



## Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Newsletter

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

Issue 10

September 30, 2007

### Enjoy the Fall Leaves

Your Council continues to be active, meeting 28 September 2007 at USCG HQ. Key issues discussed were:

- Comments by Representative of the Headquarters Support Command
- Review Council Membership –Introduction Of Prospective Members
- Future Meeting Schedule
- Council Program
- Recruiting of Additional Members for Capital Area Council (Civilian, UPHS, and Other Membership)
- Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council WEB Site Update
- 2007 Holiday Party Planning
- Status of Proposed Discussion Groups
- Report On Survivor and Family Benefits and Entitlements
- Membership Outreach: 15 Minute Presentation by Norm Paulhus
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The Council welcomed Susan Baicar as a new Council member representing the DC area retired civilians. Susan has a good understanding of the Coast Guard and HQ, having served in the Commandant's Office many years.

The Council has undertaken a project, development of a comprehensive guide on Survivor and Family Benefits and Entitlements.

A copy of the Council meeting Agendas and minutes will be posted on the Council web site, <http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/carc>, or may be requested from CAPT Chuck Glass, ph (301) 598-6590 or E-Mail: [cjglass@verizon.net](mailto:cjglass@verizon.net).

Our objective is to publish a quarterly newsletter and provide you, the **Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree, military and civilian**, with information on Council activities and items of interest to Retirees in the Washington DC, Maryland and Northern Virginia Council area. 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 Council meeting, and welcome to communicate with us prior to the Council meetings, or to provide informational items of interest to retirees. Please send an e mail, call, or write to our Council Co-Chairs, CDR Bruce Russell and YNCS Mike White, the Council Secretary, Chuck Glass, or to our **Newsletter** editor, (Norm Lemley) 703 528-1660; e-mail: [nlemley2@comcast.net](mailto:nlemley2@comcast.net). Please "Pass on" this Newsletter to other, USCG military and civilian, retirees that may be interested. We welcome additional e-mail /or snail mail addresses and phone numbers for our mailing list.

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

### **Council Meeting Schedule for 2007-2008**

Fri. DEC 07, 2007

Fri. MAR 28, 2008

Fri. 27 June, 2008

Fri 26 SEPT 2008

Meetings are normally held at USCG Headquarters in Conference Room B718 beginning at 0900.

### **Retiree Council Holiday Party to be at Vinson Hall 1 December**

The Council has scheduled a Holiday Party at Vinson Hall 4-6:30 , 1 December 2007. Preliminary responses indicate a very positive response. A notice will be sent soon to all with additional details. A good chance to see old friends and make new ones. The Council looks forward to a large turnout and a festive time.

### **Admiral Thad Allen's Remarks on the Occasion of the Coast Guard's 217th Birthday, August 4, 2007**

To the Men and Women of the Coast Guard:

August 4th marks the 217th birthday of the United States Coast Guard.

As America's lifesavers and guardians of the seas, Coast Guard men and women have committed themselves to serving our Nation and its people with honor, respect and devotion to duty for more than two centuries.

This year we celebrate a remarkable milestone in our history. The Coast Guard has saved more than one million lives since 1790. What could be a greater calling than to save lives? No other federal agency does what we do, and no other service has such a broad array of missions and responsibilities that touch the lives of so many people, all across America, and to the farthest reaches of the globe.

Since the earliest days of our Nation when we braved the surf in wooden boats, the Coast Guard has been there. Through eleven wars, in the aftermath of the most horrific terrorist attacks to hit U.S. soil, and in response to devastating natural disasters, we have been there for the American people when they needed us most. It was 70 years ago, in fact, that the Coast Guard rescued a total of 43,853 people and 11,313 heads of livestock during the 1937 Mississippi flood, eclipsing the number of lives saved in our most recent Hurricane Katrina operations.

This year also marks the International Polar Year and the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Northwest Passage. For the Coast Guard and the Nation, the Arctic represents a new frontier with new challenges and opportunities.

