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iCommandant



Web Journal of Admiral Thad Allen

Friday, April 30, 2010

Marshall Memorial Fellowship - Guest Post from LCDR Jason Tama (CG-821)

Last month I had the tremendous opportunity to represent the Coast Guard as a Marshall Memorial Fellow in Europe. I was honored to be the fourth Coast Guard representative selected for this incredible program, and am pleased to have this opportunity to share some highlights from the experience, as well as some general information about the Fellowship.



[LCDR Tama with MMF Fellows & Danish Special Forces \(Frogmen Corps\)](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

The Marshall Memorial Fellowship <http://www.gmfus.org> was created by the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States to "expose future U. S. leaders to a changing and expanding Europe." The program provides a unique opportunity for emerging leaders from the United States to engage government officials, policy makers, and business and civic leaders in several European cities/countries. GMF also sponsors a similar program that brings European leaders to the United States.

For approximately three weeks in March I traveled to Brussels, Belgium; Copenhagen, Denmark; Rome, Italy; Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; and Bucharest, Romania, with several other American Fellows, including leaders from multiple regions and business and government sectors. Typical engagements included meetings with Parliament members, briefings on NATO security policies, civil disaster response, and international war crimes prosecution, one on one meetings with the CFO of Maersk Lines and the Romanian National Security Advisor, visits to national media outlets, and a wide array of cultural events. For a full recap of my Fellowship experience, you can visit my blog at: <http://spring2010ammf.blogspot.com/>.

Through my Coast Guard experience I know that that America's security, resilience, and economic prosperity are directly linked to the oceans, and therefore by extension, our international partners. Through the Fellowship experience I learned that neither the tough choices we face as a Nation, nor our desire for long term prosperity and security are unique to the United States. The current economic downturn is indeed global, and our international partners in Europe are struggling with similar challenges.

As the Coast Guard's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Coordinator in the Office of Budget and Programs (CG-82), the Fellowship experience broadened my perspective on a number of challenges facing our Service today including operating and recapitalizing with reduced funding levels, managing the delicate balance between effective regulation and efficient commerce, and the importance of maintaining a competent and diverse workforce. Indeed the insights I gained from interaction with both European leaders and my American colleagues were profound, and have better prepared me for the challenges I will face going forward in my career.

For more details on eligibility requirements and the application process, go to: http://www.gmfus.org/template/page.cfm?page_id=91.

Posted at 4/30/2010 03:53:00 PM 0 comments



Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Coast Guard Academy Cadet Gabe Nelson in Action

Guardians,

As many of you may know, boxing has seen a resurgence at the Coast Guard Academy over the past few years. That enthusiasm has translated into success at the highest levels of college competition. In early April, Second-Class Cadet Gabe Nelson competed at the National Collegiate Boxing Association Championships at the U.S. Military Academy.

2/C Nelson never boxed before he arrived at the Coast Guard Academy. His curiosity got the best of him and he joined the boxing team during his 4/C year. He quickly worked his way up the ranks to the point where this is his second year at the National Championships. In this year's event, 2/C Nelson won his first bout against a U.S. Naval Academy boxer, but lost the final in a close decision to a West Point Cadet.



[Coast Guard Academy Cadet Gabe Nelson in Action](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Here is a link to a story http://www.trib.com/sports/high-school/article_bcd18a9e-424d-11df-abfd-001cc4c002e0.html that appeared in 2/C Nelson's hometown newspaper, The Casper Star-Tribune, just before he went to the Nationals. Congratulations to Gabe and the entire Coast Guard Academy boxing team for building this program into a highly competitive force at the collegiate level. Go Bears!

ADM A

Posted at [4/28/2010 10:04:00 PM](#) @[comments](#)



Monday, April 26, 2010

Air Force - Coast Guard Staff Talks

Guardians,

On Friday, the Coast Guard hosted the first-ever U.S. Air Force/ Coast Guard Staff Talks at Coast Guard Headquarters. My good personal friend and fellow service chief, General Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force brought over an exceptional team of senior leaders who engaged my staff on numerous topics of mutual interest.

