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## iCommandant

*Web Journal of Admiral Thad Allen*

Friday, February 26, 2010

### CG Reserve Birthday Celebration with Rep. Delahunt and Admiral Allen

United States Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Thad Allen and U.S. Rep. Bill Delahunt (D-Mass.) use a ceremonial sword to cut a cake in honor of the Coast Guard Reserve's 69th Anniversary [Feb. 19, 1941]. Both leaders delivered brief remarks, saluting the service of America's maritime force in readiness at USCG headquarters in Washington D. C., Feb. 24. USCG Photo



CG Reserve Birthday Celebration with Rep. Delahunt and Admiral Allen  
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Posted at 2/26/2010 01:12:00 PM [0 comments](#)



### Modernization Milestone for Small Boat Community

Guest post from RDML Tom Ostebo, Assistant Commandant for Engineering and Logistics (CG-4):

I am very pleased to report that the Logistics Transformation effort reached a significant milestone this week: 50 percent of all Coast Guard small boat stations and the units that support them are now operating under the new Mission Support Business Model. To be exact, 19 Sectors, 426 small boats and 174 units are now operating under the new support model.

What's most exciting is that we continue to hear from transformed units that the new model works and that transformation is absolutely the right thing for the Coast Guard. The Small Boat Product Line (SBPL) continues to experience success in the form of increased operational availability, reliability, and safety as well as cost avoidance discoveries. The SBPL has documented numerous examples of improving mission support to the fleet through resolution of operational degraders and cost drivers. While we still have much work to do and many areas to improve, this is a great start to a long but worthwhile journey.

Reaching the half-way mark is a great accomplishment. Bravo Zulu to all of you who have paved the way and made this happen. Please continue your superb efforts. Your support and endorsement of logistics transformation is vital to completing this essential element of Coast Guard Modernization and to foster continuous organizational improvement.

I invite you to read [CDR Tamara Koerner's](#) post on the DCMS log for more information about this milestone.

Posted at [2/26/2010 10:10:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Thursday, February 25, 2010

## FY11 Budget Hearing

Guardians,  
Today, I am testifying in front of the House of Representatives, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. This is our authorization subcommittee and the first of four hearings that specifically focus on our Fiscal Year 2011 budget.

I am testifying alongside Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Bowen. Here are copies of our written statements: [/CCGWritten%20Testimony.doc](#) and [/MCPOWrittenTestimony.doc](#).

If you have the opportunity, here is the [link](#) to watch the hearing. If you plan to watch, I encourage you to do so with your shipmates in a common area to conserve our IT resources

Posted at [2/25/2010 09:29:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 



## State of the Coast Guard Question

Guardians,

When I delivered the [State of the Coast Guard address on 12 February](#), I was asked the following question:

"As the need for budgetary cuts grows, has any consideration been given to cutting costly officer billets and replacing them with less costly enlisted counterparts?"

I promised to answer this question on my blog so here it is:

The personnel reductions in the FY 2011 budget are directly tied to the decommissionings of several operational units. Those units (especially the High Endurance Cutters and MSSTs) have many more enlisted members than officers and that is reflected in the proposed reductions (104 officer and 1,008 enlisted). We are adding civilian positions in specialty areas and for continuity purposes, so that brings our net personnel reduction to 773 which is the number we referenced in [previous communications](#).

To manage the size of the existing workforce and meet that proposed reduction in FY11, we have lowered our active duty recruiting targets and reduced our accession rates.

During the State of the Coast Guard address, I also said I would get back to the questioner about the active duty officer to enlisted ratio. The Coast Guard has approximately 43,000 established military positions with a ratio of one officer for every five enlisted positions; we have maintained that average since FY2006. By comparison during that same time frame, the other Services averaged the following officer to enlisted ratios: Army: 1 to 5; Navy: 1 to 5; Marines: 1 to 8; and the Air Force: 1 to 4. Including the personnel reductions proposed in FY11, we will still maintain our 1 to 5 ratio.

We will continue to monitor these numbers to ensure we have the right mix of officers and enlisted to execute and support our operational missions.

Posted at [2/25/2010 09:10:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Wednesday, February 24, 2010

## National Oil Spill Response Exercise 2010

Guest blog from LT Kelly Dietrich, USCG  
Oil and Hazardous Substance Response Division U.S. Coast  
Guard Headquarters - Office of Incident Management and  
Preparedness



The United States Coast Guard is excited to sponsor the 2010 Spill of National Significance (SONS) Exercise which kicks off on March 22th with training, equipment deployment, and exercise play in Portland, ME; Portsmouth, NH; Boston, MA; Portsmouth, VA; and Washington, D.C. This exercise will include on-water use of oil spill response equipment including boom, skimmers, response vessels, and aircraft deployed by Transport Canada, US Coast Guard, US Navy, State, and commercial contractors.

[cge](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

The purpose of SONS 2010 is to implement and stress all elements of oil spill response plans and organizations at the local regional, and national levels in accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) and National Response

Framework (NRF). This includes the engagement of the National Incident Commander (NIC), a national level support position responsible for coordination and communication at the national and strategic levels.

The exercise has been designed by over 200 representatives from over 50 participating agencies over the past year. Shell Oil volunteered to support the exercise as the industry Responsible Party. We look forward to a realistic and valuable learning opportunity designed to test and examine the NRS.

Exercise partners include: Transport Canada, Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Interior, Department of Transportation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Navy Supervisor of Salvage, National Response Team, Shell Oil Products US, as well as the States of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Exercise design and execution are major efforts that require the full participation of all partners.

A short photo collage titled [Oil Spill Response](#) featuring some images from the Cosco Busan oil spill in San Francisco Bay November 2007.

For more information about the SONS 2010 exercise and past SONS exercises please visit [www.SONS2010.com](http://www.SONS2010.com).