It will be your courage, your commitment, and our core values, that will guide us as we plot a safe course through the uncharted waters that lay ahead far into the 21st century.

Today, as we celebrate our birthday, take a moment to think about why you serve, and how your contributions make these extraordinary accomplishments possible. Whether you are on patrol in the Florida Straits, responding to a fishing vessel grounding in Alaska, or preparing for deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, you are the reason for our exceptional reputation. You provide this country with the safety, security, and stewardship of our oceans demanded in an uncertain time and an often dangerous world. Wherever you are stationed, whatever jobs you do, and

whatever missions you execute or support, you are vital to our success and the people we serve. Every member of the Coast Guard is a lifesaver.

To our entire active, reserve, auxiliary, civilian and retired workforce and your families, thank you for all that you do. I wish you a happy and safe 217th birthday!

Admiral Thad Allen  
Semper Paratus!  
All Hazards...All Threats...Always Ready

### **Former Coast Guard Commandant Dies**

ADM Owen W. Siler, 85, Coast Guard commandant from 1974 to 1978, succumbed to heart failure in July 17, 2007. Burial was at Arlington National Cemetery 28 September 2007.

This is a sad day for the Coast Guard," said Adm. Thad Allen, commandant of the Coast Guard. "The Coast Guard lost a close member of our family and America has lost a great leader. Adm. Siler's relentless service to his Nation, from World War II to the war on drugs, will never be forgotten.

The face of the Coast Guard was forever changed as a result of ADM Siler's commitment and foresight towards minority recruiting and the advancement of women in the Coast guard ranks.

Admiral Siler was nominated to become the 15th commandant of the Coast Guard by President Richard M. Nixon and, following Senate confirmation, he relieved ADM Chester R. Bender, on June 1, 1974. ADM Siler's official Coast Guard biography can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/history/OWSilerBio.html>

### **John Cullen, the Coast Guardsman who helped foil Nazi sabotage plot on the U.S. to support the ethics program**

John Cullen once scanned the Long Island surf for Nazi saboteurs. In fact, on June 13, 1942, he became one of the early heroes of World War II when he stumbled upon a band of would-be bombers who had just paddled ashore from a U-boat.

It was touch and go that foggy night in 1942 for the young Coast Guardsman walking a sandy beat on the beach in New York east of Amagansett, Long Island.

When he came upon the four men, he knew he was in danger. One spoke to him in English, but another blurted something in German.

Cullen, armed with just a flashlight and flare gun, managed to convince the men that he bought their story of being fishermen who'd run aground. Then he dashed back to his station to rouse a search party.

The men were gone when the troops returned, but the searchers found recently buried crates full of metal cans that contained dynamite, fuses and ordinary items - such as a pen and thermometer - that were made into booby traps.

Before he could become a hero, with a street on the Coast Guard support center in Portsmouth named after him, Cullen had to convince the FBI he wasn't part of the terrorist scheme.

The man Cullen had talked with, who handed him \$280 to "forget you ever saw us" eventually surrendered, perhaps convinced that Cullen would provide the information that would have located him and had him executed as a spy.

The German man provided authorities the information they needed to round up the seven other saboteurs.

Justice was swift. In a couple of weeks, the saboteurs were convicted by a secret military tribunal established by President Roosevelt. Their appeals, arguing against the validity of the tribunal, were rejected by the Supreme Court. Six of the eight were electrocuted in a Washington jail just one month after their trial began.

The man who gave Cullen the money was given 30 years in prison, and another who helped expose the ring was sentenced to life. Both were deported to Germany after the war ended.

Cullen, 86, never heard from either, and he doesn't mind.

"I don't need heartaches," he said. "They did a job, they got caught. That's it."

Cullen was rewarded for his vigilance, promoted and given the Legion of Merit medal, and sent out to countless recruiting events and bond rallies. He became the toast of Broadway, and radio news flashes announced his wedding to his wife, Alice.

