



Soundings

District 13, Flotilla 44
Port Angeles, Washington
Issue 3, July 2020



In the Pilothouse

It has been four months (which has seemed much longer) living with the uncertainty of when, or how, the total cessation of Coast Guard Auxiliary activity would end. Now that we are allowed to do Vessel Examinations and Program Visits (plus qualifications for both of those), the light at the end of the tunnel no-longer looks like an oncoming train. While we are still limited to virtual meetings, and still cannot have group gatherings, that may change within a month or two.

Meanwhile, I am proud that the members of Flotilla 44 have done so well attending virtual meetings, attending virtual training sessions, and remaining up-beat during these uncertain times. Keep up the good work! Don't hesitate to touch base with those you are missing from our Flotilla- this is good for your and their morale!

I do want to remind everyone that we must scrupulously follow the Assignment to Duty notification process—currently, you must notify me, or Ernie Nelson and the applicable FSO, and receive an acknowledgement before you perform any mission. For right now, we cannot use our automated system for this.

Also, you should have received an email with a list of scheduled C-School classes. While the list is tentative and subject to change, take a look at it and send me a 7059 form for any schools you'd like to attend.

More hands-on activities are coming in the near future. Stay tuned.

vr,
Jim Armstrong, Flotilla Commander

Forward Lookout

Amid the uncertainty and turmoil created by the pandemic, economic uncertainty, civil unrest, and a murky future, there is one absolute certainty...stress.

We are living in stressful times. While a little stress can be a catalyst for change (hopefully positive), experts agree that any more than that can cause detrimental effects to both our physical and mental health.

To combat negative physical effects of stress, it is important to get enough exercise. This doesn't, necessarily, mean going to the gym (now that it's allowed, again) every day--or, even at all. Just getting out for a nice walk does wonders for both physical and mental well-being. Besides, a little exercise will probably help drop those couple of extra "isolation" pounds we've gained over the last few months.

Mental or emotional health effects of stress are a bit harder to pin down. Look out for these common signs of distress:

Feelings of numbness, disbelief, anxiety or fear.
Changes in appetite, energy, and activity levels.

Difficulty concentrating.
Difficulty sleeping or nightmares and upsetting thoughts and images.
Physical reactions, such as headaches, body pains, stomach problems, and skin rashes.
Worsening of chronic health problems.
Anger or short-temper.
Increased use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

If you experience these feelings or behaviors for several days in a row and are unable to carry out normal responsibilities because of them, seek professional help. Find online help resources [here](#).

The leadership of District Thirteen, Division Four, and our Flotilla care about you, and want to see you well as we recover from these troubling times.

Port Lookout

In April 1790, Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton asked Congress to create a Revenue Marine service with a fleet of ten small cutters. On 4 August 1790, Congress passed Hamilton's Revenue Cutter Bill, which provided for construction of the ten armed cutters, ACTIVE being one of them.

The first ACTIVE was a 59 foot, 58 ton Topsail Schooner with a crew of 9 who operated from 1791 until 1798 and was stationed in Baltimore, MD. She was the second of the first ten original revenue cutters commissioned by President George Washington and Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton. Her assigned duties included collecting tariffs, enforcing quarantines, charting the coastline, supplying lighthouses, and enforcing trade embargoes.

The current Coast Guard Cutter ACTIVE is the eighth Coast Guard vessel to bear its proud name. She was launched at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin on July 31, 1965 and officially Commissioned as a Coast Guard Cutter on September 1, 1966. ACTIVE is 210 feet long, has a 34 foot beam, displaces 1,108 tons and draws 13 feet of water. She is powered by two diesel engines with a combined 5,000 HP. Quarters are provided for up to 12 officers and 70 enlisted members. ACTIVE's cruising range is 5,000 miles at 15 knots, designed with an operating endurance of about 30 days. At top speed of 18 knots, ACTIVE has an approximate range of 2,200 miles. ACTIVE's armament consists of a 25 mm gun on the forecastle and 50 caliber machine guns that can also be mounted on the forecastle, bridge or fantail. ACTIVE has two small boats for law enforcement and a flight deck allowing for the deployment of a Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin or MH-65 HITRON Helicopter. In 2020, the crew celebrates her 55th Birthday.