The Air Force and Coast Guard possess commonality in mission and capability that present cooperative opportunities in the future. Collectively, the Air Force and Coast Guard form a key Search and Rescue partnership that serves the global community. Much of our discussion today highlighted that shared role and will pave the path for more in-depth interaction to improve service to those in distress.



[General Schwartz and Admiral Allen](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Additionally, we talked about our Services' efforts regarding Remotely Piloted Aircraft. The Air Force's experience within the Department of Defense, and our relationships with DHS and Customs and Border Protection, should be leveraged to address future requirements and implement operational capability. This rapidly expanding sector of aviation is vital to the security of the Nation.

Today's successful inaugural talks reinforced the many points where Coast Guard and Air Force tactics, techniques, procedures and missions intersect, and established a solid foundation for further Service-level collaboration.

For me it has also been a pleasure to have General Norty Schwartz as a friend and colleague. We began to collaborate closely when he commanded the U.S. Transportation Command where we held the first ever three-way talks between TRANSCOM, the Coast Guard, and the Maritime Administration. I have worked with our Air Force colleagues since I was a search and rescue controller in Puerto Rico in the early 1970's. Their air deployable forces have saved countless lives offshore where there have been no vessels nearby to assist. We salute them and their leader.

ADM A

Posted at [4/26/2010 02:47:00 PM](#) @[comments](#)



Sunday, April 25, 2010

Arctic Region Engagement Research Project Takes Coast Guard Academy Cadets to Barrow

Guardians,

Last week I received an out-brief of a project conducted by First Class Cadets at the Coast Guard Academy. Their work was very thoughtful and I thought I would share it with you.

Their presentation follows.

ADM A

We are First Class Cadets from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy doing a year-long research project on Coast Guard Arctic Region Engagement in the Government Major. We briefed the Commandant on our findings and recommendations on 22 April. Admiral Allen also invited us to sit-in on his meeting with school children and teachers from Barrow, Alaska, who were visiting Washington, DC for the first time. Here's our [link](#) to the brief to the Commandant.



Field research for the project took us from New London, CT to Barrow, Alaska. While in Alaska we met with D17 command staff, and representatives from the State of Alaska, industry, the military, and Native Alaskans.

The Arctic Region Engagement Plan project focused on the unique operational environment in the Arctic Region, and developed recommendations for Coast Guard implementation of National Security Presidential Directive -66 on US Arctic Policy. The project developed a long-term Strategic Engagement Plan for the Coast Guard, but also recommended short-term actions and operational priorities.

In addition to specific recommendations, we identified four Critical Success Factors for Coast Guard engagement in the Arctic Region, now and into the future. These Factors are prerequisites for successful operational engagement: Resilience, Sustainability, Continuity, and Persistent Presence.

Specific recommendations focus on the following areas of operational importance to the Coast Guard in the Arctic Region: Capabilities and Capacities, Maritime Domain Awareness, Multilateral Partnerships, National Maritime Cooperation, and Continuity and Sustainability of Competencies.

1/c Rachel Douglas, 1/c Noah Hudson, 1/c Alex LeKander, 1/c John Sloan

Posted at [4/25/2010 04:37:00 PM](#)

Labels: [Alaska](#) [Arctic Region Engagement](#) [Barrow](#) [D17](#) [U.S. Coast Guard](#)



Friday, April 23, 2010

National Strategy Developed for Uninspected Passenger Vessel Compliance

Guardians,

The Coast Guard will team up with state boating authorities to raise awareness and educate vessel operators and consumers on uninspected passenger vessel licensing requirements. Uninspected Passenger Vessels are those vessels that carry six or fewer passengers for hire on federally navigable waters. There are over 30,000 legal UPVs in the U.S.

With the onset of boating season, the Coast Guard is working with state boating authorities to improve safety on inland waterways, ensuring that sightseeing cruises, fishing charters and party boats operate safely within the standards established in federal regulations.

