



THE INTERCOM

Blackthorn Memorial: Honoring Those Lost at Sea

By Dorothy Joan Riley, SO-OP, DSO-OP



Above: Members of the Honor Coast Guard Color Guard, Station St. Petersburg, flank the memorial during the service with their heads respectfully bowed while the Invocation was delivered by LCDR Raymond Summerlin, ChC USNR, Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg.

Right: Members of the USCG Pipe Band delivered a touching rendition of "Amazing Grace". The members shown are James Mulligan, side drummer from Flotilla 74, and Steve Rogers, Pipe Corporal, from Flotilla 36.

Photos by Dottie Riley, SO-PB

This year, the US Coast Guard held its 28th Annual Service of Remembrance for the twenty-three Coast Guard service members who lost their lives on January 28, 1980.

"From 15 October 1979 through late January 1980 Blackthorn was overhauled in Tampa, Florida. Having just completed her overhaul, Blackthorn was outward bound from Tampa Bay on the night of 28 January 1980. Meanwhile the tanker Capricorn was standing into the bay. The captain, LCDR George Sepel was on the bridge, but ENS



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John Ryan had the conn. Having been overtaken by the Russian passenger ship Kazakhstan, Blackthorn continued almost in mid-channel. The brightly lit passenger vessel obscured the ability of the crews of Blackthorn and Capricorn to see each other. Capricorn began to turn left, but this would not allow the ships to pass port-to-port. Unable to make radio contact with the tender,

Division Elected Officers

	Position	Name
Div 7	DCP	Conrad Palermo
Div 7	VCP	Peter Lore
Div 7	IPDCP	Richard Erett
FL-72	FC	Marvin Bayles
	VFC	Linda Barnard
FL-73	FC	Larry Gellinger
	VFC	Brenda Burger
FL-74	FC	Ronald G. Matz
	VFC	Eleazar Escorihuela
FL-75	FC	Catherine M. Lori
	VFC	Debbie Minnick
FL-78	FC	Valerie Fernandes
	VFC	Edgar O'Krent
FL-79	FC	J. Michael Shea
	VFC	Kevin Williams
FL-7-16	FC	Kevin Yeaton
	VFC	Linda Harwitt

*Division Staff Officers*

Position	Name
SO-AN	Peter Ubillos
SO-CM	Terence E. Affeld
SO-CS	Terry Modica
SO-FN	Wally Lowry
SO-IS	Alma Parrish
SO-MA	Louis Miosi
SO-MS	John Michael Shea
SO-MT	Eleazar Escorihuela
SO-OP	Clifford J. Martin
SO-PA	Catherine M. Lori
SO-PB	Dorothy J. Riley
SO-PE	Glenn Dobos
SO-PS	Gilbert Thomas
SO-SR	Brenda Burger
SO-VE	Joseph Gonzalez
CH-FEL	Linda Barnard
ASO-CS	Joseph H. Parrish
ASO-IS	Joseph Parrish
ASO-OP	Robert Stribling
ASO-PA	Ronald Matz
ASO-PB	Guy Mandigo
CH-FEL	Donton Raleigh

Submission Guidelines:

The Intercom is always looking for articles about Auxiliarists, stories of interest, and photographs. Your articles need not be long; just make sure you include all of the basics: **Who** are you writing about? **What** is the topic or event? **Where** does the story take place (location)? **When** did, or **when will** this event take place, and finally, **Why** is this of interest, or **How** was this accomplished? Provide as much information as possible, and always include your email address or phone number. When typing, please **do not** use all caps.

Photographs should always be high resolution images. Use a digital camera that shoots images at 3 megapixels or better. Do not reduce the image or crop the photo unless you are an experienced user of one of the high-end photo-editing programs, i.e., *Photoshop CS®*. The final print resolution should be 300 dpi. If this sounds confusing, just send the image straight from your camera, and add a description that includes who and what is depicted in the photograph, and the name of the person who shot the image.

Take a camera with you everywhere! Vessel examinations, member training, patrols, Public Education programs and fellowship events are all great photo opportunities. Be proud of everything that you do, and brag a little bit about each other! It is a wonderful way to express appreciation for a member's efforts.

Dottie Riley, Editor



The Intercom is a publication of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, District Seven, Division Seven. The cost of publication is provided by dues-paying members of the Auxiliary, an organization of unpaid, civilian volunteers whose mission is to assist the U.S. Coast Guard in promoting boating safety. Articles may be reprinted only with the express consent of the author or photographer, with proper credit given to same. For permissions or for more information, please contact Dorothy Joan Riley, SO-PB, (813) 684-9996, Email address: dottieriley1@verizon.net



Words from the Helm....

Division Captain, Conrad Palermo

We start this year with an ambitious program to support the Flotillas and its members. We count on our extraordinary and aggressive Division staff, willing to help out in any way. At the same time, we are hoping that all of you are, or want to be, participating in some area of the Auxiliary. There are plenty of opportunities to help out. We are in need of your support in order to carry out our missions. I'm sure anything you can do to help out and alleviate the load of members that put a lot of time into their specialties would be greatly appreciated. You will also be greatly rewarded for your time.

This reminds me of a great writer, Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said, "The reward of a thing well done is to have done it." Please take pride in being a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and in supporting the US Coast Guard and its purposes. Also, at least take the time to go to your Flotilla meeting once a month. This meeting is the best way to obtain fellowship, information, support and get answers to questions. It is the heart beat of your Flotilla, and where most everything happens. If you are not doing something, well... give me a call at 813-404-1141 and we can talk about it.



Division Vice Captain, Peter Lore



Peter Lore, VCP

The division is again making great strides this year as it did last year, thanks to the efforts of our Staff Officers. Already there have been, or are scheduled, Division workshops or training for Member Training, Personnel Services, Public Affairs, Aids to Navigation and Information Systems to name just a few. This brings me to the heart and soul of what we do in support of the Coast Guard: Operations.

Once again the boat crew training for the flotillas is being spearheaded by Cliff Martin SO-OP. This is a huge task. There are almost two dozen boat crew candidates from the flotillas. It requires both skilled mentors and operational facilities. Last year all of the training took place on the Hillsborough County side of Tampa Bay. We realized some of this work had to be spread out. This year Flotilla

73, which has a building, floating docks and protected waters, offered its facilities to assist with the training for members on the Pinellas County side. This is helping out, but more help is needed if we are to be successful. We have so much talent in this division- become a Mentor.

"The reward of a thing well done is to have done it."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Flotilla News...

