An aerial photograph of a flooded area. A dead, skeletal tree stands in the center. Two long, red pipes or logs are floating horizontally across the water. Several small, dark-colored boats with people inside are scattered in the lower half of the image. The water is a murky, brownish-grey color.

*The* **R** *Coast Guard*  
**Reservist**

*January 1995*

**Southeast  
Texas  
Floods**

- *PSUs Return Home From Haiti* •
- *USS Serpens 50th Anniversary Commemoration* •
- *1995 Wallet-Size Tear Out ADT/IDT Pay Charts* •

The Coast Guard Reservist (ISSN 1079-0853) is published monthly by the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, USCG Headquarters (G-RS-1), 2100 Second St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20593-0001.

**ADM Robert E. Kramek, USCG**  
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

**RADM Richard M. Larrabee, USCG**  
Chief, Office of Readiness & Reserve

**PA1 Edward J. Kruska, USCGR**  
Editor, The Reservist

**PA2 Pamela A. Sanders, USCGR**  
Assistant Editor

The editorial content of this magazine is for information only and is not authority for official action. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Department of Transportation or the U.S. Coast Guard. The editors reserve the right to select and edit all materials for publication. Submissions should be typed (lower case), double-spaced. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month, two months prior to publication date. Send submissions to:

**Commandant (G-RS-1)**  
**USCG Headquarters**  
2100 Second St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20593-0001  
Attn: Editor, The Reservist

**Phone:** (202) 267-1991 / 2517 **FAX:** (202) 267-4553  
**E-mail:** Editor/Reservist (have your systems mgr. route the center "Reservist" through G-RPost).  
**Internet:** For non-standard Coast Guard computers editor/reservist@reserve.hq.uscgr.gov

Due to the quantity of submissions and photos received, we are not able to return them.

The Reservist is produced on a Macintosh IICI using Quark Express 3.3 and is printed on recycled/recyclable paper. During FY95, The Reservist is being printed by PressStar Printing Corp., Silver Spring, Md. 20904.  
**Reservists: Address changes should be submitted through your District(r).**  
**Postmaster:** Send address changes to The Coast Guard Reservist, Commandant (G-RS-1), 2100 Second St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20593-0001. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C. and an additional mailing office.

## Check Out This Issue

- ✓ **Your Turn** .....2
- ✓ **A View from the Bridge**.....3
  - RADM Schneider kicks off the New Year with a View from the "Starboard Wing."
- ✓ **Texas Floods Test Team CG**.....4
- ✓ **PSUs Home From Haiti** .....5
- ✓ **Coast to Coast Reserve**.....6
- ✓ **Sea Partners Sails for Success** .....10
  - A photo review of the Sea Partners program
- ✓ **Front & Center** .....12
- ✓ **USS Serpens**.....14
  - Jan. 29, 1995 is the 50th Anniversary of USCG's worst WWII disaster.
- ✓ **USCGR Bulletin Board**.....16
- ✓ **Retirement: Six-Year Rule**.....18
  - Important ruling for upcoming retirees.
- ✓ **On Deck**.....19
  - MCPO Phillips discusses the Military Coalition and how it can help you!
- ✓ **DOT Outstanding Achievement Award**.20

## On the Cover

Small boats congregate next to containment booms during the Southeast Texas floods. Photo by PA3 Sam Goforth, USCGR.

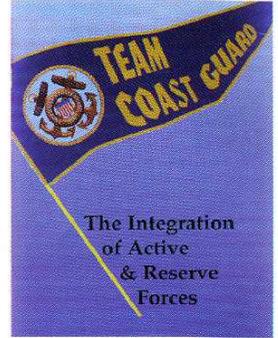


## Congratulations on Team Coast Guard

Congratulations on the concept of Team Coast Guard and the wholesale integration of Reserve Units with the active duty forces. Many of us in San Diego recognized the importance of the concept several years ago and may have laid some of the groundwork for today's coordination at Group San Diego.

Our activities certainly weren't part of so comprehensive a plan as the Reserve program in effect today. The Reserve Training Unit staff's primary motives were to provide hands-on training (far more realistic than that in the classroom) and to assist the San Diego regulars, meanwhile developing stronger rapport with the career Coast Guard men and women we would augment in a national emergency.

It's a pleasure to know that our fellow reservists range so far and wide *in the world* successfully — generations away from very primitive classroom efforts to meet USCG's mobilization expectations. Keep up the good work! — CDR A.P. Harrison, USCGR (Ret.) San Diego, Calif.



## Tribute to Edith Munro



I loved the Edith Munro story in the November 1994 *Reservist*. The photo of Commandant VADM Merlin O'Neill with LT Edith Munro and stars of *The Fighting Coast Guard* brought back memories of a picture taken of me with those same celebrities — Ella Raines, Brian Donlevy and Forrest Tucker — when the movie premiered in Boston. I was one of the two SPAR escorts in Boston for that event, so that picture obviously brought back lots of fond memories. (Voice mail) — CWO Betty Splaine, USCGR(Ret.) Alexandria, Va.

*Editor's note: CWO Splaine's letter was actually left on The Reservist's voice mail. If you don't like to write but would still like to "voice" your opinion about Reservist content, simply call (202) 267-1991/2517, and leave a voice-mail message.*

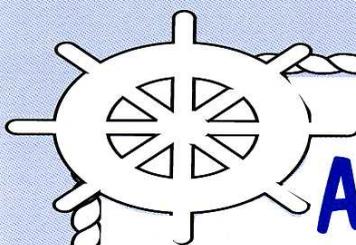
The story about my mother, Edith Munro, reminded me of the many times I have said, "When the Coast Guard does something, they do it well." Your article is one more example of that. It is a beautiful tribute to my mother. Many thanks. — Patricia Sheehan Beaverton, Ore.

## Thanksgiving story reaps unexpected harvest

Though not the intent, it seems that *The Reservist* Magazine's article "A Story For Thanksgiving" (November 1994) captured a few hearts. We received over \$200 in donations that in addition to a Thanksgiving turkey and ham, also helped us purchase some Christmas gifts for the kids. Also, the Office of Readiness &



Reserve's soup luncheon raised another \$200, and that was used to purchase warm coats for the kids this winter. Many thanks to all who contributed in the spirit of Thanksgiving. — CDR Steve Rochon, CGHQ Adopted Family Coordinator



# A View From the Bridge "Starboard Wing"

By Rear Admiral Richard W. Schneider, USCGR

Senior Reserve Officer, Atlantic Area



*\* Editor's Note: Several issues ago, The View from the Bridge was expanded to include alternating contributions from the two senior reserve officers along with the Chief, Office of Readiness & Reserve. To differentiate them, columns from the Pacific Area Reserve Flag will now have "Port Wing" added to the title while those from the Atlantic will add "Starboard Wing" to parallel the wings off of a cutter's bridge.*

It has been a very busy fall for both RADM Sloncen and myself. In September, we had the opportunity to attend the Commandant's Flag Conference in Virginia. Important events at the conference included the completion of the Executive Business Plan, which lays out our course of action for the entire Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve over the next four years. That business plan has now been published (COMDINST 16010.13, Nov. 28, 1994), and I commend it to everyone's reading. In addition, we received briefings on a number of major studies that are ongoing in the Coast Guard which will have a profound impact on our service. In particular, there was discussion on the RADM Woolever Study, which deals with downsizing, right-sizing, and re-engineering the Coast Guard, and the RADM Teeson Study which is examining how the Coast Guard will carry out its training. RADM Sloncen, RADM Peschel and I also had the opportunity to brief all the attending flag officers on the Reserve Integration Plan and the status of its implementation. A second meeting, scheduled for the week of Dec. 5, 1994 (after this article went to press), was to be convened in which all the Flag Officers of the Coast Guard were to gather once again to work on these major issues.

During the September Flag Conference, there were a number of issues discussed which you will be hearing more about in the future. One topic concerned interpersonal relationships among officers and enlisted personnel and finding ways to improve how we deal with inappropriate conduct. There were also discussions on how best to improve and strengthen our linkages with the Department of Defense with regard to

our national security mission as well as supporting DOT Secretary Peña in his efforts to connect America through intermodalism. These are the issues that are receiving top attention by the Flag Corps. It is important that you stay informed on these issues as they continue to develop.

In October, I also attended the Atlantic Area Flag Conference. While there, I had the opportunity to brief all the LANTAREA Flag Officers on the present status of implementing the Commandant's integration order. I presented several issues I consider important as we proceed with the process. They included:

- 1) maintaining adequate safety nets to ensure that reservists are not 'lost in the cracks' as we transfer our administrative responsibilities to the active duty side;
- 2) maintaining an appropriate number of PSUs to adequately support U.S. involvement in overseas contingencies;
- 3) thoroughly examining the future role of senior Coast Guard Reserve officers; and
- 4) deciding how best to employ the 8,000 SELRES force.

To further the integration process, I have visited with the senior active duty and reserve officers in both the 2nd and 8th Coast Guard Districts with plans to visit the remainder of the Atlantic Area District Offices soon. Thus far, I have heard nothing but very positive responses from both reservists and active duty personnel. There is a growing excitement among active commands about the additional productivity and opportunities that are expected to result from integration. There is a genuine desire in not only being able to use the Reserve force more effectively, but to have more reservists made available to them than before. Above all else, both forces agree that integration must result in the lightening of overall administrative duties in order that reservists' time may be maximized in the delivery of services to our external customers.

I am very proud of you all, and I hear nothing but great reports from your internal customers, our active duty counterparts. It is clear that they value your contributions and desperately need assistance in carrying out their many day-to-day Coast Guard missions. You are the right force at the right time to fulfill those needs. Keep up the great work. Semper Paratus!