Uninspected Passenger Vessel Operators are required to hold an Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels license, issued by the Coast Guard. Licensed operators have demonstrated they possess the knowledge and skills to keep passengers safe and respond to emergencies on the water that may occur.

The Coast Guard has a voluntary examination program where operators of uninspected passenger vessels can have their vessels examined, free of charge or penalty, by the Coast Guard. When these vessels and operators have demonstrated they are in full compliance with federal regulations, the Coast Guard issues a decal for the vessels to display on their boats. While this decal only demonstrates compliance on the day of the examination, it is a strong indicator that the vessel, its company and its operations meet safety requirements.

Current operators of uninspected passenger vessels who do not hold a valid operator license are encouraged to work with their local Coast Guard Sector, Officer in Charge of Marine Inspections to become licensed.

The Coast Guard is committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure a sensible and reasonable approach toward

UPV compliance. More information regarding licensing requirements can be found at [here](#) or www.uscg.mil/nmc.

For more information on the Coast Guard's passenger vessel safety programs, go [here](#).

For more information about UPV operations and the Coast Guard's efforts in outreach, education and compliance efforts, please contact the program office at CG543@uscg.mil.

Posted at [4/23/2010 04:51:00 PM](#)

Labels: [boating season](#) [Coast Guard](#) [Marine Inspections](#) [operator license](#) [Uninspected Passenger Vessel Compliance](#) [UPV](#)



Spring Meeting of the Leadership and Diversity Advisory Councils

Guardians:

Our senior leadership team relies on input from councils that are comprised of members from across the Coast Guard to address specific issues. Two such councils are the [Leadership Advisory Council \(LAC\)](#) and [Diversity Advisory Council \(DAC\)](#). In anticipation of our Diversity Summit held this week, the two Councils attended a joint meeting on Monday and Tuesday. This unique session provided an opportunity to pool resources, share ideas, and discuss issues of concern to both groups.



[Leadership and Diversity Advisory Councils](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

On Tuesday, I met with both Councils to discuss their working topics and to hear their feedback from a recent survey they conducted. The survey was sent out to the field to gauge our workforce on leadership and diversity issues. Nearly 900 responses from members of the active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary communities were received. From the field input, it was clear that command climate issues impacted every facet of mission performance and ultimately, retention. Master Chief Skip Bowen, MCPO-CG, and Master Chief Jeff Smith, MCPOCG-Reserve Forces, joined me in meeting with the Councils. Some of the topics discussed included:

Barriers to retention and promotion;
Command climate as a leadership and diversity concern;
How we communicate internally and externally; and how
Diversity includes diversity of thought and is a critical component of leadership.

We also discussed the critical concept of "guardians taking care of guardians". To successfully help others in the best way possible, we have to take care of our fellow guardians first. We discussed the need to involve and solicit input from all levels of the Coast Guard. We also need to look at predictive indicators to spot trends, if any, in order to address command climate issues before they result in a negative impact to the unit.

Many of the same issues were highlighted throughout the Diversity Summit in innovative ways that included engagement, creative thinking exercises, and exposure to new ideas. The presentations were fresh, fast-paced and forward thinking and were great opportunities for networking and sharing of ideas to move us forward as an organization.

At the end of every meeting with the LAC and DAC, they submit a summary of their discussions and specific recommendations for senior leadership consideration. Both Councils will continue their hard work over this next year and I greatly appreciate their dedication and service.

Posted at [4/23/2010 04:04:00 PM](#)



Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Explosion on Mobile Drilling Unit SE of Venice, Louisiana

Guardians,

Last evening there was an explosion onboard the Mobile Drilling Unit (MODU) DEEPWATER HORIZON, approximately 42 miles Southeast of Venice, La.. U.S. Coast Guard District Eight command center received a report at approximately 10 p.m. and we immediately responded with aircraft and cutters.