Cullen never patrolled a beach again, instead drawing duty driving cars for an admiral and port captain.

After the war, he left the Coast Guard. He observed "There wasn't enough money to be made in the service to raise a family".

Cullen worked in the dairy business in New York, where he and his wife had a son and daughter.

When he retired, the couple moved to Chesapeake to be close to their daughter, who was married to a sailor stationed in Norfolk.

In October he will turn 87, and he and his wife will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary.

This spring, the East Hampton Historical Society returned the Amagansett Lifesaving Station to its original home in the dunes on Long Island. It had been sold as surplus in 1966, moved and used as a private house for four decades.

Cullen didn't get to see the ceremony, but the occasion brought forth another round of stories about his exploits.

"It's rewarding in some ways, in others it's not," he said.

"It's all in the past. "

These days, he's still on the prowl - out with his wife, Alice, patrolling the shopping centers near his Great Bridge home in Chesapeake or hunting for antiques.

But the fame never completely goes away.

"Once in a while, somebody is writing a book, that's mostly what it is," Cullen said. "The next thing you know, they're looking for me."

### **ADM Kime's Class of 1957 has established an ADM Kime Ethics Endowment Fund**

The ADM Kime Ethics Endowment Fund will support the ethics program at the Academy. ADM Kime established the ethics program at the Academy and was committed to it being effective. He was responsible for the establishing the first behavioral ethics faculty

position. Donations to the Fund are welcome and may be sent in care of the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association.

### **Coast Guard adopts CPO mission, MVGP**

Charles "Skip" Bowen, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard (MCPOCG), announced his service's intent to adopt the Navy Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles (MVGP).

Through a standing order sent out to all Coast Guard CPOs Aug. 25, Bowen said the leadership philosophy outlined in the MVGP highlights the values Coast Guard chiefs have taken to heart for years.

"It's the perfect document," said Bowen. "It's exactly what I want our chiefs to be. Deck plate leadership is the core of who chiefs are no matter what service they're in. I expect our chiefs to mentor, train and enforce standards."

Bowen and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)

(SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr., have traveled together on two occasions in the last six months, once to visit Sailors and Coastguardsmen in California last winter; then to the Central Command area of operations in July.

"We've been in chiefs' messes at sea and ashore in San Diego.

We've been to Iraq, Afghanistan and Bahrain and you could sense the energy coming from those Guiding Principles."

Deck plate leadership, active communication, loyalty, a sense of heritage, institutional knowledge/technical expertise, professionalism and character comprise those principles; which Bowen said he has no intent to change.

"Replace 'Sailor' with Coastguardsman and it applies across the board. Those values are precisely what I believe our CPOs should embrace," said Bowen.

"I was struck by just how much we have in common when we visited (USCGC) Chase in San Diego. We talked to chiefs in that mess and it could have been any Navy ship. They have the same candor and sound communication. Every chief has a voice and an impact," said Campa.

Both master chiefs agreed that using the Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles as a bridge between the two services has the potential to enhance an already positive relationship.

Bowen said he plans to aggressively populate it among his chiefs, then monitor its integration through feedback from junior Coastguardsmen, officers and senior enlisted leaders.

Read the Chief Petty Officer Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles at [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/mcpon/MCPON\\_M-V-GP1.doc](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/mcpon/MCPON_M-V-GP1.doc) .

### **Kodiak officially named homeport for the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Munro**

Kodiak was officially named homeport for the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Munro at a change-of-port ceremony at the Kodiak Coast Guard Base.

The ceremony included the usual formalities - uniformed Munro crewmembers standing at attention, a presentation of flags by the Coast Guard color guard, and a sextet on loan from the Air Force Band of the Pacific, playing "Semper Paratus."

Kodiak's strong ties with the Coast Guard are often described at ceremonious occasions on Base, and there is evidence the speakers are not simply preaching to a choir of supporters.

