

"AUXILIARY SUPPORT OF MARINE SAFETY AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MISSIONS"  
2000 NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
RADM R. C. NORTH  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2000

*(OPENING SLIDE - "M LOGO")*

RADM CROSS, RADM PLUTA, COMMODORE TUCKER,  
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, MEN AND WOMEN OF THE  
COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I  
AM DELIGHTED TO JOIN YOU AT THIS NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE TO HONOR THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY  
ON 61 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE AND DYNAMIC  
SUPPORT OF THE COAST GUARD AND ITS MISSIONS. IT IS  
OFTEN SAID THAT WASHINGTON, D.C. IS 36 SQUARE MILES  
OF BUREAUCRACY SURROUNDED BY REALITY. IT IS A  
PLEASURE AND HONOR FOR ME TO BE HERE AMONGST  
REALITY, ESPECIALLY YOU FORMER DISTRICT 8 AND  
GROUP NEW YORK FOLKS.

COMMODORE TUCKER, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO  
CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR SUPERB PERFORMANCE  
AS THE NATIONAL COMMODORE OF THE COAST GUARD  
AUXILIARY, AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO  
OUR ORGANIZATION OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS. I'VE  
ENJOYED WORKING WITH YOU AND WISH YOU WELL FOR  
THE FUTURE. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY  
ELECTED OFFICERS-ESPECIALLY COMMODORE  
BERTELSEN. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH  
YOU.

*(SLIDE #1 - "AUXILIARY LOGO)*

WHEN THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY WAS ESTABLISHED  
FOLLOWING THE PASSING OF THE COAST GUARD  
RESERVE ACT OF 1939, ITS RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDED:

- SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA AND UPON U.S. NAVIGABLE WATERS
- PROMOTING EFFICIENCY IN THE OPERATION OF  
MOTORBOATS AND YACHTS
- INCREASING AWARENESS OF NAVIGATION RULES AND LAWS  
AFFECTING THE OPERATION OF MOTORBOATS
- ASSISTING THE COAST GUARD IN ALL ADDITIONAL  
OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS AS NECESSARY

THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE NOT LESSENERED IN THE PAST 61 YEARS, BUT RATHER EXPANDED TO MEET THE EVER-CHANGING NEEDS OF OUR SERVICE. AS THE COAST GUARD CONTINUOUSLY TAKES ON NEW MISSIONS, THE AUXILIARY HAS ADAPTED TO SUPPORT THESE CHANGES AND REMAINS A VITAL PART OF THE COAST GUARD OF TODAY AND TOMORROW.

SUCCESS STORIES INVOLVING AUXILIARISTS ABOUND IN THE MARINE SAFETY ARENA FROM SAFETY ZONE ENFORCEMENT, REGATTA SUPPORT, WATCH OFFICER SUPPORT, POLLUTION AND HARBOR SAFETY PATROLS, AND FISHING VESSEL EXAMINATIONS, AND I AM GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT SOME OF THAT TODAY.

I'VE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE WAY THE AUXILIARY HAS RESPONDED TO THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED IN THE EXPANDED AUTHORITY IN THE 1996 COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT.

JUST OVER THREE YEARS AGO, IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE 1996 REVISION OF THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY'S AUTHORITY BY THE 104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS, THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FORMED A NEW ENTITY-THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (AUX-M). SINCE THAT TIME, THE LEVEL OF AUXILIARY AUGMENTATION OF MARINE SAFETY ACTIVITIES HAS GROWN DRAMATICALLY.

BEFORE I GO FURTHER, I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE AND PERSONALLY THANK DAVE SARGENT AND THE OTHER KEY MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WHO LED THOSE EFFORTS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF COMMODORE GEORGE JEANDHEUR. DAVE AND COMMODORE JEANDHEUR, ARE YOU HERE? PLEASE RISE AND BE RECOGNIZED. MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SAFETY, ALSO PLEASE STAND AT THIS TIME. I WILL SAY MORE ABOUT DAVE AND GEORGE A LITTLE LATER.

