



## Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Newsletter

Council co-chairs: CAPT Bud Schneeweis and YNCS Mike White

Issue 12

March 29, 2008

### SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Your Council continues to be active, meeting Friday 28 March 2008 at USCG HQ.

Key issues were:

- Comments/Update by Headquarters Support Command
- Development of Caregivers Guide
- 2008 Annual National Retiree Council Meeting Input
- Update on Civilian ID cards
- Selection of Council officers
- Recruiting and membership outreach
- Review of Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Google Group List Mail
- Help desk utilization
- Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council WEB site update
- Holiday party lessons learned and work list

A new co-chair was elected – CAPT Bud Schneeweis. The Council congratulated Bud on his election and thanked CDR Bruce Russell, outgoing co-chair, for his service and leadership.

The Council reviewed a letter from the "Committee for Commissioning the Coast Guard Cutter USCGC BERTHOFF (WMSL 750), an officially sponsored project of the US Navy League.

The purpose of the letter was to make Coast Guard Retirees aware of the activities of the Commissioning Committee and to solicit help and resources for the commissioning to take place on Coast Guard Day, 4 August 2008.

The Council unanimously passed a motion to solicit voluntary contributions from Council members to help support the program beyond what is normally provided by government funding as well as to send a notice to all DC Area CG Retirees to provide them an opportunity to contribute as well. (see article below for details)

A copy of the Council meeting Agendas and minutes are posted on the Council web site, <http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/carc>, and can be downloaded, 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 are 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.

All are urged to look at the Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council a WEB site, <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!!!! Send them to the Retiree Council web master, CAPT Bob Warakomsky, at [bpwarakom@cox.net](mailto:bpwarakom@cox.net)

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 2008**

Fri. 27 June 2008  
Fri. 26 SEPT 2008  
Fri. 5 DEC 2008  
Fri 27 March 2009

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

**An early Reminder --- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Retiree Council Holiday Party will be held. Planning has as begun. Additional details to follow later.**

### **National USCG Retiree Council Annual Meeting to be Held in HQ**

National USCG Retiree Council annual meeting to be held in HQ 28 April. The DC Area Council will be represented by CAPT Bud Schneeweis and YNCS Mike White. If anyone has issues they would like raised at the meeting contact Bud or Mike. CAPT Bob Warakomsky and CDR Russell will make presentations on the HELP DESK and the Caregivers Guide Project, respectively.

### **Commandant Demands USCG Treat Mariners with "professionalism and respect"**

The Commandant has issued two ALCOAST (All Coast Guard) announcements that underscore just how seriously he is about restoring confidence in the USCG's ability to perform its maritime safety role.

The first, ALCOAST 108/08, sets out ADM Allen's expectations for interaction with the maritime industry. "USCG activities involving U.S. and foreign professional mariners and maritime organizations will be conducted with utmost professionalism and respect," his message begins. "Licensed and documented mariners are professionals who share our interests in a safe, secure, and environmentally compliant industry."

The second, ALCOAST 109/08, announces immediate steps, directed by the Commandant, that are being taken in FY 08 to inject critical civilian marine safety expertise into the Sectors.

The Coast Guard has been making a major effort to get the maritime safety mission back on track since a House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Navigation hearing last July that examined "Challenges Facing the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Program."

The hearing brought into the open a widespread industry concern that the Coast Guard's growing security responsibilities post 9/11 had caused a loss of focus on its maritime safety mission and a deterioration of its relationship with the maritime industry.

Late in the summer of 2007, Admiral Allen asked Vice Admiral James Card, U.S. Coast Guard (Retired) to candidly and independently assess and report on the experiences, perceptions, concerns and recommendations of the commercial maritime industry and stakeholders on the Coast Guard's performance of the Maritime Safety Mission.

Admiral Allen has welcomed the report and has directed it be posted publicly "to ensure an informed and transparent process as the Coast Guard continues to consider and respond to concerns regarding its execution of the Maritime Safety Mission." A copy is on the Retiree Council Web site.

