



“SERVICE CONTINUES”

Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Newsletter

Council co-chairs: CDR Bruce Russell and YNCS Mike White

Issue 3

20 January 2006

Your Council continues to be active. Our meetings were 23 September, 14 October (informal) and 9 December. Summaries of the minutes of these meetings are included in this newsletter

Our objective is to publish a newsletter quarterly and provide you, the member, with information on Council activities and items of interest to Retirees in the Washington DC, Maryland and Northern Virginia areas. In addition, we may send out items that are time-critical using our E-Mail list.

All are invited to contribute to the Newsletter, attend a meeting, welcome to communicate with us prior to our Council meeting, or to provide informational items of interest to retirees. Please send, call or write to our Council Secretary, Chuck Glass (301)598-6590 e-mail: cjglass@verizon.net or to our newsletter editors, Norm Lemley (703) 528-1660 e-mail: nlemley2@comcast.net or Mike White (703) 494-5819 e-mail: dwhite03@eds.com.

Readers may comment on this newsletter by e-mail to CACGRET@googlegroup.com.

Please “Pass on” this Newsletter to others that may be interested. We welcome additional E-Mail and/or mailing addresses and phone numbers of our Capital Area Coast Guard Retirees to add to our mail list.

We look forward to serving all Coast Guard Retirees and extend an invitation to attend our meetings and participate on Council projects and keep us informed of your issues and concerns.

Council Meeting Schedule for 2006

Friday 31 March, 2006 (0900 – 1200)

Friday 23 June, 2006 (0900 – 1200)

Friday 29 September, 2006 (0900 – 1200)

Meetings are normally held at USCG Headquarters.

Recent Council Meeting Minutes Summaries

A summary of the minutes of the 23 September, 14 October (informal, no minutes) and 9 December meetings may be found below.

Items/Activities of Interest

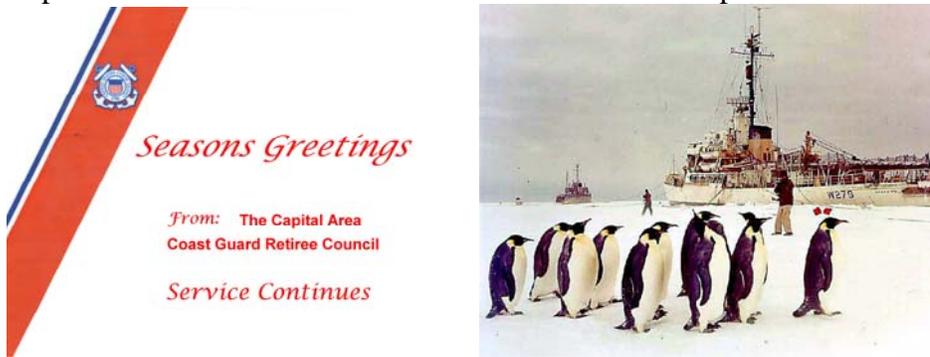
Semper Paratus demonstrated again in the Gulf

The Council joins the retirement community in expressing pride in the performance of Team USCG in it response in the Gulf. They again lived up to our motto, **Semper Paratus**.

New Council Co-chairs Mike White and CDR Bruce Russell

YNCS Mike White, USCG (Ret) was elected Co Chair for the Council to Co chair with CDR Bruce Russell. CAPT Glass volunteered to serve as Council Secretary.

2005 Christmas Card Distribution – The Retiree Council prepared about 256 Christmas cards for mailing to Capital Area “senior” retirees. The Christmas Card Graphics are shown below.



USCG Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) at Ft Myer

On 14 October, the Council sponsored a USCG session in conjunction with the Fort Myer Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD).

Six Coast Guard retirees from the Washington DC area attended the October 14th Fort Myer RAD as guests of the Fort Myer Army Retiree Council. The RAD was conducted in the Spates Community Club, with a side trip to the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. Council member, **CWO3 Elizabeth Splaine USCG (Ret)** participated in the laying of a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns. There were about 200 local military retirees in attendance together with representatives of over 20 military retiree service organizations. Attendees were updated on pending changes in retiree benefits, particularly medical care under TRICARE For Life, and improvements in Survivor Benefits. Following a luncheon in the Spates Club dining rooms, attendees had the opportunity to visit the exhibits and collect information packets from the many military retiree organizations represented at the RAD. Coast Guard retirees met for a brief, informal, Retiree Council meeting and to receive Coast Guard literature on estate planning.