Posted at [2/24/2010 03:12:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Tuesday, February 23, 2010

## Council of Governors ... an historic day

Guardians,

During Hurricane Katrina a number of different forces were deployed to assist local governments, including the National Guard and Department of Defense active duty forces. There has been an extended discussion since then regarding how National Guard forces conduct operations in conjunction with active duty forces deployed pursuant to requests for assistance by states. The National Guard can be recalled by the Governor under Title 32 USC, while recall for duty under the Department of Defense falls under Title 10 USC. In addition, there is limited authority for DOD to call up Regular Reservists if needed.

As a result the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 recommended that the Department of Defense "engage with the community of governors to work out an understanding of unity of effort during domestic terrorist events and public emergencies." This guidance was provided in anticipation that Congress would consider legislation to call up Reservists (in addition to existing authorities to employ the National Guard under State or Federal authority).

To implement this recommendation, the President issued Executive Order 13528 in January 2010. The order creates a Council of Governors and describes its function.

"The Council shall meet at the call of the Secretary of Defense or the Co-Chairs of the Council to exchange views, information, or advice with the Secretary of Defense; the Secretary of Homeland Security; the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism; the Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement; the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs; the Commander, United States Northern Command; the Chief, National Guard Bureau; the Commandant of the Coast Guard; and other appropriate officials of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense, and appropriate officials of other executive departments or agencies as may be designated by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security."

Today, Secretary Gates and Secretary Napolitano hosted the first meeting of the Council of Governors at the Pentagon.

The Council is co-chaired by Governor Gregoire (Washington) and Governor Douglas (Vermont). Other members include Governor O'Malley (Maryland), Governor Perdue (North Carolina), Governor Henry (Oklahoma), Governor Nixon (Missouri), Governor Rounds (R-SD), Governor Fortuno (Puerto Rico), Governor Brewer (Arizona), Governor McDonnell (Virginia).

I attended today's inaugural meeting with FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, General Gene Renuart (NORTHCOM), and General Craig McKinley (National Guard Bureau). We were also joined by Assistant DHS Secretary Juliette Kayyem and Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Stockton.

Today's meeting was the first ever face to face meeting of governors, federal civilian leaders, and military leaders to discuss how we create unity of effort in responding to natural and manmade disasters. It was an extraordinary event where issues of authority, jurisdiction, capability, competency, and resourcing were openly discussed by the participants. The Coast Guard plays a key role in this process and there is much to learn from our existing doctrine and relationships with states and local authority authorities as they relate to search and rescue and oil spill response.

My thanks to Governors Gregoire and Douglas for their leadership and to Secretaries Gates and Napolitano for hosting this first and historic meeting.

ADM A

Posted at [2/23/2010 07:44:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 





Sunday, February 21, 2010

## "Stars and Stripes" Dinner at the Black Engineer of the Year Awards

Guardians,

I had the pleasure of joining senior officers from all of the services at this year's Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) at their annual Stars and Stripes Dinner in Baltimore. The host for this dinner rotates among the services and this year the Air Force was the hosting service. At this dinner superior engineers from each service are recognized.

The Coast Guard engineer recognized was Mr. Otis Harvey a civilian employee at the Surface Forces Logistics Center. Mr. Harvey is Chief of the Electrical Systems Branch of the Equipment Management Division. Mr. Harvey was a key technical advisor in the procurement of our Great Lakes Ice Breaker. Mr. Harvey is also active as a leader, mentor and volunteer in his community. He devotes a good deal of time working in a diversion program for youthful offenders in Charles County. We salute Otis Harvey for his professionalism, leadership, and service to his community.

The keynote speaker was my good friend General Norton (Norty) Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. He delivered a powerful speech on change and diversity. I asked him if I could post it here and it can be found at this link:

[BEYAKeynote.pdf](#)

Congratulations to BEYA for another terrific event and we look forward to participating next year when the event will be held in Washington. My personal thanks to Tyrone Taborn, CEO of Career Communications Group, for his personal leadership in marketing and expanding this event of the past several years. He is also the publisher of several professional magazines and journals that focus on the development of engineering professionals from under represented minority groups.

ADM A

Posted at [2/21/2010 11:22:00 AM](#) @[comments](#)

Labels: [Black Engineer of the Year Award](#) [Diversity](#) [General Schwartz](#)



Saturday, February 20, 2010

## USCG - North Carolina A&T MOA Signing

Guardians,

I had the opportunity to visit North Carolina A&T University earlier in my tenure and discuss opportunities for partnering with them. Rear Admiral Tom Ostebo, our head "red ragger," has established a personal partnership with NCA&T that culminated recently in a formal agreement. The guest post below is by CAPT Ed Gibbons, Commanding Officer, Aviation Logistics Center, Elizabeth City, North Carolina. This is part of a larger program whereby Coast Guard senior leaders establish partnerships with minority serving institutions of higher learning.



[USCG NCAT MOA SIGNING1\\_17Feb10](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

ADM A

Guest Blog from Captain Ed Gibbons

Rear Admiral Tom Ostebo, Assistant Commandant for Engineering and Logistics and North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T) Chancellor, Dr. Harold L. Martin, Sr, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Wednesday, 17 February, 2010 at the Chancellor's Greensboro, NC campus office. The MOA establishes a formal partnership between the USCG and NC A&T, and optimizes engagement efforts between the USCG's Engineering and Logistics Directorate and NC A&T's College of Engineering, School of Business and Economics, and School of Technology.

This partnership is designed to work in tandem with the Coast Guard's overall civilian and military officer recruiting effort, while assisting NC A&T by providing additional academic options and tuition-saving choices for NC A&T professors and students. By executing this MOA, NC A&T students will have summer internship opportunities at the Coast Guard's Aviation Logistics Center (ALC) in Elizabeth City, NC, and assist the ALC by having College of Engineering students design their Capstone or senior research projects around real world, critical, industrial processes. In addition, the MOA formalizes the conduit for similar internship opportunities between NC A&T and other USCG Logistics Centers.

