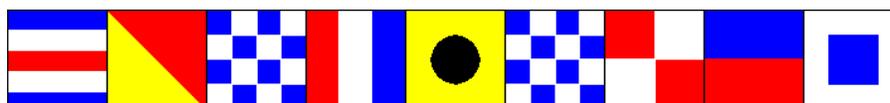




Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council Newsletter

SERVICE CONTINUES



Council co-chairs: CAPT David Bernstein and SCPO Mike White

Issue 2011 01

March 29, 2011

SPRING IS HERE!!!!

Your Council continues to be active, meeting Friday – March 26 at USCG HQ.

Key issues were

- National Council May Meeting
- Council Outreach to the Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Community
- Caregivers Guide Update Dec 2010
- Status of Council E mail List
- Help Desk Utilization
- Website Update
- Promotion of Retiree Participation in USCG Related Events

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

A copy of the Council Newsletters, Agendas and Meeting Minutes are posted on the Council web site, <http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/carc>, and can be downloaded, or may be requested from Council Secretary, Lula Carpenter, ph (703 913 7390) or e-mail: leecarp@verizon.net.

The Council's publishes a quarterly newsletter to provide the **Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Community, military and civilian**, with information of interest to USCG Retirees in the Washington DC, Maryland and Northern Virginia Council area and update DC area retirees on Council activities. In addition, items that are time-critical will be sent using the Council E-Mail list.

All Capitol Area Retirees 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 the Council Co-Chairs, CAPT Bud Schneeweis and YNCS Mike White, the Council Secretary, Lula Carpenter or to the **Newsletter** editor at e-mail: dcareacgretireecouncil@comcast.net. Please "Pass on" this Newsletter to other USCG

military and civilian retirees that may be interested. Additional e-mail / snail mail addresses and phone numbers for the Council mailing list are very welcome.

All are urged to look at the Capital Area Coast Guard Retiree Council 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 – Paul Cojeen at navlarch@erols.com .

Your Council looks forward to serving all Coast Guard Retirees, military and civilian, and continues to extend an invitation to attend Council meetings, to participate in Council projects and to keep us informed of your issues and concerns.

Council Meeting Schedule for 2011-2012

Friday - Jun 24, 2011

Friday - Sep 30, 2011

Friday – Dec 2, 2011

Friday - Mar 27, 2012

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

E mail listing of DC Area Retirees

The number of addresses in the Council's e-mail Distribution Listing for the DC Area Retirees, military and civilian in the Capitol area is steadily growing. New and revised contact info for DC Area Retirees should be sent to dcareacgretireecouncil@comcast.net . Please provide:

Name/Rank

Addresses

Ph no

Current e mail

Spouse

Two Coast Guard Two Men Honored For Saving The Life Of A 14-Year-Old Boy

Petty Officer Erik R. Conatser and former Petty Officer Ramu Linsky were awarded Silver Lifesaving Medals for the heroic rescue of a boy from the American River in Central California on Aug. 15, 2010.

The two men were rafting in the American River with friends when they saw the 14-year-old struggling to stay afloat after diving from a 40-foot high pedestrian bridge with no life jacket. As the boy's body was swept underwater, Conatser and Linsky dove in and swam about 300 yards to reach him. They pulled the boy to shore, where they discovered he was not breathing and did not have a pulse, authorities said.

Conatser and Linsky performed CPR for about three minutes before the 14-year-old resumed breathing.

Conatser is an information systems technician aboard Cutter Waesche, a Coast Guard vessel based in Alameda, officials said.

Silver Lifesaving 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, according to the Coast Guard's website.

Navy Memorial the 20th annual "Blessing of the Fleets"



THE UNITED STATES
NAVY MEMORIAL



Coast Guard Sponsored Musher Finished in 9th Place

Coast Guard sponsored musher, Ken Anderson, finished in 9th place at 12:23 AM after a photo finish race down the streets of Nome.

Ken moved up two places passing DeeDee Jonrowe and just beating Jessie Royer by the length of a dog's nose at the finish line.

Coast Guardsman Recipient of Combat Veterans Association Award

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam's commanding officer, Captain Thomas M. Sparks, on December 8, 2010, presented Electrician's Mate First Class William N. Horne with the recognition as the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association Person of the Year for 2009.