ADM Allen recalled the words of Alexander Hamilton (the first US Secretary of the Treasury who launched the Revenue Cutter Service) that free men are impatient of *"everything that bears the least mark of domineering spirit"* and said that applies *"as much today as it did in 1790 and equally to international mariners and our trading partners"*.

### **The Retiree Council's Caregivers Guide Project is progressing.**

The Retiree Council's Caregivers Guide Project is progressing. Project leaders are Bruce Russell and Bud Schneeweis. There is no single source of critical entitlement information for caregivers of aging Coast Guard retirees, dependents, and annuitants. The Caregivers Guide will be limited to retiree entitlements and those services provided by veterans and mutual organizations. This information will be helpful to children, social workers and others engaged who are supporting the retiree, annuitant, dependent. We intend to keep this simple and for the most part self-sustaining, that is refer/direct the user to other documents, websites and contacts. Comments and suggestions welcome.

Proposed topics include:

- Coast Guard pension (reading the Statement) (Deductions and allotments)
- RAS support (web site and Points of contact)
- Evening Colors
- Survivor benefit (annuitant pension),
- DEERS enrollment,
- ID cards ( explain why this is important for both retiree benefits but also for personal finance—often aging parents lose their drivers license and this ID card becomes their only ID).
- TRICARE pre-65
- TRICARE for LIFE Post 65
- Medicare and TRICARE
- 1-800-HBAHBA (?)
- Military Treatment Facilities
- TRICARE Delta Dental
- Prescriptions
- VA benefits for retirees (Disability),
- VA hospital for financially strapped retirees
- Life insurance: SBP, VGLife, NMAA, others

- Long-term care options, OPM, NMAA life insurance policy conversions
- Veterans' organizations (e.g., MOAA, FRA, NMA)
- Continuity of benefits and entitlements for survivors
- Powers of Attorney and retiree benefits

### **'Evening Colors' will be delayed 30 days, due to a problem with the printing source**

Deb Farley, Chief of the Retiree Section at Personnel Services Center (PSC) has indicated that the printing and mailing of the Coast Guard Retiree quarterly newsletter 'Evening Colors' will be delayed for about 30 days, due to a problem with the printing source.

PSC Topeka is working with the Government Printing Office (GPO) to line up a new printer. The previous printer informed GPO that they can no longer meet the Coast Guard's needs.

You can however access the April - June 2008 Evening Colors issue on line at  
- [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/eveningcolors/page\\_1.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/eveningcolors/page_1.htm)

### **Update on CG-Retired Concurrent Receipt and Special Compensation**

In response to the numerous telephone calls to RAS in reference to the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) legislative changes for Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) and Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) the following information is provided by RAS:

1. CRSC may be paid to Chapter 61, disability retirees with less than 20 years of service. Chapter 61 retirees who feel they are eligible for this compensation should complete DD form 2860 (March 2008 version available at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/forms/dd2860.pdf>) and mail it to Coast Guard Personnel Command (Adm-1), 4200 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22203.

2. CRDP - Retirees with a Department of Veterans Affairs disability of less than 100%, and more than 40% but who are rated as unemployable, are entitled to CRDP in the full amount of the VA offset or the amount of retired pay based on longevity. Any amounts payable will not be made until 1 October 2008 or later.

For those retirees in the 50 - 90 percent category, we are in the process of having a memorandum of understanding signed with the VA and are working on these cases. The expected target date is summer 2008.

### **Good Source of Coast Guard photos**

Check out the Coast Guard Visual Information Gallery website - <http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php> / It's easy to use. Once you get to the site page, all you do is just type in the search engine (in the upper left corner of the page), the name of ship, or any type of keyword you think of, i.e. - BERTHOLF, WHEC, STATION, PEOPLE, CHIEF, etc... and up pops photos that matches the keywords. Then you can download them to your computer, with nice high resolution photos.

