

District Staff Officer-Public Affairs Monthly Report

Report for: **September 2013**
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The reporting for the various Divisions is erratic. Not all divisions are reporting their PA activity even though I am aware that activity is happening. It seems that the concept of reporting monthly events is not considered important to some Divisions. That is unfortunate. Not reporting: 1, 7, 10, 4, 14, 17.

U. S. Coast Guard Support:

ADSO PA North: (Divisions 2, 10, 12) Roy Crittenden reports that **Division 2 (21)** Members represented the CG at a 9-11 Memorial Service.

1. **Community Support: Division 2 (21)** Member gave a boating safety presentation to Lake Thurmond Striper Club and to a group of middle school children. (22) Members manned a safety booth at a local COSTCO and have scheduled another one for late September at the Lake Allatoona Clean Up program. (23) Worked with the DNR and other local emergency agencies for a Bassmaster Championship event held at Lake Chatuge. (29) Reports a record attendance for ABS classes this year after PSAs were carried on local radio and in local newspapers. **Division 12 (12-1)** Members manned a safety booth at Scarborough's Marina on Lake Martin. The Division will hold a division wide training for "Coastie" to be used at PA events throughout their AOR. **Special Involvement:** ADSO PA Crittenden published his monthly article concerning "Lifejackets" for *Lakeside on Lanier* newspaper. (29) Had a press conference to announce the installation of solar panels on twenty new ATONS placed around Lake Lanier to mark hazardous sites. The flotilla was also present at a flag raising ceremony of the new Cummings, GA Library at the Polo Fields which was attended by State Senator Murphy. CG Pipe Band was in attendance at a 9-11 ceremony for the City of Roswell and was headed by Auxiliary member Loudermilk. (29) Member Mike Lancaster has passed his Aux 20 (Public Affairs) course.

ADSO PA South: (Divisions 1, 13, 16) Lourdes Oliveras reports that **Division 13 (13-8)** Member qualified as USCG crew member and one member stood radio watch. Members also worked in boat training and Helo-Ops at STA Key West. **Division 16** continues to provide extensive AUXAIR support to AIRSTA BQN. Members had a Fun Day with the active CG to celebrate Coast Guard Day. A two day visit by RADM Korn resulted in combined active duty and Auxiliary long term planning for missions and operations.

1. **Community Support: Division 13 (13-8)** Members had their yearly HAZWOPER certification with 50 graduates. The flotilla also participated in a parade at Key West to celebrate Diana Nyad's Cuba to Key West swim.

Members are also supporting the Mounted Police with their Public Relations and Composting project at the KWPD Police Stables. **Division 16 (16-1)** members were involved in the Waterway Watch program while **(16-2)** promoted a BS & S course in local papers. **Special Involvement: (13-8)** members are promoting the Auxiliary and Safe Boating on local Clear Channel Radio as well as working with the Monroe County Sheriff, the State Attorney and State Senator Bullard. **(16-1)** Article will be published in internal newsletter. ADSO PA Oliveras continues with Oral Boards as Part of the PA Specialist Program.

ADSO PA East: (Divisions 3, 5, 6) Hank Cushard reports that **Division 3 (32)** worked on building team skills with the CG and also inspected tankers that were anchored near the Pompano Pier. **(37)** Members assisted with Helo operations. **Division 5 (51)** had three members provide radio watch at STA Lake Worth during the week and one member provided Public Affairs assistance. **(59)** member stood radio watch at STA Fort Pierce while others trained CG personnel for vessel inspections. The flotilla also provided extra patrols during the 9-11 timeframe at the request of BOSN Ryan. **Division 6 (6-11)** provided Administrative support to STA Miami LT Cortese and SECMIA. The flotilla also provided a PA booth for CG Day at AIRSTAMIA for the Sea Partners Program.