The Council plans to continue providing information to Coast Guard retirees and promoting their participation in future RADs sponsored by military bases in the Washington DC area, including Maryland and Virginia.

DOUGLAS MUNRO MEMORIAL rededicated at USCG HQ

The DOUGLAS MUNRO MEMORIAL was rededicated at USCG HQ on Tuesday 27 September.

"Awarded posthumously to

DOUGLAS ALBERT MUNRO, SIGNALMAN FIRST CLASS, U.S. COAST GUARD

'For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty as Office-in-Charge of a group of Higgins boats, engaged in the evacuation of a Battalion of Marines trapped by enemy Japanese forces at Point Cruz, Guadalcanal, on September 27, 1942. After making preliminary plans for the evacuation of nearly 500 beleaguered Marines, Munro, under constant risk of his life, daringly led five of his small craft toward the shore. As he closed the beach, he signalled [sic] the others to land, and then in order to draw the enemy's fire and protect the heavily loaded boats, he valiantly placed his craft with its two small guns as a shield between the beachhead and the Japanese. When the perilous task of evacuation was nearly completed, Munro was killed by enemy fire, but his crew, two of whom were wounded, carried on until the last boat had loaded and cleared the beach. By his outstanding leadership, expert planning, and dauntless devotion to duty, he and his courageous comrades undoubtedly saved the lives of many who otherwise would have perished. He gallantly gave up his life in defense of his country.'"

Retiree Program Coordinator's Office

At the request of the National Coast Guard Retiree Council a Headquarters Retiree Program Coordinator's Office is being established, and will be manned by members of the Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council and other Capital Area Retiree volunteers. This Office would serve the point of contact between the active duty Coast Guard and the Coast Guard military retiree community.

Space in Coast Guard Headquarters Room 5500, equipped with a computer and telephone service, has been set aside for use as the Retiree Program Coordinator's Office. CAPT Warakomsky is spearheading setting up the program and will be the Council Coordinator. LT Terry Walsh is the HQ contact.

Watchstanding procedures, frequently asked questions (FAQs), a list of links with key programs and other resource material are being developed,

Capital Area Coast Guard retirees interesting in volunteering as "watchstanders" should contact: CAPT Robert Warakomsky, USCG (Ret), by **telephone at (703) 323-0891** or by **e-mail at bpwarakom@cox.net** for additional details.

Council Updates to the E-Mail Mailing List

There was a good response to our requests to USCG retirees in the Capital area to update the Coast Guard Retiree Council E-Mail mailing list. CAPT Lee Carpenter and his committee added a significant number of names to our mailing list. More additions are welcome.

Statement by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff on the Nomination of Vice Admiral Thad W. Allen as Commandant of the United States Coast Guard

President Bush has announced his intention to nominate an exceptional leader and public servant as Commandant of the Coast Guard in Thad Allen.

"Thad has my complete confidence and full support, and if confirmed, he will play a major role in shaping the future of this department.

Most Americans came to know and respect Thad for his work overseeing the federal government's recovery efforts following the devastation from Hurricane Katrina. Thad is a highly-accomplished Coast Guard veteran who has served our nation in several key positions since his graduation from the Coast Guard Academy in 1971.

His service includes Chief of Staff and Commanding Officer at headquarters; Commander of the Atlantic Area, Fifth Coast Guard District; Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District; Director of Resources; and Commander of the cutter Citrus. In response to 9/11, Thad led Coast Guard operations to re-position the Atlantic fleet in support of local port commanders and to establish critical command and control capability.

If confirmed, Vice Admiral Allen will follow a distinguished Commandant in Admiral Thomas H. Collins, at a scheduled change of command in May. Admiral Collins has led the Coast Guard during one of the more challenging periods in its history. He helped to ensure a seamless transition into the department and introduced emerging technologies and innovative programs that have enhanced overall mission performance. I thank Admiral Collins for his continued service and commend his dedication to country."