# Texas floods test Team CG

Photo by PA3 Sam Goforth, RU Dallas



**Gas / oil pipelines explode into flames during the flooding.**

When a Gulf of Mexico weather system stalled over southeastern Texas in mid-October, it dumped over 30 inches of rain on the Lone Star State, causing flash flooding and bringing with it death and destruction. Much of Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city, was shut down — except for emergency response organizations including the Coast Guard.

USCG aircraft and small boats from all over the area raced into action to rescue hundreds of stranded people, snatching them off rooftops, highways and high ground. With daytime nearly as dark as night, some people shined flash lights to show their positions.

Team CG responded with aircraft from Air Stations Houston, New Orleans and Corpus Christi and Aviation Training Center Mobile, Ala. Small boats pitched in with rescue and relief efforts from MSO Houston, Galveston and Port Arthur, Corpus Christi, New Orleans and Mobile. Also assisting were the Gulf Strike Team, ATON Galveston and Sabine and Station Sabine. Resources were provided by the CG Reserve and CG Auxiliary.

At the peak of flood ops, 63 reservists helped out. Of those, five

were called up involuntarily. Twelve were sent to the Galveston area while the remainder worked out of MSO Houston for flood/pollution/clean up ops. Two reservists remained activated into November due to their extensive pollution prevention and response experience. The Auxiliary assets included four vessels.

The flooding caused oil and gas lines to spring leaks when debris on the river punctured the pipelines. Some of the crude oil and gas exploded into flames and stretched 20 miles down the flood-swollen San Jacinto River, closing the Houston Ship Channel to vessel traffic. Approximately 130 Coast Guard personnel were involved in the pollution response alone while over 20 state, federal and local agencies, corporations and spill response contractors continued to contain and clean up several types of petroleum products. Over 12 miles of containment boom was deployed.

DOT Secretary Federico Peña surveyed the flood damage Oct. 20 visiting local communities, observing washed out portions of highways, and surveying damaged bridge structures. Peña also talked to Coast Guardsmen at the closed I-10 bridge over the San Jacinto River.

The final pipeline was capped and the fire extinguished Oct. 27. Roughly 11,000 barrels of product and water mixture were recovered. The estimated cost of the clean up was over \$6 million.



Photo by PA3 Sam Goforth, RU Dallas



Photo by PA3 Brandon Brewer, D8 Public Affairs

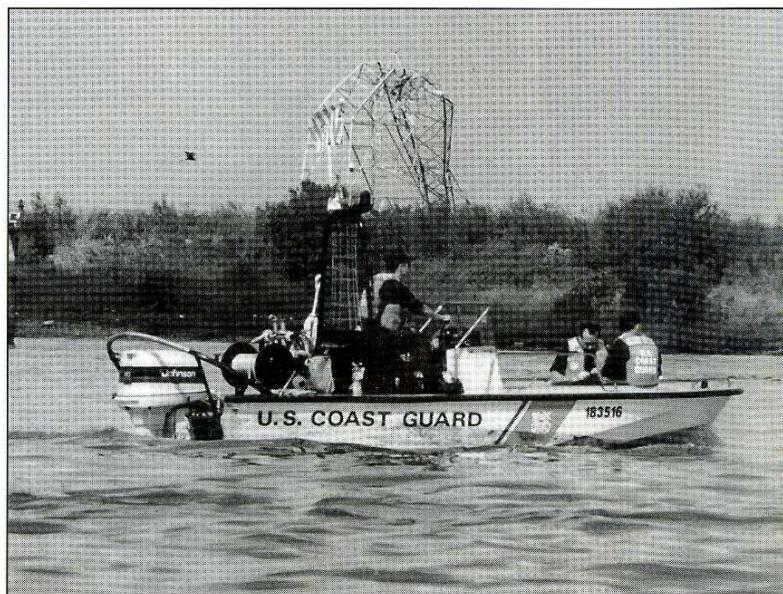
**DOT Secretary Federico Peña prepares to fly over the floods aboard a CG Jayhawk helo.**

Photo by PA3 Brandon Brewer, D8 Public Affairs



**Left: CG Reservists BM2 Denny Bowman, left, and MK2 Richard B. Herschmann "lasso" a propane tank that was part of the floating debris after the floods.**

**Right: A Coast Guard small boat patrols the San Jacinto River.**



# PSUs home from Haiti

By PA2 Charles E. Smith III

LANT AREA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The final port security unit personnel returned to the United States from Haiti in mid-November, adding another chapter to the Coast Guard's proud history. Over 200 Coast Guard members were part of the peacekeeping force that helped restore democracy to Haiti.

PSUs 301 and 302 returned to Governors Island, N.Y. from this hemisphere's poorest nation. PSU 301 returned to GI in late October while PSU 302 returned in two waves; the first in early November with the remaining personnel returning in mid-November.

At Governors Island, PSU members were given physicals, interviews to determine if they had been exposed to anything that might cause illness, to develop lessons learned, and completed other administrative tasks. Although PSUs are Reserve units, one-third of the personnel sent to Haiti were active duty.

Congratulations and welcome home, Team CG!



Photo by PA1 C.T. O'Neil, LANT Area Public Affairs

*A port security unit member receives a welcome home sticker from Coast Guard Enlisted Association member SK1 Ann Campbell. Returning PSUs were treated to parties at the Governors Island Mariner's Club.*



Photo by PA1 C.T. O'Neil, LANT Area Public Affairs

*Above: PSU 301 members continue the "bag drag" as they check into the BEQ at Support Center New York, Governors Island.*

*Right: PSU 301 members offload from a C-130 at Teterboro Airport, N.J. en route to Governors Island.*



Photo by PA1 C.T. O'Neil, LANT Area Public Affairs



# Coast Guard hosts Boy Scout Camporee



**CWO Allan Farmer**  
RU STATION INDIAN RIVER

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. — Coast Guard Station Indian River played host to the Boy Scouts of America, Sussex Council Fall Camporee recently.

Approximately 300 Cub, Webelos and Boy Scouts participated in the three-day event held at Station Indian River and the adjoining state park at Indian River Inlet.

Reserve and Active members of Station Indian River provided a well-rounded, entertaining and educational program for participants.

Some of the activities and displays included an opportunity to eat in the Coast Guard dining facility, boat rides on the 41-foot patrol boats, knot tying, heaving life rings and hoisting the Bosn's chair.

Air Station Cape May, N.J. provided a helo and an air/sea rescue demonstration while the Auxiliary provided a safe boating display. To make the scouts aware of what the Coast Guard might hold for them in the

future, the Recruiting Team at Cape May was also on hand.

Organizations that provided displays included the Navy SEAL Detachment from Little Creek, Va. with a pyrotechnic demonstration, a Naval Reserve Mobile Inshore Underwater Unit (MIUW) from Lewes, Del. specializing in security and medical care while Dover Air Force Base, Del. sent a Survival Specialist.

Not to be outdone by the military, the Delaware Marine and State Police provided a patrol boat display and helo demonstration.

LT Wayne Stacy, CO of Station Indian River, a Scoutmaster and Eagle Scout himself, served as chairman of the event. He said the event could not have been put together without the help of an excellent staff, both military and civilian, and a lot of volunteers. With the one exception of winds topping 40 knots at times, the Camporee was described as a huge success.



*BMC Warren Walls of RU Indian River instructs Boy Scouts on putting on PFDs before boat rides that were part of the Sussex District Camporee at CG Station Indian River, Del.*

Photo courtesy of RU Station Indian River, Del.



# A new outlook on integration

By PA1 Jeff Crawley  
D8 RESERVE UNIT SUPPORT

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — RU Albuquerque became the first 8th District unit to become fully and directly assigned to an active duty command Oct. 29, 1994.

“Welcome to the finest group in the Coast Guard,” said CAPT Joseph Tucker, III, Commander, Group Corpus Christi, Texas. We need you and look forward to working closely with each of you in the coming months.”

“You are the first leaders of force integration, the future of the Coast Guard Reserve Program and the Coast Guard. Certainly every one of you should feel a great sense of personal and unit pride,” Tucker concluded.

At the integration ceremony CAPT George Mehaffy, Commander, Reserve Group 8th District West, said the Coast Guard Reserve is experiencing many changes. In fact, it could be called a crisis.

“The Chinese symbol for crisis is the combination of two symbols; danger and opportunity,” he said. “While the future holds a certain amount of danger, it also presents an enormous amount of opportunity.”

“With changes we are to be concerned about that one problem of aging called ‘hardening of the categories,’” said Mehaffy. “I believe we are not going to have that problem as we join the active service.”

“RU Albuquerque and the Reserve Program have always risen to the opportunity, risen to the chal-

lenge, and I believe we are going to do that in this new context and environment,” he added.

These words perfectly describe the change facing all of us to proactively and enthusiastically lead Group Corpus Christi and the 8th District into force integration, said CAPT Terry Hauck, who was relieved by Mehaffy as Group Commander.

Hauck went on to state: “Isn’t it ironic that the successful change to an organization depends almost completely on the very people that comprise that organization. You see it is these people who have a logical reason not to change. But I say again, if change is to succeed, they must lead it.”

## A Veteran’s Day tribute to courage...

By PA3 Sam Goforth  
RU DALLAS

DALLAS — At the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, a crowd of people, mostly veterans, stood proudly as Congressman Sam Johnson humbly recounted his experience as a prisoner-of-war in Vietnam.

In one instance, he had been placed in stocks in a room with windows boarded for an extended period.

After a night in which a typhoon had blown the boards from the windows, he saw a magnificent sunrise and a beautiful day.

He thanked God for his life even as his captors said they were going to kill him. His reply was simply, “So do it!”

