



**Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Newsletter**  
***SERVICE CONTINUES***

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

**Issue 15**

**8 December 2008**

**Ready for Winter?**

**SPECIAL NOTE: Still time to register to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DC Retiree Council Holiday Party at Vinson Hall 14 Decemeber from 4-6:30. You can PAY AT THE DOOR.(\$30 per person) but please e mail CAPT Peak, [PaulPeak@aol.com](mailto:PaulPeak@aol.com) , so he can prepare enough food.**

Your Council continues to be active, meeting Friday 5 December 2008 at USCG HQ.

Key issues were

Comments by Headquarters Support Command representative:

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Party

Holiday Cards

Status of Google List and Membership Outreach

Help Desk Utilization

Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council WEB site update

Appointment of Council Secretary and Membership Chair

Survivors Help Guide Status

VA information update

Schedule 2009 Council Meetings

\*\*\* Local Capital Area Coast Guard Retirees are welcome to serve on committees.

Lula Carpenter was unanimously elected as Council Secretary. CAPT Class, Council member of long standing was thanked for his long and faithful service as Secretary since the Council's inception.

The Council warmly welcomed new member. Paul Cojeen, a recently retired civilian from USCG HQ.

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 Lula Carpenter ph (703 913 7390) or e-mail: [leecarp@verizon.net](mailto:leecarp@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 Council members 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, CAPT Bud Schneeweis 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 webmaster, CAPT Bob Warakomsky, at [bpwarakom@cox.net](mailto:bpwarakom@cox.net)**

We look forward to serving all Coast Guard Retirees, military and civilian, 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 and 2009**

Fri 27 March 2009  
Fri 26 June 2009  
Fri 25 September 2009  
Fri 5 Decemebr 2009

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DC Retiree Council Holiday Party to be at Vinson Hall 14 Decemeber**  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DC Retiree Council Holiday Party to be at Vinson Hall Sunday, 14 Decemeber from 4-6:30. Still time to regsiter and you can **PAY AT THE DOOR.(\$30 per person)** The Commandant and the CG Master Chief of the CG will be attneding. There is a good repsonse to the Invitation. Hurry If you wish to attend by indicating by E-mail to [PaulPeak@aol.com](mailto:PaulPeak@aol.com). Please provide your Name, Address, Home Telephone Number, E-mail address, and name of accompanying spouse and/or guests, and make the subject of your E-mail "**SEMPER PARTY**". Please confirm your reservations by mailing a check (\$30 per person) (BUT YOU CAN PAY AT THE DOOR) covering payment for the party to:

CAPT Paul Peak, USCG (Ret)  
Vinson Hall, Apt. 306  
McLean, VA 22101-4807

Checks should be made out to: "*Coast Guard Retiree Fund*" and should be marked "SEMPER PARTY". A list of those indicating they will attend will be posted on the Council web page.

### **Coast Guard Delivers Trees and Christmas Cheer**

It's a Christmas tradition in Chicago.

The Christmas tree ship docked at Navy Pier Saturday and unloaded holiday cheer for people in need

Chicago's Christmas Ship Committee works with 16 different local charities to find families in need. "This is an old Marine tradition in Chicago," Capt. Dave Truitt said. "We are very excited for the Marine community to be a part of this tradition."

The organization collects donations to buy the trees in Michigan. This year, 1,160 trees were loaded onto the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw, which headed to Navy Pier.

"For me to be able to deliver the tree to kids, that's what I think this is about," Coast Guard Cmdr. Scott Smith said.

### ***Coast Guard honors Pearl Harbor survivors***



Coast Guard Rear Adm. Zukunfft, District 11 commander, and members of the History of

Pearl Harbor Survivors Association Chapter Two pose for a group photo after today's Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony here Dec. 5, 2008.

This year marks the 67th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. A memorial wreath was placed at 9:55 AM to coincide with the time of the attack on Hawaii.

**USCG Guard Held 40th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony for USCGC White Alder**

The USCG held a memorial ceremony Sunday, Dec. 7, for the crewmembers of the Coast Guard Cutter White Alder who lost their lives in a collision on the Mississippi River, Dec.7, It was held

at the USS Kidd Veteran's Memorial and Museum in Baton Rouge

## **Say "Thanks" It Only Takes a Second**

Xerox is helping to making it easier to send a Holiday card to the troops overseas.

If you go to this web site, [www.LetsSayThanks.com](http://www.LetsSayThanks.com) <<http://www.letssaythanks.com/>>, you can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a service member. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to some member of the armed services.

You can select from a list of messages for troops serving overseas. Select the one that best expresses your sentiments. It's that easy to let the troops know you care.

## **Coast Guard Port Security Unit (PSU) 311 Deployed to the Middle East**

Port Security Unit (PSU) 311, based out of San Pedro, Calif., deployed from the North Island Naval Air Station to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Unit is comprised of reservists specializing in port and land security missions.