1. **Community Support:** **Division 3 (32, 34)** conducted ABS courses during the month. **(36)** Members performed VEs and various marinas in their area. **(37)** Members worked at the Hillsboro Lighthouse doing special tours and member Sacks gave a presentation to the Pompano Fishing Club. **Division 5 (51 and 59)** conducted ABS courses and had PA involvement at Lowe's along with a "Coastie" involvement. They also put up six PE signs promoting courses at six local ramps. **Special Involvement:** **Division 3** had PSAs in local newspapers and with the Chamber of Commerce for ABS courses. **Division 5 (51)** posted items on the Flotilla's Twitter feed. **(56)** Combs participated in a radio interview on WAXE, Vero Beach. **(58)** Promoted VE Blitzes and Boating Safety Courses in the *St. Lucie News Tribune*. **(59)** PE courses were in local event calendars in the Treasure Coast bulleting and in various local papers. ADSO-PA Cushard published an article about Gary Barth, COMO Tyson's assistant, in two local publications. A PA event at Lowe's was posted on Facebook. **Division 6 (6-11)** PA published BS&S programs in local media.

ADSO PA West: (Divisions 7, 8, 9, 11, 15) Toni Borman reports that **Division 8** Howington continues training personnel at STA Cortez while members also support STA Cortez and Clearwater with AUXFS personnel. **Division 9 (91)** continues radio watch standing with STAFMB. **(93)** is working with the ANT from Fort Lauderdale to secure photos of Gordon Shoal Pass, Capri Pass and Capri Pass Shoal. **(9-10)** members assisted STA Fort Myers Beach with a flare demonstration to emphasize problems the station was having with "false distress" signals. DSO PA Irvin had NBC-2 and WINK TV coverage for the event along with local newspaper coverage. This was coordinated with St. Pete PADET. 9-10 also has AUXFS support for the Station. **Division 11 (11-1, 11-9, 11-10)**

are actively supporting STA Sand Key and AIRSTA Clearwater with C-130 drops. Dudley Davis is active in the CG RFO program. **Division 15 (15-1, 15-3, 15-4, 15-5, 15-8)** continue with watch standing and AUXFS at STA Yankeetown. **(15-3)** members are active in AUXAIR.

1. **Community Support:** **Division 7** Members participated in the Tampa Boat Show and manned a joint Safety Booth with Divisions 11 and 15. **Division 8** members are promoting VE's and Boating Safety at local Marinas. **Division 9 (95)** completed a BS&S Course. **(98)** Participated in a Safety Day at Port Charlotte Town Center. **(9-10)** completed an RBS course. The FSO PA developed a Flotilla Facebook page that is getting excellent participation by the public. **Division 11 (11-1)** installed Boating Safety Class signs at six local marinas and boat ramps. **(11-3)** is still getting an excellent public reception to their Memorial Wall. **(11-6)** had a fishing expo in New Port Richey while **(11-10)** held a PA event at the Sunset Point Old Navy Store. **Division 15 (15-1)** members attended a Coast Guard Day at STA Yankeetown. **(15-3)** had a VSC Blitz at Lake Weir and is developing PSAs. **(15-5)** held a VSC blitz and manned a PA Station at the Suwannee Marina. **(15-8)** is aggressive in making Partner Business visits. **Special Involvement:** **Division 7** SO PA was interviewed on FOX 13 in Tampa. Those interviews were arranged by PADET. They also participated in two media outlet interviews that focused on the illegal discharge of distress flares. **Division 8** All Flotillas are actively publishing PSAs for Boating Safety Classes and VSCs. **Division 9 (95)** had an article published in the *Naples Daily News* and in the *Sun Times*. **Division 11** Flotillas are actively publishing PSAs announcing various safety programs and classes. **(11-1)** published an article in the *Florida Mariner* on "Booze and Boating". They also conducted a modified ABS course. **(11-3)** continues to use their electric billboard to generate interest in the Auxiliary. Their flotilla was also featured in several local newspapers. **Division 15 (15-1)** published several articles in the *Chronicle* and **(15-4)** submitted two articles to the *Citrus County Chronicle*.

Unique Support your department has provided to USCG Missions: The Various Divisions continue to support the CG with watch standing, added patrols, PA assistance, AUXFS and representation at various civic events. Division have also assisted the CG in obtaining media coverage of special CG concerns and projects as well as assisting in informing the public about key personnel changes.

Concerns: It is becoming increasing evident that the Auxiliary is suffering from lack of growth in membership throughout our District. This seems to be a nationwide problem. Efforts toward more aggressive recruitment and more aggressive mentoring of new recruits might be a solution for this growing problem. Also, the PA department is showing growth in more media releases throughout the District, but the reporting of those efforts is down in some Divisions. This creates a "morale" issue for those who do their job and feel there is not much recognition. This needs to be addressed by elected officers.

