

SO-PA Report

Report for Month: May1-31, 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 combined report period for April and May: 135.6 hours flown during Apr/May which resulted in 60 missions. The missions included 40 MOM, 5 SAR, 13 Logistics and 1 Pollution.

2. RIO St. Croix Port State Control - 20 hours.

3. Surface Facility provide a safety zone for the Annual Ironman Triathlon.

16-02: No Report submitted

16-03: No Activity

Flags and Ceremonies:

16-01: 1. USCG RIO Commander Roger Bogert, Flotilla Commander Duane Minton and FSO-PA Robert Fabich were presented with Challenge Coins from Lt. Jacob McMillian, Commanding Officer of the USCGC Farallon. The award was for providing crew support prior to, during, and after the cutter visit to St. Croix.

2. FSO-PA Robert Fabich was presented with a Shadow Box that included a flag that was flown in Afghanistan between January 1 thru February 18, 2013. The award was on behalf of the Soldiers assigned to Task Force Med-Afghanistan, from the 160th Forward Surgical Team Bagram Airfield, Parwan Province, Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom 2012-2013. The traditional flown American flag is presented to people who contribute significantly as a volunteer associated with the military such as the USCG Auxiliary.

3. USCG CWO Jesus Porrata was presented a custom memory book reflecting Team Coast Guard during his duty assignment departing celebration event. This book was produced by the Flotilla PA Fabich and highlighted photos reflecting the Island, duties, events and involvement with the Auxiliary surface and air operations. This memory book was based on the core values, Honor, Respect and Devotion To Duty.

16-02: No Report submitted

16-03: No Activity

Community Support:

16-01: 1. American Waterway Watch program - 27 hours

2. Flotilla participated in the 2nd quarter Jump Up event with providing an informational booth about the Auxiliary, boating safety, life jackets, and boating course registration. This May 3rd event held in down town Christiansted draws thousands of people.

3. About Boating Safety course was held May 25th for members of the St. Croix Yacht Club. This second course was a result of the success of a previous course held in April.

4. NSBW - Kick off event was held May 18th. This year we held a **unique** event by partnering NSBW with the All Hazards Preparedness Expo. We combined our event with local agencies who provided informational booths, equipment, education and apparatus to delivery not only Recreational Boating Safety information, but how all community agencies work together promoting safety.

The five hour event held at the Frederiksted Pier included community partners from: USCG St. Croix Prevention and Boat Forces divisions, Auxiliary Flotilla 16-01, VI Police and Fire Departments, VI Bomb Squad with dogs and robots, American Red Cross, Army National Guard, Customs Border Patrol, National Parks Services, VITEMA, St. Croix Rescue, Animal Welfare Center Life Jackets for animals, Marine Patrol, Youth Cadets, Ham Radio operators, Office Of The Governor, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Department Of Health, OSHA, Department Of Planning and Resources, Sister Hood, FEMA, Puerto Rico Seismic Network, National Weather Service and local marinas.

All participating agencies included the message of boating safety and reflected on NSBW importance. Many demonstrations were conducted by the agencies participating with live announcements from a stage.

Highlighting the event was educational tours aboard the USCGC Farallon 110 and the USCG St. Croix Boat Forces new 25 ft. boat.

The estimated residents and visitors attending the event were in excess of 500 children and adults.

16-02: No Report submitted

16-03: On Monday May 20th, 2013, Flotilla 16-03 joined efforts with the Dept. of Planning and Natural Resources in opening National Safe Boating Week . Although there was a cancellation of the 11:00 am opening ceremony at the Frank Powell Park in Cruz Bay, approximately 150 school kids and teachers from St. John private and public schools, in addition to the 75-100 residents and visitors were present for sharing of information and the display geared to the importance of wearing your life jacket while boating.

Lieutenant CDR Bryson Spangler and a boat crew from the Marine Safety Detachment on St Thomas delighted the kids with inspection and information on their 25' Safe Boat, docked at the Cruz Bay pier. Flyers, coloring books, T-shirts, back packs, grilled hamburgers / hot dogs, water and juices were served to everyone.

At the closing of the 4-hours of activities, 2- vessel examination was conducted. Thank you notices were delivered to the St. John businesses that contributed to the cause.

Local Media Involvement:

16-01: 1. Print, radio, TV and social media outlets broadcasted NSBW announcements **prior** to May 18th. This included a choice from 6 pre recorded radio voice PSAs and 4 pre recorded video TV PSAs. PSAs continued throughout the next week.

Each outlet also received a NSBW kick off event and boating safety press release.

We had nearly a 85% response by the media outlets airing, broadcasting and printing the provided PA material prior to and during NSBW.

2. Held a live radio morning talk host show with 93.5 FM about NSBW, safety and local boating requirements. USCG RIO Commander Lt. Roger Bogert presented.

3. Local radio, TV, print and social media representatives attended the NSBW event in Frederiksted for coverage and conducted many interviews including the VI Government public TV channel.

16-02: No Report submitted

16-03: No activity

Problems and Suggested Solutions:

16-01: OUTSTANDING ISSUE: 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 Report Submitted

16-03: No Activity

Recommendations:

16-01: OUTSTANDING ISSUE: 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 Report submitted

16-03: No Activity