The unit will conduct joint security missions with the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army in and around the Country of Kuwait.



Families and members of the Coast Guard Port Security Unit enjoy a picnic lunch during a family day at Coast Guard Air Station San Diego prior to the units deployment.



PS2 Christian Lavender poses for a picture with his daughter during the Coast Guard Port Security Unit's family day.

### **U.S. Coast Guard Awards Highest Lifesaving Honor to Hawaiian Mariner**

The United States Coast Guard presented the Gold Lifesaving Medal, the agency's highest civilian award, to John Dacuag, a Filipino-American mariner from Hawaii, who saved a cargo ship crewman from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at the height of Typhoon ManYi in 2007.

RADM Mason K. Brown, 14th Coast Guard District commander, awarded the medal to Dacuag at a formal ceremony in the agency's headquarters in Honolulu. Dacuag, the

713th recipient of the award in the Coast Guard's history, said that he was honored and humbled to receive the award.

The Horizon Falcon, where Dacuag was a crew member, received a distress call on July 10, 2007 from another vessel, The Hai Tong No. 7.

Both vessels were traversing the Philippine Sea along with a typhoon. Hai Tong was about 375 miles northwest of Guam. Horizon Falcon changed course to help Hai Tong. Dacuag rescued a crew member of Hai Tong when Dacuag jumped into the 24-foot seas and 40-knot winds to capture him. The Coast Guard, meanwhile, saved 13 Hai Tong crew members.

### **National Security Cutter Waesche powered up the first of its C4ISR equipment**

On October 2, the National Security Cutter Waesche powered up the first of its C4ISR equipment kicking off the ship's electronics test program,

The cutter successfully started its major Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance systems, including all 28 electronics cabinets.

Waesche will sail with a highly sophisticated system, which will aid the Coast Guard in carrying out missions efficiently and effectively.

The 418-foot cutter is the second in its class. It is being built at the Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding's Pascagoula shipyard though it is equipped with Lockheed Martin's electronic equipment. It was christened July 25, just before the Aug. 5 commissioning of her sister-ship the Bertholf.

### ***5 Coasties to go Through SEAL Ttraining***

Four officers and one enlisted man have been chosen to become the first Coast Guardsmen to participate in the elite Navy SEAL training in Coronado, Calif.

After ADM Thad Allen announced the program July 31, Coast Guard Personnel Command fielded more than 150 phone calls from people requesting additional information. As of the Sept. 15 deadline, 19 people had applied — 12 officers and seven enlisted members, said Lt. James McLay, spokesman for Deployable Operation Group commander Rear Adm. Thomas Atkin.

Of the 19 applicants, 12 were selected to move on to the evaluation phase in Florida. The group was then whittled to five by Naval Special Warfare Command and the Coast Guard's DOG.

If any or all selected Coast Guardsmen make it through the nearly two years of physically and mentally daunting training, they will be assigned to a SEAL team for five to seven years, although they officially will be part of the Coast Guard *Those who successfully complete the service commitment are not required to return to the Coast Guard*, but Allen said this summer that he wants them to come back.

It is not yet clear when those selected will begin training.

Selected were:

- Lt. j.g. Brian Bruns, Civil Engineering Unit Miami.
- Lt. j.g. Brian Naughton, Coast Guard District 7.
- Ensign Sean Norton, cutter Steadfast.
- Ensign Matthew Oloughlin, cutter Boutwell.
- Machinery Technician 3rd Class Kyle Walker, Station Channel Islands, Calif.

### **Coast Guard Accepts New Response Boat-Medium and Rescue 21 Communications System**

RADM Steve Branham, commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District, RADM Gary T. Blore, assistant commandant for Coast Guard Acquisition, and CAPT Scott Buschman, commander of Coast Guard Sector Key West, Fla., formally accepted and introduced a new Response Boat-Medium and Rescue 21 advanced communications system during a ceremony at Sector Key West.

"We're thrilled at the capabilities these assets bring to our efforts," Buschman said. "Our men and women are excited to finally have the cutting edge in response boat and search-and-rescue communications."

The RB-M is a new multimission asset that offers increased speed and maneuverability compared to the aging 41-foot utility boats, which it will eventually replace. Enhanced maritime capabilities and technological advances such as waterjet propulsion, armrest integrated steering and trim controls, self-righting capability and improved crew accommodations all represent significant upgrades over the legacy 41-foot utility boat. The first two RB-M's were delivered to Coast Guard Stations Little Creek, Va., and Cape Disappointment, Wash., earlier this year.