Local organizations such as the Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce often have current and retired Coast Guard employees as board members. Other boards reserve seats for Coast Guard representatives, such as the non-voting seat on the Kodiak Island Board of Education and a seat on the local hospital advisory panel.

Kodiak is the eighth city in the U.S. to receive the designation since Congress created it in 1998.

### **Coast Guard Academy Takes Back Secretaries' Cup**

Coast Guard quarterback Christian George scored on a 10-yard touchdown run with 52 seconds left, giving the Bears a 36-31 victory over Merchant Marine Saturday in New London.

Coast Guard, which was playing its season opener, takes possession of the Secretaries' Cup for the first time since 2003.

### **Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council WEB site up and running**

The Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council is pleased to announce that it has initiated a WEB site. The URL is <http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/carc>.

The Council believes that access to this WEB site will enable retirees to become better informed on the current Coast Guard organization and operations. Suggestions for items to be posted are welcome!!!! And should be sent to the Retiree Council web master, **CAPT Bob Warakomsky** [bpwarakom@cox.net](mailto:bpwarakom@cox.net)

We hope that retirees will also use this facility to keep informed on scheduled USCG and retiree events in the Washington DC area.

Please inform other Coast Guard retirees about this new WEB site.

### **Gold Lifesaving Medal Awarded Posthumously to San Leandro Man**

Marlin A. Coats, the San Leandro man who lost his life saving two boys at Ocean Beach last year, received one of the nation's highest honors posthumously at the Coast Guard base on Yerba Buena Island. Coats' widow, Jacqueline, accepted the medal from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rear Adm. Craig Bone, commander of the 11th Coast Guard District, as other family members and hundreds of Coast Guardsmen and others looked on.

Coats was honored for his heroic actions on May 14, 2006 when he dove into the icy waters off of Ocean Beach after hearing the screams of two young boys, ages 11 and 14, who were caught in the current. After determining that the older boy was able to swim back to shore, Coats, a former lifeguard, attempted to rescue the younger boy. As he fought against the strong rip current, Coats struggled to keep the boy above water until help arrived. National Park Service lifeguards soon arrived and pulled both Coats and the boy to shore. However, Coats was unconscious and later pronounced dead at a local hospital.

"This year the Coast Guard announced that our service has saved over one million lives since it was formed in 1790," said Bone. "One million lives saved over two centuries is an abstract concept -- but the lives saved by Marlin Coats are far from abstract. Mr. Coats risked his own life for those of two young men struggling for survival in a cold and

dangerous sea. There is no higher sacrifice, there is no stronger sign of caring for others, there is no greater act of bravery," he said.

Congress passed the Life-Saving Act of June 20, 1874, which established and awarded "First and Second Class" Lifesaving Medals. The first medal was reserved for rescues of extreme and heroic daring, the second for those slightly less outstanding. Congress changed these designations in 1882, renaming the First Class medal the Gold Lifesaving Medal, and the Second Class Medal the Silver Lifesaving Medal. The U. S. Coast Guard oversees the lifesaving medal program. These medals are awarded to people who endanger their own lives while saving or attempting to save another from drowning, a shipwreck or other perils of the water.

## Coast Guardsmen train for emergencies



**A Coast Guard boat cuts through the choppy seas in Cape Cod Bay during training drills.**

August 15, 2007 at 6:00 AM Coast Guardsmen on board threw a large, neon orange barrel over the side of the vessel, watching it splash up as the container broke the surface of Cape Cod Bay.

Inside the barrel: a water pump for a boat in crisis that's taking on water.

But there was no crisis — it was only a drill.

In choppy seas outside the east end of the Cape Cod Canal, two boats from the Coast Guard's station Cape Cod Canal in Sandwich trained for an array of scenarios.

The station, made up of 29 Coast Guardsmen, has three main responsibilities: training, law enforcement and search and rescue. Yesterday morning was time for training.

