

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COAST GUARD AUXILIARY DISTRICT 14

District Commodore's Quote

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USCG AUXILIARY 14th DISTRICT: Serving the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Saipan Area

USCG AUXILIARY'S BIGGEST ANNUAL EVENT!







District Commodore

Jodie Nelson

the foundation to an

effective team."

Communication is

May 12, 1939

Boatswain's Mate First Class Clarence Samuels was appointed as a Chief Photographer's Mate (Acting), becoming the first African-American photographer in the Coast Guard and only the second Coast Guard photographer in the entire history of the Service.



TradeWinds

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U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Organization Chart District Fourteen









District Commodore's Message



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Getting the Right People on the Bus: Reflections from the Commodore

During my college years, I spent countless hours reading textbooks and assigned materials for my business management degree. One Human Resources course in particular left a lasting impression on me. I vividly remember a lecture centered on the concept of "getting the right people on the bus," taken from Jim Collins' influential book *Good* to *Great*. That simple but powerful idea—ensuring you have the right people in the right roles—has resonated with me for over 20 years and continues to guide my approach in every leadership role I take on.

As I reflect on District 14 and the direction we are heading, I am incredibly grateful for the outstanding individuals we have on our "bus." Success in the Coast Guard Auxiliary relies on members who are willing to step outside of their comfort zones to lead, support, and inspire others. It is this shared commitment that moves us forward.

District Commodore Jodie Nelson

Looking ahead, I want to start encouraging everyone to consider leadership opportunities in the upcoming fall elections. If you've ever felt the call to serve in a greater capacity—this is your year! For those interested in running for Flotilla Commander, there will be an additional requirement, but I assure you it is manageable and well worth the effort. Please reach out to your current Division Commander for details. I look forward to partnering with many of you in the coming two years as I continue to serve as your Commodore.

Last month, we celebrated National Safe Boating Week—and our district truly led the way. From vessel safety checks and program visits to ramp watches, safety classes, and public outreach, our collective efforts were remarkable. While I don't have the exact number of individuals impacted, I have no doubt that the work we did across our Area of Responsibility (AOR) made a meaningful difference.

One highlight from May was traveling with LCDR Torres and LT Olivia Miller from Guam to Saipan to support and collaborate with the Saipan Flotilla. It was the most productive trip I've had there to date, thanks in large part to LT Justin Miller's dedication in organizing meetings and engaging with prospective members. His commitment to ensuring Saipan becomes an integral part of our district deserves a special shout out—thank you, LT Justin Miller!

I'd also like to extend my sincere appreciation to Jack Ary for stepping up as my Commodore's Aide and accepting the appointment as our new District Staff Officer for Member Training (DSO-MT). Jack has played a pivotal role in my own Auxiliary journey—he first introduced me to the organization in 2012 after learning of my interest in boating and volunteering. Today, he continues to be an invaluable resource and partner in leadership.

Shout Outs & Celebrations

- Congratulations to Jack Ary and Dr. Matilda Naputi Rivera from Flotilla 24 for completing the AUX-OP qualifications through the online pathway! Their initiative and success exemplify the dedication we value in our members.
- A special congratulations to our very own pilot, Bill Melohn, who received Honorable Mention for the Captain Niels P. Thomsen Innovation Award—an annual recognition of excellence. Bill's commitment to aviation safety is commendable, and we're excited to have him as a presenter at the Fall District Training (DTrain), where he'll share insights into getting involved in the AUXAIR program.

As always, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your Commodore. It is an honor to lead such a dedicated and inspiring group of individuals. Together, we are not only upholding the values of the Coast Guard Auxiliary—we are shaping its future.

Thank you for all that you do. Semper Paratus, Jodie Nelson Commodore, USCG Auxiliary District 14



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DCAPT- Execution Message

District Captain - Execution Dr. Matilda Naputi Rivera

Håfa Adai, Aloha, and Talofa!



Håfa Adai, Aloha, and Talofa! We are pleased to share several positive updates that reflect the outstanding work and dedication of our Auxiliary members.

