arriving in Panama, they put in nearly 200 grueling hours working together and translated all eight chapters of the course PowerPoint presentation, as well as six team exercises and the final written exam.

The course itself was taught at the National Crisis Coordination Center (CNCC) Headquarters to key officers of the Panamanian Defense Force, National Police, Airport and Seaport Agencies, Panamanian Customs, and the Panama Canal Authority. The CNCC is an agency of the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Panama.

Navarini is a credentialed ICS Instructor and graduate of the National Emergency Training Center. Within the Coast Guard Auxiliary, he serves on the National Staff as Branch Chief—International Affairs, Caribbean, as well as Vice Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Affairs. While new to the Auxiliary, he brings a wealth of experience in emergency management, from shelter management during Hurricane David in 1979 to serving more recently at the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee, Florida, as agency representative and part of the Joint Information Center during major Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

In the aftermath of 9/11, he led a team that worked together with local law enforcement for nearly three weeks in securing several Miami-area airports, including Opa Locka Airport/USCG Air Station Miami, until elements of the Florida Army National Guard were able to fully take over this mission.

The Incident Command System is a standardized management tool used to meet the demands of small or large emergency or non-emergency situations. A key component of the National Incident Management System (or NIMS), ICS represents “best practices” and has become the standard for emergency management across the country. Federal, state, tribal, and local agencies use ICS for planned events, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism. 



Above: Coast Guard Auxiliarist and ICS Instructor George Navarini driving home a point during a discussion about ICS principles during the first day of an ICS-300 course. This course took place at the Republic of Panama, National Crisis Coordination Center, during the annual PANAMAX Exercises. Photo by Ing. Enelys Valencia, C.N.C.C.

So You Think it's Easy to Translate?

**George Navarini, Flotilla 63
Branch Chief—International Affairs, Caribbean**

Miami, Florida: As Americans, we are fortunate to be native speakers of the international business and transportation language, but not everyone speaks English. So, as an organization dedicated to humanitarian service, the ability to share our knowledge of boating safety and seamanship, as well as maritime domain awareness and emergency management, it is imperative for the Coast Guard Auxiliary to have a diverse and vibrant Interpreter Corps.

This past summer, I had the pleasure of working with LCDR Hector Cintron of LANTAREA (Coast Guard Atlantic Area Command) to bring Incident Command System training to Republic of Panama.

The project came together in a few short weeks, not giving us enough time to translate all our material into Spanish, so we started with the PowerPoint presentation. With over 400 slides, this proved to be a massive undertaking, so even with 10-hour days running way into the nights, we were not able to translate the 270 page *Student Manual* before leaving for Panama.




Above: USCG Auxiliary Interpreter Corps logo

Starting with the FEMA ICS-300 course material in English, we had little else to use as a resource, other than the Spanish language version of the Coast Guard *Incident Management Handbook*.^{*} This handy little orange book quickly became our continuity guide for several tricky terms and titles.


As rich as the Spanish language is, we did run into some interesting translation issues. For example, in Spanish, the word for “safety” and “security” is the same: *seguridad*. However, within the context of the Incident Command System, they carry a very different meaning. A “Safety” Officer is an important member of the Command staff, but he or she is not in charge of security at an event or incident. So, “safety” became *protección física* (literally “physical protection”) to differentiate from *seguridad* as “security.” It was interesting getting the students to both understand the concept and use the phrase.

Before leaving, we promised our class we would deliver to them an ICS-300 (well, now SMI-300) *Student Manual* translated into *español*. Since returning home, we have been working on this project, and we should be able to send our students a properly translated manual before Thanksgiving.

When completed, we believe it will be the only Spanish translation of any ICS course in the nation. 

The US Coast Guard *Incident Management Handbook* (or IMH) is printed in French, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish and Arabic, as well as in English. Want a copy? You can download one by going to <http://homeport.uscg.mil>, clicking on “Library” on the top left, then clicking “Incident Command Center ICS” on the left.