CGC ACTIVE is assigned primarily to law enforcement and search and rescue missions. The law enforcement duties involve counter-narcotic operations, fisheries, and environmental protection. To add to its diverse mission capability, ACTIVE also participates in public relations activities such as the Portland Rose Festival and Seattle Sea Fair.

ACTIVE's deployments are normally scheduled for between 30 to 60 days. In-port periods for maintenance are scheduled between deployments, lasting four to six weeks. Every four years the ship undergoes a major maintenance period lasting six to eight weeks.

Downloaded from <https://www.pacificarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Cutters/cgcActive/> edited by Randall Zempel

During the recent GAP analysis, the USCGC Active command identified the following areas they would like to receive Auxiliary assistance:

- TCT Instructor
- AUX Food Service
- Auxiliary Coxswain/Boat Crew Member
- Medical Doctor
- In-port Watchstanders
- Event Staff

Aft Lookout

Why is "Semper Paratus" the Coast Guard's official motto?

No one seems to know exactly how *Semper Paratus* was chosen as the Coast Guard's motto. But there is no doubt as to who put the famous motto to words and music. Captain Francis Saltus Van Boskerck wrote the words in the cabin of the cutter *Yamacraw* in Savannah, Ga., in 1922. He wrote the music five years later on a "beat-up old piano" in Unalaska, Alaska. At that time it was probably the only piano in the whole long chain of Aleutian Islands. Van Boskerck received his commission in the Revenue Cutter Service May 20, 1891.

In 1917 he was Captain of the Port in Philadelphia and an aide for the fourth naval district at the American routing office in Philadelphia. He was also censor for the district, and was the first Coast Guard officer to report a German submarine on the Atlantic coast. After the war, Van Boskerck transferred to the Puget Sound Navy Yard to supervise repairs on the famous cutter *Bear*. He commanded *Bear* on the 1920 summer cruise to the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean.

In 1922, as commander of *Yamacraw*, Van Boskerck was stationed at Savannah and chased rum-runners off the coast of the Carolinas and Florida. In 1923 he went to the Naval War College at Newport, R.I., and in 1924 became District Commander of the Great Lakes District. Van Boskerck was commissioned Captain in 1925.

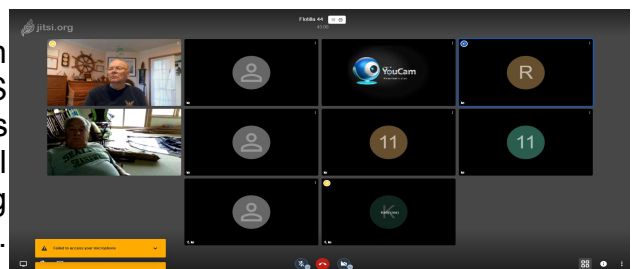
"Captain Van," as he was known to his many friends, was next ordered to Seattle as Assistant Inspector of the Northwest District. In 1925 and 1926 he was Commander of the Bering Sea Forces, headquartered at the remote port of Unalaska. It was here that he found time to fit the words of his song to music with the help of two Public Health dentists, Alf E. Nannestad and Joseph O. Fournier. Mrs. Albert C. Clara Goss, the wife of a fur trader, let them use the beat-up piano on which the song was written. For probably as long as Captain Van Boskerck could remember, *Semper Paratus* had been a Revenue Cutter and Coast Guard watchword. The words themselves, "always ready" or "ever ready," date back to ancient times.

No official recognition was given to the Coast Guard motto until it appeared on the Captain-Commandant's official stationery* in 1910 on the ensign. Captain Van Boskerck hoped to give it as much recognition as "*Semper Fidelis*" of the Marines and "Anchors Aweigh" of the Navy.