The site is the official photo storage for Coast Guard photos that are public domain, so you're free to use them (with credit to U.S. Coast Guard, or the specific person mentioned in the caption of the photos). The Coast Guard Public Affairs folks often use this site to refer the news media to obtain pictures for news articles, press releases, etc of Coast Guard nature. The site also has audio, video and CG graphics too!

### **The Ancient Order of the Pterodactyl Annual Convention and "Roost"**

The Ancient Order of the Pterodactyl Annual Convention and "Roost" will be held 11-14 September in Astoria, Oregon. Hosted by the Coast Guard Astoria Air Station, the Roost is the highlight of the Order's year. Details will be posted on the AOP website, [www.aoptero.org](http://www.aoptero.org), and in Pterogram, SITREP 02 08, to be mailed to members in early Summer.

### **'Guardians of the Gulf': Coast Guard Memorial to rise over 'treacherous' East Pass**

Destin City Community leaders are supporting a memorial designed to honor those who keep Destin's waterways safe.

The Destin City Council is the latest local government body to formally endorse a Coast Guard Memorial to be built on the west jetty at Destin's East Pass. It will be on Eglin Air Force Base, who owns the property.

Ken Wright, a retired Coast Guard officer, has spearheaded the push to have the monument built in memory of Lonnie Jones, a 24-year-old seaman who drowned in East Pass on March 30, 1981, after his boat overturned in rough seas. The monument is intended to honor Jones' sacrifice and those stationed at Coast Guard Station Destin who routinely and willingly put themselves in harm's way.

Wright noted "We needed something that would pay some recognition to what took place there. We hope the memorial will recognize the ultimate sacrifice that Lonnie made - something that recognizes what the Coast Guard does here and around the world, and the memorial will hopefully be something that draws attention to how dangerous that waterway is," "It's one of the most dangerous waterways in the country."

### **Last surviving member of Pea Island station shares memories**

From the Outer Banks Sentinel [Nags Head, NC] Wednesday March 19, 2008

As a child growing up in Manteo, Herbert Collins, 87, recalls idolizing the surfmen who served at Pea Island Life Saving Station.

"As a young kid, I would watch the surfmen come home and always admired their uniform," said Collins, "and I said to myself that I was going to get in the Coast Guard and Pea Island Station."

Collins began his career in the Coast Guard in 1939 in Elizabeth City and after serving at stations from Florida to Virginia, returned to serve at Pea Island throughout World War II.

The Pea Island Life-Saving Station was the first to have an all black crew and the first to have a black man, Richard Etheridge, as a commanding officer.

Before serving at Pea Island, Collins attended boot camp in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., then was assigned to the Coast Guard Cutter Tallapoosa in Savannah, Ga. where he served as a mess attendant.

Aboard the Tallapoosa, Collins had to sleep on a hammock until the crew could make room for him.

"It was a Sunday afternoon and I said to myself 'What the hell have you gotten yourself into?' and about that time a tipsy sailor came aboard," said Collins noting that he was the only black aboard the ship.

"I knew the sailor from boot camp and, a little while later, he came back half sober and told me I'd do alright on this ship if I knew my place as a black man," said Collins.

Collins said that he wanted to fight the man but remembered his dad's philosophy -- "If you go through life treating the other fellow the way you want to be treated then you'll have no problems."

He's lived his life accordingly, he said, and never had a problem with anyone and noted that he could find a friend in every state where he served in the Coast Guard.

After serving in Georgia, he was transferred to Fort Pierce in Florida and was once again the only black aboard the ship. His mother informed him of a vacancy at Pea Island and his first request to transfer was disapproved, but he was accepted a month later.

After arrival at Pea Island, Collins "concentrated on becoming a petty officer and learning everything I needed to know." By the time World War II broke out, he was advanced to Second Class Boatswains Mate.

For Collins, his best memory of Pea Island was a rescue mission shortly after the war broke out.