This strategic alliance between NC A&T, one of the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), enables the Coast Guard to provide student to work on meaningful service initiatives while simultaneously giving the students academic credit and real life job experience. This collaborative effort also accelerates NC A&T's Logistics and Transportation Systems cluster initiative, which strives to achieve high quality, human centered, applied logistics

and transportation systems research, and the development of a logistics and transportation focused workforce by establishing mutually beneficial, long term partnerships with federal and military agencies.

Posted at [2/20/2010 08:17:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)



Thursday, February 18, 2010

## Mission Support Handbook

Guest post by VADM J. P. Currier, Coast Guard Chief of Staff:

As we progress toward a modernized support construct, basic organizational structures and business rules have changed. To ensure the entire workforce is familiar with this new organization, I am pleased to announce the new [Mission Support Handbook](#) Version 1.0. It can be downloaded at <http://tinyurl.com/missionsupporthandbook>.

The Handbook was designed to help operational units obtain logistical solutions for the wide variety of support challenges faced in the field. It contains a full description of our mission support organization, points of contact, frequently asked questions, and index of support services. The Handbook will help ensure that all Coast Guard personnel know what support services are available and how to obtain them.

I'm pleased with the great collaboration by members across the entire organization to produce the Handbook. While the document is not perfect, it reflects a well designed start. We will depend on the engagement and cooperation of all hands to mature business processes, identify gaps, and improve the system even further. Enhancements will be provided in future versions of the Handbook. In order to save print costs and ensure accurate information, future updates will be made to the document via the CG Portal. An initial hard copy of the Handbook will be mailed to units listed in Sections A through H of the Standard Distribution List.

Modernization will enhance the Coast Guard's ability to achieve a high level operational readiness in an accountable, standardized, and fully resourced manner. Although we will face challenges, the end results will be well worth the effort. This Handbook will help illuminate the pathway to more efficient and effective mission execution.



DCMS Handbook

Originally uploaded by [icommandant](#)

Posted at [2/18/2010 05:18:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)



Wednesday, February 17, 2010

## CGC Sycamore Crew Watches SOTCG in Cordova, Alaska

Guardians,  
The crew of the CGC Sycamore watched the Commandant's State of the Coast Guard address live from Cordova, Alaska on February 12, 2010.

On February 16th, the Commandant held a DOD Live Bloggers Round Table discussion which also focused on the State of the Coast Guard Address held at the National Press Club the previous Friday. The audio file is available on the Pentagon Channel via this [link](#).

The National Press Club video of the address, held in Washington, D.C., was broadcast live on CSPAN can be viewed [here](#).



CGCSycamoreSOTCGinAlaska

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Posted at [2/17/2010 08:56:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)

Labels: [Alaska](#) [CGC Sycamore](#) [DODLive Bloggers Roundtable](#) [National Press Club](#) [State of the Coast Guard](#)



Tuesday, February 16, 2010

## Property Management

Guest Blog by RDML Keith Taylor, Assistant Commandant for Resources (CG-8):

The Coast Guard wide September 2009 Capitalized Personal Property Inventory was an eye opening evolution for me; I hope it was for all of you. Working together, we identified hundreds of assets that were not accounted for in our Oracle property records or the subsidiary operational and maintenance systems, like AOPS and ALMIS. This is a good thing. The goal of these inventories is to positively identify all the items that are missing from our records, to edit the information for existing records as necessary, and to remove property items that have been disposed of. All the hard work performed in the field and by the mission support community has moved us further down the path toward CFO compliance for personal property. But it's not over yet!

In the coming weeks I will release "Warning Order" and "Execution Order" ALCOASTs with detailed guidance, similar to the ones I issued before the September inventory. These ALCOASTs will contain all the information needed to successfully complete the inventory at your unit. If you would like to learn more now, please see this attached document ([/PersonalPropertyDetails.pdf](#)).

Let me reiterate: Property is Important! You demonstrated that sentiment with your efforts over the last five months. Together, we can truly become CFO compliant, and we will all "know what we need," cause we will all know what we have."

Posted at [2/16/2010 09:04:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)



Saturday, February 13, 2010

## A Shout Out to USCGC MOHAWK



[WASHINGTON- Commandant of the Coast Guard, Adm. Thad W. Allen poses for a photo with members from Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk, Lt.j.g. Bridget Flores, Fireman Rebekah Runner, Petty Officer 2nd Class Elias Gomez, Petty Officer 1st Class Tim Tolliver and](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Guardians,

We had 5 shipmates from MOHAWK attend the State of the Coast Guard Address who participated in relief operations in Haiti. We salute LTJG Bridget Flores, Fireman Rebecca Runner, Petty Officer Elias Gomez, Petty Officer Tim Tolliver, and Chief Anthony Edwards.

BZ to all.

ADM A

Posted at [2/13/2010 05:51:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)



## A Shout Out to Air Station Clearwater



[WASHINGTON- Commandant of the Coast Guard, Adm. Thad W. Allen and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, Charles "Skip" Bowen \(right\) pose for a photo with members from Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Fla., Lt. Jeani ne Menze, Petty Office](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Guardians,

Master Chief Bowen and I were joined at the State of the Coast Guard Address by Guardians from Air Station Clearwater who participated in the response to the Haitian Earthquake. We were proud to have LT Jeanine Menze, Petty Officer Matthew Grover, Petty Officer Travis Edwards, Petty Officer Chad Smolar, and LT Michael Pivato.

BZ folks!

ADM A

Posted at [2/13/2010 05:45:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 



## Honoring A Wounded Warrior

Guardians,

I received the following response to the State of the Coast Guard address that is worth sharing in a separate post. Our Nation thanks the Leddy family and we honor the courage and sacrifice made by Marine LCPL David Leddy. We wish him all the best in future.