Flotilla 72



Marvin Bayles, FC

Enrollments for the BS&S class for the months of January and February were 25, and we had nine graduates. We started the day program lasting ten weeks for the Fish & Wildlife and USF and have approx 25 taking the course.

The Member Training Officer reported that the AUXSAR class was canceled as the building was recently in use by the USCG on Wednesday evenings. AUXNAV course in conjunction with FL 73 starts on April 9th on Wednesday nights. The AUXSAR will be given in the fall.

A VE blitz occurred on February 18. Nine boats were examined.

A brief Power Point is being prepared to show the How's and Why's and timely completion of reports, the 7029 form in particular.

Two of our boats were involved in Gasparilla and one Security Patrol was carried out this past month. Coming and going on the patrol, 30 ATONS were checked.

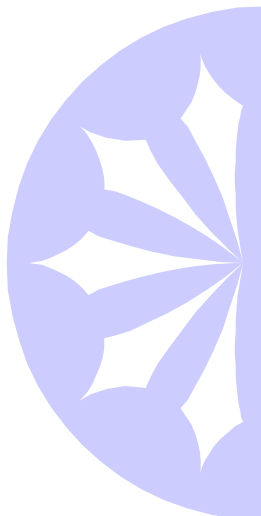
We have eight members attending the crew class, two members learning how to check patrol reports, and three members learning radio watch standing at Sector.☼



Left: Ken Bell, FSO-PE welcomes the group and introduces Instructor Carl Nelson.

Below: Flotilla 72 starts the new year with 25 students in the BS&S class.

Photos by Jim Fogle, FSO-PA





Flotilla News...

Flotilla 73

The Flotilla is starting the year out great with the swearing in of two new members, Daniel Clous and Charles Koss. Welcome Aboard! These new members are joining the ranks of some of the Auxiliary's finest and most dedicated members, as attested to by the many Awards presented at our last meeting. These include, but are not limited to, the Flotilla Member of the Year Award presented to Dennis McNeill, the Presidential Unit Citation to Susan Fearnley and Charles Lambreth, and the Auxiliary Member Service Awards to Bob Wild for eight years, Peter Lore for seven years, and James Broughton and Charles Lambreth, both for five years of service. The list of certifications awarded is quite lengthy as well. Our members have been working hard to improve their skills and their abilities to serve the Auxiliary.

Peter Ubillos, FSO-AN, plans to present the GPS for Mariners program in May at the Flotilla. This is in addition to the America's Boating Course, an on-going effort scheduled by Peter Lore, our FSO-PE.

The Flotilla's web site has been updated and improved. Peter Ubillos, FSO-CS, has posted links to free utilities for members who may not have Microsoft Office® programs on their computers and may not be able to open many of the documents posted on the web page. They include links to viewers for Word 2007, Excel 2007, and PowerPoint 2007. Additionally, the 2008 schedule for boating safety classes can be found on the web page as well.

On February 23 the Division meeting was held at Flotilla 73. This provided us with the long-overdue opportunity to thank Larry Knowles for the work and materials he contributed to rebuild our docks. Peter Lore, VFC, Cliff Martin, SO-OP, Larry Gellinger, FC, and Bob Wild, IPFC posed with Larry Knowles in front of his handiwork. Larry is the son-in-law of Peter Lore. (Photo below.) ☼



Larry Gellinger, FC



Flotilla News...

Flotilla 74



Ronald G. Matz, FC

Here we are at the beginning of another year. With all the changes that have taken place with the resignation of Larry Neu and with a new bridge voted in at the last Flotilla meeting, we are trying to recover and get back up to speed on short notice.

This year started out great with a very active Member Training Program:

- Six members are in Crew Training
- Four past members whose crew qualifications lapsed are going to re-qualify.
- Two members are in training for coxswain.

We received two new members since the start of the new year with three more applications sent for processing.

Our ABC Program is going strong. The program sessions are planned monthly, with Lakeland and Winter Haven to be included as areas to hold sessions. We plan on starting the BS&S program for the public around the end of April or the first of May.

As for Fellowship, February we held an outing to Beer Can Island. Our April meeting has been chosen to be a Dinner meeting and family gathering. ☀

Jerry Routt, coxswain, aboard the *Insanity* with Fred Kramer and Joe Gonzales, both members of FL 75, on January 19th for the Gasparilla Children's Parade in Tampa. The weather turned foul quickly, and first the scheduled fly-over was cancelled, then the parade itself dispersed as rain and winds of up to sixty miles per hour assailed the floats and the parade goers. Photo by D. Riley





Flotilla News...

Flotilla 75

Flotilla 75 is concentrating on in-house fellowship this year. Our chairperson is dedicated and enthusiastic and plans a vigorous and exciting year of events.

Team work is essential to the progress and growth of our flotilla. With this in mind, our activities may increase support of other activities in other flotillas, as well as those sponsored by Division.

The Instructor workshop that can be presented at flotilla level will be given before the March meeting beginning at 18:45. The presentation takes only half an hour and will leave time for discussion before the flotilla meeting begins at 19:30. It will be given by our past PE officer, Guy Mandigo.☀



Kay Lori, FC

Dottie Engel holds up one of the prizes awarded during Flotilla 75's February fellowship event. Phil Butti and Rosie Butti are to her right. Across from her are Ted Cohen and Dee Klepper, Carmen Matthews and Carl Matthews.

Photo by D. Riley



From the right, the pot luck dinner guests are Kay Lori, Grace and Walter Wagner, Joe Lori, Guy and Anne Mandigo. Rosie Butti, who planned the event had arranged a contest for best dish presented, but the food was all so good that she chose to name everyone a winner. Everyone went home with a cook book, the award for the best dish prepared. She called that one right... the food was superb!

Photo by D. Riley

Flotilla News...

Flotilla 78



Valerie Fernandes, FC

We want to thank the coxswains of Flotilla 7-16, Ed Eggert and Bruce Cardall, who have assisted us with safety and security patrols. We could not get out on the water without them. And last but not least, many thanks to Bob Wild from Flotilla 73 who has fingerprinted all our new applicants. ☀

Our flotilla has gained two new members this year, and we have a prospective applicant who hopefully will make it three! The member that we recruited in January already has her member number, and another member that we acquired as a result of an e-responder has completed the application and testing process.

Sadly, we had to turn down an enthusiastic e-responder because she didn't meet the requirements of the Auxiliary. She is only eight years old, but her Dad decided to join our ranks after attending a flotilla meeting with his daughter. His application is complete and has been turned into Cliff Martin. *(Find out more about eight-year old Grace Marchant in the story on page 24.)*

Our Public Education efforts continue through the hard work of Jim Troiano, Warren Pfirmman, and Phil Creter, who are the core instructors in our ongoing BS&S program. They receive additional assistance from instructors Bob Schuler, Zelda Troiano, Ed O'Krent, and Ron Bradach. We have been averaging between eight and twelve students per week.