José Adams was the duty coxswain, responsible for the vessel and everyone onboard the 47-foot Coast Guard motor life boat. The second boat was a small, bright orange 25-foot RBS, or "response boat small." Both vessels left their dock and emerged from the calm canal into the rough bay for drills.

First, the smaller of the two pretended to be in distress, and the 47-footer came along to tow it. After the boat was "saved," it came time for the pump drill.

Then, the boat, tossing sharply in the waves, cruised into the canal for more drills. After that, it was time for lunch. The menu: steak, potatoes and corn on the cob.

Earlier that morning, team members gathered inside the white shingled station with a distinct brick-red roof and went over the day's plans.

Adams filled out a risk-management sheet, announcing each category and the risk involved as he went down the list — wind, tides, visibility and how the crew was feeling were all announced and discussed by the crew.

Officer-in-Charge Gordon McClay said that pre-briefings are key. "You take a second. You take a deep breath" and make sure that everyone's on the same page, he said.

Since 9/11, the station now has an added Homeland Security component to its mission, which now involves security patrols of the canal.

"We are the eyes and ears of this area," McClay said.

In one way or another, teams are on the water daily. Sometimes these coasties are at the base for 72 hours at a time.

Despite the challenging hours, the pride of being a Coast Guardsmen shines through.

"It's ... a noble profession," McClay said.

"There's nothing that makes me prouder than saying, 'I'm in the Coast Guard.'

### **Coast Guard Announces More Than 1 Million Lives Saved -- video available**

The U.S. Coast Guard announced during a ceremony in Grand Haven, Mich., that it has rescued more than one million persons since it was established in 1790.

"As America's lifesavers and guardians of the seas, Coast Guard men and women commit themselves every day to serving our nation and its people with selfless courage and unflinching determination," said Adm. Thad Allen, commandant of the Coast Guard. "This year we celebrate a remarkable milestone in our history as more than one million lives have been saved by the Coast Guard since 1790.

The number of lives saved was calculated by the Coast Guard historian's office through research of logs and records from the Coast Guard, the Revenue Cutter Service, the US Life-Saving Service, the Lighthouse Service and other agencies that eventually became the modern Coast Guard. In addition to tallying the total number of lives saved, the historian's office has compiled a list of the top ten rescues in the Coast Guard's history. The list shows the breadth of the Coast Guard's efforts to save lives in peril on the seas for over 217 years. A compilation of Coast Guard rescue videos [here](#).

### **New technology helps Coast Guard pin point emergency signals**

Recent case demonstrates new capability

Recent radio upgrades on a falcon jet at Air Station Cape Cod Mass., enable crews to rapidly locate the exact source of emergency signals, as seen during a recent search.

The HU-25 falcon jet equipped with the new gear launched Sept. 7 after the air station was notified of an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) emitting a distress signal from a boat near Jonesport, Maine. Coast Guard aircraft respond to EPIRB distress signals by following instrument guidance towards the radio beacon provided by direction finding equipment.

During the air station's first operational test of the new 430 Direction Finding (DF) system, the aircraft locked onto the EPIRB's signal from 72 miles away and obtained its location.

A 25-foot response boat from Station Jonesport determined that the boat was safely moored and the EPIRB was sending a false alarm.

"This new system saves us valuable response time, allowing us to receive more accurate guidance and acquire weaker signals," said Lt. j.g. Adam Young, a pilot at Air Station Cape Cod.

The HU-25 Falcon jet is one of only three aircraft in the Coast Guard with the new 430 DF system.

There are two types of EPIRB's, the original model that supplies only azimuth guidance and a newer device, a 406 EPIRB, that is registered to a specific user and can provide coordinates for the activated device's position.

When a boater's 406 EPIRB emits a distress signal, the beacon's position is transmitted via satellite to the U.S. Mission Control Center in Maryland where it is then passed to the appropriate rescue coordination center. The rescue coordination center in turn passes the position to the aircraft.