ADM A

Dear Admiral Allen,

I was watching CSPAN this evening and came across your State of the Coast Guard address at the National Press Club in Washington. It hit me like a sledgehammer to see your face. My son, Marine LCPL David Leddy was at Bethesda after being severely wounded by an IED in Iraq in the fall of 2006. You visited David, my wife Debbie, and myself during his 2 month stay there. I remember you being very respectful and serene during your visit. Your demeanor was very welcome at that time, as it was the very worst time for my son. I just wanted to update you on Dave. He is 100% disabled through the VA/DOD. However, his wounds have healed to their fullest. He has foot drop on his left foot, an enlarged heart due to blast trauma, and a mangled left hand minus two fingers. Despite the daily pain ( he will not consume opiates) he is generally happy. He has a girlfriend and they are enrolled in the DiveHeart foundation program at Great Lakes. Dave was a NAUI certified diver before enlisting and decided to take advantage of the opportunity to get back into diving. I just wanted you to know that this Marine is doing well and is now re-entering Coast Guard domain, the water. Thanks for being there and being strong for us.

George & Debbie Leddy

Posted at [2/13/2010 05:24:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Friday, February 12, 2010

## State of the Coast Guard Address

Guardians,

Earlier today, I delivered my fourth and final State of the Coast Guard address at the National Press Club in Washington DC. We obtained permission from the Press Club to post the entire transcript ([SOTCGTranscript12Feb10.pdf](#)) including the question and answer session.

Posted at [2/12/2010 07:01:00 PM](#) [1 comments](#) 



Thursday, February 11, 2010

## State of the Coast Guard Address

Guardians,

Despite the winter storms in the Washington Area in the last two weeks, I am confirming that the State of the Coast Guard Address will proceed as scheduled at the National Press Club tomorrow, 12 February, beginning at 1300. I am looking forward to the opportunity to discuss our issues. The address will be carried by CSPAN and the National Press Club website. I will also post the video here on iCommandant. As we noted in our earlier post your questions and comments are appreciated.

ADM A

Posted at [2/11/2010 02:21:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Wednesday, February 10, 2010

## State of the Coast Guard Address: 12 Feb 2010

Guardians,

Earlier, I released an All Hands email regarding my fourth and final State of the Coast Guard address which is scheduled for 12 February at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

For more information on that event, please read this: [AllHands.doc.pdf](#)

Posted at 2/10/2010 11:53:00 PM @comments 



Tuesday, February 9, 2010

## LORAN Signal Termination - LSU Wildwood, NJ

Guardians,

On Tuesday, 8 February at 1500 EST, domestic LORAN C operations ceased as all signals were secured. This short video provides some scenes from LORAN Support Unit Wildwood, NJ where I joined my fellow LORANimals to witness the shutdown. I offered CDR Gary Thomas, Commanding Officer of LSU Wildwood, the opportunity to provide a commentary and his thoughts are provided below.

ADM A

(LT ALLEN, Commanding Officer, LORAN Station Lampang, Thailand, 1974-75)



Guest Blog by CDR Gary M. Thomas,  
Commanding Officer US Coast Guard Loran Support Unit  
Wildwood, New Jersey

[LORAN Signal Termination - LSU Wildwood, NJ](#)  
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Yesterday, VADM Papp presided over the termination of the Loran C signal transmission after more than 67 years of Coast Guard involvement with Loran, in accordance with the President's intent and the 2010 Coast Guard Appropriation law. The Coast Guard's Navigation Center (NAVCEN), who was the Operational Commander of the Loran C system, was charged with development of the Operations Order to execute the termination of the signal. At 1958Z, CAPT Ed Thiedeman, Commanding Officer of the NAVCEN, gave the order for all stations to secure transmission of the Loran C signal, bring to close era of radio navigation, one in which the United States Coast Guard established the Gold Standard for engineering, operations and system availability.

As the reports confirming signal termination rolled in, starting with the Northeast United States chain and moving from east to west, finally finishing with Alaska, there was more than one person who felt a bit saddened when they heard stations that they had served at call out that the signal had been secured. The securing of the transmitters left an eerie quiet for a system that was known worldwide for its 99.7% system availability and 99.9% system performance. The quiet poignantly marked the end of an era.

Admiral Allen, who witnessed the event while at the Loran Support Unit (LSU), had a hand in securing the last signal, when the LSU secured their test rate as the last station to broadcast a Loran C signal for the United States. Standing along side, and with the assistance of a veteran of Loran A service from the 1950s and two veterans of Loran C service dating back to the 1960s, Admiral Allen threw the switch securing the signal transmission of the 8090 Master Test rate for the final time.

Following the securing of the transmitters, celebrations were held at both NAVCEN and the LSU. However, the celebrations were not about securing the signal, but rather to honor the service of the men and women who stood the watch for more than 65 years, from remote places like Attu, Alaska so far west that they say "From Here You Can See Tomorrow", to small islands like Johnston Island which had the Loran station and little more, to Havre, Montana where the tower was the tallest structure for miles, to Sylt, Germany and many other European, Mediterranean and Pacific countries. It was never the most glamorous duty available, but it was one of the most critical duties that help our country navigation through several wars and showed the civilian community just what could be done with precision position, navigation and timing services.

At the LSU, the event was closed with a simple toast "To those who stood the watch" to recognize all who did and all of the men and women, military and civilian, who supported them.

History Becomes Real When You Participate

Posted at [2/09/2010 05:45:00 PM](#) @[comments](#)



## USCG Band 2010 Performance Schedule

Guardians:

Every year the U.S. Coast Guard Band thrills audiences with their musical talent and delightful songs ranging from swing to jazz. Hundreds of performances each year are given for official military functions, public concerts, and patriotic musical support at national conventions and meetings. Click here for the [2010 performance schedule](#).