Thankfully, they didn’t.

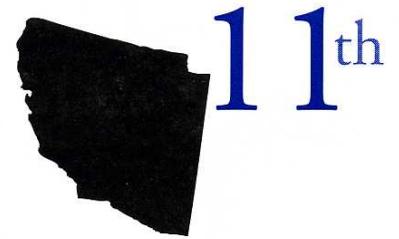
Following his remarks, he thanked all veterans for courage, bravery and loyalty to a great nation.

At that point, veterans from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm placed a wreath beneath the Veterans Memorial in State Fair Park. Then, as Taps was played, three Marine riflemen fired the traditional 21-gun salute.

Lastly, the attending chaplain reminded everyone present of Flanders Fields, the French/Belgian site of the now famous World War I battle. The veterans proudly dispersed.



# Western Waterways



## Colorado River Patrol ready for action

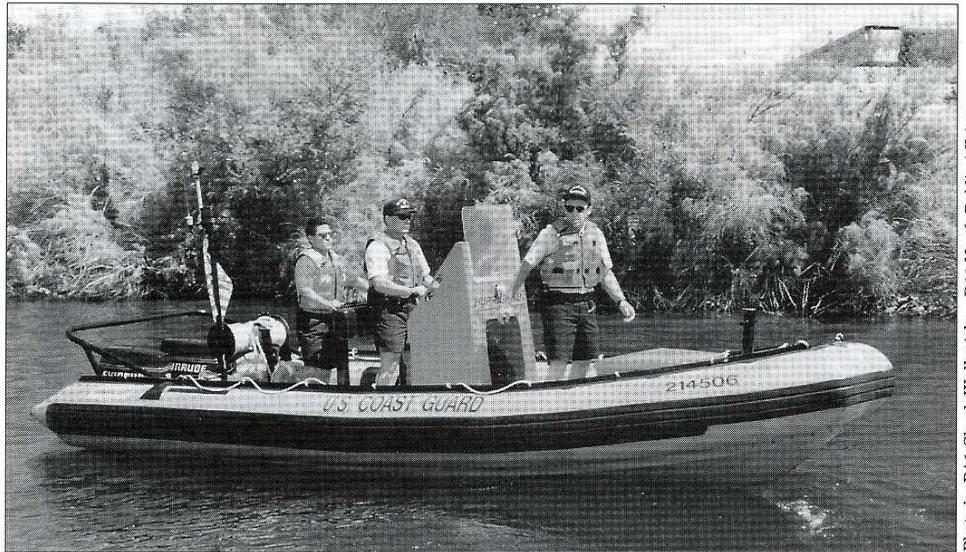
By PA1 Chuck Wullenjohn  
D11 NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PHOENIX — A jet ski speeding over the placid waters of the Colorado River's Lake Havasu violently flips over as it encounters the rippling wake of a passing yacht. The jet ski's inexperienced rider is dragged underneath the larger vessel.

A motor boat slicing through the water at a high rate of speed crunches into the side of another, both boats being dragged beneath the surface of the waves. The occupants bob to the surface as they soberly watch their investments sink into the murky depths of Lake Havasu.

The bearded operator of a rented racing boat takes on an extra load of people in one of Lake Havasu's narrow side canyons, all of whom have spent the day drinking beer and having fun. A cold wave swamps the boat in deep water as it returns to port.

These are every-weekend events to the members of Group San Diego's Colorado River Patrol, a 40-member reserve unit which hails mostly from the Phoenix/Tucson, Ariz. area. Based on the hazards and heightened activity on the lake, the 11th District Commander felt it necessary to organize the unit to help promote safety and provide a visible, active deterrent for unsafe or endangered boaters. The unit is charged



**A 21-foot RHIB leaves the Coast Guard mooring facility on Lake Havasu to begin a day of law enforcement and search and rescue patrols. Operations over the Labor Day weekend took place in temperatures over 110 degrees.**

with enforcing Federal boating regulations on the navigable waters of the Colorado River with emphasis placed on an 88-mile stretch of the river forming the California/Arizona boundary.

The unit's headquarters is located in Lake Havasu City, Ariz. of London Bridge fame. Operating three small boats, the unit joins with other local law enforcement agencies to maintain a modicum of safety and control on a waterway which attracts upwards of 100,000 vacationers and 10,000 boats on summer holiday weekends.

This past June, the unit recorded more than 48 boardings, 10 percent

of the 11th District's total, over a period of only eight operational days.

Commanded by LCDR Steve Birdsall and assisted by Executive Officer CWO Alan Calvert, the unit is divided into four teams. Each team is headed by a Chief or First Class Petty Officer. The reservists drill each weekend of the boating season and most weekends throughout the rest of the year.

With the current importance of budget cutbacks throughout the Active and Reserve forces, a particularly hard look is being taken at inland units. Questions being asked include, "Is the unit good for the accomplishment of the Coast Guard

Photo by PA1 Chuck Wullenjohn, D11 North Public Affairs

mission?" and "Is the unit providing a proper level of Coast Guard training?"

"In my opinion, the Colorado River Patrol meets both of these criteria," said CAPT Dave Edling.

"These reservists have the opportunity to take part in realistic training that has made them into excellent Coast Guard assets.

In addition to being used right here on the Colorado River, they also participate in major events like the World and America's Cup races and numerous other exercises.

They have excellent skills I would hate to see lost to the Coast Guard if the unit was forced to shut its doors."

**D**uring busy three-day holiday weekends, the members of the unit worked with auxiliaries to operate the radio in the operations center and maneuver boats on the river while continuing with normal safety boardings and federal law enforcement.

A majority of the mishaps they responded to involved the overuse of alcohol which, combined with the high heat, resulted in impaired judgment and improper boat operation. As is typical, the accident rate

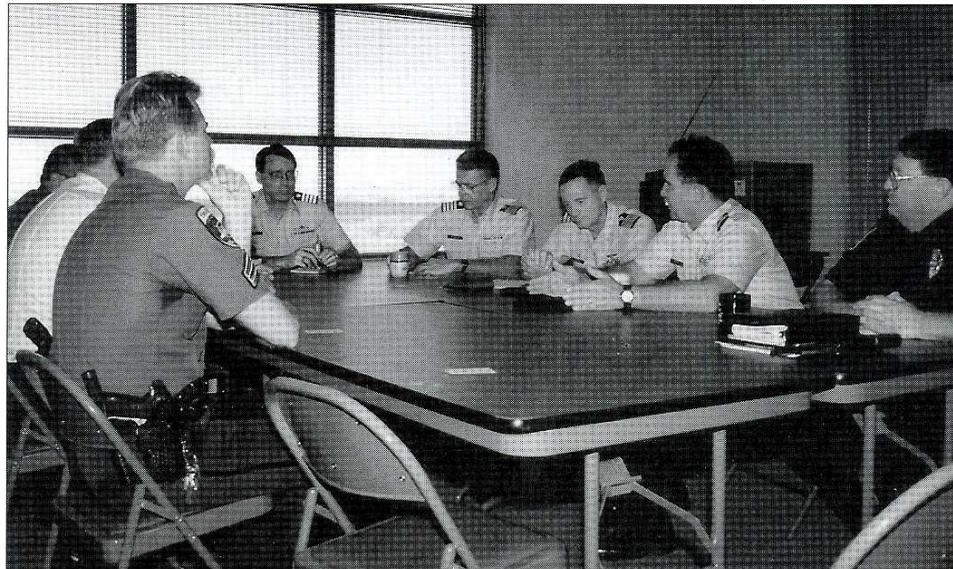


Photo by PA1 Chuck Wullenjohn, D11 North Public Affairs

**Officers representing Group San Diego meet with other Lake Havasu law enforcement agencies to discuss common concerns.**

went up as each day of the holiday weekend progressed.

Calvert says the unit works closely with and is well regarded by other law enforcement agencies in the area. Those agencies mobilized six boats to monitor boaters, with two provided by the Colorado River Patrol.

**T**hough most members of the unit live in the Phoenix /

Tucson area (a three-to-five hour drive), some travel from as far away as Albuquerque, N.M., 11 hours away. Others live in Southern California.

Only one member of the unit lives on the shores of Lake Havasu — MK2 Larry Palmer, who acts as the unit's station keeper. Calvert says Palmer has worked 90 days of non-pay active duty to ensure repairs were performed and to shuttle equipment back and forth.

As for himself, Calvert jokingly says, "I haven't been home on a Memorial Day weekend for eight years running."

The 40 members of the Colorado River Patrol are proud to call themselves "the desert Coast Guard." They perform a vital law enforcement and search and rescue mission and, as observers agree, do it very well.