Above: Warren Pfirmman & Bruce Cardall on security Patrol in February, 2008.



Left: Valerie Fernandes on patrol at Gasparilla.

Photos provided by Valerie Fernandes.





Flotilla 79

Flotilla 79 was approved for one new radio located in North Tampa, adjacent to USF. The antenna is about 40 feet above sea level. The facility is licensed to Flotilla 79 and owned by Robert Stribling. The radio call sign is Tampa Radio 2. It is in the testing phase at this time and will be utilized after testing is complete.

The Flotilla conducted 35 patrols in January, and Brad Ware, FSO-PA coordinated a Safety Fair at Davis Island Yacht Club on Saturday, February 23rd. Other Flotillas were asked to assist as many of our members were either attending the Division meeting or participating in crew training.

Steve Plass, our FSO-PE advised that attendance at the Boating Safety and Seamanship (BS&S) program is strong. We have approximately twenty people in our BS&S program with two to three new participants starting each week to replace those graduating.

A recent newsletter from National reported that the Weekend Navigator course might be available very soon. It will be suitable only for the general public, and not as a course for Auxiliarists to qualify for their Navigation specialty course. We look forward to presenting this program as it is usually popular with the public.☀



J. Michael Shea, FC



Kevin Yeaton, FC, FL 7-16 stands beside Christina Cockrell from FL 79 at the helm of the Water Won Too. Kathi Kruczek, the owner of this beautiful facility, is seated with the two volunteers from the Tampa Bay Watch organization at the Gasparilla Boat Parade on January 26, 2008.

Flotilla News...

Flotilla 7-16



Kevin Yeaton, FC

We are getting our goals set for the new year and our members' commitment will help us achieve these goals. There is plenty to do, and we are all eager to make 2008 a highly successful year.

The VE team is off to a good start in February and completed 43 Vessel Safety Checks. The duo of Kevin Yeaton and Don Rimel have done a few VE blitzes to kick off 2008. Anyone wishing to be a Vessel Examiner or a Program Visitor see Don Rimel.

The PV team has been out and about doing Marine Dealer Visits and have 56 PV visits to date. The duo of Kevin Yeaton and Don Rimel are making a big splash again as Program Visitors (PV). What goals have they set this year? Wait and see.☀

Editor's Note: For last year's accomplishments, see story on page 21.



Don Rimel poses with Jim Mulligan, FL 74 and Steven Rogers, Pipe Corporal from FL 36 at the USCG Blackthorn 28th Service of Remembrance. Both are members of the US Coast Guard Pipe Band.

Photo by D. Riley, SO-PB





Staff Reports and News...

Aids to Navigation, *Peter Ubillos, SO-AN*

The Flotilla PATON responsibility list has been updated in accordance with the latest, 2007 edition of the District 7 Light List. This information has been distributed to all FSOs-AN in the Division. Updated distribution addresses for 7054 reports were included.

The Coast Guard ATON Group at Sector St. Petersburg and the Bridge Administration Department in Miami have agreed to accept 7054 reports via email as well as postal. The 7054 reports are to be sent as attachments to email. This information has been published to all FSOs-AN in the Division.

Five PATON verification reports have been received from Flotilla 72. One bridge discrepancy report was received from Flotilla 78.

DSO-AN 7, Rocky Reinhold, has agreed to have Paul Smith, ADSO-AN 7, conduct an Aid Verifier class for our Division. I am working with SO-MT, Al Escorihuela, to set up the class, possibly in June. Once the date and location are established, a notice will be sent to all FSOs-AN.☀



Peter Ubillos, SO-AN

Communication Services, *Terry Modica, SO-CS*



Terry Modica, SO-CS

The Operational Training Records database software was written by web developer Karl Barger for Division Seven, District Seven. The website interface was designed by Terry Modica, SO-CS. The database and interface keep track of the training required of crew and coxswains. The interface makes it easy for FSOs-OP to log training and for coxswains to find qualified patrol crew from any flotilla in our division. It also makes it easy for Auxiliarists to check their own records to make sure that their training requirements are current. The training records kept in the database include qualifications that are no longer required in AUXDATA.

Another unusual and outstanding use of our website is the HARPAT Report Form, which Terry designed after consulting with Senior Chief Dan Harris at Station. Coxswains download a worksheet that they take onboard HARPAT patrols to record all vessel activity. The worksheet matches the online form. After the patrol, the information is then inputted into this online form, which is automatically emailed to USCG Station St. Pete and formatted in html to match what the Coasties need for inputting the data into their computerized records database. The very first time this form was used, information that Coxswain Kathi Kruczek reported resulted in an investigation into suspicious activity.

The website is getting a lot of visitors. In January, we had 526 separate visitors making 996 visits to the site (1.89 visits per visitor). By comparison, in January 2007, we had 384 visitors. That is a 37% increase in one year. This January, the main home page was viewed 1112 times. The password-protected members-only home page was entered 428 times.☀

Staff Reports and News...

Communications, *Terry Affeld SO-CM*



Terry Affeld, SO-CM

We currently have seven Fixed Land Radios and one mobile in our division, with only one Fixed Land currently out of service. (Ruskin Radio 1)

The Radio guard for Gasparilla went very well again with the able help of Watchstanders Robert Bonanno, Tim Teahan, and Duke Wheeler. With so much radio traffic, it really helps to have extra sets of ears. I also want to thank all of the Coxswains & Crew for their great cooperation in following the established procedure.