Orientation & Processing Event

Miami Beach, Florida: Division 6 held an “Orientation & Processing Event” at Sector Miami, on Saturday, October 2, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Auxiliarists from the various flotillas spoke on behalf of their flotillas. There was a tour of the facility, followed by processing of new members. We processed 13 new prospects with 15 in attendance. Several Auxiliarists spoke about the air, watchstander, and boating safety programs as well as their roles as coxswains, vessel examiners, public education instructors, and more. Volunteers also helped grade exams and check passports and other documents, take fingerprints, and take digital photos of new members. This was another very successful Division Recruiting Event thanks to the efforts of the following Auxiliary members.  *Submitted by Manuel Estrela, Division 6 Staff Officer for Human Resources, and Judith Hudson, DCDR 6*

Judith Hudson, DCDR 6
 Thomas Walker, VCDR 6
 Robert Alameda, FSO-HR 69
 Bob Bartley, FC 6-10
 John Ciampa, SO-SR
 Julian Corrales, FSO-VE 67
 Manuel Estrela, SO-HR
 John Fisher, FSO-HR 6-11

Richard High, FSO-HR 67
 Gene Kahn, IPFC 6-10
 Adam Perez, FSO-NS 69
 Fred Ross, Fingerprint Technician 69
 Mark Roth, FSO-PA 6-10
 Jim Shea, SO-OP
 George Zima, FC 61

Coast Guard Appreciation Day

Judith Hudson
Division Commander 6

Miami, Florida: At the invitation of the Coast Guard Liaison office at U.S. Southern Command Headquarters, Division Six Coast Guard Auxiliary joined the celebrations on August 4th, 2010, for “Coast Guard Appreciation Day,” highlighting the Coast Guard’s birthday, acknowledging all members of the Coast Guard Team, and providing capability demonstrations. Tom Walker, Vice Division 6 Commander, recruited and coordinated the Division 6 presence, obtaining facilities, arranging for a booth, and providing security information for our presence. Adding to the Auxiliary attendance was the Division Five Communications Trailer and Facility, where Wilson Riggan, Division 5 Commander and past Flotilla Commander of Flotilla 67, headed the Division 5 contingent and provided tours of the Communications AUXFAC.

Attending the formal ceremony and cake cutting were Bill Tejeiro, Sector Miami Auxiliary Sector Coordinator; Chris Todd, DVC-AP and IPFC 6-11; Judith Hudson, DCDR 6; Julian Corrales, FSO-VE 67, Richard High, FSO-HR 67, and Roly Gutierrez FL 67. Rear Admiral Ratti and Captain Christian gave the Auxiliary significant recognition at the ceremony. Nicole Betterson, FSO-PB 6-11, designed and formatted an outstanding one-page flyer for Capt. Christian to use in advertising Auxiliary missions for the event. Chris Todd photographed the celebratory proceedings, and Flotilla 67 members provided a booth of information about the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, environmental protection, homeland security, and safe boating—briefing visitors about our Public Education, Vessel Safety Check, and America’s Waterway Watch programs.

It was a fun day and a great opportunity to showcase our purposes and missions. From everyone present, we perceived that the Auxiliary made an excellent impression not only by our knowledge and uniformed presence but also with the fact that we volunteer thousands of hours a year in a long list of activities and projects. 🇺🇸



Division 6 and the Auxiliary's Deepwater Horizon Response

Eight Division 6 Auxiliarists responded to a call for volunteers in mid-July to staff the Florida Peninsula Command (FPC) Post in downtown Miami in support of the Coast Guard’s Public Affairs Department. The FPC was being inundated with inquiries regarding potential oiling of Florida beaches as a result of the Deepwater Horizon deadly explosion and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico when the request came for support from Auxiliarists for public affairs and administrative help. As the well was capped shortly after the call, three Auxiliarists actually provided on-site assistance at the Joint Information Center. 🇺🇸 *Submitted by Judith Hudson, DCDR 6*

Highlight: International Coastal Cleanup 2010


Division 6 Members join 25th Anniversary Environmental Effort

Joel Aberbach

Division 6 Staff Officer for Marine Safety

Miami Beach, Florida: Members of Division 6 joined the 25th International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), which took place on Saturday, September 25th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This was the sixth ICC for TEAM Coast Guard at our traditional South Beach site. This year, however, was the first time the Coast Guard coordinated two sites. Jeff Cohen, of Flotilla 6-10, volunteered to coordinate our second site, making all arrangements with Sunny Isles, for a successful event.

Our hope was to ensure TEAM Coast Guard participation to fill our slots—and we succeeded, with most of the 250 persons consisting of families and friends representing TEAM Coast Guard. Registration began on the corner of 6th Street and Ocean Drive, by 8:45 a.m., and the cleanup began at 9:00 a.m. Each site took care of parking, gloves, water, trash pick up, and other necessities. At the end of the day, participants took part in an “Appreciation Party” at the Miami Seaquarium with complimentary food and entertainment.