DAVE AND HIS DIVISION CHIEFS TOOK COMMODORE TUCKER'S INTEREST IN THE EMERGING AUXILIARY MARINE SAFETY FUNCTION AND TURNED IT INTO THE ROBUST PROGRAM THAT I WILL HIGHLIGHT TODAY. MANY OF YOU KNOW THAT DAVE WILL SOON BE ENDING HIS TENURE AS THE DEPARTMENT CHIEF. ALL OF US WHO HAVE WORKED WITH DAVE OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS WISH HIM WELL.

THOUGH ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS, THE AUXILIARY PROVIDES PROGRESSIVE SUPPORT IN MANY AREAS OF MARINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. THEY PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN MINIMIZING ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE THROUGH THE SEA PARTNERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM.

*(SLIDE #2 - "SEA PARTNERS")*

THIS PROGRAM SEEKS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT CURRENT MARINE POLLUTION BY DEVELOPING COMMUNITY AWARENESS TO IMPROVE COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. MASTER CHIEF LINDA REID IS MY MANAGER OF THIS VALUABLE PROGRAM.

*(SLIDE #3 - "OFFICER SNOOK LOGO")*

SEA PARTNERS MESSAGES INCLUDE THE THREAT OIL,  
HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS, WASTE AND DEBRIS HAVE ON  
THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT, HOW LAWS AND  
REGULATIONS APPLY TO MARINE USERS, AND WAYS  
INDIVIDUALS CAN TAKE ACTION TO HELP PROTECT THE  
MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

FROM MIAMI TO ANCHORAGE TO HONOLULU TO GUAM,  
AUXILIARISTS ARE WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
ACTIVE DUTY COAST GUARD PERSONNEL IN SEA  
PARTNERS TEAMS TO SPREAD ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION INFORMATION TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

*(SLIDE #4 - "OFFICER SNOOK HIMSELF")*

THROUGH THE USE OF OFFICER SNOOK AND OTHER PUBLIC  
EDUCATION EFFORTS, THE AUXILIARY CONTINUES TO  
SEND OUT THE COAST GUARD'S MESSAGE EMPHASIZING  
THE NECESSITY TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT.

*(SLIDE #5 - "BULKER")*

THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY HAS ALSO BEGUN TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE COAST GUARD'S COMMERCIAL VESSEL BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. THE GOAL OF THIS PROGRAM IS TO DEVELOP STANDARDS TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF NON-INDIGENOUS NUISANCE SPECIES OR CRITTERS FROM SHIPS' BALLAST WATER INTO OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT. SEVERAL AUXILIARISTS HAVE ATTENDED TRAINING TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO COMPLY WITH THE AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES ACT, AND HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO CONDUCT BALLAST WATER SURVEY SUPPORT AND BILGE WATER SAMPLING FOR TESTING PURPOSES.

IN ADDITION, THE AUXILIARY'S INTERPRETER CORPS HAS BEEN ENLISTED TO TRANSLATE THE COAST GUARD'S "BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES ON AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES " FROM ENGLISH INTO 15 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES (*SLIDE #6 - "FLAGS"*). THIRTY-ONE AUXILIARISTS HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO TRANSLATE THESE GUIDELINES TO PROMOTE EDUCATION OF THIS PROGRAM NATIONWIDE.

*(SLIDE #7 - "BOATS UNDERWAY")*

THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY HAS ALSO ENGAGED IN SEVERAL SPECIAL PROJECTS IN THE AREAS OF MARINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. THE AUXILIARY HAS REPRESENTED THE COAST GUARD AND PROMOTED OUR EFFORTS WITH BOATING SAFETY AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY, AT THE NEW JERSEY MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION, THE NATIONAL SAFE BOATING COUNCIL, AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS.

IN ADDITION, THE AUXILIARY ATTENDED THE NATIONAL CLEAN BOATING CAMPAIGN IN NEW JERSEY, WHICH IS SPONSORED BY A CONSORTIUM OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND MARINE TRADE GROUPS, AND ESTABLISHED A BOOTH AT THE EVENT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC INFORMATION REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN BOATING.