USCG Realignment at HQ to Better Match the USCG Field Organization

Effective 1 January 2006 a number of realignments were made in the HQ organization to better match the field organization. The advent of the field Sector structure made it important to structure HQ in a similar manner to facilitate communication and effective management. A number of changes have occurred with shifting of programs and personnel. These have been predominately in G-M and G-O with a renaming of these two.

G-M had become G-P, Assistant Commandant for Prevention

G-O has become G-R Assistant Commandant for Response

G-X has been formed, Policy and Planning, that address G-P and G-R issue.

The Boating Safety Program has moved to G-P including Auxiliary.

The Buoy Tender program has moved to G-P as part of waterways management.

Renaming of other programs has occurred to use a numbered staff approach. For example CG-1 is the former G-W. Assistant Commandant for Human Resources

CG-11 Director of Health & Safety

CG-12 Director of Personnel Management

CG-13 Director of Reserve & Training

CG-2 Assistant Commandant for Intelligence and Criminal Investigations

CG-4 Assistant Commandant for Engineering & Logistics

Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

USCG Reserve to celebrate its 65th birthday on Sunday, Feb. 19, 2006!

Coast Guard ROA Reception

CG Chapter 4, Reserve Officers Association DC Department cordially invites USCG Reserve officers and other interested to their Annual event on Monday, Feb. 6, 2006, 5 p.m. at the United States House of Representatives Rayburn Office Building (Banquet Room B339), Washington, D.C. Attire is CG Service Dress Blue (Bravo) or business suit (coat & tie). Cost: O3 and below, \$20; O4 and above, \$30; O3 and below couples, \$35; O4 and above couples, \$45. For more info, contact CDR Robert Carmack, USCGR, 502 Leaning Oak Street, Gaithersburg, MD 20878; Phones: 240-505-4600; 301-926-9687; E-mail: rcarmack@ventera.com.

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USCG has established a new web page, HOMEPORT, to distribute US Coast Guard Information.

Homeport may be found at <http://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/home.do> or www.homeport.uscg.mil The Coast Guard officially announced its initial deployment of Homeport, an internet portal. Homeport (version 1.0) is the official Coast Guard information technology system for maritime security created to provide information and services to the maritime community and the public over the Internet.

Coast Guard Federal Maritime Security Coordinators will use Homeport as a primary means for the day-to-day management and communication of port security matters with Area Maritime Security Committee members, commercial vessel and facility owners and operators, government partners, and the public.

Homeport will afford instant access to information necessary to support increased information sharing requirements amongst Federal, state, local and industry decision makers for security management and increased maritime domain awareness.

Homeport is a publicly accessible internet portal providing all users with current maritime security information. It will also serve as the Coast Guard's communication tool designed to support the sharing, collection and dissemination of sensitive but unclassified information to targeted groups of registered users within the port community.

Homeport meets critical mission requirements in support of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 for sharing security information, and has the potential to revolutionize the way the Coast Guard communicates with the public, its partners and maritime stakeholders.

For more information regarding Homeport and the requirements for becoming a registered user, contact the local Coast Guard Captain of the Port office or visit the Homeport website at <http://Homeport.uscg.mil>.

Coast Guard Commissions New Cutter

The U.S. Coast Guard commissioned an 87-foot patrol boat into its fleet this morning during a commissioning ceremony at Sector San Francisco on Yerba Buena Island.

The Coast Guard Cutter Pike is the latest vessel of the newest class of Coast Guard patrol boats, and is equipped for search and rescue, environmental protection, and maritime law enforcement. It will conduct these primary missions in the San Francisco Bay, as well as between Point Arena and Point Piedras Blancas in distances up to 50 miles from shore. The Pike has a crew of ten men and women, and is commanded by LTJG Robert A. Bixler of Warren, Ohio.

Rear Adm. Kevin J. Eldridge, Commander of the Eleventh Coast Guard District, officially commissioned the ship into service. This was followed by the raising of colors, reading of orders and assumption of command, setting the watch, and manning the ship, all proud traditions dating back to the early days of the Revenue Cutter Service and the U.S. Lifesaving Service.

