



## **DIRAUX NOTES FOR MAY 2014**

### **FROM THE DESK of CDR Chappelka, District 13 Director of Auxiliary**

District Thirteen Auxiliary, This will be my last DIRAUX notes. I retire from the service at the end of June after more than 24 years of exciting and fulfilling service. Today I am briefing my relief, CDR Brian Hofferber, on the world of District Thirteen Auxiliary. It has been enjoyable telling him about our beautiful operations area and the great people I have worked with. I have also told him that his best friend will be the "Find" feature in his electronic copy of the Auxiliary Manual.

It is always difficult to depart an assignment. There are projects and missions that one has to turn over to new staff, although one still feels heavily invested. We are all curious what changes will come with a new Commandant and National Commodore. I will be contacting the office and friends in the Auxiliary for updates, but for the first time in decades it will be out of a retiree's interest and not for prepping briefings or project plans. All for the good though. Fresh eyes will bring fresh ideas.

Thanks for your service to our country and to the Coast Guard. It has been an honor working with you.

Very Respectfully

CDR Kent Chappelka

\*\*\*\*\*

### **FROM THE DESK of CWO Chris Brown, Operations Training Officer/Assistant DIRAUX**

Greetings D13 Auxiliary!

My talking points this month are going to be shorter than usual due to the summer boating activity heating up and numerous abnormal District Staff tasking that I have been assigned. It seems that the District office is a depot for retirement ceremonies this time of year! Paying tribute to our shipmates is extremely important; and I enjoy being that go-to guy for a formal military ceremony. In fact, I was honored to perform as Master of Ceremony for a great shipmate and friend of mine recently. For that reason, I apologize if I have not been as responsive as normal to any of your concerns.

Okay, let's get started! First item of business is a friendly reminder that the AuxData Orders Management (AOM) patrol order system is hands free for the DIRAUX office. This month I have received multiple questions from the membership to reset passwords. Unfortunately for you, being the membership, I do not have that privilege anymore. Now that the system is located on the CG servers, the programmers back East must answer your trouble tickets via the helpdesk ticket located on the home page.

Second, I direct all boat crew participants to review page 3-17, figure 1 of the Rescue and Survival Systems Manual. The figure describes the 50/50 policy box which explains when to and what to wear when conducting boat operations. In the last three weeks I have heard a number of discrepancies leading me to believe that not everyone in the membership has a firm grasp of the PPE requirements. For example:

1. A member wearing layer 1, layer 2 & the layer 3 outer shell dry suit in air temps of 63 degrees and water temps of 64 degrees. The member stated, "tongue-in-cheek" that he almost suffered a heat stroke! Of course! I then engaged the member on the policy & it was immediately clear the member was unaware of the proper requirement for that given situation.

My greatest concern is that members DO NOT wear the proper PPE, and in this case it was wearing too much PPE! Again, had the policy been known, this situation would never have happened.

2. A member donning only the layer 3 outer shell dry suit w/ misc coveralls or blue jeans underneath. This is unauthorized. Remember the dry suit consists of all 3 layers, no exceptions. The official term of the ensemble is the Maritime Cold Weather Suit System (MCWSS), and the dry suit is only the third layer.

Bottom line...remember what is stated in the PPE policy. It is your responsibility to be proficient in the use of the equipment, how it fits, and the environmental conditions for it. Do not take this lightly as situations similar to those mentioned above could result in personal injury and which could be avoidable.

Thanks in advance; let's continue to keep a sharp eye on each other.

FOREVER AND ALWAYS -- NEXT WATCH!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**FROM THE DESK of YN1 Jennifer L. Gonzales, Travel & Office Manager**

Summer is just around the corner and the warmer weather is approaching, at this time of year we all tend to get busy doing outdoor activities and enjoying time with loved ones. Please be safe and if you're traveling on orders please don't forget to do your travel voucher within 3 days of returning. I would hate to have to call you and disturb your summer for something as simple as claiming mileage. On that note enjoy the sun it won't be here long!