Earlier this quarter, ALCOAST 238/25 announced the recipients of the 2024 CAPTAIN NIELS P. THOMSEN INNOVATION AWARDS. We are proud to recognize Auxiliarist Bill Melohn of District 14, who received an Honorable Mention for Auxiliary Achievement for his innovative SAROPS to ForeFlight Search Pattern Transfer project. His work reflects the spirit of innovation that continues to strengthen the Coast Guard's mission.

AuxAir operations remain strong, carrying out a range of missions including routine patrols, support for federal, state, and local agencies, and SAR missions launched by Sector Honolulu in response to reports of kayaks adrift off Kaanapali Beach, Maui. Our pilots also assisted DLNR in assessing vessel groundings off Lanai and West Maui. These missions highlight AuxAir's ongoing readiness and commitment to mission support.

Recruitment and training continue to bring new strength to our aviation team. A new recruit successfully qualified as Air Crew, while two active duty Coast Guard members gained valuable pilot-in-command experience aboard Auxiliary aircraft. Additionally, efforts are underway to onboard a new aircraft owner, further expanding our capabilities. Retention remains strong, and our members continue to grow professionally and personally.

Across the District, collaboration with Sector leadership remains productive. The Auxiliary's ability to provide emergency VHF coverage has been recognized, and preparations are advancing to qualify additional Auxiliary boat crew members on Maui and the Big Island. Quality assurance visits are scheduled for the upcoming quarter to support this work.

Surface operations remained active despite some weather challenges. Eleven C130 support missions were completed this past quarter, and additional training is planned to maintain operational readiness. Meanwhile, in communications, significant progress is underway to establish an HF emergency network, which will enhance our long-range disaster communications capability—an important step forward in preparedness.

We continue to monitor weather systems, maintain Everbridge readiness, and honor those who have crossed the bar for their service. In support of member development, Emergency Management training opportunities from the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency have also been shared with Division 1, offering valuable resources to strengthen member skills.

These accomplishments speak to the unwavering professionalism, dedication, and spirit of service that define the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Your continued commitment ensures that we remain always ready to serve.

Biba District 14! Semper Paratus!



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I would like to recognize the hard work from Rod Oishi and Suzi Mann from Flotilla 14 and Cheryl Parker from Flotilla 17. On June 9, 2025, the AUX team attended the 203rd Western Pacific Fishery Council Meeting at Ala Moana Hotel. The team disseminated ocean materials, brochures, and information promoting the RBS mission through program visits, ramp watches, and vessel safety exams. Additionally, the team promoted other AUX programs, like culinary assistance and CG recruiting. Active-Duty Coast Guard, NOAA, DLNR and other agency partners were also in attendance. Bravo Zulu, AUX Team!!!

Very Respectfully, LCDR Melvin Torres





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Division 1

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DCDR John Reiss on









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Division 2 National Safe Boating Week

The Guam Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla took part in a community outreach event at Micronesia Mall in celebration of National Boating Safety Week. The event brought together several community partners, including the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, the University of Guam Sea Grant Program, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Guam Police Department's Recreational Boating Safety Program, USO-Andersen, AmeriCorps, and Xtreme Powersports. Our booths saw steady traffic as attendees showed strong interest and engaged with us to learn more about our mission as Auxiliarists. One of the highlights of the event was an interactive passport activity, where participants visited various booths to complete their passport. Upon completion, they were entered into a raffle featuring small giveaways and a grand prize—two Coast Guard-approved life jackets generously donated by Xtreme Powersports. Overall, the event was a great success, leaving both the community and our members with a sense of connection and accomplishment.



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Division 2

National Safe Boating Week

BOAT AMERICA COURSE Saturday & Sunday, May 23 & 24, 2025

The Guam Flotilla offered the Boat America course at a special 50% discount in celebration of National Safe Boating Week. This course covered the fundamentals of safe and responsible boating—perfect for new boaters or seasoned skippers looking to refresh their knowledge. Topics included navigation rules, safety equipment, boating laws, and more. The course was co-instructed by DCAPT-Execution Dr. Matilda Naputi Rivera, DCAPT-RBS Robert Vasquez, and VFC Annmarie Trusso.



