

District Staff Officer-Public Affairs Monthly Report

Report for: **August 2013**
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The PA Department throughout the District continues to support the various missions of both the active Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. The push on educating the boating public about boating safety is evident from the various PSAs and media events that the Flotillas have conducted during this month. The summertime is usually much quieter with “snowbirds” gone, but the amount of effort put out by the PA department is again, “Outstanding”. We still have a few Divisions not reporting (1, 4, 6, 7) but the ADSOs are working diligently to change that.

U. S. Coast Guard Support:

ADSO PA North: (Divisions 2, 10, 12) Roy Crittenden reports that **Division 2 (21)** members will assist CG STA Tybee in the replacing/repositioning of ATONS on the Savannah River. **(22)** FSO PA Cribeiro has been appointed as CG Academy Admissions Partner. He joins Bob Baude and Sherry Bromeley in that position. **(29)** Members Sot, Baude and Bromeley have been named as Most Valuable Partner Team Members for Admission Partners. **(29)** Member Loudermile, leader of the CG Pipe Band and seven other Auxiliarists performed at the Annual CG Festival in Grand Haven, Michigan. **Division 12 (12-8)** Members acted as AUXFS for 12 days at STA Charleston and on the Cutter “Anvil”.

- 1. Community Support: Division 2 (22)** published articles about flotilla members for their outstanding service in local newspapers. **(23)** FSO PA Crothers had an article published in the *Towns County Herald* and the *Clay County Progress* (NC). 47 people attended a Disaster/Wilderness Medicine course in Hiwassee. **Special Involvement: (29)** Bruce Lindsey researched and wrote two articles for the Watercraft and Vessel Safety (WAVES) magazine. One article concerned drowning by electric shock and the other one was about “Parasailing Operations”. **ADSO PA** Crittenden researched and wrote an article about the “5 Top Excuses Not To Wear a Life Jacket” for the *Lakeside on Lanier* newspaper and also had eight PSAs released on ABS in eight area newspapers and on three radio stations. Crittenden was also interviewed about boating safety/VSCs on radio station 107.7 FM in Atlanta.

ADSO PA Northeast: (Divisions 4, 14, 17) Bill Giers reports that **Division 14 (14-2, 14-4 and 14-7)** have all had weekly radio watch at STA Mayport. Flotilla **14-5** augmented CG Boat Crew at Sector Jacksonville. **(14-4)** Members assisted Sector Jacksonville in the Prevention Department and with ATONS, while **(14-5)** assisted Sector in the Response Dept. TCT was taught by a member of **(14-4)** to the Security Detachment

Mayport and another member taught a Legal training class at U.S. Navy Jax Yacht Club.

Division 17 members continued with AUXFS, watch standing and MSD support.

1. **Community Support: Division 14 (14-2)** FC Henricks assisted with ship tours at the Annual CG Festival in Grand Haven, Michigan. Numerous PSAs have been published in local media for PE, VE and PV **(14-7)** presented information about Boating Safety, Aux Recruitment, Maritime Awareness at the St. Augustine Beach Pier during the “National Night Out” event. A member was interviewed on WFOY radio about the Auxiliary missions. The flotilla’s FSO-DV and SO-PA met with Trout Creek County Park officials to try to set up possible VE, DV and PA events at that location. **Special Involvement: Division 14 (14-4)** PA has sent PSAs to media for ABS classes and sent an article to the *Fishing Connection* about safety classes. Articles were also sent to the flotilla’s newsletter *The Binnacle*. **(14-7)** had extensive media coverage for the awards ceremony honoring FC Hensel with the CG Achievement Medal for saving a life. The flotilla also sent out PSAs for VE, PA and VE events. FC Patrick was interviewed by the *St. Augustine Record* about a boat swamping in the St. Augustine Inlet. **(14-8)** maintains a Facebook page which continues to attract visitors with input/photos from flotilla members. **ADSO –PA Giers** continues to support STA Canaveral with PA and MSD. Giers also submitted an article on AUXFS to the *Navigator*.

ADSO PA South: (Divisions 1, 13, 16) Lourdes Oliveras reports that **Division 13 (13-2)** has trained four members as Pollution Investigators to assist Sector Key West. AUX FS Donna Ferenci cooked for four days at STA Marathon. They stood watch and assisted with patrols during the mini-lobster two day season. **(13-8)** Auxiliarist stood radio watch at STA Islamorada. They also assisted with two boat training for the Stations new 45’ RBM and with several Helo-Ops. **Division 16 (16-1)** continued to support Air Station BQN with 19 AUXAIR flights covering various types of missions. AUXAIR BQN also had a quarterly meeting at Sector San Juan with over 20 AUXAIR members, active duty personnel, Civil Air Patrol, local law enforcement, the San Juan CO, Intel and COs from three USCG Cutters in attendance. The flotilla also gave 53 hours of service to RIO St. Croix Port State Control. The active duty from USCGC Reef Shark (USVI, St. Croix) along with Auxiliarists and members from an oil refinery (Hovenssa) had lunch aboard the Reef Shark and talked about how missions are conducted in the USVI. The active duty conducted this event on their “free time”.

1. **Community Support: Division 13 (13-8)** offered several BS&S courses and participated in the annual HAZWOPER training. **Division 16 (16-1)** had 23 hours involvement in the Waterway Watch program and participated in the “Jump Up” event in Christiansted which honors the founding of the Coast Guard. They manned a safety booth during the event. **Special Involvement: Division 13 (13-8)** participated in the “Girl’s Night Out” Radio Show.