A crew was formed with members of Pea Island and the neighboring Chicamacomico station. The crew was instructed to launch a boat into the ocean to recover the wounded and dead from a torpedoed ship.

However, before their arrival, the Oregon Inlet Motor Life Boat arrived and made the recoveries.

"That was an exciting event. It was really cold out but we rode enough to be warm," recalls Collins. "People don't realize there are so many torpedoed ships from that time on the bottom of the ocean."

Looking back, Collins recalls the decommissioning of the Pea Island station in 1947 as a "sad event."

"That was the only all-black Coast Guard facility on the Outer Banks," said Collins also noting that there were other stations with a mixed crew, but Pea Island had the only black commander in charge.

Collins said that he clearly remembers the day the station closed. The chief boatswains mate from Oregon Inlet came and gathered inventory and, after Collins closed the doors to the station, he turned the key over as well. Collins was one of two men who did not get transferred due to other stations not having mixed crews.

"I made a lot of friends on the Outer Banks," said Collins.

Just prior to decommissioning Pea Island Life Saving Station, Collins said he bought a 16-millimeter movie projector and 110 volt generator, would rent movies and show them at Rodanthe High School. After the movies, a friend would play records for everyone to dance.

"People still remember me as the movie man," said Collins, smiling.

But his life hasn't been all about serving in the Coast Guard.

While visiting his brother in New York, he met his wife-to-be, Gertrude Collins.

And the man who was once forced to sleep in a hammock, kept moving up in rank despite the limitations brought on by racial prejudice, particularly early in his career.

Before his retirement in 1976, Collins, then a lieutenant, was serving at the Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C. where he was the commanding officer of the boats and vehicles units.

As of his retirement date, the Collins' family holds the record for the longest continuous service in the Coast Guard, dating back to 1880.

"I hope the record gets longer," said Collins. Although his children do not presently serve in the Coast Guard, his youngest daughter, Joan Collins is in the process of joining the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

"My father wanted me to join, and looking back, I would have if I'd have known the history," said Joan Collins.

### **CG Issued a \$37.5 Million Order for 18 new boats**

The Coast Guard issued a delivery order for 18 new boats to Marinette Marine Corporation (MMC). This delivery order represents a \$37.5 million obligation by the Coast Guard. Production at Marinette Marine Corporation is expected to support the delivery of one response boat medium per month starting in September 2008.

The Response Boat- Medium (RB-M) is a twin-engine, water jet propelled, 45-foot boat which will be capable of exceeding 40 knots. These new boats will replace the Coast Guard's existing 41-foot utility boat, which have a maximum speed of 26 knots. The response boats will also improve mission capability through state of the art electronics, which include a Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) system, which will help the four-person crew see better in conditions that are not normally conducive to searching like at night, in rain, sleet, snow or fog. The response boat's new design and enhanced safety features will allow boat crews to be more effective and lessen crew fatigue.

The first response boat from Marinette Marine Corporation will be delivered to Coast Guard Station Milwaukee, Wis. Upon delivery to Milwaukee it will be the first response boat located on any of the Great Lakes.

### **United States Coast Guard tops women's options for leadership opportunities in the military**

Karen Voorhees is one of the few women in the military allowed to take part in combat, even if it is the U.S. Coast Guard's version of combat: search and rescue.

When mariners are in distress, Voorhees boards a helicopter at Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City, flies offshore and jumps into the water to save them. She is one of three female rescue swimmers, and has strong opinions on what it takes for a female to succeed.

"You can't giggle your way through this job," said Voorhees, an aviation survival technician. "You have to be able to put the girl thing aside. If your hair is a problem, cut it off. You have to do anything the guys can do. Get dirty. Work hard."

Voorhees is proof that the Coast Guard's move to include women, which seems to be a struggle for other military services, is going pretty well. The Coast Guard has mostly avoided the big sex scandals that have plagued the other services. It is the only service, since 1978, in which every single rating is open to women.