Participants of the Boat America course offered during National Safe Boating Week



Division 2

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National Safe Boating Week

More Snapshots from the NSBW Community Showcase!

Enjoy additional snapshots capturing the vibrant energy, interactive displays, and dedicated volunteers who made the day memorable. From the proclamation signing by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero to safety demonstrations, legislative certificate presentations by Senators Frank Blas and Tony Ada, and informational boating and water safety booths, these moments highlight our shared commitment to promoting safe boating practices across Guam.





Division 2

National Safe Boating Week Story Time Saturday, May 17, 2025, Micronesia Mall, Guam

The NSBW Story Time featured Read Alouds of Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) stories including the True Story of Inky the Whale, Brilliant Boats, and Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim. This program provides additional Public Education Outreach in RBS, giving a strong awareness to children and families of basic boating safety and water sports including the importance of Life Jacket Wear. A special thank you goes out to USCG Auxiliarist Harry Ota, DCAPT-Execution Dr. Matilda Naputi Rivera, and Melissa Palomo for reading the stories on boating and water safety. The children participating also had opportunities to win prizes by correctly answering questions after the Read Alouds.







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Division 2

Ramp Watch, Vessel Safety Checks & Program Visits

Sunday, May 18, 2025 Hagatna Boat Basin & Agat Marina

Our Auxiliarists had a great time at the Hagåtña Boat Basin and Agat Marina for a lively Ramp Watch! They engaged with boaters by conducting vessel safety checks, sharing helpful boating safety tips and literature, answering questions about safe boating practices, and encouraging everyone to wear their life jackets. In addition, they carried out Program Visits. It was a fantastic day of promoting safety and supporting our local boating community!





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Division 3

Maui USCG Auxiliary Leads Successful Ramp Watch Operation in Kihei

On 17 May 2025, the Maui USCG Auxiliary conducted a high-visibility Ramp Watch operation at the Kihei Boat Ramp, making a direct impact on local boating safety and community outreach. The team engaged with recreational boaters, observed vessel activity, and offered real-time safety recommendations, fostering a proactive culture of safety and compliance with best practices.

The team offered free vessel safety examinations (VEs) to all boaters, completing several exams that confirmed compliance with federal safety standards and enhanced overall on-water preparedness. To further engage the local community, the team displayed Coastie and distributed Coastie coloring books to children, sparking early interest in maritime safety. In collaboration with Station Maui, the team also coordinated a public display of the 29-foot Response Boat-Small II (RBS II) and the Maui Flotilla's 26-foot facility vessel. These hands-on demonstrations provided the public with invaluable education on Coast Guard operations and helped strengthen bonds between the Coast Guard and local residents. The campaign concluded with a free public safe boating class, reinforcing the Auxiliary's commitment to education and prevention. The professionalism and teamwork demonstrated by the Maui USCG Auxiliary, in partnership with USCG Station Maui, exemplify the core values of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Coast Guard. A job well done by all involved!





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Division 3

Talofa lava, Flotilla family and friends! As we reach the midpoint of 2025, Flotilla 140-03-28 continues to grow with purpose and passion. This past quarter, we strengthened community ties through six vendor outreach visits across the island, promoting recreational boating safety and building lasting relationships with local businesses like the Tool Shop, Samoa Sports, Tropic Traders, and others. Their ongoing support amplifies our mission across the island.



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In May, we proudly participated in the American Samoa Community College Career Fair Day, connecting with students and future leaders about service opportunities through the Auxiliary. Their energy and interest reaffirm our belief that the future is bright.





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Division 3



A major milestone was achieved as FSO-VE Vani Atafua officially earned his Vessel Examiner qualification—a significant step toward launching a local Vessel Examination program. This success was made possible with support from DIV III Commander Scott (Maui) and Tim Jones.

Several members were recognized this quarter for their contributions to the Recreational Boating Safety Program through public education and outreach showcasing our dedication and impact. The Territory also officially proclaimed National Safe Boating Week (May 17–23, 2025), further highlighting the importance of our work. This recognition not only elevated awareness but underscored the vital role our Flotilla plays in ensuring the safety of all who enjoy our waters.







