



The National Department of Public Affairs Newsletter
The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
National Department of Public Affairs Newsletter

The Public Affairs UPDATE

VOL. 99 No. 7

Jack E. Banister, DC-A

Otis W. Littleton, BC-ANN

214 Beaver Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-2501 Tel: 717-761-7858 ; FAX: 717-761-2428 ; email: otismcnbg@worldnet.att.net

Flotilla 1-2 Celebrates it's 45th Anniversary

Flotilla 1-2, Seventh District, in Cangrejos, Puerto Rico was the recipient of a Resolution from the Puerto Rican House of Representatives in recognition of forty-five years of service to the citizens of Puerto Rico.

The **Honorable Edison Mislá Aldarondo**, President of the House of Representatives and **Carlos R. Barretto Montañez**, Secretary of the House of Representatives, signed the Resolution.

Flotilla Commander **Diana Figueroa**, said, "Our Flotilla 1-2, Cangrejos received a special recognition for a job well done and for our 45th Anniversary from the President of the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico, the **Honorable Edison Mislá Aldarondo**."

Earlier this month, **NACO Tucker** posted the record of the House of Representatives Resolution on the Auxiliary's "What's New Page" and cited the work of the Flotilla as "**BRAVO ZULO**".

Copies of the Resolution were presented to Flotilla Elected Officers and members present at the award ceremony. The resolution was presented in an attractive green ceremonial folder that is suitable for framing.

The Flotilla has been mentioned in the UPDATE previously for its great publication, the **1-2 Patrol**.

The Flotilla also maintains an active web site at: www.home.coqui.net/nelstorjt/USCGAUX_FL1-2.

Members are urged to visit the site to see what is possible for a Flotilla to accomplish.

Bravo Zulo Flotilla 1-2

COORDINATED Enforcement Effort

Rear Admiral **Paul J. Pluta**, Commander of the Coast Guard's Eighth District announced a coordinated plan of action, in concert with The Coast Guard, The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife service to orchestrate a coordinated enforcement effort in preparation for the reopening of shrimping activities in Texas state and federal waters on July 15, 1999.

The enforcement effort, in partnership with the shrimping industry, will conduct courtesy dockside "**TED**" inspections providing the shrimpers the opportunity to have a complete courtesy check of their equipment prior to the opening of the Texas shrimping season.

"**TED**" is the acronym for "**Turtle Excluder Device**". This is an important piece of equipment that allows sea turtles inadvertently captured in shrimpers nets to escape and return to the freedom of the sea unharmed.

The **Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Examiners** are actively supporting the voluntary commercial fishing examination program, which thus far, has been helpful in educating commercial fishermen about ship-board safety and environmental issues.

Auxiliary Memorabilia

Past National Commodore, Joseph J. Lanz, Jr. has placed an urgent call for all Auxiliarists take a pro-active role to protect and preserve records pertaining to the 60th Anniversary celebration.

In addition, members or relatives of present or past members who may have any historical memorabilia such as old text books, uniforms, etc. that could be placed on display at **NACON** should

contact **PNAO Lanz**, Chairman of the 60th Anniversary Committee, for guidance in making mutually agreeable arrangements for showcasing personal or unit memorabilia.

PNAO Lanz can be contacted at 2423 SW Terrace, Palm City, FL 34990-2123; Phone: 561-219-9711; FAX: 561-219-9247.

Como. Lanz also reminded members who may have articles and photos of 60th Anniversary activities and celebrations sent to the **EDITOR** of the **NAVIGATOR**, **H. Edward Mackenzie**, at 4 Birch Meadow Road, Merrimac, MA 01860-1825. The Editor will make every reasonable effort to include all such photographs.

All Public Affairs Officers are requested to keep a file or record of all items pertaining to the 60th Anniversary celebration. At the conclusion of the commemoration period, the file and any artifacts such as official resolutions and citations, etc. should be turned over to the **District Historian** for submission to the Coast Guard Auxiliary records collection at East Carolina University.

An Illustration of Attitude

A young boy takes his bat and ball out to the field. With great determination, he tells himself that he will one day be the best baseball player in the world. He says, "I will be the best baseball player in the world," as he throws the ball into the air, swings the bat and misses.

He picks up the ball and says again, "I will be the best baseball player in the world." Another swing, another miss.

A third time he says, "I will be the best baseball player in the world." A third time he throws the ball into the air. The third time he again misses.