The award was the latest in a series of honors that Petty Officer Horne received for heroic acts he performed related to a car accident on February 8, 2009.

The Veterans Association award plaque reads, "In recognition of his demonstrated remarkable initiative, exceptional fortitude and heroism while rescuing five people from a pickup truck engulfed in flames . in Dededo, Guam." Petty Officer Horne also received an appointment as an honorary member of the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association.

Petty Officer Horne also was previously recognized by the Commandant of the Coast Guard for his lifesaving efforts with the Coast Guard Medal for heroism, was chosen as the Enlisted Petty Officer of the Year for 2009, and received the 2010 Non-Commissioned Officers Association Coast Guard Vanguard award.

A veteran of nearly 10 years active duty, Petty Officer Horne has been stationed in Guam since 2008 and is moving during the holiday season to a new assignment aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Wrangell currently deployed to Bahrain, Persian Gulf.

President Obama slated to speak at Coast Guard Academy's 130th commencement

President Barack Obama is scheduled to deliver the keynote address during the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's 130th commencement exercises on May 18.

The commencement is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. on Cadet Memorial Field.

"Every commencement is a special occasion, but it is a particularly momentous event when the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces presents the commissions to the Coast Guard's newest Ensigns," said Coast Guard Academy Superintendent Rear Adm. Scott Burhoe. "It's a great opportunity to showcase the Coast Guard Academy and the city of New London."

Presidents traditionally address the graduating class at one of the federal service academies on a rotating basis.

President Obama addressed the U.S. Military Academy Class of 2010 at West Point last year.

Coast Guard Adds New Jayhawks to Fleet

Pilots at Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod have two new birds in the air and are looking forward to adding two additional MH-60T Jayhawk helicopters to their fleet by this spring.

One of two new Jayhawks was recently on display at Chatham Airport

In all, Air Station Cape Cod has four Jayhawks that are used in search-and-rescue missions off the coast of the Cape and Islands. "We're halfway there," Lt. J.G. Bruce Jeffries said of the upgrade from J model Jayhawks to the newer T model. "We've had our second one for a week now."

Jeffries, who flies as a co-pilot in the Coast Guard's Falcon jets, said helicopter pilots at the Cape base are excited about the transition. "There's a lot more technology at their fingertips," he said. "The radio communications are a lot better."

One of the key improvements featured in the MH-60T Jayhawk is the increased ability to find vessels and mariners in the water during search-and-rescue missions, Jeffries said.

The MH-60T Jayhawks come equipped with a hard-mounted infrared camera and a hard-mounted Trakabeam spotlight, according to specifications provided by the Coast Guard. A digital map display provides "enhanced situational awareness."

Coast Guard helicopter pilots have to take a four-week training course to learn the features of the new Jayhawk model, Jeffries said. The older J model Jayhawks used at the Cape base will be re-outfitted and redistributed at other Coast Guard bases, he said.

Former Coast Guard Petty Officer Kristin Reger Gets Coast Guard Medal For Heroism

Kristin Reger, former Coast Guard petty officer, got a rare award for heroism for risking her life to save a man trapped in an overturned sailboat just inside the Golden Gate.

Reger got the Coast Guard Medal for heroism "in the highest tradition of the United States Coast Guard" for her rescue of a small boat sailor trapped when his boat capsized in the summer of 2008.

"Putting yourself at that kind of risk is very, very special," said Rear Adm. Joseph Castillo, commander of the 11th Coast Guard District, who presented Reger with the medal and a citation at a ceremony at Golden Gate Station near Sausalito. "We are very proud of her."

The Coast Guard Medal, for heroism not involving armed combat, is rarely awarded. Only 310 individuals have received the medal in its 61-year history. Fewer than two dozen have been awarded in the past 10 years.

The story began in July 2008, when Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Brett Bunner, who was in charge of Motor Lifeboat 47292, was sitting at a desk at the Golden Gate Coast Guard station. He glanced idly out the window and saw a tragedy about to happen.

"I saw a boat upside down," he said Wednesday.

"I thought 'that isn't right.' " The wind was blowing 25 knots, he said, and the boat was headed for the rocks just north of the Golden Gate Bridge.