Coast Guard women are not pushed into office work; they are stationed on ice breakers, in helicopters, buoy tenders, law enforcement, doing engineering work and serving as admirals.

The Coast Guard Academy made the decision to admit women before Congress mandated it for all the services. It now graduates classes that are 33 percent female - the highest percentage in the military. The Army, Navy and Air Force academies hover at 15 percent to 17 percent female. Overall numbers in the Marines are just more than 6 percent female.

Several women have made the rank of admiral. The Vice Commandant is a woman. Officer Candidate School, which opened to women in 1973, has averaged 24 percent female over the past three years.

That the Coast Guard is turning out female leaders doesn't surprise Rear Adm. Mary Landry. She graduated from OCS in 1980 and expected to stay only three years but found she never wanted to leave.

Landry said there are no barriers for women in the Coast Guard. While women get paid less than men in the private sector - 76 cents for each \$1 a man makes, according to the U.S. Census Bureau - this is not true in the Coast Guard.

"It's equal pay and equal work," Landry said.

Landry rose to admiral, is married to Coast Guard CAPT Mark Landry, has two children and now is enjoying being a mentor to others following her path.

The Coast Guard's policies allow a woman to have a family and a career.

A woman, or a man for that matter, can take a two-year leave for family reasons and return to the same rank. If a female Coastie gets pregnant, she switches to secretarial duty or other jobs on land until the baby is born. Then it's back to sea.

The Coast Guard actively tries to work out arrangements so married couples who both serve can live a life together.

Landry said the Coast Guard has a lot more flexibility than other services because it's so small.

The Coast Guard has 39,849 active duty members, compared with the next-largest, the Marine Corps, at 178,190.

Women may also be drawn to military perks such as free medical and dental insurance, tax-free allowances for housing and food, 30 days of paid vacation and shopping privileges on base.

But women in the Coast Guard say there has to be more to it than that.

"Our mission is oil slicks, saving people, saving the environment and humanitarian missions. This appeals to women compared to the other military services. They have a warrior ethos. We have a guardian ethos," said Capt. Sandra L. Stosz, commander of Coast Guard Training Center Cape May.

Landry, who has brothers in the Army, agrees. In wartime, the Coast Guard is under the Navy, but in peacetime its missions include search and rescue, port security, fisheries enforcement, marine safety and protecting the environment. She said this is appealing to women.

"We make sure ships don't hit right whales," said Landry, who earlier in her career investigated the sinking of several clamming boats off New Jersey.

Unlike some military boot camps, male and female recruits in Cape May train together. All the new boats being built have both male and female quarters.

"Everything is done so women can serve anywhere without constraints," Stosz said.

The physical aptitude tests are lower for women in many cases, such as boot camp. But in the tough life-and-death jobs such as rescue swimming, women and men have to pass the same tests.

Can women do what the men do? Some say that's not the point, since the goal at sea is teamwork. A strong woman could outperform a weaker man, or vice versa, but together they could pull a water-logged mariner into a heaving boat.

The combat exclusion for women, still in place in the other services, was lifted in 1973. RADM Paul Yost defended this in 1983, saying the men and women on Coast Guard vessels are trained to function as one.

In the Coast Guard, on ships, women can do anything men can do. There are female rescue swimmers. There haven't been many. Strength is a component of being a good rescue swimmer, but mentally, the tenaciousness of sticking with it is more important than physical strength and muscles when you get thrown in the cold, dark ocean," Stosz said.

Despite there being plenty of room at the top, the number of females enlisting lags compared with other services. The average for all military branches is 14.4 percent female, while 11.6 percent of Coast Guard applicants are female.

U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo, R-2nd, who serves on the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, said more can be done to increase the numbers of females.

"They're leading, and that's a very good thing. Even though they are leading, they can and should do more," LoBiondo said.