The Pike was built by Bollinger Shipyard, Inc. of Lockport, La, in September 2005. This vessel employs the latest advances in navigation and marine technology. A fully integrated electronics suite coordinates radar, satellite navigation, gyrocompass, autopilot and computer generated charts to form a compact and user-friendly command and control system for the ship's personnel.

Maritime Security for Super Bowl XI

The U.S. Coast Guard as the designated lead agency for maritime security during Super Bowl XL has established and will enforce a security zone 1 mile by 300 yards along the waterfront from Joe Louis Arena to north of the Renaissance Center (see chart for more details). Vessels are not allowed to enter the designated security zone. The word Vessel includes every description of watercraft including; canoes, kayaks, personal watercraft, sailing, power, non-displacement and seaplanes, regardless of usage whether recreational or commercial. Violation of a lawful Security Zone may subject the violator to penalties of up to \$32,500 per day, per violation

List of Useful Web Sites

A list of useful web sites is included in this newsletter and we welcome any suggested additions.

USCG Home page <http://www.uscg.mil/USCG.shtm> USCG HOME PORT www.homeport.uscg.mil

USCG Retiree Home page www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/retiree/retiree.htm

USCG Finance Center (for retired pay etc) <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/index.htm>

USCG Evening Colors <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/eveningcolors/index.htm>

Maritime Security Threat Level <http://www.uscg.mil/USCG.shtm>

USCG Fifth District <http://www.uscg.mil/d5/index.html>

USCG Sector Baltimore <http://www.uscg.mil/d5/sector/sectbalt/index.htm>

USCG Sector Hampton Roads <http://www.uscg.mil/d5/sector/hamptonroads/index.htm>

USCG Academy www.cga.edu

USCG Auxiliary www.cgaux.org

Coast Guard Magazine <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/cb/CGMagazine.htm>

CG Reservist <http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/magazine/magazine.htm>

NAVY Times <http://www.navytimes.com/>

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance www.cgmahq.org

US Coast Guard Foundation <http://www.cgfdn.org/main.html>

USCG Recreational Boating Safety Office <http://www.uscgboating.org/>

USCG Deepwater Program <http://www.uscg.mil/deepwater/>

USCG Directives <http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/cit/cim/directives/welcome.htm>
USCG Personnel World Wide Locator CGlocator@Ballston.uscg.mil
USCG History <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/history/collect.html>
USCG Aviation <http://www.aoptero.org/>
USCG Foundation <http://www.cgfdn.org>
USCG Coast Guard Band www.uscg.mil/band.
USCG Auxiliary Northern Va Div. 14 <http://www.uscgaux.org/~05414/index.html>
Air Force Academy <http://www.usafa.af.mil/>
Naval Academy <http://www.usna.edu//homepage.php>
Kings Point <http://www.usmma.edu/>
West Point <http://www.usma.edu/>
What Happened This Day in USCG http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/history/Chronology_index.html
Department of Homeland Security <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>
National Personnel Records Center (St. Louis, MO)
http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records/standard_form_180.html
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators <http://www.nasbla.org/>
TRICARE Information Systems <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/faqs/>
TRICARE For Life Beneficiary Letter (<http://tricare.osd.mil/tfl/pdf/carratoletter.pdf>)
TRICARE For Life Brochure (<http://tricare.osd.mil/tfl/pdf/brochure4June.pdf>)
TRICARE For Life Beneficiary Information Card (http://tricare.osd.mil/tfl/tfl_bencard.html)
TRICARE For Life Cost Matrix (<http://tricare.osd.mil//tfl/matrix.html>)
Social Security Administration Online www.ssa.gov,
Medicare Online www.medicare.gov
FREDS PLACE <http://www.fredsplace.org/>
Military Officers Association of America <http://www.moaa.org/>
ROA http://www.roa.org/about_us/about_ov.asp
[The Retired Enlisted Association http://www.trea.org/](http://www.trea.org/)
USCG Warrant Officers Association <http://www.cwoauscg.org/>
USCG Chief Petty Officers Association <http://www.uscgcpoa.org/>
Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association <http://www.trea.org/>
Fleet Reserve Association <http://www.fra.org/aboutfra.html>
Navy League http://www.navyleague.org/index_flash.php
[National Association for Uniformed Services http://www.naus.org/](http://www.naus.org/)
Employers Support the Guard and Reserve www.esgr.com
Navy Memorial Events <http://www.lonesailor.org/events.php>
For SBP info: www.dfas.mil
Navy Mutual Aid Assoc: www.navymutual.org
Dept of Veterans Affairs: www.va.gov
FEMA Independent Study <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>
USAA Insurance www.usaa.com
Geico Insurance www.geico.com
Ft Meyer Commissary <http://www.commissaries.com/stores/html/store.cfm?dodaac=HQCNFH>
Ft Mead Commissary
<http://www.commissaries.com/stores/html/store.cfm?dodaac=HQC�EN>
Bolling AF Base Commissary
<http://www.commissaries.com/stores/html/store.cfm?dodaac=HQCNEB>
Annapolis NS <http://www.commissaries.com/stores/html/store.cfm?dodaac=HQCNEL>
Andrews AF Base Commissary
<http://www.commissaries.com/stores/html/store.cfm?dodaac=HQCNEK>