So he scrambled his six-person crew, which included Reger and Lunkley, fired up his rescue boat and headed out. The sailboat - a big trimaran - had capsized, and a man was hanging on to the bottom of the overturned boat.

They rescued the man - but he told them that a second man was trapped under the boat, maybe inside the cabin. Reger instantly jumped into the chilly water. "She was ready to go," Bunner said. "No hesitation."

Reger said she first tried to use a long hook and a rope line to get a life jacket to the trapped man, who seemed to be in his mid-60s. But that didn't work; he was under water, he had a cut on his head, he was in a panic and trapped in the rigging. So she dived under the boat and pulled him out.

It was cold and very windy, and it felt as if the boat was ready to sink. "To put yourself in that kind of danger," Costello said, "is really extreme heroism."

Reger was modest about it. "I was only doing what I was trained to do," she said. Reger's commanding officer recommended her for a medal. The Coast Guard declined to identify the two men who were rescued.

2011 FLAG OFFICER AND SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

From R 140008Z DEC 10

The assignments are listed below. Those listed as TBD are new SES positions currently in the hiring process.

HEADQUARTERS STAFF:

VCG	VICE COMMANDANT	VADM S. BRICE-O'HARA
CCS	CHIEF OF STAFF (DEPUTY COMMANDANT FOR MISSION SUPPORT)	VADM J.P. CURRIER
DCO	DEPUTY COMMANDANT FOR OPERATIONS	RADM B.M. SALERNO
CG-00H	DIRECTOR CIVIL RIGHTS STAFF	MS. T.A. DICKERSON
CG-00J	CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE	HON J.N. INGOLIA
CG-092	DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS	RDML K.L. SCHULTZ
CG-092D	DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR GOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS	TBD
CG-094	THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL	RDML(SEL) F.J. KENNEY
CG-094D	DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL	MR. C.M. LEDERER
CG-0949	CHIEF PROCUREMENT LAW COUNSEL AND CHIEF TRIAL ATTORNEY	TBD
CG-095	DIRECTOR ENTERPRISE STRATEGY, MANAGEMENT AND DOCTRINE	RADM P.V. NEFFENGER
CG-1	ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES	RADM R.T. HEWITT
CG-11	DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY	RADM M.J. TEDESCO
CG-12	DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	MR. C.B. ODOM
CG-13	DIRECTOR OF RESERVE AND LEADERSHIP	RDML(SEL)
D.R.CALLAHAN		
CG-2	ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR INTELLIGENCE AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS	RADM T.F. ATKIN
CG-2D	DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR INTELLIGENCE AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS	MR. W.E. TARRY, JR.
CG-2SA	STRATEGIC ADVISOR TO THE ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR INTELLIGENCE AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS	MR. F.R. CALL, III