*(SLIDE #8 - "MARINA SCENE")*

THE MARINA COURTESY EXAMINATION PROGRAM IS ANOTHER INITIATIVE DERIVED FROM GROWING CONCERNS REGARDING MANY ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM MARINAS IN NORTH CAROLINA. COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY OFFICE WILMINGTON AND COAST GUARD AUXILIARY WITHIN THE WILMINGTON AREA WORKED CONCURRENTLY TO DEVELOP THE PROGRAM TO EDUCATE EACH MARINA ON POLLUTION PREVENTION REGULATIONS AND DISPERSANT USAGE. BOATERS ARE THEN PROVIDED A COURTESY EXAM, WHERE GOOD FUELING AND HOUSEKEEPING PROCEDURES ARE STRESSED. AT THE COMPLETION OF THE EXAM, BOATERS ARE THEN PROVIDED A CUSTOMER FEEDBACK FORM IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROGRAM. AT THIS POINT, THIS PROGRAM HAS RECEIVED RAVE REVIEWS FROM MARINAS AND BOATERS ALIKE.

AUXILIARY MEMBERS IN PITTSBURGH, PA HAVE FORMED A PARTNERSHIP WITH PERSONNEL FROM MARINE SAFETY OFFICE PITTSBURGH, THE WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH, THE RIVER SCHOOL IN MEMPHIS, AND MARINE SAFETY OFFICE/REGIONAL EXAM CENTER MEMPHIS TO PERMIT MARINERS TO TAKE MERCHANT MARINER EXAMS IN PITTSBURGH.

AS A RESULT OF THIS, NUMEROUS MARINERS HAVE TAKEN THEIR EXAMS IN PITTSBURGH, SAVING THEM AND THEIR COMPANIES MONEY AND TRAVEL TIME, NOT TO MENTION A REDUCTION IN THE WORKLOAD EXPERIENCED BY REC MEMPHIS PERSONNEL. LOCAL INDUSTRY HAS COMMENTED ON THE TREMENDOUS SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM, AND HAS PRAISED THE AUXILIARY ON THEIR PROFESSIONALISM AND DESIRE TO ACCOMMODATE INLAND MARINE INDUSTRY.

*(SLIDE #9 - "AUXILIARY/OPSAIL SHIP COLLAGE")*

YOUR PERFORMANCE DURING OPSAIL 2000 WAS ALSO TRULY COMMENDABLE. THE AUXILIARY COORDINATED OPERATIONS, ADMINISTRATIVE, LOGISTICS, AND COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL TO ENSURE THAT THE EVENTS RAN SMOOTHLY IN ALL PORTS *(SLIDE #10 - "OPSAIL VESSEL COLLAGE")*. AUXILIARISTS ALSO TRAVELED LONG DISTANCES IN THEIR VESSELS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR FIREWORKS SECURITY ZONES AND HARBOR SAFETY PATROLS.

*(SLIDE #11 - "FISHING VESSEL")*

PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS THE AUXILIARY HAS MADE THIS YEAR IS IN THE MISSION AREA OF COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL SAFETY (CFVS).

IN THE UNITED STATES, THE FATALITY RATE IN THE  
COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY IS 6 TIMES HIGHER  
THAN THAT OF THE REMAINDER OF MARINE INDUSTRY.

*(SLIDE #12 - "FISHING VESSEL AFIRE")*

DURING A THREE-WEEK PERIOD IN THE BEGINNING OF 1999, 11  
FISHERMEN AND 4 FISHING VESSELS WERE LOST OFF THE  
MID-ATLANTIC COAST. IN RESPONSE TO THIS, THE COAST  
GUARD ESTABLISHED A TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE  
RECENT SERIOUS CASUALTIES, PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO  
INDUSTRY, REVIEW PAST AND PRESENT FISHING VESSEL  
SAFETY INITIATIVES, RECOMMEND MEASURES TO  
REDUCE THE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY, AND DEVELOP  
DIRECTION FOR INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT. THE TASK  
FORCE RECOGNIZED THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY'S  
EXTENSIVE SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM, AND AUX-M  
CREATED FOUR REGIONAL BRANCH CHIEFS WITH AN  
ASSISTANT BRANCH CHIEF TO SUPPORT ALASKA.