A proud musical representative of the United States Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security, the Band appeared at presidential and cabinet level functions and regularly performs in Leamy Hall Auditorium on the grounds of the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, the Band's at-home venue. The Coast Guard Band also tours regularly throughout the United States, and has performed in the former Soviet Union, Canada, United Kingdom and recently in Taiwan. Here are a couple upcoming events I thought you'd like to know about:



[USCG Band 2010 Performance Schedule](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

### Honoring Black History

The United States Coast Guard Band presents a concert in honor of African American History Month on Sunday, February 14, 2010, at 2 p.m. in Leamy Hall Auditorium at the Coast Guard Academy.

The highlighted work on the program, conducted by Assistant Director CWO3 Richard Wyman, is "New Morning for the World 'Daybreak for Freedom,'" by New Hampshire composer Joseph Schwantner. The work includes the words of Dr. Martin Luther King. Also featured on the concert is music by African-American composers Scott Joplin, Duke Ellington, and William Grant Still. MU1 Lisa Williamson, soprano, performs MUC Ian Frenkel's arrangement of spirituals, "Songs for Freedom."

This concert is free, open to the public, and no tickets are required. For more information call the Band's Concert Information Line at (860) 701-6826 or follow the [Band blog](#).

### Young Artists Solo Competition

The United States Coast Guard Band has announced its fourth annual Young Artists Solo Competition. Auditions will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2010 in Leamy Hall Auditorium. The selected winner will be announced during the week after the audition date. A performance by this student in conjunction with the Coast Guard Band's public concert series is scheduled for Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in Leamy Hall.

Posted at [2/09/2010 04:32:00 PM](#) @[comments](#)



Sunday, February 7, 2010

## CGC Blackthorn Memorial (Tampa, FL): A Post Script

Guardians,

Many of you commented on our Facebook page regarding the BLACKTHORN Memorial. In my remarks I mentioned a friend that I lost in the tragedy, CWO BOSN Jack Roberts. Jack had served with me when I was Operations Officer on GALLATIN (1975-77). Following the ceremony one of the BLACKTHORN survivors came up to me and talked about how much he admired Jack. I offered him the chance to tell all of us and his guest post follows.

ADM A

Admiral Allen -

Let me begin by saying what an honor and a pleasure it was meeting you and speaking with you last week in St. Petersburg at the Blackthorn Memorial Service. This annual commemoration is a fitting tribute to our shipmates. I cherish my memories of each of them and it's so hard to believe that thirty years has passed. At the service you requested that I share some of my memories of CWO2 Jack Roberts with you. I was assigned to Blackthorn coming out of Boot Camp in 1979. Going aboard a buoy tender as a Seaman Apprentice straight out of boot camp was quite an indoctrination into the Coast Guard - to say the least. I'm sure you'll agree they are some of the hardest working Coast Guard units afloat. Mr. Roberts was the head of our deck department. He made an immediate impression on me as a hard-working, experienced, and tenacious Coast Guardsman. He ran a tight deck department and expected nothing short of excellence from all of us. His salt and pepper hair and well trimmed beard gave him the look of experience and wisdom - both of which he had. His South Mississippi dialect was very distinctive and just added more to his unique character and demeanor. Mr. Roberts related well to the enlisted men, he had definitely walked in our boots. On the night of the collision, I was standing watch during the special sea detail as a lookout on the forecandle with Mr.



[CGC Blackthorn Memorial \(Tampa, FL\): A Post Script](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Roberts. We were both ready to get back to Galveston, and together we stood watch for the last time. As the special sea detail was relaxed to a modified special sea detail, Mr. Roberts suggested I lay below to get some rest for the impending sea watch that I was to stand as we cleared the sea buoy leaving the Tampa shipping channel. Following the collision and my escape from the capsized and flooding Blackthorn, I would encounter Mr. Roberts one last time. He was unconscious and unresponsive as we struggled to keep him afloat. These memories are painful. Again, I cherish my memories of Jack Roberts and our other twenty-two shipmates that perished that night. I take solace in knowing that they "sail with one more divine."

Respectfully yours,

Steve Coleman  
USCG Veteran  
USCGC Blackthorn survivor

Posted at [2/07/2010 02:25:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Thursday, February 4, 2010

## MSD Nashville Visit

Guardians

I had the opportunity this week to visit Marine Safety Detachment Nashville, TN. We thank LCDR Josh McTaggart and his Guardian team for a great All Hands and some insightful questions.

MSD Nashville performs the full suite of maritime Safety, Security and Stewardship missions for nearly 1,000 miles of navigable waterways spanning 4 states, including vast portions of the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers.

MSD Nashville was first established as a Port Safety Unit and later came under the operational control of Marine Safety Office Paducah, KY as a Marine Safety Detachment. In Spring of 2009, MSD Nashville was reorganized and now reports directly to Sector Ohio Valley. Nashville is responsible for nearly all of the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, an area as large as or larger than any of the Sector's three Marine Safety Units, as measured in both navigable river miles and total square miles. Large quantities of coal and fertilizer move on these waterways, as well as industrial chemicals.

They have a strong team as evidenced by the large number of Reservists and Auxiliarist who attended the All Hands.

A great unit in a great location, Music City USA.

ADM A

Posted at [2/04/2010 03:53:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 



## SOUTHCOM Coast Guard Reservists Support Haiti Response

Guest Blog by Captain Doug Dawson, Commanding Officer,  
Coast Guard Reserve Unit US Southern Command

CGRU USSOUTHCOM is one of four reserve units that support the Commandant Commands (COCOMS), the others being CGRU US Northern Command, CGRU US Joint Forces Command, and CGRU US Transportation Command. These units consist of about 20 senior officers and enlisted personnel. Unit members are fully integrated into the COCOM Directorate staff or "J codes." Members are often called upon for their expertise with maritime/port operations and knowledge of interagency coordination, however, like all Joint Staff Officers, they must be thoroughly familiar with the capabilities of all the services and the DoD Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (JOPES).