There are 4 Offshore Supply Vessels fighting the fire on the rig.

Updated reports indicate that there were 126 people on board the MODU at the time of the explosion.

One-hundred-fifteen crewmembers have been accounted for. The Coast Guard continues the search for 11 missing crewmembers



from the mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) Deepwater Horizon.

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Coast Guard is actively searching for all unaccounted for personnel and have the following units responding:

Air Station New Orleans:

* Two HH-65C Dolphin rescue helicopters and crews

Aviation Training Center, Mobile, Ala.:

* One HH-60 rescue helicopter and crew

* One HC-144 Ocean Sentry rescue plane and crew

In addition, the Coast Guard cutters Pompano, Zephyr, Razorbill and Cobia are on scene.

BP and Transocean have established a Command Post in Houston and will be working with the Coast Guard for SAR, firefighting, pollution response and salvage operations. The number for the Command Post is (281) 366-6934 or 6965.

The Coast Guard is establishing a safety zone. Mariners will not be allowed into this zone without Coast Guard approval, as the zone will be in place to minimize the risk to other mariners and protect the safety of first responders. Additionally, airspace restrictions include a 5 nautical mile radius around the Deepwater Horizon MODU and 4,000 feet elevation.

Video can be found at the following link: <http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php>

The oil fire is still burning and the cause of the explosion is under investigation. Initial indications show that this was not a terrorist incident. The investigation is a cooperative effort between Mineral Management Service and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Posted at [4/21/2010 06:32:00 PM](#)



HH-65C Accident on Lake Huron

Guardians,

During the evening of 20 Apr, one of our HH-65C helicopters from Air Station Detroit crashed during a night-time training evolution in the southern portion of Lake Huron.

There were three Guardians on the aircraft and thankfully all them survived the incident. The helicopter was training with a small boat from Station Port Huron when the accident occurred.

Here is more [information](#) on the incident. As we continue to protect, defend, and save the maritime public, ensure safety is paramount and keep a weather eye on your shipmates.

Posted at [4/21/2010 05:54:00 PM](#)



40th Anniversary of Earth Day

On the eve of Earth Day, I'd like to recognize April 22nd as a time to reflect on and renew commitment to environmental stewardship. Our missions encompass both ends of the Earth and involve some of the most pristine and cherished environments like the Arctic and inland waterways. We also help protect and preserve marine life and habitats.

I compliment your efforts and recognize the many efficiency achievements submitted by [nominees](#) this year for an environmental award (click on this link and the left side menu option for nominees). You have demonstrated commitment to protect the environment and uphold these values in our Service. We are America's Maritime Guardian. We are raising our own awareness and are actively undertaking additional initiatives to recycle, adopt further green practices and seek alternative and renewable energy applications at sea and ashore.

We save lives and we can also help save the Earth.

There are many success stories in this regard. Some of the stand out units I'd like to recognize from the nominees listed above are Air Station San Francisco's commuter van pool which saved over 9,000 gallons of gas last year. BSU Kodiak installed energy saving heating, lighting and refrigeration as well as water conservation systems with an



annual savings of \$1.8 M and 49 million gallons of water. Together, we've achieved many of the goals and best practices outlined in My Environmental Stewardship Commitment which said, "Do your part, wherever you are within the organization, to make environmental stewardship a Coast Guard core competency."

Send in your examples of accomplishments this year both at your unit and within your communities for recognition in our iCommandant blog to Chief, Office of Environmental Management, CG-47, Ed Wandelt, Edward.F.Wandelt@uscg.mil. As you look for new ways to personally honor our Earth on this 40th anniversary of Earth Day, here are a couple of ways to support your communities: electronics reuse and recycling, energy efficient lighting, hold a cleanup drive, leave the car at home and carpool or bike. More ideas are available at the [White House's website](#) as well as: <http://earthday.net/> www.energystar.gov/homeimprovement <http://epa.gov/watersense/> www.epa.gov/earthday/

Posted at [4/21/2010 10:26:00 AM](#) 



Tuesday, April 20, 2010

North Carolina's Camden County/Cam Tech High School and US Coast Guard Create Junior Leaders Program

The Coast Guard 5th District commander and the Camden County, NC Superintendent signed a memorandum of agreement Monday, which launched North Carolina's first Coast Guard Junior Leadership Program. Any student in attendance at either Camden County High School or CamTech High School may participate in this program, which encourages students to learn about the Coast Guard's missions, maritime history, and pays special attention to leadership development.