CG-2-CGIS DIRECTOR CGIS	TBD
CG-4 ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR ENGINEERING AND LOGISTICS	RADM R.J. RABAGO
CG-4D DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR ENGINEERING AND LOGISTICS	MR. J.G. ORNER
DCO-I INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR	MS. K.D. MADISON
CG-5 ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR MARINE SAFETY, SECURITY, AND STEWARDSHIP	RADM P.F. ZUKUNFT
GMCC DIRECTOR GLOBAL MOTR COORDINATION CTR	MR. G.C. RASICOT
CG-52 DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS	MR. J.G. LANTZ
CG-53 DIRECTOR OF RESPONSE POLICY	RDML C.B. THOMAS
CG-54 DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION POLICY	RADM J.A. WATSON
CG-55 DIRECTOR MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT	MR. D.A. GOWARD
CG-6 ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR C4 AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	RDML R.E. DAY
CG-7 ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR CAPABILITY	RDML V.B. ATKINS
CG-8 ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR RESOURCES AND CFO	RDML(SEL) S.P. METRUCK
CG-8D DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR RESOURCES AND DEPUTY CFO	MR. M.J. RAJK
CG-8C COMPTROLLER	MS. M. SHERIDAN
CG-9 ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR ACQUISITION	RDML J.H. KORN
CG-91 SENIOR PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF CONTRACTING ACTIVITY	MS. C.M. GRADY
CG-92 DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR ACQUISITION AND DIRECTOR OF ACQUISITION SERVICES	MR. M.F. TANGORA
CG-93 DIRECTOR OF ACQUISITION PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER	RDML(SEL) B.D. BAFFER
CG-93D DEPUTY DIRECTOR ACQUISITION PROGRAMS	MS. G.L. PHAN
HEADQUARTERS UNITS:	
ACADEMY SUPERINTENDENT	RDML S.L. STOSZ
PSC COMMANDER PERSONNEL SERVICE CENTER	RDML D.R. MAY
FC COMMANDER FORCE READINESS	RDML S.E. MEHLING
FC DEP DEPUTY COMMANDER, FORCE READINESS	TBD
DOL DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL LOGISTICS	RDML(SEL) R.T.GROMLICH
C4ITSC DIRECTOR C4IT SERVICE CENTER	MR. M. T. POWELL
NPFC DIR NATL POLLUTION FUND CENTER	MR. C. A. BENNETT
LIAISONS:	
DHS DHS MILITARY ADVISOR TO THE SECRETARY	RDML(SEL) F.M.MIDGETTE
AREA STAFFS/AREA UNITS:	
ATLANTIC AREA COMMANDER	VADM R.C. PARKER
ATLANTIC AREA DEPUTY	RADM K.S. COOK
SENIOR RESERVE OFFICER ATLANTIC AREA	RADM S.E. DAY
FIRST DISTRICT	RADM D.A. NEPTUN

FIFTH DISTRICT
SEVENTH DISTRICT
EIGHTH DISTRICT
NINTH DISTRICT
PACIFIC AREA COMMANDER
PACIFIC AREA DEPUTY
SENIOR RESERVE OFFICER PACIFIC AREA
ELEVENTH DISTRICT
THIRTEENTH DISTRICT
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT
SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT

DOD COMMANDS:

DEPUTY J3 U.S. NORTHERN COMMAND
J3 U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND
J6 U.S. CYBERCOM
DIRECTOR JIATF SOUTH
DIRECTOR JIATF WEST

RDML W.D. LEE
RADM W.D. BAUMGARTNER
RADM R.A. NASH
RDML M.N. PARKS
VADM M.K. BROWN
RADM C.C. COLVIN
RDML J.S. WELCH
RADM J.R. CASTILLO
RDML K.A. TAYLOR
RADM C.W. RAY
RADM T.P. OSTEBE

RDML D.B. ABEL
RADM S.H. RATTI
RDML(SEL) M.B. LYTLE
RADM C.D. MICHEL
RDML C.J. TOMNEY

Coast Guard Honors Man for Saving 3 Lives

RADM Mike Parks, commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District, presented Edward Fillingham with the Coast Guard's Silver Lifesaving Medal at Coast Guard Station Oswego in recognition of his rescuing three boaters on Lake Ontario on April 17, 2009.



Rear Admiral Mike Parks, commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District, reads the citation to Edward Fillingham on Tuesday afternoon.

Fillingham, of Henderson Harbor, was 75 when he performed his Herculean rescue.

A woman and two men were floundering in 40-degree water after their paddleboat capsized in Henderson Harbor.

Upon hearing the cries for help, Fillingham said he immediately launched his canoe despite extremely dangerous conditions and paddled 500 yards to the boaters.

"Mr. Fillingham, it's been an honor to meet you," Admiral Parks said.

To the men and women of Station Oswego, packed in tight quarters to witness the ceremony with Fillingham's friends and family, the admiral added, "I you have even just a small portion of the feeling of pride that I have at this event and having had a few minutes to spend with Mr. Fillingham and hearing his story about this wonderful rescue."

"Three families are whole today because of your efforts, sir," he continued, turning his attention back to Fillingham.

The guest of honor, however, said he "was surprised so many people and the media are here."

"Sir, it's not everyday we get to meet a hero. It's not everyday we get to thank a hero," the admiral replied. "I want to thank you personally for the example you set for all of us. You went out and saved three people in very, very challenging conditions."

"Sir, on behalf of the Coast Guard, we look at you as a shining example of what we all strive to be, a lifesaver and a servant," the admiral said.

None of the three people were wearing lifejackets, Fillingham noted.