Soon after the earthquake struck Haiti Coast Guard Reserve Unit, US Southern Command was ready to support. Within 24 hours of the quake two personnel reported for duty; within 48 hours we had four personnel on-board. There are currently 11 personnel on Title 10 orders in support of Operation Unified Response. Unit personnel are serving as planners, watch standers, legal consultants, liaison officers, and mobility officers. One member is deployed to Haiti and four others are on stand by for deployment.

Lt Noah Maignan is in Haiti serving as SOUTHCOM's liaison to Joint Task Force-HAITI and Special Advisor to the Deputy Commanding General for Operations, JTF-HAITI, Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Center. CDR Steve Hill (CGRU XO), MECS Charles Ferrante and MSTC Matt Rouse are standing watch at the Crisis Action Center CG desk. CDR Drew Cromwell, CDR (sel) Tiffany Danko, and LCDR Mike Crippen serve as senior Maritime and Air Operations Planners. LCDR Scott Hale provides valuable legal assistance to the Command. ME2 George Jacobi and



[MSD Nashville Visit](#)

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GM2 Jorge Fernandez de Lara ensure that CG and other DoD personnel are properly processed prior to deployment to Haiti. YN1 Julie Bosman supports the CG LNO shop and ensures CGRU member's orders and berthing is taken care of.

Our unit provides US SOUTHCOM with surge capacity in support of all three core reserve functions: Maritime Homeland Security; Domestic/Expeditionary Support to National Defense; and Domestic Natural & Manmade Disaster Response & Recovery. CGRU SOUTHCOM's support of Operation Unified Response demonstrates the value of the unit, and provides a model for the other COCOM CGRU's when responding to major operations.

Posted at [2/04/2010 03:46:00 PM](#) [0](#) comments 

Labels: [Coast Guard](#), [Coast Guard Reserve](#), [Haiti](#), [Haiti Earthquake](#), [Southcom](#)



## Sector CO's conference (Orlando, FL)

Guardians,

This week a number of senior leaders are meeting with our Sector Commanders at their annual conference. Yesterday I spent some time discussing the status of our Authorization Bill as it relates to Modernization, deployment of our new maintenance program to the small boat and patrol communities, and the FY2011 budget. We also had a good discussion regarding SAR staffing, doctrine and operating procedures. As we have reviewed our response to cases over the last several years there has been much discussion regarding how our operations centers are staffed and how we manage SAR cases. These are healthy discussions and we need to continually assess our readiness in all of our mission areas and look for areas where we need to change and adapt ... the hallmark of a change centric organization. I did pass on a personal standard I have used for over thirty years of SAR operations. If you have even a generalized location of an event and doubt as to personal safety ... launch. In short hand, doubt plus datum equals do something (D3).



[Sector CO's conference \(Orlando, FL\)](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

ADM A

Posted at [2/04/2010 07:27:00 AM](#) [0](#) comments 



Wednesday, February 3, 2010

## Senior Leadership Nominations and Announcement

Guardians,

Earlier today, we released an All Hands email regarding Senior Leadership nominations and an announcement. Here is the text of that email:

I am pleased to announce the new leadership team which will assume their positions when VADM Papp relieves me as Commandant on 25 May 2010.

Secretary Napolitano has forwarded and President Obama has approved the nominations of Rear Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara for promotion to Vice Admiral and assignment as Vice Commandant; Rear Admiral Robert C. Parker for promotion to Vice Admiral and assignment as Commander, Atlantic Area; and Rear Admiral Manson K. Brown for promotion to Vice Admiral and assignment as Commander, Pacific Area. Vice Admiral John P. Currier will continue to serve as the Chief of Staff. The President has forwarded these nominations to the Senate for its consideration.

Appointment to these billets and promotion as appropriate will occur following confirmation by the Senate.

Rear Admiral Brian M. Salerno will be assigned as the Deputy Commandant for Operations; this position does not require Senate confirmation. Additional flag assignments will be announced at a later date.

We have been fortunate to have the service of Vice Admiral David Pekoske, our current Vice Commandant and Vice Admiral Jody Breckenridge, our current Pacific Area Commander. Both have made enormous contributions to our Service as members of the Leadership Council and throughout their careers. I truly appreciate their dedication and commitment to position the Service for future success. We are a better Coast Guard because of them.

Over the next few months, we will work to have a seamless transition to a new leadership team so our men and women can continue to execute and support our missions without disruption. We owe that to you, our Active Duty, Reserves, Civilians and Auxiliarists, and to the American public.

Semper Paratus!

Admiral Thad W. Allen

Commandant

Posted at [2/03/2010 04:34:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)



## St Elizabeths New Coast Guard Headquarters Building

Guardians,

I'm pleased to report that the new Coast Guard Headquarters building was approved for construction on January 7, 2010 by the National Capital Planning Commission, the federal government's planning agency for the National Capital Region, allowing the project to proceed on schedule. This new facility will be a part of the consolidated U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) headquarters campus being developed on the historic St. Elizabeths Hospital site near the Anacostia River in SE Washington, DC approximately 2 miles from our current Headquarters building. The campus will be developed in phases and, when complete, will support a population of 14,000 employees department wide. The Coast Guard will be the first to occupy the site scheduled for 2013.



[St Elizabeths New Coast Guard Headquarters Building](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

The construction required for the Coast Guard occupancy is funded and on schedule. It includes the new headquarters building, parking, utilities, support spaces and the Coast Guard Operations Center. The aerial view here shows the location for the Coast Guard building on the campus. Other construction, including renovation of historic buildings, is scheduled for completion during 2014-2016.