"The notification process usually only takes a few minutes, but those few minutes can be vital when factors such as cold water or injuries come into play," said Lt. Michael Nalli, a search and rescue coordinator at the First Coast Guard District.

With the new system, the Falcon not only obtains real-time data for a quicker response, it also obtains a more exact location.

The position the EPIRB passes to the satellite may be off by as much as three miles. But when the Falcon picks up the EPIRB's signal, it can usually pin-point the location.

"Mariners' widespread use of the 406 EPIRB has significantly reduced search time and unnecessary asset use," said Young. "Now if all mariners use a 406 EPIRB with the capabilities of the 430 DF system, we have the potential to take the search out of search and rescue".

## **2006 ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA (AFRAS) AWARD RECIPIENTS**

The Association for Rescue at Sea (AFRAS) announced the recipients of the 2006 association for rescue at sea (AFRAS) gold and silver medals. The gold medal is awarded annually to a Coast Guard enlisted member who uniquely demonstrates selfless courage and heroism during a rescue of life at sea. The silver medal is awarded annually to a Coast Guard auxiliary for extraordinary bravery during a rescue at sea.

Gold Medal. AMT2 JOSHUA H. MITCHELTREE, CG AIRSTA ELIZABETH CITY, NC, was awarded the gold medal. AMT2 Mitcheltree earned the gold medal for heroic efforts on 29 April 2006, as a rescue swimmer aboard Coast Guard helicopter CG6041. His actions resulted in his saving the lives of two mariners as their disabled sailing vessel drifted dangerously toward treacherous shoal waters in 25 ft seas, 35 kt winds and total darkness.

Gold Medal. BM1 DAVID RAMSEY, CG station cape disappointment, was awarded the gold medal. Bm1 Ramseys heroic action occurred during the 15 Jan 2006 rescue of the fishing vessel Katherine M. As the heavy weather coxswain aboard CG MLB 47248, his leadership, seamanship, skill, and courage directly resulted in saving 3 lives from the treacherous Columbia River with 25 ft breaking surf.

Silver Medal. AUXILIARIST HAROLD ROBINSON, FIFTH DISTRICT NORTHERN REGION, is awarded the silver medal. Mr. Robinson earned the silver medal on 26 Aug 06 while serving as coxswain of auxiliary boat 279521, when a 19 ft powered canoe with 1 adult operator, his elderly father, and 3 small children was swamped and overturned in 4 ft seas while attempting to cross the Delaware River in poor weather. Despite deteriorating weather conditions, Mr. Robinson and CG279521 quickly arrived on scene and skillfully recovered the nearly exhausted family from the path of a very large merchant ship.

The other AFRAS award nominees, all of whom demonstrated exceptional courage, have further enhanced the coast guards reputation as the life savers and guardians of the sea. These outstanding individuals include:

AST2 SCOTT D. CHEERS, CG AIRSTA NORTH BEND OR.

BM2 STEVEN RUH, CG STA OSWEGO NY.

ASTC JOHN LINNBORN, CG AIRSTA PORT ANGELES WA.

AUXILIARIST CHRISTOPHER WIACKLEY, CCGDONE SOUTHERN REGION.

AUXILIARIST KEITH E. WESTON, CCGDONE NORTHERN REGION.

Award recipients will be recognized at a reception on Capitol Hill, 02 October 2007

## **U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw Getting Warranty Work Done in Wis.**

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Mackinaw arrived in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., for work covered by manufacturers' warranties. The ship just completed a lengthy "Charley" period of maintenance in Cheboygan.

The Mackinaw will return to Cheboygan in time for Tailored Annual Cutter Training, known as TACT, performed by a specialized group of U.S. Navy instructors from Mayport, Fla. Set to begin Oct. 1, TACT training comes just in time to ready the crew for its second season of buoy work.

Planning for the traditional transport of Christmas Trees to Chicago has also been on-going for some time. During the summer, the Mackinaw hosted a number of area Christmas tree farmers to help develop logistics for this year's run.