We thank you all for a great job, well done. Hopefully, next year will be even bigger and better. If you need more information on the 25th annual Cleanup, contact the Staff Officer for Marine Safety or see the resources below.  Photos by Joel Aberbach, SO-MS 6.



Above: Fabio Tomasello, Division 6 Staff Officer for Communications Services, gets an early start on the day's activities.



Right: Tom James (left), Past Division 6 Commander and current Division 6 Staff Officer for Public Education, and Captain James Maes (right), retired USCG Sector Miami Commander, doing their part to clean up South Beach.



Above left: Glenn Moffett, from Flotilla 67 (Coral Gables, Florida) and a retired U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Petty Officer First Class, provided the shuttle service from the city parking lot to the Auxiliary's cleanup site at South Beach.

Above right: Lt. Joseph Abeyta, Commanding Officer of USCG Station Miami Beach, joined the cleanup at the South Beach site.



Above left: Cheryl Brown, from Flotilla 67, helped volunteers to fill out forms during the event.

Above right (left to right): Glenn Moffett, from Flotilla 67, caught Bill Tejeiro, Auxiliary Sector Coordinator-Sector Miami, for a tattoo during the International Coastal Cleanup in 2009.

International Coastal Cleanup Resources

Report *Trash Travels: From Our Hands to the Sea, Around the Globe, and Through Time*, Washington, D.C.: Ocean Conservancy, 2010.

Websites <http://www.oceanconservancy.org>
<http://www.miamidadecoastalcleanup.org>

Highlight: Awards

Division 6 Members Share in Coast Guard Unit Commendation

Bill Swank

Division 6 Staff Officer for Public Affairs

Miami, Florida: The Commandant of the Coast Guard has awarded the Seventh Coast Guard District staff a Unit Commendation for “...exceptionally meritorious service...” for actions including the initial life-saving response to earthquake-ravaged Haiti in January. Among the recipients of the honor are 13 Auxiliary members from Division 6.

A citation, signed by Vice Admiral R. J. Papp, Jr., Atlantic Area Commander, states in part: “Seventh District staff members immediately responded upon receiving reports of a devastating earthquake near Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, on the evening of 12 January 2010. These initial actions placed the U.S. Coast Guard firmly as the U.S. Government’s first responder, leading a highly effective response and logistics effort...The professionalism, pride and devotion to duty displayed by Seventh Coast Guard District Staff are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.”

As outlined in the citation, the Haiti response effort was credited with medical evacuation of 240 seriously injured patients to advanced medical facilities; field-level medical care to thousands of ill and injured Haitians; humanitarian evacuation of 1,164 stranded United States citizens; delivery of 714 emergency responders, including Urban Search and Rescue Teams; delivery of over 1.1 million pounds of emergency supplies and equipment, and assessment, traffic control and initial recovery of port facilities.

On the morning of January 14, Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington informed the Coast Guard Auxiliary National Public Affairs Department of the need for auxiliary support to help staff a Joint Information Center (JIC) based at the United States Coast Guard Seventh District offices in Miami.

The following Division 6 members provided public affairs and administrative support in the JIC operation in response to Operation Unified Response—the name given to the U.S. mission to evacuate Americans from, and provide relief to, Haiti—and are entitled to wear the Coast Guard Unit Commendation ribbon (pictured below):



Joel Aberbach, SO-MS & DC-P
John Ciampa, SO-SR & Parliamentarian
Theresa Gonzalez, FSO-PA-ES 6-11
Judith Hudson, DCDR
George Navarini, VFC 63
Matthew Paulini, SO-IS
Felipe Pazos, FC 6-11

Silvio Rodriguez
James Simpson, SO-RSBPV
Bill Swank, SO-PA & DC-L
Christopher Todd, ADP-PA-SP
Nathalie Vilaire, FSO-MT 6-11
Monica Zima, SO-MT

Local Auxiliary support of the Miami JIC continued through January 22, at which time enough active duty Public Affairs Officers had arrived from other areas of the country to enable a termination of local Auxiliary support.

Members eligible for the award received it at the Division 6 meeting in August. Flotilla members not present at the Division meeting will receive it a future flotilla meeting.

Several Auxiliarists from other divisions and districts also were honored for their participation in the JIC support effort. 🇺🇸



D7 Commodore Elected to National Position at NACON 2010

Scottsdale, Arizona: Commodore Donald L. Frasch, currently District Commodore of District Seven, has been elected Deputy National Commodore Operations and Atlantic Area East. 🇺🇸
 Source: E-mail communication, Thomas Nunes, Deputy Director – Public Affairs, USCG Auxiliary, August 27, 2010

Right: Commodore Donald L. Frasch



Left: National Staff Identification Badge. Image: *Auxiliary Manual*, 2004, p. 10-29.