Its relative lack of visibility hurts the Coast Guard in attracting enlistees. By definition, a service that guards the coasts isn't seen in the heartland. And the Coast Guard doesn't get the advertising budget of the other branches.

### **TRICARE for Life "Explanation of Benefits" Goes Digital**

TRICARE for Life (TFL) beneficiaries can soon print a copy of their Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from the convenience of their own homes. To view the full news release, please visit:

<http://www.tricare.mil/pressroom/news.aspx?fid=359>  
<<http://www.tricare.mil/pressroom/news.aspx?fid=359>

### **SELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT, INTEGRATION AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

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Mr. Dana Goward has been selected as the Coast Guard's Director of Assessment, Integration and Risk Management. Mr. Goward assumed this senior executive service position on 17 March 2008.

Mr. Goward had served as the Coast Guards Director of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and Information Sharing Staff. In this capacity, he coordinated development of the

Coast Guard's MDA strategy and coordinates interagency MDA efforts. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Goward served as the Coast Guard's Director of Maritime Domain Awareness Program Integration, Chief, Office of Programs and Architecture, Chief, Search and rescue policy, and Chief, Office of Boat Forces. Mr. Goward has a bachelor of science degree in political science from the Coast Guard Academy and a master of science degree in management from the Naval Postgraduate School.

## **Enhanced Coast Guard Internet**

**Taken in part from ALCOAST 081/08**

1. THE NEWLY DESIGNED COAST GUARD INTERNET HOMEPAGE, [WWW.USCG.MIL](http://www.uscg.mil) <<http://www.uscg.mil>>, WILL BECOME THE SINGULAR SOURCE OF ALL RELEVANT, IMPORTANT, AND TIMELY COAST GUARD INFORMATION FOR ALL AUDIENCES. CG CENTRAL WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR INTERNAL ONLY AUDIENCES AS WELL.

2. CENTRAL CHANGES TO WEBSITE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

A. FEATURED PHOTO: UPDATED DAILY.

B. BREAKING NEWS: PERTINENT NEWS STORIES AND RELEASES UPDATED 24/7.

C. PRESS RELEASES: BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL WILL BE UPDATED CONTINUOUSLY.

D. MULTIMEDIA: IN ADDITION TO PHOTOS, GRAPHICS, AUDIO, AND PODCASTS, MULTIMEDIA INCORPORATES CGVI VIDEOS, PENTAGON CHANNEL, AND CG VIDEO CHANNEL.

1. PENTAGON CHANNEL: DIRECTS YOU TO ALL COAST GUARD STORIES FEATURED ON THE PENTAGON CHANNEL.

2. CG VIDEO CHANNEL: DIRECTS YOU TO ALL COAST GUARD VIDEO FEATURED ON YOUTUBE WEB PAGE. THIS IS FOR EXTERNAL AUDIENCES OR > HOME USE. STREAMING VIDEO IS NOT AUTHORIZED ON COAST GUARD > COMPUTERS.

E. CG JOURNAL ENTRY: INFORMAL, TIMELY INFORMATION ON A BROAD RANGE > OF COAST GUARD ISSUES, TOPICS, AND INITIATIVES.

F. CG ANNOUNCEMENTS: SINGLE SOURCE LOCATION FOR ALCOASTS AND ALLINTERNET RELEASABLE MESSAGE TRAFFIC.

G. UNIT SPOTLIGHT: STORIES HIGHLIGHTING CG UNITS UPDATED EVERY OTHER MONTH.

3. AN ADDED FEATURE TO THE WEB PAGE IS THE "REALLY SIMPLE SYNDICATION" (RSS) TOOL. RSS ALLOWS A USER TO SUBSCRIBE TO FREQUENTLY UPDATED CONTENT SUCH AS NEWS HEADLINES OR PODCASTS. RSS MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE TO KEEP UP WITH SELECTED WEB SITES IN AN AUTOMATED MANNER. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO USE RSS, PLEASE VISIT THE RSS FEEDS LINK ON THE MULTIMEDIA TAB, [HTTP://WWW.USCG.MIL/TOP/RSS](http://www.uscg.mil/top/rss).