He helped the woman to the side of his canoe, holding on to her hand as she struggled to stay afloat.

Fillingham then helped the men to the side of his canoe and paddled back to shore with one arm as he held one person's head out of the water and fought to keep his own vessel from capsizing.



Edward Fillingham wears the Coast Guard's Silver Lifesaving Medal while talking with the media on Tuesday afternoon.

At one point, Fillingham said one of the men's heads began to slip below the surface. He said he stopped and grabbed the man around the neck (in the crux of his elbow) to keep him above the water.

Once on shore, the boaters were turned over to local Emergency Medical Services with core body temperatures of 93 degrees.

"You can't leave kids out there like that. Once you commit yourself, you go after them. You got to try anyway. No way I could have left them out there. No way. I had to get those kids out of the water," Fillingham said following the ceremony.

U.S.C.G releases its Great Lakes strategy

The Coast Guard released its Great Lakes Maritime Strategy, a multi-year plan for Coast Guard activities in the region.

RADM. Michael N. Parks, commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District, presented the strategy at the 2011 Traverse City Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner in Traverse City.

The Great Lakes Maritime Strategy describes a five-year vision, the district commander's guiding principles, the Ninth Coast Guard District's strategic objectives, and a call to action that will guide the years ahead.

The Coast Guard's Great Lakes Maritime Strategy can be viewed [in its entirety at:] http://www.d9.uscgnews.com/external/content/document/443/999755/1/uscg_d9_great_lakes_maritime_strategy.pdf

Coast Guardsmen Honored for Action Hero-like Rescue

Four Coast Guardsmen received medals Wednesday for a rescue that involved James Bond-like maneuvers and a life-or-death split-second decision.

The men, based at the Coast Guard station at Wrightsville Beach, were on patrol Aug. 8, 2010, when emergency calls came in about an out-of-control vessel and a family in the water.

When the calls came in, Petty Officer 3rd Class Daniel Scott stood at the helm of the 25-foot response boat small (RBS) 25655. Also aboard were Fireman Alan Fortes, Second Class Machinery Technician Shane Jordan and Third Class Machinery Technician Taylor Hatke.

Only about four or five minutes away from the scene of the incident, near marker 134 just off Carolina Beach, they arrived to see an 18-foot skiff traveling in a 15- to 20-foot circle at a high rate of speed.

"The boat was on a plane, so it was going pretty fast," said Hatke, of Kingman, Ind. Jordan, who is from Benson, estimated the boat's speed at 30 to 45 knots, or about 40 to 52 miles per hour.

At the center of the circle, treading water, was a woman who had fallen overboard. She, along with her husband and child, had been tubing when the tow line became caught around

the outboard motor and caused their boat to turn at an extreme angle at the same moment it hit a large wake. They all fell out.

The man and child had been picked up by a good Samaritan. But the woman was in a life-threatening situation and the approaching Coast Guardsmen knew it.

"The first thing in my mind was how to stop it," said Scott.

"To protect the female, that was the first thought going through all our minds," said Fortes, whose hometown is Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

The men had only a few seconds to assess the situation and make a decision. They could have done something to disable the rogue boat's motor, but there wasn't time.

It was headed straight for the woman in the water.

Scott made a move. He drove RBS 25655 into the path of the speeding boat, putting his own vessel in the path of the out of control skiff, and told the other men to brace themselves. As the speeding boat approached, it hit its own wake, popped up in the air and T-boned the Coast Guard vessel.

Although his starboard engine was knocked out of commission, Scott was able to bring his boat alongside.

This gave Fortes the opportunity to jump aboard the still-dangerous skiff and turn off the motor. Meanwhile, as their own boat was slightly listing to port, Jordan and Hatke pulled the woman aboard to safety.

Scott and Fortes said what happened Aug. 8 is not something they are specifically trained for. But, Scott said, the officers at the Wrightsville Beach station are full of knowledge and talk often about situations that are not in the books. It was this experience that they passed down to him, he said, that helped him make the proper decision.

Scott, who is from Winston-Salem, said he did think for a moment about the repercussions of wrecking a Coast Guard boat. But, he said, "I was really worried about the woman. I knew how it would affect me and my crew to see a woman perish."