District 7 Conference Election Results

The Fall District 7 Conference of the USCG Auxiliary gathered at The Florida Hotel Orlando on September 22-26, 2010. On the agenda was the election of new officers for 2011, and the results were as follows. 🇺🇸

District Commodore	DCO	Walter Jaskiewicz
District Chief of Staff	DCOS	John Tyson
District Captain East	DCAPT-E	Patrick Feighery
District Captain North	DCAPT-N	Robert Weskerna
District Captain West	DCAPT-W	Melvin Manning


Member Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following Auxiliary members for reaching anniversaries in October! 🇺🇸

Aderson De Almeida	Flotilla 63	5 years
Glenn Moffett	Flotilla 67	5 years
Joie Walker	Flotilla 67	30 years
Daniel Muelhaupt	Flotilla 69	10 years

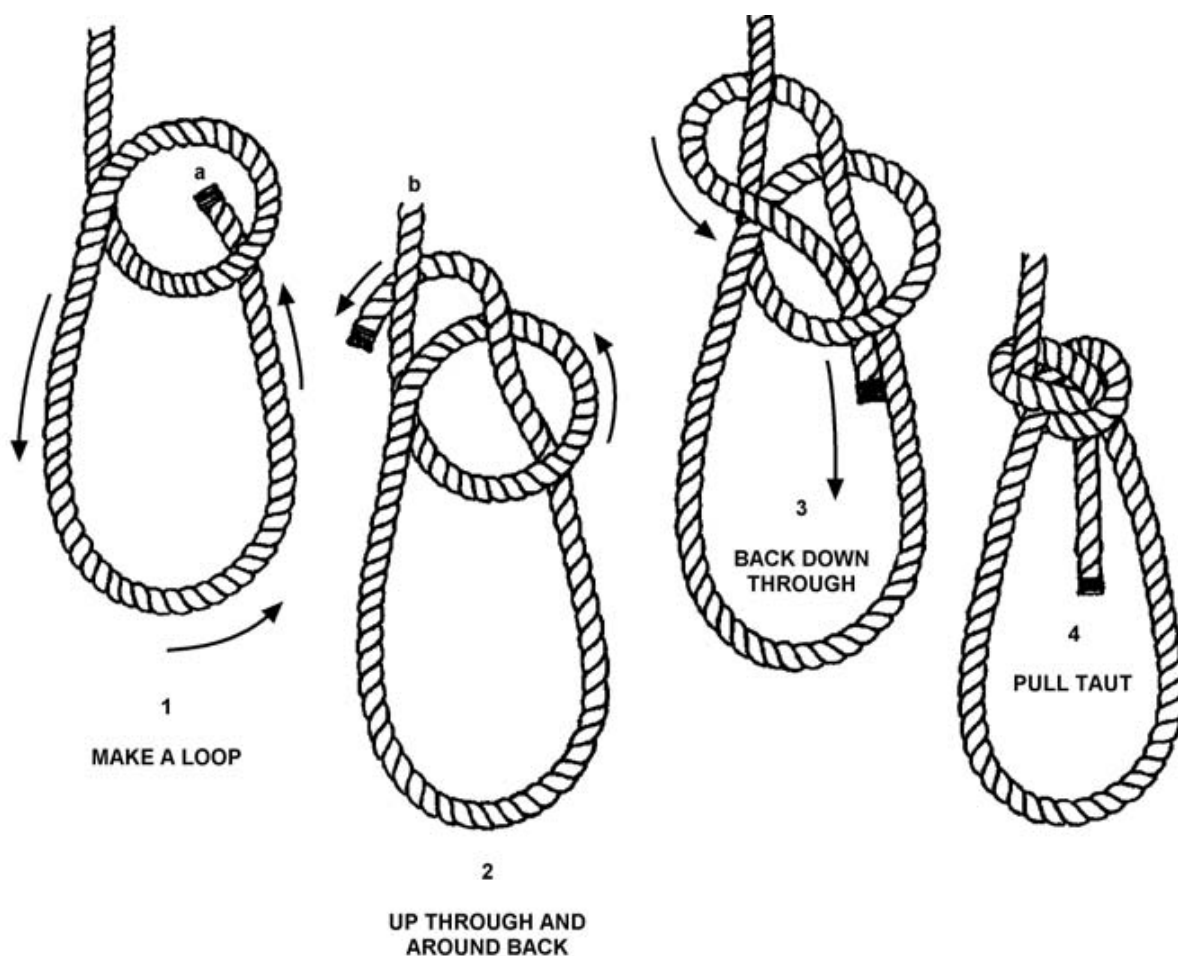
Know Your Knots: The Bowline

Knots are an important part of an Auxiliarist's knowledge bank, especially if he or she is part of a boat crew. In this issue, we feature the "bowline" knot, one of the most useful of all.