CFVS IS NOW A PRIORITY PROGRAM FOR THE COMMANDANT AND MYSELF, AND A FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE FOR THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, WITH HIS PERSONAL INTEREST. WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATIONS SAFE CATCH AND SAFE RETURN, THE COAST GUARD, ON BOTH THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC COASTS, HAS ATTESTED TO OUR COMMITMENT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF FISHERMEN'S LIVES AND VESSELS LOST AT SEA. KEEPING THIS SPIRIT IN MIND, THE AUXILIARY HAS HAD A VERY PRODUCTIVE YEAR IN IMPROVING CFVS.

YOUR EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN A 76% INCREASE IN AUXILIARY CONDUCTED CFVS EXAMS (FROM 808 IN 1996 TO 1426 IN 1999). IN 1999, THE AUXILIARY'S DEDICATION TO CFVS ACCOUNTED FOR NEARLY 19% OF THE TOTAL EXAMS CONDUCTED BY TEAM COAST GUARD NATIONWIDE. THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY REMAINS THE VITAL CORNERSTONE OF THE COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL SAFETY PROGRAM, AND WE EXPECT THAT THIS UPWARD TREND WILL CONTINUE AS WE MOVE FURTHER INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM. AND THERE WILL BE MORE TO DO!

ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ELEMENTS OF THE CFVS PROGRAM IS THE VOLUNTARY DOCKSIDE EXAMINATION INITIATIVE WHERE AUXILIARISTS NOT ONLY CONDUCT THE EXAMS, BUT EDUCATE FISHERMEN ABOUT SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND USE. IN 1998 AND 1999, SEVERAL VESSEL CASUALTIES WITH HIGH POTENTIAL FOR LOSS OF LIFE WERE TRANSFORMED FROM NEAR CERTAIN DISASTROUS EVENTS INTO LIFESAVING SUCCESS STORIES AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF AUXILIARY CFV EXAMINERS.

THE AUXILIARY, THROUGH INFORMAL OUTREACH, HAS ALSO TRAINED COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN WITH THE DAMAGE CONTROL TRAINER, REACHING 1000'S OF FISHERMEN AND WORKING WITH THEM TO INSTILL GOOD SHIPBOARD DAMAGE CONTROL TECHNIQUES.

AS AN AUXILIARIST, YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF LIVES LOST EACH YEAR IN THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY. YOUR SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM IS CRITICAL IN CONTINUING TO IMPROVE FISHING VESSEL SAFETY NATIONWIDE.

SO YOU CAN SEE DAVE SARGENT AND GEORGE JEANDHEUR WERE VERY BUSY. AT THIS POINT I'D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THEM BOTH. WE IN THE MARINE SAFETY PROGRAMS, AS WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE COAST GUARD, COULDN'T HAVE ACHIEVED POSITIVE RESULTS WITHOUT YOU-THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY AND DEDICATED FOLKS LIKE DAVE SARGENT.

BUT AS I SAID, THERE IS EVER MORE TO DO AND I HOPE I'VE ENCOURAGED THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE COMMERCIAL MARINE SAFETY PROGRAM TO WORK TO CONTINUE YOUR GREAT EFFORTS, AND THOSE NOT INVOLVED TO BECOME INVOLVED.

*(CLOSING SLIDE - "THANK YOU")*

I WOULD LIKE TO GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR FIRST 61 YEARS OF SERVICE, AND I AND THE REST OF TEAM COAST GUARD LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AS MOVE FORWARD INTO THIS NEW MILLENNIUM. LET US STRIVE TO CONTINUE TO PROTECT PEOPLE FROM THE SEA AND TO PROTECT THE SEA FROM PEOPLE. SEMPER PARATUS.