The other three men received Coast Guard Achievement medals. All said they did not expect to receive medals for just doing their job.

Spouse of the Year' Nominee Helps Other Coast Guard Wives Connect

When Laura Vanderwerf married a member of the Coast Guard on active duty 23 years ago, few institutions or individuals existed to help military spouses adapt to their new lifestyle. Today, as a member of the Coast Guard's Ombudsman program, Vanderwerf helps new husbands and wives adjust to the frequent moves, long absences and camaraderie that comes with the life of a military spouse. For her efforts, Military Spouse Magazine has named the 47-year-old Novato resident a finalist in its annual Military Spouse of the Year competition.

USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715) DECOMMISSIONING

R 251334Z MAR 11
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CCG//
TO ALCOAST
BT
UNCLAS //N01600//
ALCOAST 130/11
COMDTNOTE 1600
SUBJ: USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715) DECOMMISSIONING

1. ON 28 MARCH 2011, AFTER 44 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO OUR NATION, WE WILL DECOMMISSION CUTTER HAMILTON. THROUGHOUT CGC HAMILTONS SERVICE, SHE HAS ALWAYS LIVED UP TO HER MOTTO, SEMPER PRIMUS: ALWAYS FIRST.

2. NAMED IN HONOR OF THE REVENUE CUTTER SERVICES FOUNDER AND THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, ALEXANDER HAMILTON, WHEC 715 WAS THE FIRST OF THE HAMILTON-CLASS 378 FOOT HIGH ENDURANCE CUTTERS. CGC HAMILTON WAS LAUNCHED FROM AVONDALE SHIPYARDS IN LOUISIANA AND COMMISSIONED ON 18 MAR 1967. SHE WAS THE FIRST U.S. MILITARY VESSEL TO EMPLOY AIRCRAFT GAS TURBINE ENGINES IN COMBINATION WITH DIESEL ENGINES (CODAG) IN A VERSATILE PROPULSION SYSTEM. ORIGINALLY HOMEPORTED IN BOSTON, MA, SHE WOULD SHIFT HER HOMEPORT TO SAN PEDRO, CA, IN 1991, AND SAN DIEGO, CA, IN 1999.

3. CGC HAMILTON WAS THE FIRST WHEC TO ARRIVE OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM IN 1969, IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION MARKET TIMES COAST GUARD SQUADRON THREE (RONTHREE), WHERE SHE CONDUCTED COMBAT, LOGISTICS AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT MISSIONS.

4. DURING HER LAST YEAR OF SERVICE, CGC HAMILTON CRUISED ALL AHEAD FULL, SAILING FOR 205 DAYS IN 2010, COVERING OVER 50,000 NAUTICAL MILES, IN SUPPORT OF HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF, EASTPAC COUNTER-DRUG OPERATIONS, AND WINTER PATROL IN THE BERING SEA. I KNOW THAT IT WAS HER HARD WORKING CREW THAT MADE THESE EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS POSSIBLE - THIS IS AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT TRULY HONORS OUR PROFESSION.

5. TO CURRENT AND PAST CGC HAMILTON CREWS, PLANK OWNERS, SHELLBACKS - GOLDEN, EMERALD, HORNED, OR OTHERWISE, SUBJECTS OF THE GOLDEN DRAGON, BLUE NOSES, AND EVEN POLLYWOGS, WELL DONE. THROUGHOUT 44 YEARS OF SERVICE, YOUR DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONALISM WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE MADE THE FATHER OF OUR SERVICE PROUD. FEAR NOT HOWEVER, THE NAME HAMILTON WILL LIVE ON WHEN THE FIFTH NATIONAL SECURITY CUTTER IS CHRISTENED. CONGRATULATIONS AND BRAVO ZULU.

6. ADM BOB PAPP, COMMANDANT AND GOLD ANCIENT MARINER, SENDS.

7. INTERNET RELEASE IS AUTHORIZED.

BT
NNNN

Coast Guard Cutter Chase Decommissioned March 29



– A decommissioning ceremony for one of the Coast Guard's 378-foot high endurance cutters was held at Pier 4, at Naval Base San Diego, Tuesday, March 29, at 10 a.m. The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Chase, homeported in San Diego, was decommissioned after 43-years of service in a ceremony presided over by Vice Adm. Manson K. Brown, commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area.