The ship will return to a number of new improvements at the Millard D. Olds Memorial Moorings, currently being re-vamped in the second phase of a project to update the facility and improve security for the new ship.

## **California Governor Schwarzenegger appoints former Coast Guardsman as Deputy Administrator for the Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR).**

Governor Schwarzenegger appoints former Coast Guardsman, William Leland of Sacramento, as Deputy Administrator for the Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR). He has worked for the OSPR since 1992 where he currently holds the position of assistant deputy administrator. Leland previously held the positions of oil spill prevention supervisor I and oil spill prevention specialist with the office. Prior to joining OSPR, he was an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1972 to 1992.

## **Opportunity to Record an interesting USCG story or Antidote**

Dr. Robert Browning is the USCG Historian. His office is in the process of collecting personal histories of Coast Guard men and women and has made an appeal to the Retirees' Councils for those who may have important stories/careers to capture. See contact information below. The Coast Guard History website is

<http://www.uscg.mil/history/>.

Dr. Robert Browning  
Historian's Office (CG-09224)  
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters Rm B717  
2100 Second Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20593-0001  
(202) 372-4651  
Fax: (202) 372-4984

**E mail [robert.m.browning@uscg.mil](mailto:robert.m.browning@uscg.mil)**

## **2007 Register of Officers Available**

The 2007 Register of Officers Available on <http://www.uscg.mil/cit/cim/directives/Welcome.htm> and CGCentral. (Once in CGCentral, click on the "Resources" Tab and then Directives.

## **Silver Ancient Mariner Selection**

GMCS Christopher Kukla will assume the title of enlisted (silver) ancient mariner from DCCM Amritt Villa during DCCM Villa's retirement ceremony in October 2007. DCCM villa is retiring after over thirty years of service and over 12 years of sea duty. GMCS Kukla will become the eighth silver ancient mariner since the inception of the program in 1978.

The ancient mariner award program recognizes the officer and enlisted person with the earliest designation as a permanent cutterman and requires a minimum of ten years of sea time. The award recipients must personify and uphold the core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty, along with the professionalism and leadership associated with long service at sea.

### **Coast Guard Stands Up Tactical Response Unit**

The Coast Guard calls them specialized forces: teams that can perform helicopter insertions against armed enemies, conduct scuba searches for mines and bombs or storm disputed oil platforms.

With an aim to become the nation's lead maritime tactical response force, these Coast Guardsmen — members of the service's new Deployable Operations Group, or DOG — are about as close to "special operations capable" as the Coast Guard gets.

On July 20, the DOG formally became a Coast Guard unit, established at a sunset ceremony at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.

"We have specialized forces that conduct the high-end portions of our missions. Could we say some of these capabilities are similar skill sets as special forces in [the Defense Department]? Definitely," said Rear Adm. Tom Atkin, the DOG's commander.

Like the Defense Department armed services' special operations commands, the DOG draws together the service's elite teams, those that handle anti-terrorism response, environmental disasters, port security and combat operations in the maritime milieu, according to service officials.

Its command cadre will oversee the Coast Guard's response to operational contingencies both at home and overseas. Past events that have relied on DOG legacy units include the shuttle Columbia disaster; port security of Umm Qasr, Iraq; Hurricane Katrina; and the response to the Palermo Senator, a vessel that carried radioactive cargo — later found to be harmless roofing tiles — into the Port of Newark, N.J.,

The new command is necessary, officials said, to streamline the Coast Guard's — and the nation's — response to be disasters, whether they be natural or man-made.

The Coast Guard's dual-hatted role allows the DOG to better coordinate across the board with government agencies and the armed services, Atkin said.

The idea for the DOG grew out of an internal assessment to the Coast Guard's response following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Once the service began standing up maritime safety and security teams and deploying Coast Guardsmen overseas for port security and naval coastal warfare, officials believed the service's law enforcement and combat arms units would be better served under one command.

When ADM Thad Allen became commandant in 2006, he made the DOG's development a priority, Atkin noted .