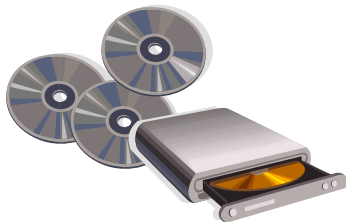
A Division Net Drill is tentatively scheduled for April 20, 2008 at 1200 hours. More information will be sent out to the Flotilla Communications Officers as the time draws nearer. ☼

Information Services, *Alma Parrish, SO-IS*



Alma Parrish, SO-IS

Division Seven's Information Services department has been very busy since the first of the year. We held two workshops at the Southshore Regional Library in Ruskin and are proud to report that we had one hundred percent participation at both. Amos and Bunny Johnson were guest instructors and assisted Joe and Alma Parrish at the first workshop. So far, the "Information Services Team" has learned all about AUXDATA and some things about AUX-INFO. We hope to hold our next workshop at Sector St. Petersburg, where maybe everyone can all get on line at the same time and work on actual inputting of information. Everyone has training access and passwords for use during the practice exercises. It is so wonderful to see the enthusiasm during our workshops. There were lots of questions and discussions in which everyone participated. This makes for a very lively and exciting workshop. What a great bunch of folks! ☼



Back row from the left: Amos Johnson, FL 79, Frank Lafferty, FL 73, Art Womer FL 79, Brenda Burger, Marvin Bayles, FL 72 John Ritter, FL 72, Larry Gellinger 73. Front row: Joe Parrish, FL 75, Ed Eggert, FI 7-16, Wally Lowry, FL 74, Ramona Trimble, FL 73, Dotty Engel, FL 75, Alma Parrish, FL 75, and Bob Schuler, FL 78.

Photo by Theresa (Bunny) Johnson, FL 79





Materials, *Louis Miosi, SO-MA*

Cloth Collar Insignia: Found three companies that offer cloth sew-on collar insignia. Here are their names and prices:

The Bent Needle (Good Quality) \$5.00 pair

Uniform Nametape \$2.00 pair

Lighthouse Uniform \$5.00 pair

Note: Uniform Nameplate Co. informed me that their cloth insignias are on Rip Stop Material, the same as our ODU uniforms.

Stamps: The 41-cent stamps will be available in one month, however, on May 1, 2008, stamp rates are going up to 42 cents. Order one sheet of one cent stamps, with your next stamp order.

Name Plaques: Found a company called Vidtag, which makes name plaques for the Coast Guard. I called the company and asked if they made name plaques for the USCGAUX. I was informed that so far they have not, but they will do so if requested. The company sent me some samples along with prices. Plastic name plates cost \$15.95, and metal plates cost \$24.95. For an additional charge of \$5.95, buyers can purchase a mahogany table base, while a wall or door holder cost \$6.95. I sent all the information to our DSO-MA, who in turn sent it to our D7 Store.

By the way, the D7 store is moving to the old Navy reserve center in Clearwater. The new address will be: 15300 Rescue Way, Clearwater, Florida. It is located off Fairchild Drive just before the Coast Guard Air Station gate. If I knew ahead of time when they plan to move; I could have a crew with Fork lift trucks available.☀



Louis Miosi, SO-MA

Marine Safety, *J. Michael Shea, SO-MS*

Eight to ten volunteers are needed to help in the USCG Prevention Department in Tampa in both investigations and inspection of vessels. The Coast Guard will send those interested to C-School at the Coast Guard's expense. Interested persons should contact M. Shea for further information. Note: Since this training represents a considerable investment by the Coast Guard, only persons willing and able to make a serious commitment should apply.



Parasail 'Train the Trainer', inspection conference will be held here in Tampa on March 20th for the Coast Guard, and Parasail Training for the parasail industry on April 19th and 20th.

FL 79 is looking into installing mono-filament line disposal units at all the ramps within their AOR. These units can be cheaply built using large PVC pipes and fittings and attaching decals. The ones already in place are being used, so fishermen are taking advantage of them. This protects birds, fish and other sea life from unnecessary injuries and fatalities from getting wrapped up in discarded lines. All of our flotillas should consider installing similar units within their areas of operation.☀

This mono-filament collection unit at the Davis Island boat ramp is maintained by Tampa Bay Watch. Photo by Betty Hagan, FL 79



J. Michael Shea, SO-MS

Staff Reports and News...

Member Training, *Eleazar 'Al' Escorihuela SO-MT*



Al Escorihuela, SO-MT

Division Crew Training started on February 7th and will continue for twelve weeks. We have 22 members attending crew training. Flotillas need to step forward and provide Mentors and boats. FL 72 has eight members participating, FL 73 has five, FL 74 has six, FL 75 has one, and FL 79 has two members participating. Presently we have three vessels; two from FL 79 and one from FL 74. If we are to have a successful crew training program this year, all flotillas need to support the training efforts. We are willing to work with FSOs-OP regarding the availability of vessels.

On February 9th, the eight hours Team Coordination Training was conducted at FL 79. A total of 32 members from Division 7, four members from Division 11, one from Division 16, thirteen Reserve personnel from USCG Station St. Pete, and one Reserve from USCG Station Cortez attended the training.

Paul Smith, ADSO-AN, has agreed to conduct an Aid Verifier class for Division 7. This will be open to all members of the Division. The class may be four sessions in duration, one session per week. So far, June looks like the best month. Flotilla 79 might be a good location since the building is centrally located within the Division. According to the Division 7 schedule, Flotilla 79 does not seem to use their building on Tuesday, hence; the four Tuesdays in June are the most likely days. Dates and times to be announced. Persons interested should contact the SO-MT.☀

Operations, *Cliff Martin, SO-OP*



Cliff Martin, SO-OP

It is that time again when we must complete all of the tasks dealing with Hurricane Preparedness which include creating calling trees, Rapid Deployment Rosters, and Facility Data Sheets. Hurricane Plans should be reviewed with all of the members. We need to know where our members plan to go, and what they plan to do in the event of a Hurricane.

The Training Data base records all mission oriented training, member qualifications and three year re-certifications. They are updated by the FSO's-OP; however, members may view their records on line.

The Coast Guard has recently announced a soon to be implemented change to its list of approved life jackets which all active duty and many Auxiliarists will have to comply with by June 1, 2009. The only life jackets that will be approved for use in the CG Rescue & Survival Manual after the compliance date will be ones that have been dynamic strength tested to 50mph. Not all Auxiliarists will be required to comply. Only auxiliary surface facilities which can exceed 35mph will be required to comply with the new minimum floatation requirement by June 1, 2009. All surface facilities that do not have the capability to exceed 35mph will be unaffected and may continue to wear currently approved PFD's including the float coat.

All of our pier side/shore based programs will be unaffected and may continue to wear the PFD's they now have including the float coat. PWC's will continue with what they have been approved to use with no changes. None of the CG 50mph dynamic tested PFD's listed in the manual are for use with PWC's. (CHDIRAUX posting)☀





Public Affairs, *Kay Lori SO-PA*

This year your Public Affairs Staff will try to improve on all that was accomplished last year. We will also add to what was done.

At the orientation meeting in January, I met with two new PA officers and was pleased by their enthusiasm and dedication.

I have been receiving from a few flotillas, copies of their meeting notices.

I will be reviewing all articles as set forth in the PA protocol and will remind the PA officers to forward any and all articles to me.