[Camden County High School and USCG Create Junior Leaders Program](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

With unwavering support from U.S. Representative Walter B. Jones (NC-3), the inauguration of this program marks a great success after years of development and planning. As the nation's second Coast Guard Junior Leadership Program, local units have pledged their support in strengthening community bonds through education and hands-on experiences.

"The program will help provide the students with real life skills in the maritime industry," said Lt. j.g. Anne Mulhern, program manager for the Camden County program. "They have an opportunity to learn leadership skills that they can use to help their community and themselves in the future."

The only other Coast Guard Junior Leadership Program in the country, at the Maritime and Science Technology Academy in Key Biscayne, Fla., served as the basis for the development of the program here.

"It's a major thing to prepare them to be leaders," said Melvin L. Hawkins, Camden County High School principal. "For their families, their workplace, here at the schoolyard and outside the school, this is an avenue to prepare these young people to become leaders down the road, beyond just being a leader on the athletic field or a club. This gives everyone a little more to reach out for."

Many Coast Guard commands will be involved with the program including Sector Hampton Roads, Sector North Carolina, Airsta Elizabeth City, BSU Elizabeth City, and eventually the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

For more information on the Coast Guard Junior Leadership Program, contact Lt. j.g. Anne Mulhern at (703) 235-1872 or anne.e.mulhern@uscg.mil.

Posted at [4/20/2010 12:27:00 PM](#) 



Monday, April 19, 2010

Fulbright Scholar First Class Cadet Joseph Drenzo, USCG Academy will Study Renewable Energy Science in Iceland

Guardians,
It am pleased to announce that First-Class Cadet Joe DiRenzo IV, of Suffolk, Virginia, has been granted a Fulbright Scholarship.

Cadet DiRenzo's scholarship comes from the Icelandic Fulbright Commission which offered him a Fulbright Fellowship. He has accepted it to pursue a Master's degree in Renewable Energy Science with a concentration on fuel cell systems and hydrogen technology at the School for Renewable Energy Science (RES) in Iceland. After being commissioned as Ensign in May, he will briefly serve aboard USCGC VIGILANT homeported in Cape Canaveral

Florida before going to Iceland the end of this year.

The RES school offers a research-oriented, thirteen month program on renewable energy in cooperation with the University of Iceland and University of Akureyni, and in partnership with other leading universities around the world. These research opportunities are especially relevant for the U.S. Coast Guard, because of the specialization in infrastructure for the transportation sector, marine transportation, and hybrid propulsion systems. During his graduate program at RES, DiRenzo will research for a project on the feasibility of introducing hydrogen fuel cells to generate electricity to power certain electrical systems onboard Coast Guard vessels.



DiRenzo wanted to study in Iceland as 73% of Iceland's primary energy comes from indigenous renewable energy sources, which is the highest of any country in the world. Iceland has integrated all the modern forms of renewable energy into daily living. It is the forerunner in modernizing the use of energy through programs like electric cars, buses, and ships powered by hydrogen. In addition, Iceland, like the United States, has a strong tradition of research on developed renewable energy science for application in the maritime environment. Without the risk-free search on integrating hydrogen fuel cells into U.S. Coast Guard vessels, DiRenzo wants to observe projects where hydrogen fuel cells are being integrated into the Icelandic fishing fleet.