*"The Desert Coast Guard" was featured on the cover of The Reservist, July / August 1991.*

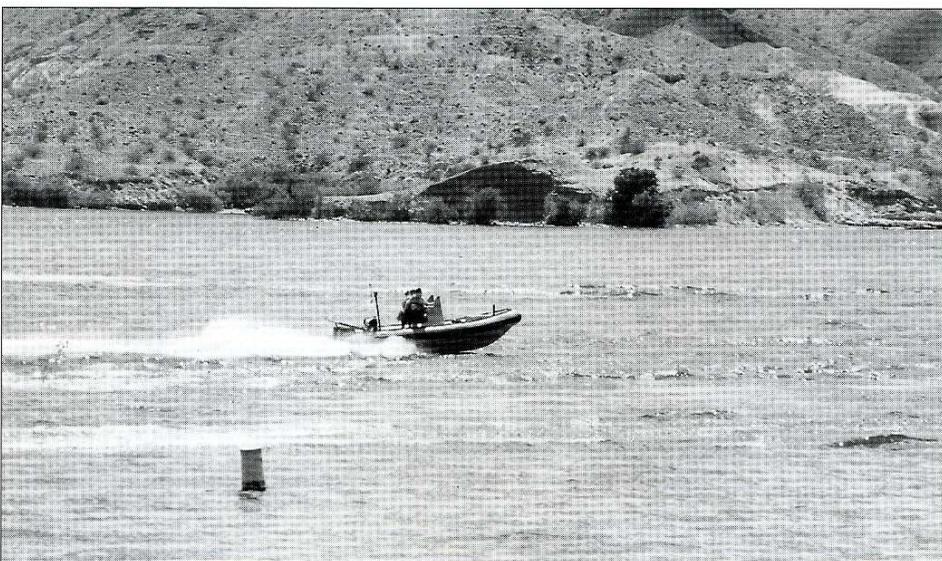


Photo by PA1 Chuck Wullenjohn, D11 North Public Affairs

**The vast expanse of Lake Havasu is a Mecca for boaters fleeing urban areas. Coast Guard patrol boats operated by the all-reserve Colorado River Patrol help to keep the waters safe.**

# Setting the sail

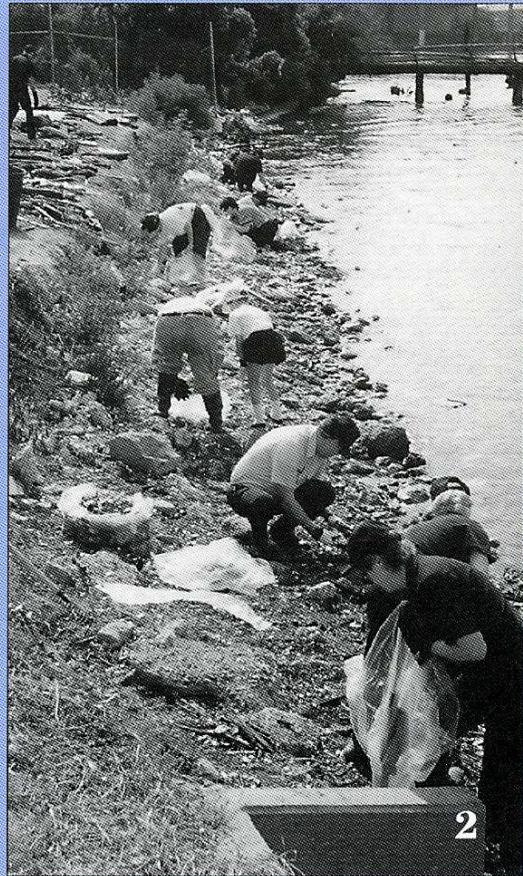
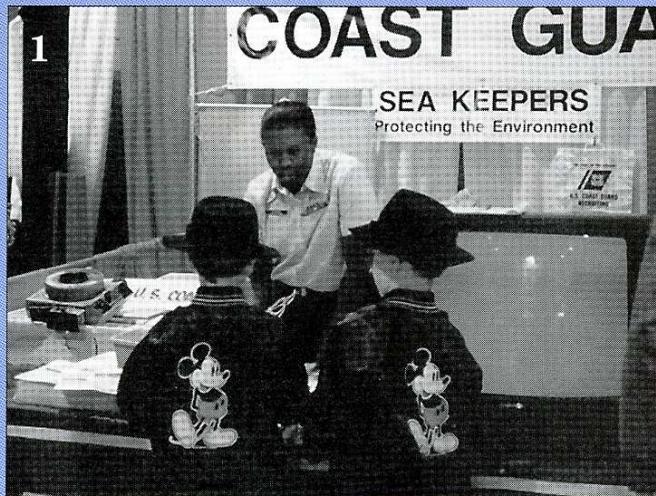


Photo by PAC Barbara Voulgaris

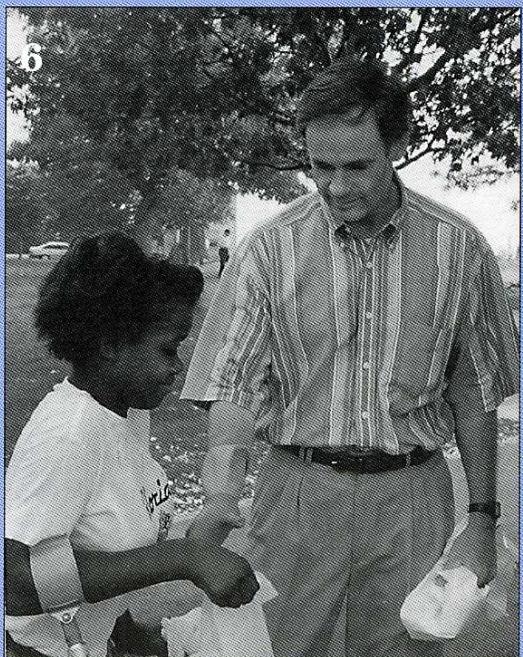


Photo by PAC Barbara Voulgaris

# Sea Partners

# s for success...

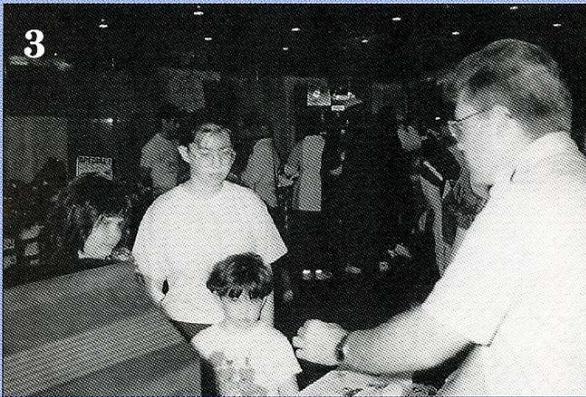


Photo by BMI Robert Cox



Photo by PAC Barbara Voulgaris

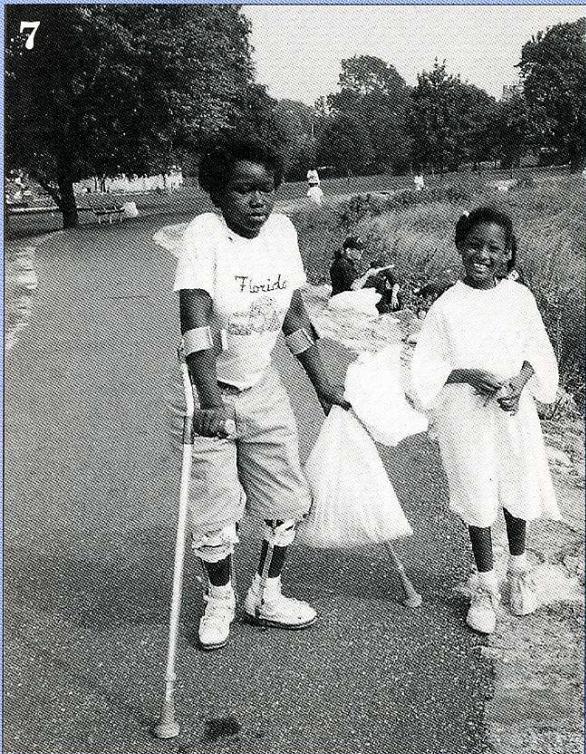


Photo by PAC Barbara Voulgaris

Sea Partners is one of 22 pilot programs under DOD's Civil Military Cooperation (CMC) Action Program for FY94. Sea Partners help people learn ways to protect the marine environment. Some of their recent activities from around the nation are highlighted in the photo spread here. Sea Partners was featured in the cover story of the November 1994 *Reservist*.

**1** SN Audrey Gibson of RU Memphis answers children's questions about the environment during the annual Mid-South Fair in Memphis, Tenn. The 10-day fair was the launch site of the Memphis Sea Partners program.

**2** Over 50 volunteers participated in a shoreline cleanup that kicked off the MSO Houston Sea Partners program July 30. The event, covered by the local news media, will include follow-up studies.

**3** PS2 James Richardson, right, of RU Memphis answers questions regarding the multi-media presentation during the Mid-South Fair. The booth and the 20 reservists that manned it attracted over 11,500 visitors, distributed 3,000 pieces of literature, performed 60 demonstrations and had 54 requests for future demos.

**4** BM2 Glenn Moore of RU Two Philadelphia sorts through garbage he pulled from the seagrass along the banks of the Delaware River, in New Castle, Del.

**5** LTJG Mark Ledbetter and LTJG Paul Lee, both of MSO Philadelphia, clear garbage from the shores of the Delaware River, Sept. 17.

**6** Delaware Governor Thomas Carper congratulates 11-year-old Carrie Waller for taking part in the coastal clean-up in Battery Park, New Castle, Del. sponsored by MSO Philadelphia.

**7** Eight-year-old Tiffany Demby (right) and 11-year-old Carrie Waller take a break from picking garbage at Battery Park.