With great pride, he picks up the ball and

says, "Man, even I didn't know I could pitch so well."

That is the attitude! Remember last month we spoke about the unlimited opportunities for members of the Auxiliary to exceed all their self-determined goals and increase membership, vessel examinations, public education and operations. With effort to succeed, we can be made aware of our strengths and weaknesses. We were all made for Success.

NACON '99

Starting of Friday, **27 August 1999** National Staff will offer a wide variety of training and information to members. All members in attendance at the Conference are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities presented.

Throughout the conference, there will be a special **Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety (CFVS) booth** to provide the latest available information and material about the CFVS program.

Featured at the booth will be an **EPIRB Tester** that is used by CFVS examiners to test EPIRBs. As part of the demonstration, members are urged to bring their EPIRBs in for testing.

There is a tentative schedule of twenty-four workshops to be given over a two-day period. These workshops will include:

- an **AUXMIS UPDATE** regarding enhancements and future plans;
- a review of **LEGAL** aspects of the Auxiliary;
- a review of the **Air Operations Program**;
- a **Diversity Panel Discussion**;
- a review of **In-Flotilla Training**;
- a review of the re-engineered **VE/MDV Programs**;
- new **business directions** for the Department of Boating;
- discussion of new offerings in **PE**;
- review of the new millennium in **Auxiliary electronic communications**;
- review of **Surface Operations and Education Program**;
- review of **successful Auxiliary Recruiting efforts** in 97/98.
- discussion on **Marketing the Auxiliary**;
- review of **disaster Planning and Response**;
- review of new **AUX Basic Leadership and Management Training**.

Hurricane Warnings

As we all leave for Orlando to attend NACON, remember, we are in the midst of the 1999 Hurricane Season. **Nester Tacoronte, PFC/FSO-MT of Flotilla 1-2, Cangrejos, PR** reminds us of the precautions we should be prepared to take during a **Hurricane Warning**:

- Listen constantly to a battery-operated radio or television for official instructions;
- If in a mobile home, check tie-downs and evacuate immediately;
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof containers on the highest level of your home;
- Avoid elevators;
If officials order an evacuation:
- Leave as soon as possible. Avoid flooded roads;
- Secure your home by unplugging all electrical appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve.
- Tell someone outside the storm area where you are going;
- Lock up your home and leave, following official evacuation routes.

We thank FSO-MT Tacoronte for this timely advice. All Auxiliarists in coastal areas prone to hurricanes should follow this advice.

Regulatory Updates

Public Affairs Officers at all levels are urged to keep themselves informed of changes in their state boating laws and regulations.

This information is important if we are to fulfill our responsibilities to our members and the public. As the PA Officer, be prepared to send out press releases explaining the changes in the law or regulation in plain English to assure that the information will be made available and understood.

It is important that you establish and maintain a good working relationship with your state's SLO or LLC Representative so they will keep you abreast of all statutory and regulatory changes that affect boaters and/or the various Auxiliary programs that may impact on safe boating.

When you are certain you fully understand the changes and their impact on boaters, send out a press release to your local broadcast (radio and TV) and print media.

Do not be concerned about the fact some state official may have made an announcement of the changes. Your input, correctly done, may help to clear up any questions by the media and boaters not anticipated by the state agencies. Also, your release may help imprint the importance of the change on the minds of those reading it.

What we are about!

Our fundamental mission is about the promotion of safe boating practices and the saving of lives.

When was the last time you contacted your local media representatives? If they don't know who you are and what it is you represent, the chances are they won't pay a great deal of attention to the releases and other material you might send them from time to time.

Invite them to attend a unit meeting for the purpose of learning more about us and what it is we do to make a recreational activity safer. Let your elected officer know of your plans and work with other staff officers and members to assure an interesting and informative meeting.

By them getting to know who you are, you enhance the probability that your efforts will be recognized and printed or broadcast. Who knows, with your knowledge of boating safety issues, you might even be given the opportunity to write a seasonally timely article on boating safety or reducing boating hazards at some local boating area.

If you are running into a stone wall, check out the sponsors or advertisers who have an interest in boating activities and ask for their support of your efforts to promote safer boating.

Never give up without trying.

Distribution: The National EXCOM; all National Board Members; The CHIDI-RAUX; all District Directors of Auxiliary; all DCO's; all DCPs, DSOs-PA and PB; all SOs-PA and PB and FCs via the District