Rescue 21 is an advanced command, control and communications system that provides cutting edge technology to mariners nationwide. As a marine version of 911, it facilitates better communications and interoperability in emergency situations. With its advanced direction finding capabilities and increased range, Rescue 21 helps the Coast Guard better 'hear the call' and quickly respond to boaters in distress, as well as to identify hoax distress calls made from land that can unnecessarily occupy Coast Guard assets, manpower and ultimately cost taxpayers money.

Earlier this year, the service used its remote operations capability to seamlessly maintain coverage and communication along the New Orleans coast during Hurricane Gustav and through the aftermath. This acceptance formally brings those capabilities to Key West and increases total U.S. coastline currently covered by Rescue 21 to about 23,000 miles. Once the rollout is complete, Rescue 21 will provide communications coverage along 95,000 miles of U.S. coastline.

**RADM Stephen Rochon, USCG RET, the director of the Executive Residence and the chief usher meet with the Obamas during their tour of the White House**

President-elect Barack Obama sized up the Oval Office on Monday and pronounced it "pretty nice" after touring the White House with wife Michelle on a cordial visit hosted by President Bush and wife Laura.

The Bushes greeted the Obamas at the South Portico, and the couples posed for cameras. They then moved on to the Diplomatic Reception room, where the Obamas were introduced to RADM Rochon, the director of the Executive Residence and the chief usher.

After Bush and Obama's initial meeting, they joined their wives to check out the living quarters, the famous Lincoln Bedroom, office space, the Obama girls' potential bedrooms and the gym. After that, Bush and Obama headed back to the Oval for more talk and Michelle met with ADM Rochon -- who will oversee the Obama move-in. ADM Stephen Rochon, the director of the Executive Residence and the chief usher.

### **Nearly 1,000 fill Coast Guard hangar for Veterans Day assembly**

Nearly 1,000 gathered at Coast Guard Group/Air Station Port Angeles to celebrate Veterans Day and to honor the service of all military veterans.

Korean War veterans were given a special tribute, with a segment of the 90-minute program devoted to them.

Army veteran Don Roberts, nurse Mary Reid, Navy veteran Charles Gagnon and Air Force veteran Jerry Retella shared their stories of what it was like in Korea during the height of the war in the early 1950s.

Coast Guard narrator Adam Saurin weaved in historical information about the war between each storyteller's personal account.

The mortality rate, 4.5 percent in World War II, fell

2.5 percent in Korea, Reid told the audience.

One of the reasons for that was the M.A.S.H. units, or Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals, like the ones she worked in during the Korean War and made famous by the 1972-1983 television series.

Roberts described the war as a highly mobile operation in 1951 and a much different, "World War I-type" of conflict in 1952.

"There were bloody fights for one piece of terrain not worthy of one soldier's life," Roberts said.

Roberts thanked the crowd for attending the ceremony. "I appreciate it very much," he said.

The Port Angeles High School band played a medley of armed forces theme songs while veterans of each branch were asked to stand and be recognized by the audience.

Coast Guard CDR Erik Langenbacher served as master of ceremonies. CAPT Scott Pollock, the base commander, read a letter of tribute and closed by saying, "I too, would like to salute you and thank you for your service."

The Olympic Peninsula Men's Choir sang the national anthem.

The Grand Olympics Chorus of Sweet Adelines performed two numbers before the singing groups joined up for "God Bless America" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Other highlights included the Rev. Margaret Bourne- Raiswell's invocation and benediction, a rifle salute by the Marine Corps League Honor Guard and a rendition of "Amazing Grace" performed by bagpipers Don Alward and Bill Shepherd.

The Port Angeles Coast Guard base has been a regional Veterans Day observance site for 13 years.

### **Bertholf Completes First Operational Patrol**

The Coast Guard's first national security cutter returned to its homeport in Alameda, Calif., Nov. 16 after completing its first operational patrol, which included flight operations, small-boat operations and weapons testing.

During what is known as the dynamic interface testing, helicopters repeatedly took off and landed from the cutter's deck in various weather conditions and at night, requiring crew members to practice using night-vision goggles.

The results from those tests will establish safety regulations for all future Legend-class national security cutters, according to the Coast Guard.

"The Bertholf is a unique and improved landing platform for a number of reasons," Lt. Cmdr. Scott Weaver, a rotary-wing test pilot for the Coast Guard, said in a statement. "It has the largest flight deck of any cutter in the Coast Guard. Its lighting system is new and at night can easily be switched between full lighting and low-level lighting for use with night-vision goggles."

In a live-fire drill, crew members tested the close-in weapons system with a surface target. They also tested the small-boat launch and recovery system while on patrol.

"This has been an extremely beneficial underway period for this crew, as well as for the Coast Guard," said CAPT Patrick Stadt, Bertholf's commanding officer, adding the tests have "paved the way for future Coast Guard operations."