Division 16 (16-1) published an article about St. Croix's AUXFS program in the D7 AUXFS newsletter and another article on RADM Baumgartner's retirement was published in the D7 Connection. **ADSO PA Oliveras** continues to assist with the PA-1 Oral Boards and has offered assistance to the new SO PA (Division 1, Puerto Rico).

ADSO PA East: (Divisions 3, 5, 6) Hank Cushard reports that **Division 3** members are supporting USCGSTA Fort Lauderdale with S/B Helo operations and MISLE data input. **Division 5** VHF Radio Net is now capable of supporting STA Fort Pierce, STA Lake Worth Inlet and Sector Miami during emergencies. **(51)** Three members stood radio watch at STA Fort Worth and one member handled PA for them. **(59)** One member serves as AUX FS and also as radio watch at STA Fort Pierce. Members also assisted the station with extensive surface patrols during the spiny lobster mini-season and assisted the STA in training exercises.

1. **Community Support: Division 5 (51)** Conducted Safe Boating courses at Palm Beach Shores. **(59)** Held a GPS and an ABS course for boaters. Members also participated in the 6th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Clean-up. The flotilla also opened their facility to law enforcement agencies for meals and refuge during the lobster mini-season. **Special Involvement:** **Division 5 (56)** FSO-PE Combs will do a radio interview (August) on the Rhett Palmer Show, WAXE in Vero Beach. **(58)** Had numerous PSAs for boating safety and VE Blitzes in the *St. Lucie News Tribune*. **(59)** Published PE classes in the *Treasure Coast* weekly bulletin and the *TC Palm*. **ADSO PA Cushard** attended the Division 5 meeting in Fort Pierce and spent time with SO PA Slepian to get acquainted and to bolster PA efforts. He will attend the Division 6 meeting in Miami to meet with SO PA Betterson in an attempt to improve reporting from that Division.

ADSO PA West: (Divisions 7, 8, 9, 11, 15) Toni Borman reports that **Division 8** supports STA Cortez on a daily basis with AUXFS, Watch standers and AUX facility support. **Division 9 (91)** continues with radio watch at STA Fort Myers Beach and **(9-10)** has an AUXFS at the station regularly. AUXFS also provided cooking for the CGC Marlin. AUXFS Salis received an excellent "Thank you" from the Marlin's CO. **Division 11 (11-1, 11-9, 11-10)** continue to support STA Sand Key and the Clearwater Air Station. **(11-9)** supports Sector St. Pete with Pollution Control and Commercial Inspections. Dudley Davis is very active in the CG RFO program involving inspection of local waters. **Division 15 (15-1, 15-4, 15-5, 15-8)** provided radio watch standers for STA Yankeetown and Homosassa. **(15-3, 15-5)** AUXFSs cooked and served meals at STA Yankeetown. **(15-5)** members, Larry and Diane Berman instructed a two day TCT course at STA Yankeetown.

1. **Community Support: Division 8** flotillas are active in promoting PE and VSCs. **Division 9 (95 and 9-10)** conducted successful boater safety classes.

(98) Had an RBS booth at Fisherman's Village in Punta Gorda which included 111 man hours of AUX participation. **Division 11 (11-3)** FSO PA DeMiranda had extensive ABC television reporting on their Flotilla Memorial Wall. They have successfully conducted two ABS courses. (11-7) FC Kelley reports that the flotilla had an excellent PA event at the Hudson Wal-Mart which resulted in many sign-ups for VSCs. Coastie was on site for three days. **Division 15 (15-3)** had a VSC Blitz at Lake Weir. **Special Involvement: Division 8** All flotillas are actively promoting boating safety courses. Dave Nielsen continues to write articles for the *Waterline*. Nielsen also continues to maintain a spreadsheet for Boating Safety Classes and VSC inspections which appears on-line. **Division 9 (93) SO PA Adubato** had an article on National Marina Day and VSCs published in the *Naples Daily News*. An article on AUX Recruiting was also submitted to the *D7 Breeze*. (95) Had an article published in the *Sun Times*. **Division 11 (11-1)** has submitted numerous PSA for PE and VE events. They also had an article, Booze and Boating, published in the *Florida Mariner* which included information on the ABS program. (11-3) continues to attract attention with their electronic billboard, as does their Flotilla Memorial Wall. (11-10) has had numerous PSA about their ABS courses published in various media outlets which resulted in having to conduct two sessions to meet demand. **Division 15** Members, Charles and Joyce Truhan had a crew training at their house which active members from STA Yankeetown conducted and ENS Shawn Antonelli (Sector St. Pete AOMS ops) attended. (15-3) developed PSAs with Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament competitor, Shaw Grisby, for AUX National distribution. **SO PA Truthan** has submitted various articles to local newspapers.

Unique Support your department has provided to USCG Missions: The various Divisions continue to support Watch standing, AUXAIR, AUXFS, training, surface support, pollution and commercial vessel exams, ATON verification for the Coast Guard. Their efforts in PE, VSC and RBS are outstanding. **DSO PA Irvin** has obtained media coverage for a STA Fort Myers Beach active duty demonstration of emergency flare use. The station has had several call-outs for "false flare launches" which results in undo cost in man power and assets. They hope media attention will help stem this trend. Also, Irvin submitted written material and photos to the Richmond County newspaper (North Carolina) regarding the COC of STA Fort Myers Beach for incoming CO Garriss. ADSO PA, SO PA and FSO PA media involvement is covered in Special Involvement and mentioned elsewhere in this report.

Concerns: Several of the Divisions and Flotillas have recognized that the need for PA assistants is very important. They are striving to meet that demand.

Suggestions: PA Staff is recognizing the need to make personal calls to their counterparts in order to share problems, solutions and concerns.

