

SO-PA Report

Report for Month: April 1-30, 2013

Submitted by: Robert A. Fabich, Sr.

Position: SO-PA 070-16

Flotillas: 16-01, 16-02, 16-03

US Coast Guard Support:

16-01: 1. USCG Air Station BQN - AUXAIR has not submitted a report for April simple because they have been extremely busy. A condensed April/May report will be submitted in June. (This is an exception, not a lack of reporting).

2. RIO St. Croix Port State Control - 22 hours.

3. Captain Pearson, Sector San Juan visited St. Croix for three days. He held meetings with Flotilla Air and Surface Operation FSO's regarding past and future Auxiliary needs, missions, funding, facilities, logistical and strategical planning. He also attended the our Flotilla meeting discussing Admiral Papps's State Of The Coast Guard Address including sequestration and sexual harassment issues. Others meetings included an RIO All Hands, RIO Prevention, Boat Forces, USVI Legislation, Governor's Office, Hovensa and Port Facilities. His wife meet with USCG active duty spouses referencing issues with Island living and military benefits. Flotilla members were active with several of these meetings.

5. Robert Fabich completed 3 days of the AUXCHEF PQS's at Clearwater Air Station and was certified. This was a second trip to Clearwater. The last day he trained a new class of program recruits. This process, at his personal cost, was with preparation to bring representation into Division 16 and Sector San Juan for future AUXCHEF participation. Captain Pearson was updated and HR ADSO/AUXChief Paulette Parent was the mentor.

16-02: No Activity

16-03: No Report submitted

Flags and Ceremonies:

16-01: 1. USCG MST2 Joseph Torcivia and Daniel Jarrett received the Sector San Juan Challenge Coin from Captain Pearson during a combined USCG and Auxiliary All Hands

Assemble. The award was recognition for spontaneous action of environment protection methods initiated from a boat that sunk in Salt River with hazardous products aboard. There efforts preserved a protected species breeding ground.

2. Auxiliary member Robert Fabich received the Sector San Juan Challenge Coin from Captain Pearson for his past and future commitments to USCG RIO St. Croix in participation with the Port State Control program. This also included awareness of the need for the Auxiliary to supplement active duty and pursue extended certifications.

16-02: No Activity

16-03: No Report submitted

Community Support:

16-01: 1. American Waterway Watch program - 22 hours

2. 7th annual Pancake Breakfast held at Cheeseburgers in America's Paradise participation awards where presented to Auxiliary members and civilian volunteers.

3. About Boating Safety course was held April 27th for members of the St. Croix Yacht Club. Due to the success a future course has been requested.

4. A combined team of USCG active duty and Auxiliary member participated with a roadside cleanup in preparation of the annual Triathlon. Assigned to a three mile stretch of highway on St. Croix's central sector they collected, removed and separated just short of 1 ton (2000 lbs) of trash on April 26th. This week long cleanup event was hosted by environmental groups, tourism, schools and just ordinary local residents for the betterment of a clean St. Croix.

5. Continued NSBW event organization with USCG, Auxiliary, National Park Service, Customs Border Patrol, Port Authority and VI Police Department for a May18th NSBW kickoff. Dedicated WOW Flotilla web page.

6. "Inky The Whale" program was presented to 34 K4&5 students at Sion Christian Academy. Program well received and is already requested for next year classes.

16-02: Plans for NSBW activities are in the organizational stages.

16-03: No Report submitted

Local Media Involvement:

16-01: 1. Local media reports on Triathlon cleanup efforts by all involved.

16-02: No Activity reported

16-03: No Report submitted

Problems and Suggested Solutions:

16-01: Working with Vice Division Commander for possible interest and assignments to the FSO-CS positions in Flotillas 02 and 03. Mainly for work with their WOW sites. No advancements on this subject to report since last month.

16-02: No Activity

16-03: No Report submitted

Recommendations:

16-01: It appears that the basic reporting requirements for SO and FSO positions are not deemed as important information for the overall Auxiliary data. This could be due to lack of position knowledge of responsibility, time restraints, non activity, education, commitment or disregard to procedure requirements. In any case, I am surprised how repetitive request for information becomes a task, and mostly, is completed on a last minute deadline if done at all. I have always said you do not fill a position just to fill it. It is better not do what you can't do. Future positions fulfillments should be evaluated on goals, willingness and need. Not to just fill.

16-02: No Activity reported

16-03: No Report submitted