"The bowline is a versatile knot and can be used anytime a temporary eye is needed in the end of a line. It also works for tying two lines securely together, though there are better knots for this. An advantage of bowlines is that they do not slip or jam easily."  Source: *Boat Crew Seamanship Manual*, COMDTINST M16114.5C, 2003, p. 7-29.

Step Procedure

- 1 Make an overhand loop in the line the size of the eye desired.
- 2 Pass the bitter end up through the overhand loop.
- 3 Bring the bitter end around the standing part and back down through the overhand loop.
- 4 Pull the knot tight by holding the bitter end and the loop with one hand, and pulling on the standing part with the other.




Know your Knots (continued)

Below: Auxiliary Facility *Red One* under tow near Stiltsville, in Biscayne Bay, Florida, during a training mission in September of 2010. Photo by Raúl Fernández-Calienes, SO-PB 6.



Writing a History of Division 6


Division Six has defined a project to produce an historical booklet reflecting the history of Division Six to be published one year from now. A small committee has been working and slowly gathering some materials, but we need you, the experts, to join our Committee. We need your active participation and support for this challenging work to be a success. The purpose of the booklet is not only to document our history so everyone can see our accomplishments, our stars, and our evolution as a division but also to promote pride, provide recognition, and add to our team morale. Vickie Aponte, Division 6 Historian, is the Chairperson of this project; other members include Joel Aberbach, Bill Swank, and Judith Hudson. In the works now are meetings that will present more details about the project, seek and incorporate some of your ideas, establish a timeline and determine assignments for accomplishing this very worthwhile project. Flotilla Staff Officers for Public Affairs and for Publications will be the backbone and crucial leaders in the flotillas toward collecting information and photographs, writing text, and obtaining other contributions. We look forward to seeing your contributions and to working with you on this booklet.  Submitted by Judith Hudson, DCDR 6

In Memoriam



Above: Sunset on Biscayne Bay, Florida. Photo by Luis Avila of Flotilla 63 (Coconut Grove, Florida).

Remembering Sidney ('Sid') Dickson

Homestead, Florida: U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 6 recalls with gratitude the dedicated service of Sid Dickson, Flotilla Staff Officer for Marine Safety of Flotilla 61 (Homestead, Florida), who passed early Friday morning, September 3, 2010. Many people paid their respects at the homes of Sid's family members in Homestead. They also organized formal services on Sunday, September 5, at Mount Nebo Riverside Garden and burial at Mount Sinai Memorial, both in Miami.  Source: George Zima, Flotilla Commander, Flotilla 61 (Homestead, Florida).



Above: Sid Dickson being sworn in as a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.
Photo by Enrique González, Flotilla Staff Officer for Publications, Flotilla 61.

Remembering Don Blechman

Don Blechman was a very unusual guy. He became interested in joining the Auxiliary about ten years ago. Don owned a boat ever since I knew him, close to 50 years ago, so I was pretty sure he would immediately want to qualify as Crew and eventually Coxswain. His reply was, “I don’t want to go on any more boats. I want to be a Hawkeye Watchstander—nothing more and nothing less.”

The next scene is a qualified Don Blechman, arriving at Group Miami (later Sector Miami) every Thursday at 5:00 a.m. and standing the watch until almost 2:00 p.m. The only days he misses, every three or four months, was when he needed treatments for his cancer, the last four years of his life. He wasn’t only dedicated to the job—he was also astute. About two years ago, he observed a freighter in the Port Everglades anchorage, moving dangerously close to the reefs. He did what he was trained to do, reporting it to his supervisor.

A little about Don’s life. As was with most of his generation, he served honorably in the U.S. Army, pulling a tour in Japan, working intelligence. Once completing his obligation, he and wife Terry went into the landscaping-lighting business, making it a big success. Don retired from the business world and continued to find creative opportunities. With more free time on his hands, he and Terry volunteered two days a week, working with Fairchild Tropical Gardens, in Miami.