We're also excited to share that our Flotilla has a brand-new logo, created by FSO-MA Lesley Anderson-Penitusi. This updated design is a powerful symbol of our identity and our mission. It reflects who we are, where we're from, and the commitment we carry forward as the face of the USCG Auxiliary in American Samoa.



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The Spotlight!



ADSO-AV Bill Melohn, receives Honorable mention for auxiliary achievement for the Captain Niels P. Thomsen Innovation Awards.

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ADSO-AV Melohn received his Pilot's license in 1986. He has flown several thousand hours in a wide variety of airplanes all around the United States, Australia and in Europe and previously owned a Piper Saratoga; he currently owns and flies a Cirrus SR-20 based in Hawaii.

Melohn completed the ATOP Class D simulator program for the Boeing 737-200, offered at United airlines training center in Denver. He worked at Silicon Graphics on developing the Boeing Plane Interactive Graphics System workstations used to develop the Boeing 777, the first all online design in large scale commercial aviation.

Currently, Melohn is the Chief Flight Examiner, an Aircraft Commander, and the District Flight Training Officer in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Air program. He is also the Safety Director for the General Aviation Council of Hawaii, and is the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Airport Support Network board member for the Western Region of the U.S.

Melohn worked with the USCG NAVCEN and ForeFlight by Boeing/Jeppesen, to define a method to import Search and Rescue plans from ground based systems via an iPad into in-cockpit navagators, eliminating the need to transcribe complex flight plans over the radio to cockpit crew.

Melohn is a proud graduate of Iolani school and the University of Southern California. He and his wife Trudi have lived in Honolulu for the last 13 years.

While he has loved flying since right seating a twin Beech from Kaanapali airport when he was 9, he needed a reason, a mission to fly regularly between the islands to keep active as a pilot. The AuxAir program provides this purpose, and allows him to serve his community while doing something he loves in a place he loves, ADSO-DV Bill Melohn had decided to join the Auxiliary in 2014 and hasn't looked back.





Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Program

The Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Program(AUX-CA) began post 9/11 in 1st Southern to support the Gold side. In 2006, AUXCHEF was officially established as a National program, and the 5th Southern took the lead in developing the program. In 2013, the name changed to AUXFS Program (Food Service), and in 2021 changed to AUX-CA Program (Culinary Assistance). The program brings several benefits to Auxiliarists, which include learning new skills and tasks in the food service, helping with recruiting and retention, providing good public relations, and demonstrating the diversity and capabilities of the Auxiliary. This program also benefits the Coast Guard by relieving Coast Guardsmen to perform other tasks and training, fills critical culinary vacancies, improves the morale and well-being of Coast Guardsmen, and enhances Mission Readiness.









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Auxiliary Culinary Assistance Program



In District 14, there are 4 certified AUX-CA members; 3 certified members in Honolulu and 1 certified member in Guam. In 2024, the AUX-CA Team serviced a total of 348.5 hours to the Gold Side. In Guam, there are three Members who are still pending hands-on training. Master Chief Johnson traveled to Guam in January 2025 to begin training the new AUX-CA members. Hands-on training began at Camp Covington Galley on the Naval Base Guam. In Honolulu, the AUX-CA Team is currently providing service to Base Honolulu Galley and Cutters as needed, in addition to providing support at special events.

For more information, please visit the Culinary Assistance program page at the Coast Guard Auxiliary website.

Clauber Santos DSO-CA USCG AUX Flotilla 17





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Hilo Flotilla Strengthens Operational Readiness During Requalification Weekend

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Article by FSO-MT, Jane Walsh

On April 26–27, the Hilo Flotilla hosted a successful requalification weekend that brought together members from across District 14 in a collaborative effort to maintain mission readiness and operational excellence.



Operations took place aboard Mikini Hoe, a facility generously provided and operated by Dwayne Glaspey (FSO -VE) of Hilo, who also requalified as Coxswain during the event. Oversight was provided by OTO Ryan Finch (CW-2), who flew in from Oahu to ensure all activities met USCG Auxiliary standards.