4. THE NEW WEBPAGE WILL BE UP BY 22 FEB 2008. IN ADDITION, CG-0922 WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP THE WEBSITE FURTHER.

## **Retired Civilian ID Cards Update**

HQ indicates USCG civilian retirees are now eligible for DoD issued Retired Civilian ID Card.

The RAPIDS Version 7.3 software changes have been made that will allow CG retired civilians to be issued the new DoD Retired Civilian ID Card. The schedule calls for the software to begin beta testing in March 2008 with full implementation expected to be o/a April 2008. The Retired Civilian ID Card will look like the current Civilian CAC Card (w/ photo); however, it will not have a smart chip. DoD is still debating the expiration period for the cards (4 years or indefinite). Cost for each card will be approximately 50 cents which each DEERS/RAPIDS station will have to budget for. Since it is a DoD wide software change and inter-service support agreements are already in place, USCG retirees, as well as those of other services, will be able to get their card at any ID Card Issuing facility in CONUS.

CG-10 and CG-12 will need to work together to develop a plan to efficiently submit CG retiree information via secure data tape feed to the Defense Manpower and Data Center

(DMDC) for entry into the DEERS/RAPIDS database. Needless to say, this is an increased workload for CG-10, CG-12 and at the present time they are still determining the impact and extent of the limitations on historical data for CG retirees.

### **Military chefs receive high marks in annual food fight**

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Benjamin Murray, who is stationed in Portsmouth, received a medal in the 33rd U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, an Army base outside of Petersburg near Richmond. He received a gold medal for his work in a two-member team competing in ice carving.

Roughly 400 medals - gold, silver and bronze - were presented at the annual competition's award ceremony Friday. More than 160 military food service specialists from all over the world competed in the 40 different categories, which ranged from field cooking to hot desserts to live lobster and ice carving.

The two-week competition is the largest of its kind in the U.S. and is sanctioned by the American Culinary Federation, giving medal recipients rights to use their winnings toward full chef certification.

### **SELECTION OF DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT, INTEGRATION AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

MR. DANA A. GOWARD AS THE COAST GUARDS DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT, INTEGRATION AND RISK MANAGEMENT. MR. GOWARD ASSUMED THIS SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE POSITION ON 17 MARCH 2008.

MR. GOWARD HAS SERVED AS THE COAST GUARDS DIRECTOR OF MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS (MDA) AND INFORMATION SHARING STAFF. IN THIS CAPACITY, HE COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE COAST GUARDS MDA STRATEGY AND COORDINATES INTERAGENCY MDA EFFORTS. PRIOR TO THIS ASSIGNMENT, MR. GOWARD SERVED AS THE COAST GUARDS DIRECTOR OF MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS PROGRAM INTEGRATION, CHIEF, OFFICE OF PROGRAMS AND ARCHITECTURE, CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE POLICY, AND CHIEF, OFFICE OF BOAT FORCES. MR. GOWARD HAS A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM THE U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY AND A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN MANAGEMENT FROM THE NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL.

### **Master Chief John Pershing Greathouse USCG RET Honored by ATC Mobile**

ATC Mobile held a ceremony to honor the memory of Master Chief John Pershing Greathouse on 31 March 2008. The purpose of the ceremony was to unveil and hang a photo and bio of Master Chief Greathouse in the Bottoms Hall lobby as part of an ongoing project to increase CG aviation "historical awareness" at ATC. Master Chief Greathouse retired in 1979 after a 35 year career, and was the last active enlisted pilot serving in any of the Armed Services.

Master Chief Greathouse quietly passed away after a long illness in Gulfport Mississippi, coincidentally, the night Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. Due to the obvious issues with the aftermath of Katrina, his family did not notify the Coast Guard until well after the Master Chief had been laid to rest.