# Front & Center

## Atlantic Area receives Unit Commendation

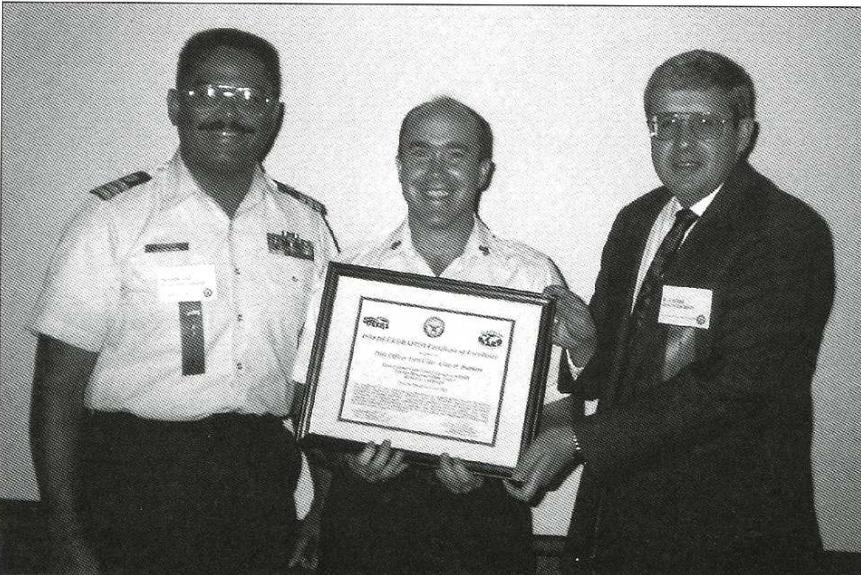
Photo by PA2 Charles E. Smith III, LANT AREA Public Affairs



Representatives from each group in the Team Atlantic Area receive the CG Unit Commendation from VADM James Loy, Atlantic Area Commander, right. The award recognized "exceptional meritorious service during the period of June 16 - Nov. 1, 1994 while playing a critical role in three major operations: Able Manner, Able Vigil and Uphold Democracy." Left to right: YN2 Percy Mack, active duty; Olga Morgan, civilians; SN Harry Applegate, Navy; TCC Katrina Fisher, reservists; and VADM Loy.

## DEERS/RAPIDS Excellence Award

Photo courtesy of Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense



The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and the Realtime Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) Certificate of Excellence Award was presented to PO1 Allen Rubbert, center, at the DEERS Training Clinic in San Diego, Nov. 1-3. Rubbert is the Coast Guard Liaison to DEERS at the Defense Manpower Data Center, Monterey, Calif. He was selected by the CG Reserve as the 1994 award winner whose support of DEERS and RAPIDS warranted special recognition. CDR Stephen Rochon, left, looks on as Rubbert accepts the award from Ed Haldeman, RAPIDS program manager, right.

## Medals & Awards

**COAST GUARD  
COMMENDATION MEDAL**  
LT Dave Williams, G-RSM  
LTJG S Benvenuto, G-RST

**COAST GUARD  
ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**  
LCDR Joseph Owsiak, D5\*  
YN1 Billy Eason, G-RSM  
SK1 James Mitchell, D7

**LETTER OF  
COMMENDATION**  
LT Dave Williams, G-RSP  
MK1 Kyle Takakjian, D1

**MERITORIOUS UNIT  
COMMENDATION**  
LT Wayne Sewell, G-RSM

**MERITORIOUS TEAM  
COMMENDATION**  
PA3 Sam Goforth, D8

**ARMED FORCES  
RESERVE MEDAL**  
LT Wayne Sewell, G-RSM

\*LCDR Owsiak's last name was misspelled in the December issue. It is reprinted here correctly. We regret the error.

# Retirements

## JULY

CAPT Charles Marcus, D2  
LT Maerita Hoskins, D5

## AUGUST

MKC Paul Crowell, D1

## OCTOBER

PS1 Joseph Gibbons, D7  
MK1 Eugene Coakley, D5  
BM2 Chester Stanhope, D7  
DC2 Philip Malouin, D1

## NOVEMBER

CAPT George Weller, D8  
CAPT Ray Heller, D5  
CAPT Durham Monsma, D2  
CDR William Herster, D2  
CDR John Sineath, D5  
CDR James Armstrong, D7  
CDR Raymond Little, D5  
CDR Kenneth White, D9  
CDR Robert Most, D5  
CDR George Devanney, D1  
CDR Richard Berry, D7  
CDR John Bohler, D2  
CDR Ronald Foster, D2  
CDR Thomas Forbes, D8  
CDR Jose Culpeper, D7  
CDR James Clarke, D11  
CDR Michael Caccuitto, D1  
LCDR John Smith, D9  
LCDR James Stout, D7  
LCDR John Van Patten, D11  
LCDR Richard Barch, D9  
LCDR Stephen Purvine, D13  
LCDR Charles Davis, D8  
LCDR Franck Kurinec, D7  
LCDR Linda Pacelli, D9  
LCDR Timothy Rubert, D1

LT Anthony Kuzdzal, D1  
LT Robert Leary, D1  
LT Edward Friedrich, D5  
LT Lawrence Nash, D5  
LT John Griffin, D8  
LT Henry Tucker, D14  
LT Deborah Rockafellow, D1  
LTJG Thomas Hafner, D5  
CWO4 John Seymour, D9  
CWO2 William Gilbert, D5  
CWO2 Jack Vaccaro, D2  
CWO2 Ralph Reynolds, D7  
CWO2 Charles Pulford, D13  
PSCS William Boyers, D8  
BMC Kenneth Whitehurst, D5  
BMC Guy Linscott, D1  
EMC James Blaine, D8  
PSC James Hardgrave, D5  
PSC Thomas Sobczak, D7  
YNC Dale Wren, D8  
YNC Robert Taylor, D1  
BM1 Howard Taphouse, D1  
EM1 Donald Shean, D13  
MK1 Douglas Whitley, D5  
MK1 William Jean, D11  
MK1 Michael McGuire, D11  
MK1 Llewellyn Tsugawa, D14  
PA1 Peter Lambert, D11  
PS1 Pawlo Chmeliwskyj, D1  
PS1 Jack Willis, Jr., D7  
PS1 Donald Consos, D7  
PS1 Thomas Conroy, D7  
PS1 Raymond Christian, D8  
PS1 George Noll, D5  
RM1 Keith Wright, D7  
SK1 John Terrill, D8  
YN1 George Giles, D7  
BM2 Dennis Cosmo, D1  
EM2 John Fortmeyer, D9  
ET2 Allan Brown, D8

ET2 Anthony Bisesti, D1  
MK2 Isaac Harrell, D5  
MK2 Wayne Whalen, D5  
PS2 Warren Beitel, D8  
PS2 Edward Myers, Jr., D5  
QM2 Thomas Lewis, D7  
RM2 Thomas Batalon, D1  
SK2 James Niemeier, D7  
SK2 Paul Leopold, D1  
YN2 Jamie Lopez, D8  
YN2 Charles Vogel, D2  
ET3 Louis Acree, D8  
MK3 Manuel Solis, D8  
MK3 Juan Rentas, D7  
YN3 Lawrence Whiting, D13

## DECEMBER

CAPT Herbert Hurst, D2  
CAPT Roger Batt, D9  
CDR Donald Hicks, D8  
CDR James Poole, D5  
CDR Hugh Wear, II, D9  
CDR Richard Strachan, D5  
CDR Marc Marker, D11  
LCDR John Bichner, D2  
LCDR Warren Solar, Jr., D2  
LCDR Cedric Bennett, D11  
LT Gregory Carlson, D2  
LT James Laures, D9  
LT Lanny Sumpter, D7  
CWO2 Larry Phillips, D2  
PSC Daniel O'Toole, D9  
PSC Alvis Roper, D8  
MK1 Michael Powers, D5  
MK1 Robert Leavens, D7  
PS1 Patrick Phillips, D9  
PS1 Howard McQueen, D1  
BM2 James Powell, D5  
MK2 Wayne Coffman, D5  
SS3 Robert Gould, D1

## Behind the scenes...



### Reserve Retired Affairs Section

Have you ever wondered who was on the other end of the phone when you called Headquarters? Keeping the Reserve running is a big job and requires the support of many people. Occasionally, we'll give you a "behind the scenes" snapshot of those people. Back, l to r: LT Wayne Sewell, Chief, Retired Affairs Section; YN3 Christina Picetti, Retired (without pay) and point corrections; YNC David Ablitz, Retirement Team Leader; Mary Taylor, Eligibility Team Leader; Alvin Donaldson, Retired (without pay); YN3 Eric Barnes, Retired (without pay). Front, l to r: YN3 Larry Stover, Retired (with pay); Pearlle Williams, Eligibility; Jessie Davenport, Eligibility.

# USS Serpens

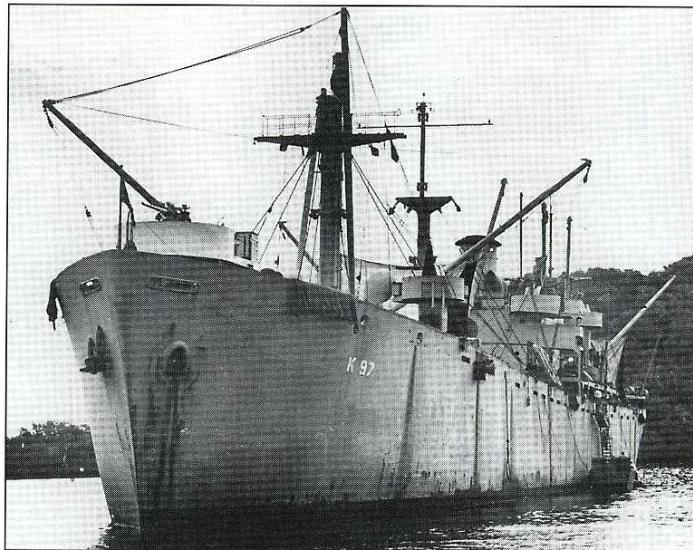
## Explosion resulted in worst single disaster for USCG in World War II

By PA1 Edward J. Kruska, USCGR  
THE COAST GUARD RESERVIST MAGAZINE

Jan. 29, 1995 marks 50 years since the explosion and destruction of the *USS Serpens* (AK-97) which subsequently claimed the lives of 250 American servicemen — the majority being Coast Guardsmen. It was the largest single disaster suffered by the Coast Guard in World War II.