The fourth of 12 Hamilton Class Cutters, the Chase is named after Salmon Portland Chase, who served as President Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury from 1841-1846. Chase is best known for organizing a then, disorganized Treasury Department. His efforts helped to provide Lincoln with the funding his administration needed during the Civil War.

The Chase's final deployment was an eastern pacific counter narcotics patrol. During this patrol the crew of the Chase participated in the first-ever joint boarding team training program with the Peruvian Coast Guard in August 2009.

In 1999 the crew of the chase seized 15,432 pounds of cocaine, the second largest cocaine bust in Coast Guard history. Also in 1999, the Chase was the first U.S. ship to pull into the port of Corinto, Nicaragua in over thirty years. The crew of the Chase, in support of Project Handclasp, delivered needed materials and provided assistance to two communities in Nicaragua following two major landslides in the area.

During the course of it's service, the crew of the Chase earned several notable awards including the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

The Chase's missions included national and maritime safety and security, maritime law enforcement, fisheries enforcement, drug and migrant interdiction, and search and rescue.

Background on Decommissionings

For CGC BOUTWELL (WHEC 719) - to change homeport from Alameda to San Diego NLT 31 May 2011
CGC SHERMAN (WHEC 720) - to change homeport from Alameda to San Diego NLT 31 May 2011
CGC DALLAS (WHEC 716) - POSSIBLE decommissioning in FY12. No decision yet.

For ACUSHNET: (From the OFCO) DUE TO THE POTENTIAL FOR FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS) ACTIVITY, FINAL DISPOSITION OF CGC ACUSHNET REMAINS UNDETERMINED, UPDATES WILL BE PROMULGATED VIA OFCO CHANGES.

For CHASE: (From the OFCO) PLACE CHASE "OUT OF COMMISSION" AND TRANSFER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA, CONTINGENT UPON A FINAL AGREEMENT UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA.

For HAMILTON: (From the OFCO) PLACE HAMILTON "OUT OF COMMISSION" AND TRANSFER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, CONTINGENT UPON A FINAL AGREEMENT UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BETWEEN THE US GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

From Vince Paton, National Council Co-Chair-

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

807 Maine Ave., SW • Washington, D.C. 20024 • Phone (202) 554-3501 • Fax (202) 863-0233

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2011

DAV Supports Review of Radiation Exposure in Antarctic Veterans

WASHINGTON—The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is supporting a request from Sen. Sherrod Brown (DOhio) that the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs evaluate the probability of radiation exposure from a leaking nuclear reactor at McMurdo Station that may have caused cancer in veterans serving there from 1964 to 1973 during Operation Deep Freeze.

“Thousands of service members may have been exposed to radioactive contamination in the air, their water and their food,” said DAV National Commander Wallace E. Tyson. “The experimental, one-of-a-kind nuclear reactor used at McMurdo Station suffered hundreds of reported malfunctions over its lifetime. The same reactor was used to melt snow and desalinate seawater used by the service members stationed there for as long as 13 months at a time.”

In his letter to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, Sen. Brown said that veterans stationed at McMurdo have made numerous disability claims to the VA for cancers they suffered, only to be denied. Many died before their cases could be fully decided.

“According to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC), cancers that may develop as a result of radiation exposure are indistinguishable from those that occur naturally or as a result of exposure to other carcinogens,” said Brown. “We owe it to our veterans to err on the side of caution and support the claims of those whose cancer we cannot legitimately determine was not caused by radiation exposure at McMurdo Station.”

“Our veterans deserve to know if the radiation exposures at McMurdo Station’s nuclear power plant are the source of their cancers. Unless proven conclusively that they are not, the VA should award service connections to veterans suffering from cancer that may have been caused by extended periods of exposure to radiation,” said Commander Tyson. “Veterans also need to know how many of our McMurdo veterans have already died from cancer linked to radiation exposure.”

“We encourage the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to give priority to the studies in hopes that no more veterans will die without proper review of their disability claims,” he said. “Justice delayed, in this case as much as any others, is justice denied.”