\*\*\*\*\*

**FROM THE DESK of Charles K. Claytor, Auxiliary Affairs Specialist**

Perhaps many of you have heard that we are in the process of digitizing all of our records. In other words, everyone's paper records will be made digital. Of course there will still be the same level of protection of Personal Identifiable Information (PII). No one will be able to view your records except for APPROVED DIRAUX STAFF as with your current paper records. You can view your own online record by making an appointment and coming to our office. Our online records will be very brief. Any information stored in AUXDATA or any other approved CG Auxiliary database will no longer be kept in your digital file. What does that mean? For example, once we have recorded your certification in AUXDATA, mailed your certificate and letter to your Flotilla Commander for presentation, we will not keep and other identifiable documents in your digital file. In addition, such things as Offer for Use forms must be sent via the internet to our DIRAUX address ([Diraux@uscg.mil](mailto:Diraux@uscg.mil)). So please start getting in the habit of sending everything via the internet. Unfortunately we will still require new member applications, travel vouchers, and anything that requires an original signature to be mailed. You may want to learn how to digitally sign documents. That might save you the requirement to print something out, sign and then scan to email. We realize that all of this will take some time to initiate so we will be slowly creating deadlines of certain documents to be sent digitally (by email). No deadlines yet but anything you can send by email will be beneficial to us. Again, all documents that require original signature must still be sent via regular mail.

We continue to have issue with new member applications. I have posted the "New Member Application Procedure" form on the Director's website at <http://www.uscg.mil/d13/diraux/>. Please allow the widest dissemination possible.

The item of discussion is Identification Cards. Beginning July 2014 all 5 year anniversary ID cards will require a NEW photograph. That means that Flotillas will need to set up photo studios to get their anniversary photos completed. I would suggest that it is done once per month. DIRAUX will attempt to email everyone at least 30 days in advance of their anniversary month advising them that they need to submit a new photo. Please remember these three important policy remarks; 1) photo must be on a RED background (cannot be photo shopped in) 2) Auxiliarist must wearing the light blue style (tropical blue) Coast Guard shirt, short or long sleeve. Only new members are allowed to wear a white dress shirt instead. 3) For the wearing of earrings, body piercings and tattoos, please refer to Chapter 10, Section C.3.h. This is the guideline for CG Auxiliary photo ID cards. New photos should be sent via your Flotilla Commander, but will be accepted if sent via the [Diraux@uscg.mil](mailto:Diraux@uscg.mil) email address. One final note about the photo, when I receive photos, I must crop them to make them fit. Therefore, if you send me a photo that does not have room to allow for cropping, I will not be able to use them and will be forced to return the photo to the sender.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FROM THE DESK of Shirley A. Blanchett, Auxiliary Program Assistant**

**AUXILIARIST OF THE WEEK:** If you have an Auxiliarist in mind for the Aux of the Week award email a paragraph telling the DIRAUX what the Auxiliarist did to merit the award and attach a couple of pictures of the candidate. email your request to: [shirley.a.blanchett@uscg.mil](mailto:shirley.a.blanchett@uscg.mil).

**PICTURES OF YOURSELF DURING MILITARY DUTY, PEACE CORPS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, OR OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE:**

Do you have pictures of yourself from your time served in uniform or other public service? The DIRAUX is requesting pictures of our Auxiliary membership who have served through many different avenues. We are collecting items for the history of the Auxiliary in the Thirteenth District and the uniformed public service of many of our members. Please submit pictures that you would like to share, along with year and type of service, to the DIRAUX office. Point of contact: Shirley Blanchett, email: [shirley.a.blanchett@uscg.mil](mailto:shirley.a.blanchett@uscg.mil)



Louis Place, ENG  
USN Submariner



BZ to Tony Ford with ADM Papp at the Medallion Ceremony  
50<sup>th</sup> Reunion for the CG Academy

*Best Wishes to CDR Chappelka on his retirement, we will miss him*

\*\*\*\*\*