The *Serpens*, a Coast Guard-manned ammunition ship, had supplied American forces in the New Zealand, New Caledonia and Guadalcanal areas between August 1943 and December 1944. During the night of Jan. 29, 1945, *Serpens* was loading depth charges as it lay anchored approximately a mile off the coast of Lunga Beach, Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. Suddenly, and without warning, the 14,250-ton *Serpens* exploded, causing complete destruction of itself and damaging several nearby vessels.

*The Coast Guard at War, Lost Cutters* documents an eyewitness account of the tragic scene: "As we headed our personnel boat shoreward, the sound and concussion of the explosion suddenly reached us, and as we turned, we witnessed the awe-inspiring death drama unfold before us. As the report of screeching shells filled the air and the flash of tracers continued, the water throughout the harbor splashed as the shells hit. We headed our boat in the direction of the smoke and as we came into closer view of what had once been a ship, the water was filled only with floating debris,



*USS Serpens* (AK-97) exploded Jan. 29, 1945.

dead fish, torn life jackets, lumber and other unidentifiable objects. The smell of death, fire, gasoline, and oil was evident and nauseating. This was sudden death, and horror, unwanted and unasked, for, but complete."

LCDR Perry L. Stinson, *Serpens* commanding officer at the time, one other officer, and six crewmen were ashore on administrative business when the explosion occurred, and thus, survived. Onboard, only two Coast Guardsmen survived: Coast Guardsmen SN 1st Class Kelsie K. Kemp of Barron Springs, Va. and SN 1st Class George S. Kennedy of San Marcos, Texas. Both were awarded the Purple Heart by then Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, RADM L.T. Chalker.

Aside from those ten survivors, the devastation to the *Serpens* was so great, and the destruction so immediate, that nothing could be done to save the remaining

Official Coast Guard Photo



*Coast Guard Commandant VADM Merlin O'Neill delivers a dedication address prior to the unveiling of a monument in Arlington National Cemetery in memory of those aboard the USS Serpens. The dedication took place on the grave site Nov. 16, 1950. Standing behind VADM O'Neill, left to right: RADM Alfred C. Richmond, Assistant Commandant of USCG, LTC James B. Murphy, U.S. Army, CDR Joshua L. Goldberg, USN, and CAPT Paul G. Linaweaver, USN. At right is a color guard from CGC Duane.*

250 American servicemen on board. Of the 250, 193 were Coast Guardsmen (176 were Coast Guard Reservists while 17 were members of the regular Coast Guard), 56 were Army personnel while one was from the U.S. Public Health Service, Dr. Harry M. Levin.

At first report, the incident was attributed to enemy action. But according to a news release dated May 29, 1946 and published by the Navy's Office of Public Information, the court of inquiry investigating the sinking of the *Serpens* held that the cause of the explosion could not be established from present evidence. The release said that the more probable causes appeared to be accidents intrinsic to the loading process or enemy action. By June 10, 1949, it was determined not to have been the result of the enemy.

The remains of the deceased servicemen were buried at the Army, Navy and Marine Cemetery at Guadalcanal with full military honors and religious services. The remains were later repatriated under the program for the return of World War II deceased, and four and one-half years later, on June 15, 1949, an elaborate reinterment service was held to give these valiant men their final resting place in Arlington National Cemetery.

Approximately 1500 people attended this reinterment ceremony, but there were no speeches made. One attendee described it as "one of the most elaborate military services accorded our fallen heroes in appreciation of a grateful nation. Words would have been inadequate to express the deep gratitude and admiration for the men that welled up in the hearts of everyone who witnessed the service."

The extraordinary nature of the catastrophe that claimed their lives made identification of the individuals aboard the *Serpens* impossible. Therefore, their remains were placed in 52 caskets and buried in 28 gravesites.

Two other gravesites in the middle of the group were set aside for an octagon-shaped monument. This monument, constructed of Georgia granite, has inscribed upon it an alphabetical listing of the deceased servicemen's names, their rank and branch of the service. It marks the collective grave near the intersection of Jesup and Grant Drives, Section 34, in Arlington National Cemetery. The epitaph above the names reads: *Herein Rest Those Who Lost Their Lives In The Sinking of USS Serpens, World War II, Jan. 29, 1945.*

The monument was dedicated Nov. 16, 1950, with 300 people attending. VADM Merlin O'Neill, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard at that time, remarked in the dedication address that "we cannot undo the past...but we can ensure...that these men shall be respected and honored forever."

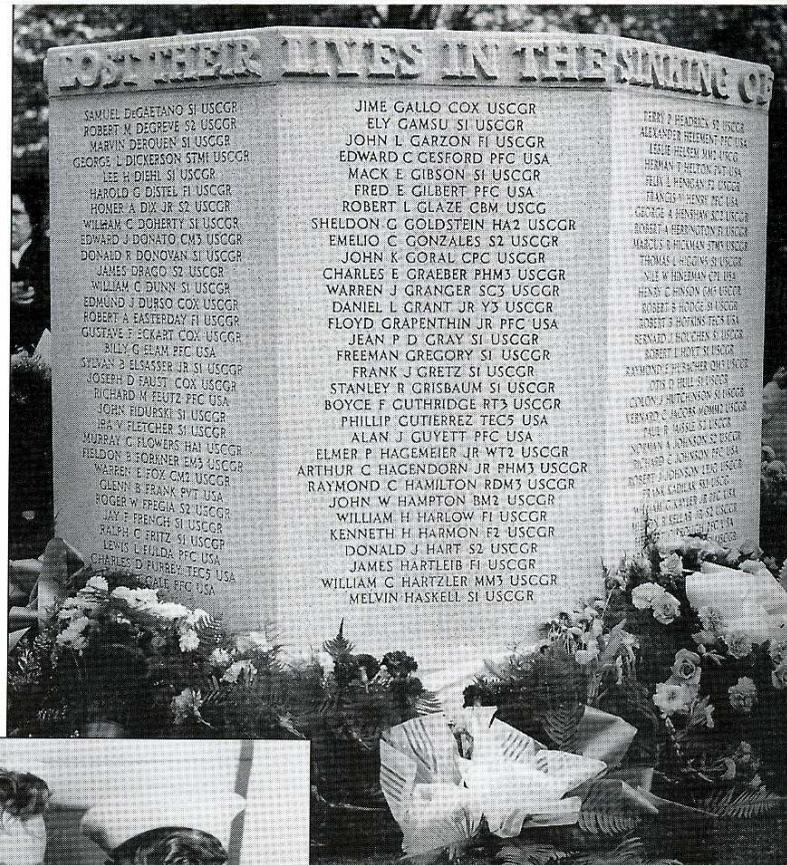


Official Coast Guard Photos



**Above: An octagon-shaped monument in Arlington National Cemetery commemorates USS *Serpens*.**

**Left: SN 1st Class Kelsie K. Kemp of Barron Springs, Va., left, and SN 1st Class George S. Kennedy of San Marcos, Texas, right, were onboard *Serpens* when it exploded. They were the only survivors and were awarded the Purple Heart.**



50th Anniversary

# USS *Serpens* (AK-97)

## Memorial & Wreathlaying Ceremony

Sunday, Jan. 29, 1995, 2 p.m.

Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

USS *Serpens* Memorial, Sec. 34, Jesup & Grant Aves.

Organized by U.S. Coast Guard Capital Chiefs of USCG Headquarters.

For more info, call MCPO Tim Lackey at (202) 267-6287

## \$\$ Pay Charts...

...for 1995 can be found on the 3x5 perforated wallet-size card found along the seam in this issue. This card contains both an IDT pay chart and, on the flip side, an ADT pay chart. Dollar amounts reflect a 2.6% pay increase over 1994. The card's handy size fits neatly into your purse or by folding it in half, into your wallet for quick reference. Rather than publish pages of pay charts, we tried this approach this year. If you like this pay card idea and/or if you have suggestions, *The Reservist's* staff is "all ears."

### Memorial Fund Created

A memorial construction fund has been established in recognition of four Coast Guardsmen killed while performing a lifesaving mission near Shelter Cove, Calif. July 12. Donations for the fund will go toward erecting a monument in the air crew's honor and should be sent to: Commander, USCG Air Station Humboldt Bay, McKinleyville, CA 95521-9309, ATTN: LT Boehm or ADCS Hancock. Checks should be made payable to 6541 Memorial Fund.

### ROA Mid-Winter Conference slated for Jan. 22-25 in D.C.

The Reserve Officers Association, Coast Guard Chapter 4 cordially invites all Reserve officers to the annual ROA Mid-Winter Congressional Reception, Sunday, Jan. 22, 1995. The reception is scheduled for ROA National Headquarters, 1 Constitution Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Uniform is Service Dress Alpha. Cost is \$28 per person for reservations received through Jan. 9; \$30 per person if received after Jan. 9; \$35 per person if purchased at the door. Submit advance reservations (include name, rank, address, home and work telephone numbers) with a check payable to "CG Chapter Four, ROA." Mail to:



LT Steve Shapiro  
5111 Westridge Road  
Bethesda, MD 20816.  
(202) 366-4866

ADM Robert E. Kramek, Commandant, U.S.C.G., is scheduled to address members of the CG Affairs Committee of ROA Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 12 noon. RADM Richard M. Larrabee, Chief, Office of Readiness & Reserve is also tentatively scheduled to address the same group Jan. 24 at a time to be announced. For further information about ROA Mid-Winter Conference activities, contact ROA at (202) 479-2200.