Frank Sargeant officials have informed the PA officer that there will be no more "free rides" for booths at their shows. All volunteer organizations are required to pay a nominal fee of \$250 for a booth. In view of their request, the show will not be attended.☼



Kay Lori, SO-PA



At the Division meeting on February 23rd hosted by FL 73, Conrad Palermo, DCP, presented Kay Lori the Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation medal and ribbon for her inspirational leadership in 2007, and for creating, organizing and supervising broadcasts for a major news network. This year she plans to improve on all that was accomplished last year? Watch out, folks! She will doubtless be a whirlwind of activity to top last year's performance!

Photo by D. Riley

Publications, *Dorothy Joan Riley, SO-PB*

Nearly every staff officer sent a report to the *Intercom*; and every flotilla is represented. I must applaud everyone's efforts, and I pray my editing does your contributions justice.

I challenge the staff officers and the flotillas to achieve 100% when the next edition publishes. May every flotilla and every staff officer rise accept the challenge.

The *Intercom* welcomes contributions from all of its members, not just staff and elected officers. Keep those stories, articles and photographs coming. Preparing this issue has been a lot of fun!

I invite every FSO-PB to view the two MS PowerPoint® presentations posted on the District web site on the DSO-PB page. The one on taking and sending high-resolution images is also recommended for all PA Officers - anyone who frequently takes photographs at Auxiliary functions. This presentation can also be found on the Division 7 web page. I am always available to assist the FSO's-PB in any way that I can.☼



Dottie Riley, SO-PB

Staff Reports and News...

Crew Training 2008 Photo Archive



Richard Bailey, August Miller, Daniel McMahan, Kenneth Morningstar, and James Potts discuss the training material.



Conrad Palermo, DCP, conducts a pre-underway briefing for the crew and trainees aboard his vessel.

All three Crew Training photos by Al Escorihuela, SO-MT

Personnel Services, *SO-PS*



Gilbert Thomas, SO-PS

We have one new member, four new members with A/P numbers, eight candidates being processed and fifteen prospective new members. Ten E-Responders were received from District, but only four have been assigned to flotillas.

On March 22, 2008 at 1400 (2:00 PM) Cliff Martin and I will hold a PS workshop lasting approximately two and half hours. The PS workshop will be in two parts. The first part will be the correct procedures for filling out New Member Enrollment Forms and will include a PowerPoint presentation and handouts. The second part will be a practical finger printing class for anyone who wants to be a Finger Print Technician, which will be presented by Cliff Martin. All Division FC'S, VFC'S, PS officers, and any flotilla member who wish to become Finger Print Technicians are invited to attend this workshop.

Please let me know how many will be attending from your flotilla so I will have enough handouts for each person attending. ☀





Program Visitor, *Jim Mulligan, SO-PV*

At a meeting held on August 15, 2007 and attended by a majority of the FSOs-PV, several items were decided to be paramount:

After several months of cooperative efforts between the Flotillas within our Division, The Division 7 Program Visitor Master List is now available on the Division's website. The list can be found in the "Auxiliarists Only" section under "News & Downloads from Division Officers", then "Program Visitor Info". It can be either viewed online or downloaded to your computer. In the future there will also be discussion points as well as special Information.

Several FSOs-PV felt that the Auxiliary decals which once were given to the Program Partners were important program tools. After a phone call to the ANSC, Peter J. Urgola, DC-V, announced through Cathie Welty, DSO-PV, that the decals would once again be made available for distribution in two to three months.

Expectations within the Program Visitor's primary mission are not being met. As of January 1, 2008, Division 7 has identified 235 Program Partners. The minimum expectation is 940 visitations. By the end of 2007, only 642 visitations were made, which left a deficit of 297. To meet even the barest minimum this year, the Division needs to conduct at least 76 visitations per month. During the month of January 2008, only 69 visits were conducted, and 56 of these were performed by Flotilla 7-16.

The elected officers of each Flotilla may find the PV Master List a valuable tool for tracking ongoing PV activity as well as for reviewing monthly reports from the FSOs-PV. It would appear that of the 303 Auxiliarists in Division 7, only sixteen are active PV's, or only 5% of the Division's entire membership. This is an insufficient number to complete our mission.

It is imperative therefore, that each Flotilla makes a concerted effort to increase the number of certified Program Visitors. Of the 303 Auxiliarists in our Division, 108 members have no certification. These members may be a good place to start.

Finally, the SO-PV and SO-MT will assist in whatever manner to make our mission a success. ☀



No Photo Available

More Crew Training Photos



The vessels prepare to launch for a Saturday morning training mission.

For an interesting take on the crew training experience, read the story on page 26 submitted by former Division Crew Training graduate, Ray Stewart, FSO-PA, FL 75.

Staff Reports and News...

Fellowship Chair, *Donton Raleigh, FEL-CH*



Don Raleigh, FEL-CH

It gives me great pleasure to announce that in Division 7, Fellowship is alive & well! Planned fellowships events include:

- Flotilla 72 is holding a covered-dish St. Patrick's Day Dinner Party, March 15th, 6 PM, All Welcome!
- Flotilla 74 gathered on Beer Can Island on February 23rd.
- Flotilla 75 held a pot-luck dinner at the Senior Center in Ruskin on February 23rd.
- Flotilla 78 will hold its next meeting at a member's house—sandwiches, snacks, dessert.
- Flotilla 79 has a covered-dish "Pot-Luck" on the Friday after every month's meeting.
- Flotilla 7-16 is also planning a St. Patrick's Day Dinner Party, March 15th, 6 PM, and will serve the traditional corned beef & cabbage. Suggested donation: \$7 per person. The whole Division is invited. Call Art Trinque if you plan to attend.

And all of these events are just on a Flotilla level!

At Division level we have a dynamic and exciting Fellowship Program, highlighted by our "Eleven Dollar and 95-cent Feast Series". The kickoff Feast in January at Cody's was a resounding success. The second Feast was Sunday, February 24th at Cha Cha Coconuts. No Feast is scheduled in March in deference to the Division Awards Banquet on March 29th at The Colonnade Restaurant. Be there – It is going to be great!

The next Feast will be on April 13th at the Golden Corral. This will be a dinner instead of lunch, and it will be all you can eat - that's appetizer, salad, entree, side dishes, dessert, beverage, tax and tip—all for \$11.95.