Hilo Flotilla Strengthens Operational Readiness During Requalification Weekend

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The weekend featured strong collaboration, with members from the Hilo, Kona, and Barbers Point flotillas. Roland Zwicky (DSO-OP), from the Barbers Point unit on Oahu, earned his Instructor requalification, while Dave Cotner (FC) of the Kona Flotilla successfully requalified as Boat Crew. From the Hilo Flotilla, August Lins (FSO-HR), Lucille Walsh (FSO-FN), and Jane Walsh (FSO-MT) also requalified as Boat Crew, rounding out a productive and energizing two days of training.

Looking ahead, the Hilo Flotilla is eager to build on this momentum. With Mikini Hoe at the ready, crews are preparing for further on-the-water training to sharpen their skills and maintain the high level of readiness required to support Coast Guard missions. This event served as a strong reminder that when we train together, we grow stronger and when the call comes, we'll be ready.









District 14/MSU Saipan Auxiliary Engagements

The Saipan Flotilla is currently in the process of becoming a Detachment to the Guam Flotilla until a strong leadership foundation is established once again. It is not a completed mission but the D14 DIRAUX leadership is confident that the Saipan membership will get to where they need to be very soon.

I would like to express my gratitude to DCO Nelson, LT Justin Miller, and LT Olivia Miller for taking the time to assist the Saipan Flotilla. Mahalo and Afa Adai!!!

Very Respectfully, LCDR Melvin Torres



25 May 25: DCO Nelson conducting a Vessel Safety Check at a Saipan Marina



25 May 25: DCO Nelson showing an AUX member the requirements of Vessel Safety Checks.





District 14/MSU Saipan Auxiliary Engagements

As you are probably aware, D14 AUX leadership has been working very hard to support the Saipan Flotilla during a time when their leadership body has been put to the test of time. Seasoned members decreased in their volunteering hours (due to many factors of life) while more recent members fell behind in their training and exposure to what the AUX has to offer. D14 DIRAUX, DCO, and MSU Saipan (LT Justin Miller) got together to come up with a plan to re-invigorate the Saipan Flotilla.

From 24 May to 26 May 2025, District Commodore and DIRAUX met with Saipan Flotilla members to discuss ways to improve their volunteering efforts in support of the Coast Guard missions. The membership articulated a clear vision for the future, emphasizing enhanced member engagement through increased participation in meetings, community outreach, and boating safety education initiatives. The Flotilla leadership expressed a strong preference for maintaining its independent status to foster local leadership and minimize reliance on virtual meetings and offisland leadership oversight.



24 May 25: DCO Nelson presenting Auxiliary Certificate to Ms. Dixie Camacho, future leader of Detachment Saipan.





25 May 25: DCO Nelson inspecting a non-compliant fire extinguisher.



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United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Special Recognition

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I would like to recognize the hard work that Commodore Roland Zwicky and his crew do every time D14 units have retirement ceremonies or change of command. Using the AUX UTM, his team is always ready and able to provide taxi rides from Pier One to Base Honolulu facilitating transportation to all members of D14. Everyone receives a warm Aloha and beautiful scenery experience. Bravo Zulu, UTM Team!!!

Very Respectfully, LCDR Melvin Torres





The Highlight

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From the D14 DIRAUX Office

I would like to highlight LCDR Wade Thomson, USCG (retired) for all his contributions, not only to Active-Duty, but his time as an active Auxiliarist. His last duty station was Sector Honolulu where he was responsible for waterways and port recovery and resiliency operations, as well as Aids to Navigation (ATON) maintenance throughout the Hawaiian Islands. As an Auxiliarist from the Guam Flotilla, he had many opportunities to serve alongside them. However, I would like to point out on or about 13 May 2010, LCDR Thomson lend lifesaving gear to the crew of the long-range 33-foot outrigger sailing canoe Simion Hokulea; the traditionallyconstructed and outfitted canoe and its crew retraced a many centuries-old trade/exploration route from Lamotrek, Yap, a feat not attempted since 1905, using only traditionally navigation tools such as seashells, specially carved as celestial plotting aids. Please congratulate LCDR Wade Thomson, USCG (retired) after serving over 20 years of humble and selfless service to this country!!!!