## USCGR Hotline, 1-800-283-USCG

### OLYMPICS '96 COUNTDOWN SCOREBOARD

# 10

Months to Go Until The Games Begin In Atlanta  
USCG will be there...will you?

### ALDISTs / ALCOASTs / COMDTINSTs

Improved Idea Express (COMDTNOTE 5305) .....ALCOAST 102/94  
Allowable Weight Standards For The Health & Well-Being  
of Military Personnel (COMDTNOTE 1020) .....ALCOAST 098/94  
Uniform Supply Shortages (COMDTNOTE 1020) .....ALCOAST 089/94  
Team Coast Guard .....ALCOAST 078/94  
Inactive Duty Reserve Lieutenant Selection Board ....ALDIST 180/94  
On Station Painting of Aids To Navigation Buoys ....ALDIST 178/94  
CPO Academy (Reserve Course), Third Convening .....ALDIST 177/94  
New Maritime Law Enforcement Manual (MLEM) .....ALDIST 175/94  
Inactive Duty Reserve Commander Selection Board ....ALDIST 171/94  
Team Coast Guard Consolidation of  
Certain ADT/IDT OERs (COMDTNOTE 1611) .....ALDIST 161/94  
Graduate-level Benefits Added to MGIB Chapter 106 ...ALDIST 091/94  
Reserve Program Administrator Designation Board ....ALL PERSRU  
(COMCOGARD MPC WASH DC/UNCLAS/N01401/17NOV94)

### Nationwide TEMAC/SADT/EAD

As of 12/14/94

Place	Duration	Rate/Rank	Quals	Point of Contact
CGHQ (G-RSM-3), Wash, D.C. National Pollution Funds Center (Arlington, Va.)	Short-term SADT 270 days	E4/E5; YN/SK 2-3 YN/SK 2-3	Reserve Records Section, PDR familiarity Word processing and office automation	CWO4 Ouellette, (202) 267-0543 John White, (703) 235-4819
RTC Yorktown, Va. CGHQ (G-REP-2), Wash., D.C.	30 days non-consec. TEMAC 90 days TEMAC	CWO(F&S) or SKG LCDR (pref.) or LT	Eligible/capable of conducting audits Good writing/organ. skills; Reserve mobilization	LT Andy Liess, (804) 898-2323 Mike Burt, (202) 267-2891
Olympic Task Force, Savannah, Ga. Thru FY95, possibly FY96		O2-O4 or proper quals	Good writing / exercise planning experience	LCDR M. Campbell, (912) 652-4596

\* For those advertising TEMAC/SADT/EAD openings, please contact LTJG Steven Prunyn of G-RSM-1 at (202) 267-0544 or 1-800-283-USCG (8724).

# Let in Board I

**WWII 50th Anniversaries  
& other important  
USCG 1995 dates**

There will be many 50th anniversaries during 1995 that led to the eventual end of WWII. Here is a listing of the major events as well as other annual USCG events / special days for planning purposes:

- Luzon Landings.....Jan. 9
- USS Serpens explodes .....Jan. 29  
(see story / ceremony announcement on Pages 14-15)
- Iwo Jima invaded .....Feb. 19
- CGR 54th Anniversary .....Feb. 19
- Okinawa invaded.....April 1
- Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day) .....May 8
- Armed Forces Day .....May 13
- Memorial Day .....May 29
- CGC Escanaba Memorial at Grand Haven .....Aug. 4
- Coast Guard Day .....Aug. 4
- Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima.....Aug. 6
- Atomic Bomb dropped on Nagasaki .....Aug. 9
- Victory in Japan Day (V-J Day).....Sept. 2
- Wreck of Edmund Fitzgerald, 20th Anniversary Nov. 10
- Veterans Day.....Nov. 11

## 1994 W-2 update

Pay and Personnel Center (PPC) is printing the 1994 W-2s on a laser printer and mailing them directly to individual's homes during January 1995. PPC is doing this because:

- A better quality product is produced via laser printer over printing them on manifold. Carbon manifold forms frequently become unreadable through handling by today's modern mail machinery.
- PPC gets them to the member quicker because they get handled fewer times.

This improved W-2 process won't work unless PPC has your current home mailing address. Last year, PPC received a lot of W-2s returned because of incorrect addresses. The result was rework at PPC and a delay in delivery of this important tax document to the member.

Please double check Block 22 of your Leave & Earnings Statement (LES). This information is used for many purposes, including mailing work/life materials and *The Reservist*. To update, CG Form 5225 is used (Tax Information Form). It should be submitted to — and transmitted by — the PERSRU as soon as possible.

— Pay and Personnel Center, Topeka, Kan.

## Shipmates Sought

Looking for all LST shipmates, World War II to the present for reunions. The next reunion will be in Cincinnati, Ohio Aug. 29-Sept. 4, 1995. Contact: USS LST Association, P.O. Box 167438, Oregon, OH 43616-7438. 1-800-228-5870.

• Earn Good Salary

• Earn Retirement Benefits

• Satisfy Your Annual Training Requirement

# Operation Summerstock 1995

Coast Guard Reservists have a golden opportunity during the Summer of 1995 to help run Great Lakes Stations in the billets listed at right. Law Enforcement, boarding officers and boarding team qualified preferred but not required. Submit a Request for Reserve Orders (CG-3453) via the chain of command to arrive at CCGD Nine (app) no later than April 1, 1995. The address is:  
Commander (app)  
Ninth Coast Guard District  
1240 E. Ninth Street  
Cleveland, OH 44199-2060  
ATTN: Summerstock Desk

## Summerstock Billet List\*

Washington Island, Wis. (11)

BM1\*  
BM2  
BM3  
SS2\*  
MK2  
MK3  
MK3  
SN  
SN  
SN  
FN

Manistee, Mich. (11)

BM1\*  
BM2  
BM3  
SS2\*  
MK1\*  
MK2  
MK3  
SN  
SN  
SN  
FN

Harbor Beach, Mich. (10)

BM1\*  
BM2  
BM3  
BM3  
SS2\*  
MK2  
MK2  
SN  
SN  
FN

Niagara, N.Y. (5)

BM2  
SS2\*  
MK3  
SN  
FN

Alexandria Bay, N.Y. (8)

BM1\*  
BM2  
BM3  
MK3  
SN  
SN  
FN  
FN

Frankfort, Mich. (3)

SN  
SN  
SN

Portage, Mich. (3)

BM2  
BM3  
MK3

Ludington, Mich. (2)

BM2  
MK2

Alpena, Mich. (1)

MK3

Marquette, Mich. (1)

SN

Early application is strongly advised.

\* Billets with a \* after them run from May 8 until Sept. 15. All other billets are from May 15 until Sept. 8. Reservists able to complete only part of the period are encouraged to apply, but preference will be given to applicants who can stay entire period.

# Retirement: Minimum Required Service and the "Last Six-Years" Rule

By **LT Wayne L. Sewell**  
RESERVE RETIREMENT SECTION, G-RSM-1

**W**ell, your 20th year of service has finally arrived. Now it's time to pass the baton to a new recruit and request retired without pay while awaiting age 60 (RET-2).

Whoa, not so fast!

Sure, you have 20 satisfactory years documented but have you satisfied the "Last Six-Years" rule? For that matter, what is the "Last Six-Years" rule? Please allow me to explain.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995 was signed effective Oct. 6, 1994. Section 636 of the Act changed retirement qualifications for reservists by substituting "the last six years" for "the last eight years" of Reserve service.

Title II of Public Law 810, 80th Congress (10 USC §1331-37) provides that a reservist who has earned at least 20 years of satisfactory federal service and has reached the age of 60 is entitled to retired pay. ***An additional qualifying factor is that the last six years of qualifying service must have been performed as a member of a Reserve component.***

Let's say that BMC Taylor has reached 20 years of satisfactory service and decides to retire. Her first 14 years of service were performed in the active duty Coast Guard and her last six years were performed as

a reservist with RU Mayberry. If all six of BMC Taylor's reserve years were satisfactory (she earned 50 or more points), then she qualifies for RET-2 status.

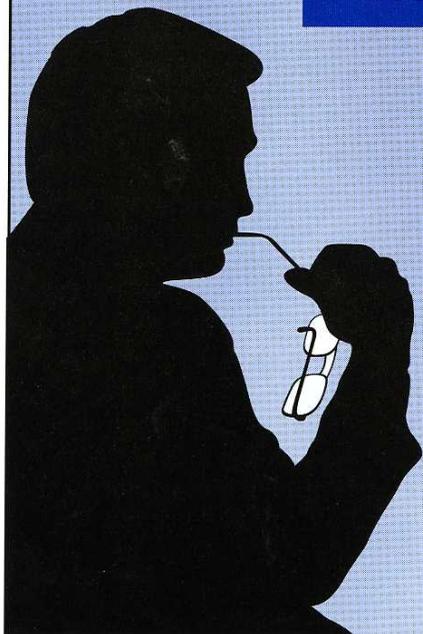
In another example, SK1 Fife had earned 20 satisfactory years of federal service and he decided to request RET-2 status. SK1 Fife spent his first eight years as a member of RU Mount Pilot. An opportunity arose and he enlisted on active duty for eight years with Station Outer Banks and MSO Raleigh. He left active duty at the end of the enlistment, returning to RU Mount Pilot where he performed satisfactory service for four more years. Unfortunately, SK1 Fife does not yet qualify for RET-2 status. When he hit the 20-year mark, he had served only four of his last six years in the Reserve. Therefore, he must remain in the Reserve for two more years in order to satisfy the six-year rule. (See SK1 Fife's retirement profile below).

Those last six years do not have to be consecutive nor in a pay status. Had SK1 Fife returned to active duty from year 20 through year 22, he would still need two more years in a Reserve component to satisfy "the last six-year" rule.