Our tour of Sector St. Petersburg was fantastic. We toured the 87 foot Coast Guard Cutter Hawk. We went all through the navigation bridge, the galley, the mess hall, the berthing area, and we had a personalized tour of the engine room. It is a stand-up engine room, and we walked all the way around both diesel engines. They told us that one time when they were on their way out of the bay, they got a distress call from someone about a ship on fire. You see, when the Cutter's turbo-chargers kick in at 1600 RPM, they create a lot of smoke. As it turned out, someone had seen the smoke and called it in, and the distress call they got was about themselves! Our next tour of Sector St. Petersburg is the March 7th. Join us!

Our featured event of the year is our Fund-Raising Cruise on November 13th, a four-night cruise out of Tampa on Carnival's Cruise Ship *Inspiration*. Register now to reserve your space on the ship.

As you can see, we have a fantastic fellowship program, and we encourage everyone to participate.

I have flyers on upcoming events. Those interested, please contact me.☀



January's event at Cody's

Photo by B. Hagan, FL 79





Division VII Awards Luncheon

Saturday, 29 Mar 2008

1200 (Noon)

The Colonnade Restaurant

3401 Bayshore Boulevard

Tampa, Florida

813 839-7558

Your attendance is encouraged. Show your support for your Division and your Flotilla, and applaud the efforts of your members!

Reception with a cash bar and hot hors d'oeuvres preceding the Luncheon opens before the event..

Price will be \$25.00 per person. Please contact your Flotilla Commander by 21 Mar 08.

National Safe Boating Week: *The Time to Prepare Is NOW!*

National Safe Boating Week, May 17 - 23, is fast approaching. Every program that deals directly with Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) is encouraged to both plan early, and to work closely with their Public Affairs Officers to promote these events.

Media coverage has proved to be an invaluable tool for exposing the public of the many facets of RBS. Advertise and promote NSBW events both within your flotilla and Division, and through media coverage with the public. Do not miss out on the biggest annual opportunity for recruiting, referrals to our Public Education programs, member retention through participation, fellowship, promoting the Coast Guard's missions, and community involvement.

Plan ahead. Make available the various literature, handouts, whistles, Safe Boating gadgetry, and Public Education schedules. Contact your Public Affairs Officer to help identify opportunities and to promote them to the public.

Show your enthusiasm, and make this the best National Safe Boating Week your flotilla and Division 7 has ever seen!☀



2007 Wrap-up

Division Seven Change of Watch - No Surprises - Or Were There...?



The new Division Seven Elected Officers pose for a photograph after the swearing in ceremony. From left to right are shown Conrad Palermo, DCP, Division Seven, Larry Gellinger, FC and Brenda Burger, VFC from FL 7-3, Marvin Bayles, FC and Linda Barnard, VFC from FL 7-2, Ron Matz, VFC from FL 7-4, Debbie Minnick, VFC and Kay Lori FC from FL 7-5 (behind Debbie), Valerie Fernandes, FC and Edgar O'Krent from FL 7-8, J. Michael Shea, FC FL 7-9, Kevin Yeaton, FC and Linda Harwitt, VFC from FL 7-16, and Peter Lore, VCP. Not pictured are Larry Neu, FC FL 7-4, and Kevin Williams, VFC, FL 7-9.

Photo by Guy Mandigo, ASO-PB

The Division Seven Change of Watch held on December 8th at the Rusty Pelican Restaurant in Tampa may seem like ancient history by this issue's publication date, but it still deserves mention as this our the first issue since this event.

The "No-Surprise" element was the re-election of Conrad Palermo as Division Captain (DCP) and Peter Lore as Vice Division Captain (VCP). The membership supports the many goals and initiatives taken on by this "Dynamic Duo" during the first year of service, including but not limited to Division-wide member training, a web page with many useful links, a Division newsletter, Public Affairs initiatives that have attracted support from National and other Boating Safety campaigns, and greater support to Flotilla programs and members. Don Frasch, VCO, Seventh District administered the Oath of Office.

The "surprise" in this year's Division bridge is the number of women serving in elected office positions. Six of the Division's twelve elected officers are women, with Flotilla 7-5 holding the distinction of being the first Flotilla in our Division to have both elected offices held by a woman. Hats off to Kay Lori, FC, and Debbie Minnick, VFC, of FL 7-5! The 'hat-check' table is going to start looking very different this year. ☀ Story by D.Riley





Two Members Awarded the Recreational Boating Safety Device

On November 17 2007, Donald Rimel and Kevin Yeaton, both members of FL 7-16, were awarded the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Device from COMO Allen Brown and Cathie Welty, DSO-PV, at a workshop held at FL 84, in Sarasota, Florida.

Don and Kevin are the only two members of Division 7 who earned the device. The RBS Device was approved by USGCAUX NEXCOM in 2005 to recognize members who support the Auxiliary's programs and activities within, or related to, the RBS program. The award is based on the member earning 120 points per year for two years to qualify. "Points" for the award are based on eligible mission hours recorded in AUXDATA for activities which promote RBS in Public Education, Public Affairs, and include Vessel Safety Checks and Vessel Facility Inspections. The Device was designed by Cathie Welty, DSO-PV, District 7.

Some events cannot go by unnoticed, especially when they represent superior achievement and the highest levels of commitment to the Recreational Boating Safety Program and to the Auxiliary. Like the Change of Watch reported on the previous page, this is the first opportunity for the *Intercom* to report this significant event. ☀



Donald Rimel with COMO Allen Brown and Cathie Welty, DSO-PV, at the workshop in Sarasota where he received the device. Photos by Carol Rickard, ADSO-PB



Kevin Yeaton pictured with COMO Allen Brown and Cathie Welty, DSO-PV



Other News...

Blackthorn Memorial, *cont.*



Twenty-three Cuttermen currently assigned to Station St. Petersburg stand holding the single rose that each of them will in turn place at the foot of the memorial during the reading of the names of the twenty-three lives lost that fateful day. Photo by Guy Mandigo, ASO-PB

(Continued from page 1)

Capricorn's pilot blew two short whistle blasts to have the ships pass starboard-to-starboard. With the officer of the deck confused in regard to the standard operating procedure, Blackthorn's captain issued orders for evasive action.

Though the ships collided, damage did not seem to be extensive. The problem, however, was that Capricorn's anchor was ready for letting go. It became imbedded in the tender's hull and ripped open the port side. Just seconds after the slack in the anchor chain became taut, Blackthorn capsized. Six off-duty personnel who had mustered when they heard the collision alarm were trapped in the dark. Several crew members who had just reported aboard tried to escape and in the process trapped themselves in the engine room. Though 27 crewmen survived the collision, 23 perished." (http://uscg.mil/history/WEBCUTTERS/Blackthorne_1943.html)

Rescue efforts that day included many local rescue units including Pinellas County Fire and Rescue units, who continue to appear every year to honor the lives lost on that fateful day. Besides the members of the cuttermen's families who died during this disaster, Veteran's organizations from both sides of the bay never fail to make their appearance, as do many members of the USCG Auxiliary, some of whom remember that day, and the few remaining who participated in rescue and salvage efforts.