The 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization founded in

1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, represents this nation's disabled veterans. It is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation's disabled veterans and their families. For more information, visit the organization's Web site [at www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org).

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, March 16, 2011
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BROWN SENDS LETTER TO SECRETARY GATES OVER VETERANS POTENTIALLY EXPOSED TO NUCLEAR MATERIAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) last week sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates asking him to review the information being provided to Veterans Administration for dose-reconstruction cases. An estimated 15,000 members of the Navy, including service members from Ohio, were stationed at a military base at Antarctica's McMurdo Station during the 1960s and 1970s.

The base was powered by a portable nuclear power plant that had more than 400 *malfunctions over the 9-year period it operated. Many of the veterans—including one now-deceased veteran from Pataskala, Ohio, named Charles Swinney—have subsequently been diagnosed with cancer, and are wondering if their exposure to radiation caused the cancer.*

To date, claims for service-connected disability due to radiation exposure filed by Swinney and others have been denied by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

In the letter, Brown urges Secretary Gates to reassess the current method used for determining the dose assessment of an exposure claim. According to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC), cancers that may develop as a result of radiation exposure are indistinguishable from those that occur naturally or as a result of exposure to other carcinogens. Additionally, Brown notes, low doses spread out over long periods of time often do not cause an immediate problem to any body organ, though changes may be observed years after exposure.

“Our veterans deserve answers,” Brown said. “The most up-to-date scientific procedures should be used to accurately identify service-connected illnesses. Delivering help and hope to the men, women, and military families who served our nation, and are now suffering, is always the right choice. I will work with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to make sure that McMurdo exposure claims are properly assessed.” Brown, a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, was alerted to the issue by Cleveland's WEWS-TV. His full letter to Secretary Gates is below.

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to express my concern regarding a potential exposure issue that is substantiated

by an official document released by the Department of the Navy. I hope that you will give this matter your full consideration.

The Final Operating Report for PM-3A Nuclear Power Plant McMurdo Station, Antarctica as prepared by the U.S. Naval Nuclear Power Unit, indicates that the PM-3A was shut down nearly 30% of its available operating time. This was due to the plant's 438 reported malfunctions over the period of March 12, 1964 through September 30, 1973. According to this document, there were 123 reports of personnel exposure in excess of allowable limits over the course of seven consecutive days, four reports of radioactivity being released into the environment in excess of allowable limits, and 41 cases of radiation levels being reported in excess of three times the normal level. In addition, there are documented cases of airborne radioactivity exposure to personnel.

Veterans who were stationed at McMurdo have developed cancers, including U.S. Navy veteran Mr. Charles Swinney from Pataskala, Ohio. Mr. Swinney died with more than 200 tumors in his body. His claim for service-connected disability due to radiation exposure was denied by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) within the Department of Veterans Affairs. According to his dose-reconstruction, the probability of having his cancer being service-connected was nearly zero percent.

As you know, the VBA relies on documentation submitted by the appropriate Service Branch to determine the dose assessment of an exposure claim. The Interactive Radio Epidemiological Program (IREP) – constructed by the National Institute of Health – may not be suited to determine the likelihood of repeated exposure to low doses of radiation causing cancer many years after exposure. Given that this is the formula used to determine the outcome of McMurdo exposure claims, the Department of Defense may need to work with the Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction to reassess the IREP's ability to accurately determine the likelihood of causation for these types of claims.

According to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC), cancers that may develop as a result of radiation exposure are indistinguishable from those that occur naturally or as a result of exposure to other carcinogens. The USNRC further states that there are no data to establish unequivocally the occurrence of cancer following exposure to low doses and dose rates, but that the radiation protection community conservatively assumes that any amount of radiation may pose some risk for causing cancer. Furthermore, low doses spread out over long periods of time don't cause an immediate problem to any body organ. The effects of low doses of radiation, if any, would occur at the cell level, and thus changes may not be observed for many years (usually 5-20 years) after exposure.

Given the reported difficulty in differentiating between cancers that may develop as a result of radiation exposure and those that occur naturally or as a result of exposure to other carcinogens, we owe it to our veterans to err on the side of caution and support the claims of those who's cancer we cannot legitimately determine was not caused by radiation exposure at McMurdo Station.