Your career is most important to the Coast Guard, but you have the greatest interest to protect. You are encouraged to maintain a personal record and include a chronological history of service performed. Keep copies of everything including your orders. Ask questions if things don't look quite right. Your retirement is a hard earned benefit, so protect it and enjoy it!



## Retirement Profile for SK1 Fife



RU Mount Pilot	8 years (reserve)
Station Outer Banks	4 years (active)
MSO Raleigh	<u>4 years (active)</u>
Subtotal	16 years

RU Mount Pilot	+ <u>4 years (reserve)</u>
Subtotal	20 years

*(Note: Last 4 years in Reserve component at this point)*

RU Mount Pilot	+ <u>2 years (reserve) *</u>
Total Service	22 years

*\*Necessary to satisfy "Last Six-Years" rule.*

# On Deck

By MCPO William C. Phillips

Command Enlisted Advisor  
Coast Guard Reserve



Questions or comments? Write or call:  
Commandant (G-R CEA), USCG HQ, 2100 2nd St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20593.  
Phone: (202) 267-6844 Fax: (202) 267-4553  
CG E-mail: W. Phillips/G-RPost Internet: W.Phillips/G-R@reserve.hq.uscgr.gov

**H**appy New Year to you and yours! The Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Academy Class Number 30 graduated Dec. 8, 1994. I was a member of that class. The Academy has an excellent curriculum and all the graduates of the two or six-week course I have spoken to have given it a five-star, thumbs-up rating. The Chief Petty Officers Academy is available to all CPOs and I encourage all E-7s and above to make application to the class. I believe that both the Coast Guard and the member are winners when a chief graduates from the academy.

Service wide exam results should be published soon. I congratulate all Coast Guard members who took the test. I know you worked hard to participate in the examination process. Remember, there are three possible promotion dates from the October SWE — Jan. 1, May 1 and Sept. 1.

On another matter, the Uniform Policy Board no longer meets annually, but on an "as required" basis instead. So, if you have a really great idea to improve our uniforms, put it in writing and mail it to me at the address above and I will see that it gets to the board. I want to hear from you, especially if you have a cost-effective, better quality idea.

Finally, I want to mention that I have always been interested in the people issues that affect Coast Guard personnel. Because of this, I am a member of several military associations in The Military Coalition. These groups act as advocates for active and Reserve military personnel. They also help reservists keep apprised of the issues that will affect their careers and retirement. In the box below is a list of the many members of The Military Coalition that you might consider for membership including several that are USCG specific.



## The Military Coalition

**The Military Coalition Coordinator**  
C/O Fleet Reserve Association  
125 N. West Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2754  
(703) 683-9528; (703) 549-6610 (FAX)

**Air Force Association**  
1501 Lee Highway  
Arlington, VA 22209-1198  
(703) 247-5800; (703) 247-5853 (FAX)

**Air Force Sergeants Association**  
P.O. Box 50  
Temple Hills, MD 20748-0050  
(301) 899-3500; (301) 899-8136

**Assoc. of Military Surgeons of the U.S.**  
9320 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814-1653  
(301) 897-8800; (301) 530-5446 (FAX)

**Association of the U.S. Army**  
2425 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22201  
(703) 641-4300; (703) 525-9039 (FAX)

**Commissioned Officers Assoc of USPHS**  
2111 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22201  
(703) 243-1301; (703) 243-0151 (FAX)

**CW & WO Assoc. US Coast Guard**  
C/O James Creek Marina  
200 V Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024-3321  
(202) 554-7753; (202) 484-0641 (FAX)

**Enlisted Assoc. of National Guard of US**  
1219 Prince Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 519-3846; (703) 519-3849 (FAX)

**Fleet Reserve Association**  
125 N. West Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2754  
(703) 683-1400; (703) 549-6610 (FAX)

**Jewish War Veterans of the USA**  
1811 R Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
(202) 265-6280; (202) 234-5662 (FAX)

**Marine Corps League**  
P.O. Box 3070  
Merrifield, VA 22116-3070  
(703) 207-9588; (703) 207-0047 (FAX)

**Marine Corps Reserve Officers Assoc.**  
201 N. Washington St., Suite 206  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2529  
(703) 548-7607; (703) 519-8779 (FAX)

**Military Chaplains Assoc. of the USA**  
P.O. Box 42660  
Washington, D.C. 20015-0660  
(202) 574-2423; (717) 642-6792

**National Assoc. for Uniformed Services**  
5535 Hempstead Way  
Springfield, VA 22151-4094  
(703) 750-1342; (703) 354-4380 (FAX)

**National Guard Assoc. of the US**  
1 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 789-0031; (202) 682-9358 (FAX)

**National Military Family Association**  
6000 Stevenson Ave., Suite 304  
Alexandria, VA 22304-3526  
(703) 823-6632; (703) 751-4857 (FAX)

**Naval Enlisted Reserve Association**  
6703 Farragut Avenue  
Falls Church, VA 22042-2189  
(703) 534-1329; (703) 534-3617 (FAX)

**Naval Reserve Association**  
1619 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2793  
(703) 548-5800; (703) 683-3647 (FAX)

**Naval League of the US**  
2300 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22201  
(703) 528-1775; (703) 528-2333 (FAX)

**Non Commissioned Officers Association**  
225 N. Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2537  
(703) 549-0311; (703) 549-0245 (FAX)

**Reserve Officers Association**  
1 Constitution Avenue, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002-5624  
(202) 646-7700; (202) 646-7751 (FAX)

**The Retired Enlisted Association**  
909 N. Washington Street, Suite 300  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 684-1981; (703) 548-4876 (FAX)

**The Retired Officers Association**  
201 N. Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2529  
(703) 549-2311; (703) 838-8173 (FAX)

**U.S. Army Warrant Officers Assoc.**  
462 Herndon Pkwy., Suite 207  
Herndon, VA 22070-5235  
(703) 742-7727; (703) 742-7728 (FAX)

**USCG Chief Petty Officers Association  
and USCG Enlisted Association**  
5520-G Hempstead Way  
Springfield, VA 22151-4009  
(703) 941-0395; (703) 941-0397 (FAX)

**United Armed Forces Association**  
15 Falcon Court  
Stafford, VA 22554-5316  
(703) 720-0314; (703) 720-0314 (FAX)

### Associate Members

**The National Order of  
Battlefield Commissions**  
9010 Avenue A  
Baltimore, MD 21219  
(410) 477-8808; (410) 477-5862 (FAX)

**Army Aviation Association of America**  
3742 Center Way  
Fairfax, VA 22033-2601  
(703) 352-0390; (703) 352-0810 (FAX)

### Non-Member Associates

**The American Legion**  
1608 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 861-2730; (202) 861-2728 (FAX)

**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.**  
200 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
(202) 543-2239; (202) 543-6719 (FAX)

# Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement

I am very pleased and proud to announce that on 3 November 1994, Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña awarded the Secretary's highest award, the Department of Transportation Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement, to the men and women of the United States Coast Guard.

The citation for the award reads: "For exemplary service to the nation from 1 October 1993 to 30 September 1994.

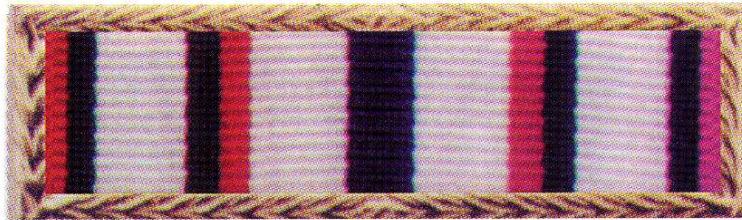
During this period, the Coast Guard truly lived up to its motto 'Semper

Paratus'...Always Ready. The Coast Guard saved the lives

of thousands of mariners in peril on the high seas including the rescue of 56,000 Haitian and Cuban Boat people during the tumultuous summer of 1994. During the simultaneous operations of Able Manner, Able Vigil, and Support Democracy, the responsiveness of the Coast Guard provided the opportunity for the administration to implement an effective national security policy. The Coast Guard took bold and effective action to cope with environmental disasters, such as the devastating floods, fires, and pollution in Houston, Texas, and the grounding of the Morris J. Berman, which threatened massive oil pollution to the beaches of Puerto Rico. During the most severe winter in decades, the Coast Guard facilitated the uninterrupted flow of commerce through unprecedented ice conditions in the Great Lakes and Northeast. The Coast Guard further distinguished itself when the

Coast Guard Cutter Polar Sea became the first U.S. Surface Vessel to reach the North Pole, while collecting invaluable scientific data. Throughout one of the most demanding years in the history of the Coast Guard, this unique and vital organization maintained an extraordinary measure of responsiveness, professionalism and service to the American public. The outstanding devotion to duty displayed by Coast Guard men and women is

heartily commended and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Transportation."



As a result of this exceptional recognition, I am authorizing Coast Guard regular, Reserve and Auxiliary personnel to wear the Ribbon Bar which accompanies the DOT Gold Medal. Civilian employees (including NAFA) will receive a comparable pin.

The ribbon bar will rank immediately ahead of the Coast Guard Unit Commendation in precedence and will be worn with a gold frame. There is no point value associated with the award for enlisted advancements.

Formal eligibility requirements as well as supply availability and ordering instructions will be provided in a subsequent message.[\*]

I extend my personal congratulations to all members of our Coast Guard family on receiving this most prestigious secretarial award.

— ADM R. E. Kramek, ALCOAST 101/94

\* Watch for future updates on the **USCGR Bulletin Board**.

---

U.S. Department of Transportation

Commandant (G-RS-1)  
United States Coast Guard  
2100 Second St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20593-0001

---