The command component of the DOG is temporarily housed in Arlington, Va., in an office building that has a classified communications room and office space for its 100-plus members.

Units now under DOG command include Coast Guard's 13 maritime safety and security teams, its National Strike Force environmental hazards unit, a Chesapeake, Va.-based maritime security response team, Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron Coast Guard members and the service's tactical law enforcement teams.

## **National Lighthouse Day**

On August 7, 1789, Congress approved an act for the establishment and support of lighthouse, beacons, buoys and public piers. In celebration of the 200th anniversary of the signing of the act and the commissioning of the first federal lighthouse, Congress passed a resolution that designated Aug. 7, 1989, as National Lighthouse Day.

## **CG War Veterans Memorial Pacific**

A group of local CG organizations including our Hawaii Retiree Council is sponsoring two memorials: one at Guadalcanal honoring Signal 1/c Douglas A. Monro, the only CG Medal of Honor winner; and the other along the Memorial Walk at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl in Honolulu where there is presently no CG memorial.

Donations are urgently needed. Go to [www.CGPacificVeteransMemorial.Org](http://www.CGPacificVeteransMemorial.Org) for more details including a means for making on line donations. Also, a check or money order may be made out to CG Pacific Veterans Memorial Fund and mailed to

CG Pacific Way Veterans Memorial  
c/o Hawaii Islands Chapter CGPOA  
USCG ISC,  
400 Sand Island Parkway  
Honolulu, HI 96819

## **Active Duty Rear Admiral (Lower Half) Selection Board Results**

The Secretary approved the report of the selection board convened on 11 JUL 2007 recommending officers on the active duty promotion list for promotion to the grade of rear admiral (lower half). Officers selected are listed below in precedence order.

Name	UNIT
(1) CAPT JAMES A. WATSON, USCG	CGD SEVEN
(2) CAPT STEVEN H. RATTI, USCG	CG LANTAREA
(3) CAPT DANIEL A. NEPTUN, USCG	CG PACAREA
(4) CAPT KEVIN S. COOK, USCG	CGD THIRTEEN
(5) CAPT THOMAS P. OSTEBO, USCG	COMDT
(6) CAPT KEITH A. TAYLOR, USCG	COMDT

## **Coast Guard Band gave a concert at the Navy Memorial to help celebrate the United States Coast Guard 217th birthday.**

To help celebrate the United States Coast Guard 217th birthday the Coast Guard Band gave a concert at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC, with a variety of patriotic works. The performance were free and open to the public. Notice of the Concert was sent to the DC area retirees via the Council Bang list. A great time was had by all!!!

## ATTACHMENT 1 List of Useful Websites

CG News [www.uscg.mil/news](http://www.uscg.mil/news)  
CG Magazine <http://www.uscg.mil/magazine/>  
USCG Home page <http://www.uscg.mil/USCG.shtm>  
USCG HOME PORT [www.homeport.uscg.mil](http://www.homeport.uscg.mil)  
USCG Retiree Home page [www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/retiree/retiree.htm](http://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 Office of Leadership and Professional Development  
<http://www.uscg.mil/leadership/home.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](http://www.cga.edu)  
USCG Auxiliary [www.cgaux.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:CGlocator@Ballston.uscg.mil)  
USCG History <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/history/collect.html>  
USCG Memorial at Arlington Cemetery  
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/uscg-mem.htm>  
USCG Aviation <http://www.aoptero.org/>  
USCG Foundation <http://www.cgfdn.org>  
USCG Coast Guard Band [www.uscg.mil/band](http://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](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](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](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](http://www.ssa.gov),  
**Medicare Online** [www.medicare.gov](http://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](http://www.roa.org/about_us/about_ov.asp)  
**FREE HANDBOOKS** <http://www.militaryhandbooks.com>  
**Commissary Info** <http://www.commissaries.com>

## Attachment 2

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July 7, 2007

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