There was a deck ceremony to unveil the photo/bio, followed by a reception and placement of the photo/bio in the Bottoms Hall Lobby.

### **USCGC BERTHOLF Commissioning on August 4, 2008**

The USCGC BERTHOLF (WMSL 750) is the first of a new Legend class of National Security Cutters built under the Deepwater project approved by Congress. The cutters of this class will begin replacing the aging 378-foot 'WHECs' currently in service. The 418-

foot state-of-the-art vessel with a crew of 113 personnel, will be homeported in Alameda, CA.

The new cutter is named for Commodore Ellsworth Price Bertholf, the Coast Guard's first Commandant, a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal for being part of a three-man team which traveled 1,600 miles overland in 1897 herding reindeer to rescue 200 trapped whalers at Point Barrow who were starving. He was later named Commandant of the Coast Guard, retired in 1919 and passed away in 1921. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

The commissioning event, scheduled on August 4, 2008 in Alameda, CA is being planned by the Pacific Central Region of the Navy League at the request of the Coast Guard. The Bertholf Commissioning Committee includes retired members of the Coast Guard, Navy and Merchant Marine, current Coast Guard Auxiliary members, Blue Star Moms and Pacific Central Region Navy League leaders. Among the number of Honorary Chairs include California U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and actor Kevin Costner who starred in the movie "The Guardian," a story portraying the Coast Guard's rescue swimmer program.

The Committee is currently raising funds for the historic event so that traditional maritime commissioning activities may be held. Monies raised are for activities which the Coast Guard cannot provide, including events for the crew, funds for the crew's Morale, Well-being and Recreation fund, including educational opportunities and traditional receptions before and post-commissioning ceremony.

Tax deductible contributions (501 C 3, ID# 68-0114586) may be made payable to CCCNLUS and mailed to: Navy League, P.O. Box 2181, Alameda, CA 94501.

For additional information regarding support for the commissioning and the Bertholf, please visit the Commissioning Ceremony committee's website: [www.bertholfcommissioning.com](http://www.bertholfcommissioning.com) <<http://www.bertholfcommissioning.com/>> and the Coast Guard Pacific Area's website: [www.uscg.mil/pacarea/bertholf/](http://www.uscg.mil/pacarea/bertholf/) <<http://www.uscg.mil/pacarea/bertholf/>>

A letter of acknowledgement and appreciation will be sent to each donor. Donors will be recognized in a Commissioning Ceremony publication.

Retirees are urged to visit their website ([www.berthoffcommissioning.com](http://www.berthoffcommissioning.com)) to see how to help and make a donation if so desired. Please spread the word to other retirees.

#### **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/q-w/q-wp/q-wpm/retiree/retiree.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/q-w/q-wp/q-wpm/retiree/retiree.htm)

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

Today in USCG History: [http://www.uscg.mil/history/Chronology\\_Nov.html](http://www.uscg.mil/history/Chronology_Nov.html)

Coast Guard Visual Imagery Database, your link to Coast Guard video, photos, art, graphics and audio: <http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php>

Seapower Magazine: [http://www.navyleague.org/sea\\_power/](http://www.navyleague.org/sea_power/)

Coast Guard News Channel: <http://www.coastguardchannel.com/index.shtm>

Coast Guard video available at - <http://www.youtube.com/uscgimagery>

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

The DoD "Early Bird" news clips <http://ebird.afis.mil/>

Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety: [www.USCGboating.org](http://www.USCGboating.org)

Chief Warrant Officer Association: [www.cwoauscg.org](http://www.cwoauscg.org) ficer Association:  
<http://www.uscgcpoa.org/> <<http://www.uscgcpoa.org/>>  
COAST GUARD FLAG VOICES: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/flagvoice/list.htm> THE  
LEADERSHIP NEWS: <http://www.uscg.mil/leadership/newshome.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>

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