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Meeting Minutes Summaries

Summary of Minutes of the Sept. 23, 2005 Meeting of the Capital Area CG Retiree Council

CAPT Glass convened the Council meeting at 0900.

The following attended

LCDR. George D Bond II	CDR. Bruce Russell
CDR. David A. DuPont	CWO4 Elizabeth F. Splaine
CAPT. Charles J. Glass	CDR. Benjamin J. Stoppe, Jr.
CAPT Norman W. Lemley	

USCG Headquarters Support Command - CDR. Keith Whiteman

Guest: LT Terry Walsh, USCG - COMDT (CG-1)

RADM Fred L. Ames, USCG (Ret) – Co-Chair, Commandant of the Coast Guard National Retiree Council

Retiree Program Coordinator's Office – RADM Fred Ames opened discussion of his proposal to establish a Headquarters Retiree Program Coordinator's Office staffed with members of the Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council, as described in Appendix 3 of the Report of the April 2005 meeting of the National Coast Guard Retiree Council. This would require working space at Headquarters, and associated office equipment and supplies, a standard workstation, HQ's telephone directory listing and parking support. This Office would serve as Headquarters single point of contact between the active duty Coast Guard and the Coast Guard military retiree community. .

CAPT Glass reminded Council members that CAPT Warakomsky volunteered and was unanimously approved by the Council at the May 6 Retiree Council meeting, to head up this effort. He is expected to report to the Council Co-Chairs on developments of this project as they occur and may call on the Co-Chairs for assistance as-required.

RADM Ames commented that the first order of business for the Coordinator's Office would be the establishment of a Retiree Program Coordinator's Office E-mail address and telephone number, and the preparation of an announcement advertising the Duties of the Coordinators Office. RADM Ames stated that the duties and expectations for the Coordinators Office are as defined in Appendix 3 of the April 2005 National Retiree Council Report.

CAPT Warakomsky commented that his first priority when he becomes available in January 2006, is the development of a Web site for the Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council.. CAPT Glass noted that development of a Web site for the Capital Area Council has been a priority for at least two years, and is considered critical for improvement of our Retiree Council outreach to affiliated retirees. Currently, the Capital Area Council uses group E-mailing to its "bang list" of affiliated Coast Guard Retirees, and the establishment of a Council Web site would be a significant improvement for communicating Council initiatives.

RADM Ames noted it was expected that the manning schedule for the National Retiree Program Coordinator's Office would be based on demand and would be modeled on manning practices of other Regional Council Program offices.

CAPT Warakomsky responded that he would manage Office staffing but that the following advance work would be necessary:

- A Coast Guard wide announcement should be made that the National Coast Guard Retiree Council Program Coordinator's Office will be implemented on a "date certain".
- Before such an announcement, volunteer staff for the Retiree Program Coordinator's Office should be recruited.
- Prospective volunteer staff should become acquainted with their duties (as described in Appendix 3 to the report of the 2005 National Retiree Council Meeting.