A rendering of the new Coast Guard Headquarters building is also shown. This building will meet criteria for a gold rating in Leadership in Energy and Environment (LEED) the 2nd highest certification as set by the U. S. Green Building Council. The building will include robust technology infrastructure, state of the art conference rooms, a child care center with capacity for 120 children, and a medical and dental clinic for military personnel. Shared support facilities on campus will include a fitness center, cafeterias, and additional conference center spaces.

You can watch a short video about the plan for revitalizing this historic campus for DHS' headquarters [here](#).

Posted at [2/03/2010 01:38:00 PM](#) [2 comments](#)



## Mrs. Lola Poisson Joseph - Spouse of Haitian Ambassador to the U.S.

Guest post from Portia Davidson (Workforce Policy Advisor in CG-12B):

I had the opportunity to attend a luncheon in mid-January which focused on enhancing diversity and creating opportunities for all people within the public sector. Mrs. Lola Poisson Joseph, wife of the Haitian Ambassador to the United States, Raymond Joseph, attended this event. Mrs. Poisson Joseph told me that her husband wanted the men and women of the Coast Guard to know how much "He personally appreciated the Coast Guard's efforts as first responders to the earthquake tragedy. Their work is greatly appreciated and admired by all the Haitian people."



[Mrs. Lola Poisson Joseph - Spouse of Haitian Ambassador to the U.S.](#)

Originally uploaded by [icommandant](#)

In the photograph, Mrs. Poisson Joseph is seated in the middle.

Ambassador Joseph is planning to attend the Coast Guard's Diversity Leadership Summit which will occur from 20-22 April 2010 at the Westin Hotel in Alexandria, VA. The purpose of the Summit is to further educate our internal and external stakeholders on the benefits of inclusion, equity, and respect for people of all backgrounds. It will be an honor to host Ambassador Joseph at this wonderful event.

Posted at [2/03/2010 10:29:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)



## Modernization Series: Asset Project Office

Guest Post by VADM Currier, Coast Guard Chief of Staff:

Established in early 2009, the Asset Project Office (APO) fills a gap between acquisition of an asset and sustainment throughout its life. It will manage the total ownership costs of our legacy and future assets in alignment with the Coast Guard Logistics Business Model. The APO is making critical contributions to the Surface Forces Logistics Center's

(SFLC's ) new Patrol Boat Product Line (PBPL), which includes responsibility for support of the 87 foot Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB), the 110 foot Patrol Boat (WPB), and the Fast Response Cutter (FRC). The APO is determining and planning the new FRC's maintenance schedule, training cycle, facilities and equipment needs, and life-cycle costs, making it among the first new acquisitions expected to be delivered under the new business model. CAPT James Sebastian (APO Commanding Officer) provides an update on the work of the Asset Project Office on [DCMS Log](#).

Posted at [2/03/2010 09:07:00 AM](#) @comments 



Tuesday, February 2, 2010

## Coast Guard Honorees in Latina Style Magazine

Guardians,

I am pleased to announce that two of our Coast Guard members, Commander Alicia Garcia Vantran (Flight Surgeon and Medical Doctor assigned to the Clinic in Headquarters) and Ms. Irma Edys Fuentes (Civil Engineering Unit Miami), were honored by [Latina Style Magazine](#) for their outstanding military service to the Nation. They were among 12 members selected from all the military services and the National Guard Bureau. According to the magazine:

"The men and women of the active and reserve branches continue to work in traditional and nontraditional operations sustaining readiness and core capabilities while building a future where they can operate to fight and lead for their country. LATINA Style's mission is to ensure Latinas are recognized for their commitment and accomplishes this by honoring brave Latinas in the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, National Guard Bureau, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Defense Logistics Agency. These 12 active-duty service members and Department of Defense civilians are Latinas who serve the nation in the defense of our freedom and are outstanding examples of leadership, dedication and bravery."

Congratulations again to CDR Vantran and Ms. Edys!

Posted at [2/02/2010 06:12:00 PM](#) @comments 



## Coast Guard Auxiliary National Training Conference (NTRAIN)

Guest post by RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara, Deputy Commandant for Operations (CG-DCO):

This year's Coast Guard Auxiliary National Training Conference (NTRAIN) 2010 concluded on Sunday. The theme was "Leadership, Performance, Readiness". The culmination of extensive joint efforts between Auxiliary and active duty leadership enhances Auxiliary surge capability and capacity to support the active duty workforce, and ultimately improves Coast Guard mission effectiveness. The Coast Guard Auxiliary provides critical reinforcement, not only within our local communities but expanding to national and international response missions, such as the Haiti earthquake.



Coast Guard Auxiliary N-Train

Auxiliarists have provided vital support in wake of the Haiti tragedy. Originally uploaded by [icommandant](#) Immediately following the earthquake event, eight Auxiliary Creole-French interpreters volunteered their service and stand ready to utilize their language skills to contribute to the ongoing response efforts. In addition, Auxiliary members are standing watch in the [Seventh Coast Guard District's Joint Information Center](#) to handle public information needs. Also of particular note were the efforts of Mr. Robert Nelson, Director, USCG Auxiliary Public Affairs, who established a system that allowed him to monitor social media networks such as Twitter and Facebook for reports of people in distress. Mr. Nelson also helped coordinate the development of a distress SMS Short Code through the Department of State to allow those in Haiti to send distress text messages. Due to the thousands of text messages that were received, additional Auxiliary members were brought in to assist in filtering messages.

America's Volunteer Guardians live the Coast Guard's Core Values above and beyond the call of duty. The approximate 30,000 members offer their time, skills and resources. The volunteer efforts of the Auxiliarists, through vessel safety checks, safe boating courses, and search and rescue, is immeasurable. I recently issued an ALCOAST that moves the Auxiliary Trident Program one step further in providing additional support to the field. [ALCOAST 045/10](#) announced the release of twelve new and twelve revised and updated Prevention and Response Performance Qualification Standards (PQS) for the Auxiliary Trident Program. The new PQS is the culmination of an extensive joint effort on behalf of Auxiliary and Active Duty Leadership. The Auxiliary must continue its forward-leaning support of Coast Guard missions, and progressively steer its evolution as a volunteer service through well-planned and well managed change in order to improve mission execution within a Modernized Coast Guard.