Downloaded from <https://www.history.uscg.mil/Browse-by-Topic/History-Heritage-Traditions/Semper-Paratus/>

Starboard Lookout

Although we have spent much of this year in isolation and unable to personally contribute towards the US Coast Guard mission, we did have some success navigating the world of "virtual" meetings. Our April Flotilla meeting was the first, and after some initial sorting through technical unfamiliarity, it was a qualified success.



Ten members “attended” via “[Jitsi](#)” and we got some training on the new AuxData2 system.

All in all, an experience that will serve us well as we move forward and get back to integrating with Team Coast Guard.

Vessel Examiners and Program Visitors are allowed to have a trainee along with them so as to qualify as a VE or PV. Only one trainee per VE/PV is allowed. The VE/PV and trainee must use different cars to arrive at the site of the inspection/visit. Both must be in proper PPE and both must keep the required social distances at all times.

On Deck

Job Well Done

Doug Wilson has earned the “Coast Guard Sustained Auxiliary Service Award,” for superior performance of duty in excess of 750 total hours. The award was signed by Commander Brown, Director of Auxiliary Forces. The award was announced during the June virtual Flotilla meeting, and comes with a ribbon and a certificate suitable for framing.



This award is presented to an Auxiliarist contributing a documented total of 750 volunteer hours of Auxiliary service. Subsequent awards are presented for each additional 750 hours of service until the tenth award is achieved.

Report Your Hours

It is essential for the good of the Auxiliary and for the good of the USCG as well, for all members to report their hours and missions. Only half of our members filed their 7029s regularly. Aside from the flotilla records and the addition to the USCG budget that those hours represent, the mileage as recorded in the Annual Member Letter is usually deductible on income tax. Please file your AuxData2 information regularly – everyone benefits.

AUXDATA Modernization Overview

- USCG Auxiliary is moving forward with an ambitious project: the replacement of its current AUXDATA system.
- System is critical to the Auxiliary and USCG's success as it houses personnel, program, and activity data for active and retired members, as well as serves as the platform for issuing patrol orders and reimbursing expenses.
- Current AUXDATA system is being replaced with a more streamlined, functional, and scalable system.
- New system will strengthen the day-to-day capabilities of the 25,700 active members and 9,800 retired members of the Auxiliary volunteer force.
- New system also supports key initiatives defined in the Coast Guard's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan and the Auxiliary's Strategic Plan 2018-2024.

USCG is making a strategic investment in its people, processes, and technology by developing a new system to help meet its mission to ensure our Nation's maritime safety, security and stewardship.

Diversity is a mission readiness issue

The role of the Coast Guard, including the Auxiliary component, is critical to national security. Our mission is to protect the public, the environment, and America's economic interests in the nation's ports and waterways. The Coast Guard values diversity, teamwork, and responsiveness. Our goal in valuing diversity is to build a positive and respectful work environment for all personnel, regardless of their similarities or differences, to enhance our mission capabilities.

Diversity is about acknowledging differences and adapting practices to create an inclusive environment in which diverse skills, perspectives and backgrounds are valued. It is about

understanding the individual differences among our members that arise from a broad range of backgrounds and lifestyles, and recognizing the value of using those different perspectives and ideas to enhance the quality and outcomes of our mission.

Our diversity is shaped by a variety of characteristics including age, ethnicity, gender, disability, language, religious beliefs, life stages, education, career, sexual orientation, personality and marital status. Additionally, diversity means accepting, welcoming and valuing the differences inherent in every individual and recognizing the contribution that a diverse membership can make to our organizational effectiveness and operational performance.

We are strongly encouraged to not only invite a diverse membership to join the Auxiliary, but also engage in a *Diversity of Mission*. *We are challenged to recruit new members and retain current members by informing them of the many mission sets available beyond those of Air and Surface Operations, Recreational Boating Safety activities and Public Education. Although these missions are at our core existence, there is so much more... Let's do more!*

Ground Tackle

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