Once a pool of informed volunteer staff is identified, it will be necessary to develop and implement E-mail and telephone voice-mail responder schedules, as well as a Coordinator's Office manning schedule.

ADM Ames added that another significant Coordinator's Office duty is the provision of clerical and logistic support to LT. Walsh for the planning and operation of the annual Coast Guard National Retiree Council meeting. CDR. Russell suggested that a separate E-mail program announcement be made to Capital Area retirees asking for volunteers for the Coordinator's Office staff.

It was noted there would be a need for response procedures, frequently asked questions (FAQs), a list of links with other programs, and a knowledge base used by other Regional Coast Guard Program Offices.

CAPT Warakomsky likened the operation of the Coordinator's Office to a "Nurse Line".

Telephone callers would expect quick and direct access to a responder. Responses must be correct. Call responders must therefore be trained and prepared. Call transfers must be made to authoritative sources. Coordinator Office personnel would act as "gate keepers".

CAPT Warakomsky commented that placing callers on hold or transferring them to voice messaging is a "turn off" and should be avoided if possible. It would be preferred that telephone calls be answered directly by volunteer watch standers, and if indicated, callers be referred to reliable sources for answers to their questions.

Following the September meeting, on November 2, RADM Ames sent an E-mail to the Chairs of all Regional Councils asking that they send information on the operation of their retiree services program office to CAPT Warakomsky.

Coast Guard Retiree Council/Fort Myer Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) see above
Holiday Cards see above

Summary of Minutes of the Oct. 14, 2005 Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Meeting
CAPT Glass held an informal meeting of the Council during the Ft Meyer RAD. No business was conducted.

Summary of Minutes of the Dec. 9, 2005 Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Meeting
CAPT Glass convened the Council meeting at 0900 Room B732 at Coast Guard Headquarters. The following attended:

LCDR. David DuPont	CAPT Norman Lemley
CAPT Robert Gauvin	CDR. Bruce Russell
CAPT. Charles Glass	CAPT Bud Schneeweis
CAPT Michael Hendrickson	CDR. Benjamin Stoppe, Jr

Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) - The Fort Myer Oct 14, 2005 meeting –See above

Retiree Program Coordinator's Office – Manning the CG HQ National Retiree Council Coordinator's Office. See Newsletter

Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Web Site - Discussion of the Web site was postponed until the March 2006 meeting.

Continued Development of the Retiree Council Bang List – CAPT Glass reported that the number of Capital Area Coast Guard retirees who had elected to become affiliated with the Retiree Council by agreeing to have their E-mail address included in the Council "bang" (group E-mail list) was increased as a result of the bang list expansion program directed by CAPT Lee Carpenter. It was suggested that CAPT Carpenter be requested to reorganize and continue the effort and that this subject be discussed at the March 2006 Council meeting.

Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Google Group - CAPT Glass reported that he had initiated a Google Group to facilitate distribution of information to Capital Area Coast Guard Retirees who are affiliated with the Retiree Council. All retirees on the bang list are listed as Google Group members. Following is a bulletin on the description of the Google Group.

About this group	Edit
Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council	
Members of this Group are US Coast Guard Retirees living in the Greater Washington DC area who are affiliated with the Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council	
This group contains adult content	
Primary Language	
English	
Public website	
No public website	
Get a promotion box for your website	

Access settings	Edit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only members can read the archive• Membership is invite only• Not listed in directory	

Posting & Delivery	Edit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Announcement only• Posts are not moderated	

Tasks
No messages to review
No new memberships to review

Members
Browse membership list
Invite or Add members
Submitted requests
#52632 : Add 220 subscribers (approved)
#52826 : Add 37 subscribers (approved)

Group address	Edit
URL	
http://groups.google.com/group/CACGRET	
Email	
CACGRET@googlegroups.com	

[Remove this group](#)

Categories	Edit
Society > Government	
United States > Washington, D.C.	

Coast Guard retirees who receive Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council newsletters and bulletins from the Google Group can address responses by E-mail to the google Group E-mail address CACGRET@googlegroups.com

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