In addition to loving his beautiful wife and family, he was passionate about fly-fishing, growing flowers, boats of all types and sizes, glass blowing, traveling, and photography. It’s one thing to be talented and dedicated, but when you add to that being a very decent and nice person, you have a real winner. That’s exactly what Don was. He passed away after a wonderful 79 years of devotion, caring, and giving. 🌊 *Text and photos by Joel Aberbach, SO-MS 6. Editor’s note: Don Blechman was a member of Flotilla 6-10 (North Bay, Florida).*



Above left: In 2006, USCG Captain James Maes (left) presented Auxiliarist Don Blechman (right) with an award for his service to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Above right: Don Blechman delivering a small boat he donated to USCG Station Miami Beach.

Staff Officers 2010

Abbreviation	Responsibility	Name
DCDR	Division Commander	Judith Hudson
VCDR	Division Vice Commander	Tom Walker
DC-L	Chief-Logistics	Bill Swank
DC-P	Chief-Prevention	Joel Aberbach
DC-R	Chief-Response	Jim Shea
SO-CM	Communications	Alvaro Bernal
SO-CS	Communications Services	Fabio Tomasello
SO-FN	Finance	Elaine Davis
SO-HR	Human Resources	Manny Estrela
SO-IS	Information Services	Matthew Paulini
SO-MA	Materials	Ray Lavin
SO-MT	Member Training	Monica Zima
SO-MS	Marine Safety	Joel Aberbach
SO-NS	Navigation Services	Frank Lane
SO-OP	Operations	Jim Shea
SO-PA	Public Affairs	Bill Swank
SO-PB	Publications	Raúl Fernández-Calienes
SO-PE	Public Education	Tom James
SO-PV	Program Visitor	James Simpson
SO-SR and Parl.	Secretary/Records and Parliamentarian	John Ciampa
SO-VE Historian	Vessel Examination Historian	Erik Kozak Victoria Aponte
INSP'L LDR	Inspirational Leader	Mary Newman
Med. Coord.	Medical Coordinator	William Tejeiro
IPDCDR	Immediate Past DCDR	Eduardo Burbank

Division and Flotilla Meetings 2010

Unit	Date & Time	Location
Division 6 Miami-Dade	4 th Thursday 7:30 p.m.	USCG Base Miami Beach, Mess Deck 100 MacArthur Causeway Island Miami Beach, FL. 33139
Flotilla 61 Homestead	1 st Thursday 7:00 p.m.	USCG MSST Miami 29050 Coral Sea Boulevard Bldg 718, Homestead AFB Homestead, FL. 33139
Flotilla 63 Coconut Grove	1 st Monday 8:00 p.m.	Coconut Grove Sailing Club 2990 South Bayshore Drive Miami, FL. 33133
Flotilla 65 South Miami	1 st Tuesday 8:00 p.m.	South Miami Elks Club 6304 S.W. 78th Street (by Taco Bell) 1 block from Highway 1 & 61 st Street
Flotilla 67 Coral Gables	1 st Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Dinner & Meeting	Havana Miami Restaurant 8800 S.W. 56th Street Miami, FL. 33165
Flotilla 69 Opa Locka	1 st Monday 7:30 p.m.	Air Station Miami N.W. 149 th State Road Opa Locka, FL. 33054
Flotilla 6-10 North Bay	2 nd Monday 7:30 p.m.	Sunny Isles Community Center 18115 North Bay Road Sunny Isles, FL. 33160
Flotilla 6-11 Miami	1 st Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	USCG Base Miami Beach, Mess Deck 100 MacArthur Causeway Island Miami Beach, FL. 33139

Calendar

October 8-10 (Friday-Sunday)—Columbus Day Regatta Weekend.

October 15 (Friday)—First draft of Flotilla histories for “Division 6 Historical Booklet” is due; contact Vickie Aponte, Division 6 Historian, at the District Office in Miami.

October 16 (Saturday)—3rd Annual Guardians’ Gala, Jungle Island, Miami, 6 p.m. to midnight; for more information, go to South Florida Coast Guard Association, www.thesfcga.com

October 28 (Thursday)—Division 6 meeting, USCG Base Miami Beach, Mess Deck, 7:30 p.m.

November—Flotilla elections are held.

November 6-7 (Saturday-Sunday)—Homestead Air Show.

Today – Remember to send articles, news, event notes, and pictures of Division and Flotilla activities for future issues of this publication!



The USCGC *Eagle*, the only active duty square-rigger in the U.S. Photo by the USCG Academy.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

SO-PB 6 D7

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Official Business