The ceremony itself was both beautiful, solemn and dignified. It began with an Aerial Salute by a C-130 and two helicopters from Coast Guard Air Station St. Petersburg. Several organizations then placed wreaths before the memorial. This year, Fred Kermode, DCP, and Braxton Ezell VCP, both from Division Eight, placed the wreath presented by the USCG



The USCG Auxiliary wreath was placed before the memorial by Fred Kermode, DCP and Braxton Ezell, VCP from Division Eight. In the back ground is the tent holding the visiting dignitaries and relatives of the twenty-three cuttermen who died that day.

Photo by Guy Mandigo, ASO-PB





Auxiliary.

After the distinguished guest speakers, including, but not limited to a representative for Congressman Bill Young and Vice Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., Chief of Staff, CG-01, Vice Admiral Papp, Jr. read the names of all twenty-three of the cuttermen lost that day, while a cuttermen currently assigned to Station St. Petersburg placed a single red rose at the foot of the memorial in honor of each crew member of the Blackthorn lost at sea. The ceremony concluded on the solemn notes of *Taps*.

All members of the Auxiliary are both invited and encouraged to attend this annual ceremony. ☀



Above/left: A C-130 and two helicopters from Air Station Clearwater deliver the Aerial salute, opening the ceremony.

Above/right: The USCG Honor Guard Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg prepare to post the Colors.

Photos by Guy Mandigo, ASO-PB

Vice Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., Chief of Staff (CG-01) delivered the Address and read the names during the tribute to the fallen Cuttermen.

Photo by D. Riley



Other News...

Eight year-old E-Responder Means Business

Story and Photo by Valerie Fernandes, FC, FL 78



Grace Marchant

Flotilla 78 received an e-responder the first week in February. The Flotilla Commander was excited since this was the first e-responder she ever had the opportunity to contact. Unfortunately, both Gil Thomas (SO-PS) and the Flotilla Commander had to tell the applicant, Grace Marchant, that the wait to process her application would take 9 years!

Grace is eight years old and a student at Admiral Farragut Academy. At the 'ripe old' age of eight, she has completed a US Power Squadron course, has a Florida Boating Education ID card, and is a Quarter Master 2nd Class (Experienced Sailor) at Admiral Farragut Academy. The Flotilla Commander gleaned this information from her resume. Yes, she has an impressive resume already! Grace's resume lists her career objectives as Naval officer, US Coast Guard, commercial skipper, and pilot.

Brad Marchant, Grace's Dad, said that he and Grace read through the introductory material on the USCG Auxiliary web site and filled in the original e-responder form together. To quote Brad Marchant, "Clearly the use of the internet site is of great benefit in providing immediate access and information to interested parties 24-7. I'm not sure I would have known where to start without it, although I guess I would just go knocking on the doors of some of the Auxiliary buildings around town until I found someone to talk to".

Grace and her Dad attended the FL 78 flotilla meeting on February 11th. The flotilla members were all quite impressed with Grace, who led the members in the Pledge of Alliance. As disappointed as they were to tell her she had to wait to join their ranks,

they were lucky enough to convince her Dad, Brad Marchant, to join their flotilla. Brad's application is currently being processed.

When you see Grace at any Division fellowship activities please welcome her aboard, but remember, she will be a member of Flotilla 78 in 2017 as they saw her first! ☺

Gasparilla



Photo by Valerie Fernandes, FL 78

Gasparilla is an annual event in the Tampa Bay area. For new-comers to the area, we offer a condensed explanation of this event:

The public festivities last for over two weeks and center in and around Ybor City at the end of January and early February. The private events- the formal balls held by the various Krewes (an obvious play on the word 'crew') begin at least a week earlier.

The public opening of these celebrations is marked by the Gasparilla Children's Parade. If you are new to the area, this is the only parade you want your minor children to see. This parade is the second largest in the country with only the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade being longer in length or in





Gasparilla, *cont.*



the amount of time that it takes to complete its designated route from Bayshore Boulevard to Ybor City. It is most often opened by a fly-over from MacDill Air Force Base, and fireworks at the parade's conclusion.

A week after the Children's Parade is the Gasparilla Boat Parade and the Invasion of the Pirates, an all-day event. This year, it was held on January 26th. The boat parade simulates the pirates invading and conquering the city of Tampa. The boat parade is the largest in the country, and the subsequent 'victory' parade through the city is as ribald and lusty as the pirates they pretend. This is definitely not fare for minors. By tradition, body parts are bared, especially those of the "young maidens". The festivities go on for another week, again concluding with fireworks.

Tampa Bay Watch, an environmental protection agency, takes advantage of the boat parade to perform an annual count of the manatees in the Bay area. An endangered species, manatees must be protected from the heavy boat traffic and the unwitting boater. The USCGAUX provides the vessels to carry the Watchers and assist in protecting the manatees. We also assist in keeping channels clear during the boat parade. Every crew-qualified Auxiliarist in the area should experience this event at least one. It is unforgettable!☀

Above/left: The pumps aboard the Tampa Fire Department boat clear the way for the Jose Gasparilla.

Above/right: Joe Lori and Debbie Minnick, PWC operators from FL 75 in Ruskin stop briefly in front of the USCG Prevention Department in Tampa.

Photos by Kay Lori, FC, FL 75



Right: The pirates have invaded and conquered the city, and disembarked from their vessels to begin the Victory Parade which will end in Ybor City.

Photo by D.Riley, SO-PB

Lower right: One of the 'traditions' that makes the Boat Parade so hazardous is the amount of alcohol consumed by boaters.

Photo by Betty Hagan, FL 79

01.26.2008

Other News...

Crew Training: Team Work and Camaraderie

By Ray Stewart, FSO-PA, FL 75

Editors Note: The author attended the Division Boat Crew Training Program in 2007 and wrote this story shortly after he passed the qualifying examinations. It is more than one man's experience; it is a story to which every member who has ever attended this training program can relate.

With the call out for Mentors, facility and crew for this year's program, reading this may encourage some members and facility owners to participate in what is a wonderfully satisfying experience.