In the picture Anne Lockwood (left), CG Auxiliary Public Education Director, explains the workings of an inflatable lifejacket to Commodore Robin Freeman.

Posted at [2/02/2010 08:16:00 AM](#) @comments 



Monday, February 1, 2010

## Haitian Relief Operations: Forward Operating Base GTMO

Guest Post from VADM J. P. Currier, Chief of Staff:

On Friday, I had the distinct honor of visiting our dedicated men and women on the front lines of support for our operational partners involved in Haitian Relief Operations. I was very proud of our mission support and operations personnel operating from Guantanamo Bay Naval Station (GTMO) as I witnessed firsthand their hard work in support of this important international humanitarian effort.



[VADM Currier Conducting All Hands Session](#)

Originally uploaded by [icommandant](#)

I met with mission support personnel that stood up and continue to operate at a high pace at our logistics' cell Forward Operating Base (FOB). At the base's hub on the leeward side of GTMO (near the airstrip), humanitarian supply movement is executed flawlessly under our bi-level support model. On the windward side of the island, I watched with pride as mission support personnel worked tirelessly to support vessels inport for maintenance, repair, and logistics; often augmenting engineering work parties to enable where our cutter crews receive much needed time off inport. I sat down with CGC LEGARE's Commanding Officer, CDR Scott Bauby, for a 30 minute frank and open discussion on Haitian Operations, support, and way forward for better service to our fleet. The material condition of the cutter, and high crew morale during this high tempo operation was noteworthy and I applaud Scott for his leadership. CMC Kevin Isherwood and I received an informative brief from CDR Charlene Downey and LT Bryan Burkhalter of MSST 91103 (Los Angeles/Long Beach) on their current operational engagement at GTMO. We then met with the entire MSST for an all hands where I had the pleasure recognizing several outstanding individuals for their hard work and adherence to our core values.

In addition to visiting Coast Guard people, I also met with RDML Patricia Wolfe, J4 cell lead for the Joint Task Force (JTF) in GTMO, pier-side while an LCU was being loaded with humanitarian supplies bound for Haiti. We had an informative discussion on current ops support and I was proud to hear how well our Coast Guard men and women are integrating into the JTF structure. At my meeting with GTMO NAVSTA CO, CAPT Steven Blaisdell, I discussed Coast Guard interests in GTMO with respect to our logistics footprint and preparations for possible engagement in Operation Vigilant Sentry.

To conclude the visit, I had the honor of presenting CG Air Station Miami's Enlisted Person of the Year Award to Petty Officer Carlos Rodriguez. Carlos, a Store Keeper serving detached duty in at AVDET GTMO, set a shining example this past year and was a real leader in standing up FOB GTMO in support of Haitian Relief Operations. I would like to thank everyone at FOB GTMO, especially CAPT Jim Sebastian and LCDR Eric Carter, for operationalizing our modernized, bi-level logistics model in this first "true" test of providing critical support to high-tempo operations on the front lines of this humanitarian campaign. Thank you and continue the great work!

Semper Paratus,

J.P. Currier, VADM  
Chief of Staff

Posted at [2/01/2010 09:20:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)



## Coast Guard's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

Guardians,  
Earlier today, the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2011, which included the Coast Guard's request, was submitted to the Congress. Here is an All Hands email ([FY11%20Budget.pdf](#)) which details the request, the current budget environment, and the impacts for our Service.

Posted at [2/01/2010 08:30:00 PM](#) [4 comments](#)



## Coast Guard Auxiliary Responds to Help with Haiti Operations

Guest blog by LT Sue Kerver, USCG  
JIC Manager Coast Guard Public Affairs  
Haitian Relief Operations

I reported to D7 in Miami on January 14th to manage the District Seven Joint Information Center (JIC) two days after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake ravaged the island of Haiti. With a robust, round-the-clock public affairs operation, the cameras and media have focused on the amazing work our shipmates and other agencies have been doing

downrange (including over 1,100 medevacs and placement of nearly 700 search and rescue personnel hailing from around the globe).

With such unique orchestration from logistics to response and recovery, it came as little surprise that local Auxiliary members from Divisions 3 and 6, based in South Florida, jumped into action as soon as the request was made. Using their ICS experience and Public Relations backgrounds, the local Flotillas were able to adeptly assist with the public affairs, logistics, foreign language translation, social media and administration functions in the D7 JIC.

Auxiliary members of all ages and backgrounds arrived expeditiously and quickly integrated as part of the staff. Public information and press releases were translated to Spanish and Creole using members from the Auxiliary Interpreter Corps, and the Auxiliary's Social Media branch (part of the Auxiliary's National Public Affairs Staff) assumed responsibility for the entire social media component, including improving linkages and corroboration between D7, the Haiti JIC and DoD.

Additionally, the Social Media branch coordinated directly with DoD's Southern Command to collect, vet and pass information gathered from texts, Twitter, Facebook posts and Internet pings. This info often contained vital rescue information such as latitude / longitude coordinates, addresses of injured, extent of injuries and criminal activities that had the potential to hinder rescue operations.

During the course of this response, in doing what we do best, the Coast Guard has made a definable impact on thousands of lives; and, volunteer forces from local and national Auxiliary divisions assisted tremendously in this effort. From creating an SOP for incoming D7 JIC AUX volunteers to working directly with civilian contractors to establish a more permanent way of using social media / intel collection for response situations, our all-volunteer force has had a tremendous impact on the success of Operation Unified Response Haiti.

Posted at [2/01/2010 04:55:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 



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