## **CG Trains intelligence Specialists to Keep Watch**

Following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the Coast Guard joined with agencies such as the CIA, the National Security Agency, and the Office of Naval Intelligence as a member of the national intelligence community, but until recently, the Coast Guard did not have any specifically designated full-time enlisted specialists dedicated solely to the intelligence mission.

Traditionally, Coast Guardsmen from different job fields served in intelligence positions. They attended a two- week course introducing them to the intelligence field.

Additional instruction was done through on-the-job training which qualified members to fill important intelligence positions. When that assignment was over, they went back to jobs outside the intelligence field. As a result, the Coast Guard had difficulty maintaining a steady flow of professional expertise in the intelligence field.

With the creation of the Intelligence Specialist enlisted rating, that has changed.

After decision was made to create the rate in November, 2006, Master Chief Petty Officer Mark Pearson was assigned to develop as well as getting an Intelligence "A" school established

After graduation, the new petty officers are assigned to intelligence units such as the Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center in Virginia Beach, Va., or Alameda, Calif., a Field Intelligence Support Team located within a sector command, an intelligence detachment aboard the National Security Cutter, and other units.

In order to qualify to become an IS, Coast Guardsmen must meet stringent requirements, passing a thorough background check to qualify for a top secret security clearance with authorization to access secure spaces and equipment. Such high standards in personnel are vital to ensuring the quality of the intelligence program and the surety of the safety of Coast Guard operational security.

## **Coast Guard fallen heroes scholarship fund receives Navy League contribution**

During its 2nd Annual National Tribute Dinner held December 2nd in Washington DC, the Navy League of the United States awarded the Coast Guard Foundation \$75,000 to be used for its Fallen Heroes Fund. The Navy League selected the Foundation for its outstanding service supporting men and women in uniform and their families, and for establishing the first ever scholarship program for families of fallen Coast Guard personnel. The Fallen Heroes Fund benefits the families of Coast Guard men and women lost in the line of duty, providing up to four years of support for children and spouses who wish to continue their education.

The Coast Guard Foundation's Fallen Heroes Fund was established with a gift from John and Delinda Statts of Savannah, Georgia, in memory of John's parents, Captain Frederick J. Statts, a 1936 Coast Guard Academy graduate and 30-year Coast Guard member, and his wife Sara Statts.

### ***Coast Guard Commissioned CGC Crocodile Tuesday December 3rd***

The Coast Guard commissioned the new Coast Guard Cutter Crocodile, an 87-foot coastal patrol boat, in a ceremony Tuesday at Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg.

RADM Steve Branham, commander of the Coast Guard's Seventh District, presided over the time-honored naval tradition, which marks the formal establishment of the new cutter, and served as the keynote speaker. U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson attended with his wife Grace. Mrs. Nelson is the ship's "sponsor".

Senior Chief Petty Officer Stephen Smith will take command of the 11-member crew and they will conduct search-and-rescue, law-enforcement and Homeland Security missions along the west coast of Florida.

Crocodile is the 69th Marine Protector Class patrol boat constructed by Bollinger Ship Yards of Lockport, La.

### **Report from CO Personnel Service Center (PSC) Topeka on CG-Retired] CRDP**

We have reviewed 42% of the over 3800 records potentially eligible for Concurrent Receipt of Disability Payments (CRDP). Of those reviewed to date, 12% are due payments from both the Coast Guard (CG) and Veteran's Administration (VA), 11.5% are due payments just from the VA, and 18.5% are not due additional funds.

We have transmitted a test data file to the VA, and are actively working to get VA feedback to finalize our secure transmission protocol and procedures. Transmission of payment data to the VA will occur as soon as the VA approves our data test file. Recipients of VA payments will be provided notification once their data has been successfully transmitted to the VA. Recipients of CG payments will receive notification through a Retiree/Annuitant Statement.

We expect to review an average of 25-40% of the remaining 2242 records per month for the next two and a half months depending on pay cycle workload and end of year requirements (including upcoming COLA implementation), with our completion date remaining 20 Feb 09. We ask for your patience and understanding as we work diligently through a complex and large volume of work while maintaining required services to our retiree and annuitant customers.

We will post this update on our web page today, and a detailed update will also be provided in the next Retiree newsletter scheduled to go out at end of December.

Thank you all!  
J. D. PHILLIPS, P.E, CAPT, USCG  
Commanding Officer  
Personnel Service Center (PSC) Topeka

## **Homeland Security Series Scheduled by ABC**

A homeland security series "Homeland Security USA," a reality show produced with the full cooperation of several agencies of the Department of Homeland Security, will have its premiere on Jan. 6 on ABC.

ABC said the production "has been given unprecedented access to the agencies, including Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Transportation Security Administration and the Coast Guard."

The show will spotlight the work of border patrol officials who work on land, sea and air to keep the United States secure. ABC has ordered 13 episodes of the series; they will be shown on Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

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