All of us graduates of the Division Crew Training program are smarter than we were before. We had no choice. It was keep up or fall by the wayside. The travails of time and temperature took their toll, and some did indeed drop out, but most significantly, fourteen new crew members were added to the Division's roster of active crew members. Night classes were followed up with weekend on the water training that kept us on our toes and allowed us to implement the knowledge we had just gained in the classroom.

The crew candidates religiously arrived early at the training site on Thursday evenings to ask each other questions, review homework, make arrangements to go on shopping trips for uniforms and equipment, practice knot tying and charting and otherwise

fill in our knowledge gaps. The Division Member Training Officer, Cliff Martin, would ring the bell, bring the sessions to order, and our two hour injection of knowledge would begin. Special guest speakers educated us on safety, first-aid, marlinespike, line and boat handling, sound signals, proper radio communication, navigation and team coordination training.

On the water it was always business, and the business of safety and team work became ingrained as part of the routine on-water operations. Man overboard drills, towing evolutions, line handling and navigation skills were practiced over and over again until we were confident in our ability to exercise these skills consistently and automatically.

The day that the qualifying exams were conducted had just about everyone scurrying to fill in some blanks, polishing their knot tying and mentally rehearsing their on-water tasks. It was a huge success. When taking the qualifying exams, there is no credit given for having the right intentions or for perfect attendance. You have to perform satisfactorily and safely to become qualified. All four-





teen crew candidates succeeded beautifully, and while our own efforts, diligence and dedication played no small part, our success can definitely be attributed to the sincere efforts of our instructors, mentors and coxswains. They prepared, guided and counseled us through every facet of crew training. They devoted their time and energy every bit as much, if not more, than the crew candidates.

The best part of Crew Training, and the part that is

perhaps the most often overlooked, is the camaraderie. The hubbub of activity before each meeting, the din of conversation, the exchange of stories, the laughs, Bob's coffee, and the singularity of purpose all contributed to our sense of teamwork.

Working with other crews, observing other crews, competing with other crews, launching and returning with other crews brought individuals from different flotillas together for a common purpose: the pursuit of team safety and our mutual success in crew training.

The coxswains took pride in developing boat crews that worked smoothly together, would anticipate the other crew member's needs or intentions, and execute orders safely and efficiently.

The camaraderie of each individual boat crew found its own dimensions through training practices, shared skills, laughs and lunch. Whether a special homemade sandwich of ham and cheese (with paper!) or brownies, or tablecloths at a crew table, the individual crews found their own groove and ways of getting along and liking it.

Crew training is challenging and time consuming - and worth it. Not only are we smarter than we were before, but we have a lot more friends.☀



All photographs are by D. Riley of the Spring, 2007 Division 7 Boat Crew Training Program.

Top Left: Cold Weather Anti-Exposure Suit Training and Task. Bottom Left: Last minute cramming before the Qualifying Exams. Top this page: The crews prepare to launch Bottom: Executing a side by side tow.

Other News...

A Day at the Ramp... *Text and Photos by Joe Lamb, FL 75*

1.



Williams Park, busy day- boats, trailers, boaters, boaters everywhere!

2.



Fred Kramer takes the lead again in vessel exams !

3.



Pat Costello , DP's officer, explains rules of the road to a new boater ..

4.



Costello and Joe Lamb (me) staying hydrated ...

5.



A jet ski with an outboard engine. I see a prop strike is in his Future...Ouch!

6.



These civilians towed in a broken down vessel with 5 POB*. I gave them a big ATTABOY, and a free VE!

7.



Another broken boat towed in by a good Samaritan..

8.



Crazy man towing sailboat with a KAYAK! Should have seen him paddle!

9.



...then crazy guy tied sailboat to active dock and disappeared.

On March 2nd, five members of FL 75 completed ten vessel exams, handed out thirty packets of boating and safety information, and told countless kids how cool they looked in their life jackets .

Trailers were parked all the way back to the road, and most folks were glad to see them at the ramp. Good work by a great team from FL 75: Walter Wagner, Pat Costello, Ted Cohen, Fred Kramer and Joe Lamb. Looks like they remembered Rule #1: "Go out and have fun!"



*POB: People on Board. Spelled out, it simply would not fit!



Tropicana Field Boat Sale and Show

The Tampa Bay Boat Sale and Show at Tropicana Field will be held March 14, 15, 16, in St. Petersburg. This is a great chance to show -case the Auxiliary.

- Hand out safety literature to the boating public.
- Invite them to attend our boating safety programs.
- Recruit new members.

Watch standers are needed for a number of shifts. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to let the public know how much we can contribute to their boating experience! Interested persons should contact Ron Matz, FC 74, ASO-PA, Division 7.



Uniform Info, Websites of interest etc. ...

By Linda Barnard, VFC, FL 73

Division 7 website Miami, FL

<http://cgauxdiv7-7.org/>

District 7 website Tampa, FL

<http://cgaux7.org>

District 7 Store

<http://cgaux7.org/d7store/default.htm>

Aux Chief AuxOp National site

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg3/cg3pcx/>

Auxiliary National website

<http://nws.cgaux.org>

Aux National Commodore website

<http://www.auxnaco.org/>

Used Uniform Store (Dist8) Great Prices!

http://users.mo-net.com/district8wr/members/used_uniform_exchg.htm

Uniform Distribution Center ... UDC

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/udc/Index.htm>

Soldier City ... USCG stuff

http://www.soldiercity.com/category-exec/category_id/46/last_category/46

Medals Of America

<http://www.usmedals.com/default.aspx?Affiliate=18>

Ultra Thin Medals

<http://www.ultrathin.com/>

Ribbon Checker ... The items in italics have the same precedence, adjust these and these alone in the order that you qualified for them. These include Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force Good Conduct Medals! (CG is not in italics)

<http://ribbons.cgaux.info/bin-cgi/ribbons.pl?/config.txt>

Galls ... uniforms, shoes, boots, etc.

<http://galls.com/>

USCG Auxiliary, Seventh District, Division Seven

SO-PB
1630 Wakefield Drive
Brandon, FL 33511-2325



Phone: (813) 684-9996
E-mail: SO-PB@cgauxdiv7-7.org
We're on the web!

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Sneak Preview



This watercolor and ink by Dorothy Joan Riley found its way into the Coast Guard Fine Art Program (COGAP) collection and will first be displayed at a formal reception on June 25th at the Salmagundi Art Club in New York. From there, the painting will go on tour, or wind up in one of the many government offices in Washington, D.C.

The painting titled "Operation Bay Sentinel" portrays a multi agency training exercise in Tampa Bay in 2006 and is based upon a Coast Guard photograph by PA1 Donnie Brzuska.