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Very Respectfully,

LCDR Melvin Torres





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Recovering well District Chief of Staff, Leonard S. "Lennie" Cantor



Lennie is doing well and remains in good spirits. He reported that the plan is to transfer him to Hawaii within the next month or so. Once transferred, he will continue his rehabilitation at a hospital in Hawaii. During his afternoon physical therapy session, it was observed that Lennie still requires assistance with mobility.

Sandy was well-behaved and was able to curl up and lie with Lennie for a few hours on Friday afternoon. She also assisted Lennie in getting up, which is part of the stability work included in the ADA training. (Picture not shown)











The Creative Side of District 14

Biba District 14 A Tribute to Service

By Dr. Matilda Naputi Rivera DCAPT-EXECUTION Håfa Adai, Aloha, Talofa — We gather beneath these island skies, To honor those who serve with pride, Whose steadfast hearts will never die.

This quarter brought well-earned acclaim, As ALCOAST raised its voice in praise. Auxiliarist Bill Melohn stood tall; His work ignites the spirit of innovation.

AuxAir wings patrol the skies, Responding swiftly where duty calls, Advancing missions, saving lives, Strengthening the Coast Guard's legacy.

New members rise, their wings earned with pride, Air Crew trained with skillful care. Active duty and Auxiliary united, Prepared to answer, anywhere.

> VHF stands firm in times of crisis, Boat crews grow on distant shores. Maui and the Big Island stand ready, Prepared to serve and support.

C130 missions are underway — Through storm and calm, their watch remains. While HF networks take new shape, Extending reach through wind and rain.

We pause to honor those now gone, Who've crossed the bar, their duty done. Their legacy remains alive, In every mission we revive.

Through training, growth, and hearts aligned, Our members rise with steady hands. Semper Paratus — Always Ready, To serve with honor—by sea, air, and land.

Biba District 14!





Auxiliary ID Cards

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Auxiliary ID Cards are processed via an off-network system. This creates an inefficient and cumbersome process. Due to this, AUX ID requests are processed on a bi-weekly basis. This is to allow for a bunch of requests to be gathered and processed together. Additionally, the function of U.S. Postal mailing is not in the DIRAUX office control and is subject to schedules that may put that function on the back burner. To give a realistic expectation of when IDs are received, please allow for 4 weeks upon receipt of a completed AUX ID Request package.

On another note, we are working towards getting a new, on-network system. We are pushing the concerns up the chain and hopefully will have the new system functioning within the next couple weeks. Along with that, I am trying to get authorization for the function of U.S. Postal mailing for Auxiliary.

I thank you all for your continued understanding and patience as we work towards a more efficient system.

Jessica A. Puchert Auxiliary Affairs Specialist

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District 14 DSO-Publications

"Trade Winds" means a wind blowing steadily towards the equator from the northeast in the northern hemisphere or the southeast in the southern hemisphere, especially at sea.

Our mission is to promote comrade, keep members informed, and the latest information, News and announcements pertaining to the District, Divisions and Flotillas. As a publication, we view our newsletter as a sacred space for District, Division, and Flotilla voices, and we believe it is our responsibility to represent the unique perspectives and contributions found throughout our District.

Our intention is to provide members with the opportunity to show your District, Division, and Flotilla Pride with all of everyone in District 14. What a better way to get to know our Pacific Area USCG Auxiliarist.

Trade Winds is committed to freedom of speech, which allows all member to express or articulate their ideas and opinions pertaining to your division, and stays within the legal limits of free speech.

As the editors, we would like to be as transparent as possible. We gladly welcome any comments and critiques you may have as a reader. Letters to the editor are also highly encouraged and will be considered for publication. We are excited to be promoting our mission of Trade Winds and to hearing from our Pacific Auxiliary leaders and members.

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ERNANDEZ

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