At the Academy, DiRenzo majored in mechanical engineering because of its potential to transform people's lives through the creative application of science and technology. During his junior year at the Academy, he used his mechanical engineering skills to undertake a project with the Maison Fortune Orphanage, located in Hinche Haiti, designing a renewable energy system to reduce their dependence on a struggling generator. DiRenzo researched several low technology energy alternatives, and designed a solar panel based solution to the Haitian orphanage's energy needs.

Posted at 4/19/2010 01:16:00 PM @comments



LCDR Yardley Bailey

Guest blog by RDML D. R. May, Director of Reserve and Leadership (CG-13):

Achieving a diverse workforce is an "all hands" evolution. One officer truly living out those words is LCDR Yardley Bailey, a reservist from Alabama who has come on active duty to specifically assist the Coast Guard Academy with minority recruiting.

Since early January, LCDR Bailey has been traveling across the southeastern part of the country, visiting high schools, hosting college fairs, and meeting with young men and women to talk about the opportunities to attend the Coast Guard Academy. He has also spent a great deal of his time visiting the homes of potential candidates, talking with them and their parents about the Coast Guard and the Academy, assisting with application preparation, and answering the many questions that come up when choosing a college and a career in the military. Most importantly, he is providing that "personal touch" that can really make the difference when one must make a decision such as this as an early age in life. As a minority officer, LCDR Bailey can provide that personal knowledge, experience, and face-to-face contact that is needed in our recruiting efforts.



[LCDR Yardley Bailey](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

I first met LCDR Bailey several years ago during a Reserve Officer gathering in Atlanta. In his full time capacity, he works on the Institutional Research staff at the University of Alabama. Holding a PhD and working in the higher education field, he knows firsthand the challenges that face all of our colleges and universities in attracting the best young men and women, especially minority students. When I approached him this past fall about a pilot program we were creating using reserve officers to help in minority recruiting for the Academy, he immediately volunteered. He has been non-stop ever since and is helping CGA make some significant strides in improving diversity in our Academy candidate pool.

During this academic recruiting year, the Academy has made tremendous improvements in increased minority inquiries and applications, with minority inquiries up 45 percent, started minority applications up 52 percent and African American applications started up over 82 percent with a completion rate increase of nearly 400percent. LCDR Bailey has been a significant part of that effort.

Improving our Diversity is both an organizational and an individual commitment; LCDR Bailey is one individual making a difference for our service by his efforts. As we kick off our [Diversity Summit](#) this week, let's all take a page from LCDR Bailey's example and see what we can do as an individual to contribute to our diverse workforce.

Semper Paratus!

RDML D.R. May
Director of Reserve and Leadership

Posted at [4/19/2010 10:57:00 AM @comments](#) 



Saturday, April 17, 2010

RSS Subscribers: New iCommandant Address

This is a message for all RSS subscribers to iCommandant:

Starting on Monday, 19 April, the iCommandant blog will be moved to <http://blog.uscg.dhs.gov/>.

If you are an RSS subscriber, please update your feed subscriptions by visiting the new site on 19 April.

Thank you.

Posted at [4/17/2010 06:59:00 PM @comments](#) 



Friday, April 16, 2010

Modernization Series: Acquisition Human Capital Strategic Plan

Guest Post by Mr. Michael Tangora, Deputy Assistant Commandant for Acquisition (CG-9):

One of the goals of the Coast Guard's modernized mission support organization is to foster a professional workforce capable of delivering best in class capabilities that maximize Coast Guard readiness. The Coast Guard's [Acquisition Human Capital Strategic Plan](#) (HCSP) is the Service's roadmap for addressing the most critical acquisition workforce management challenges.

The HCSP directly supports the current Coast Guard-wide modernization initiative through which the Service is fundamentally reinventing itself in order to meet 21st century mission challenges. Please visit the DCMS Log for Ms. Gloria Potocek's, Chief, Office of Acquisition Workforce Management, [blog entry](#) that provides further details.

Posted at [4/16/2010 05:55:00 PM @comments](#) 



CGA Associate Dean Selected for ACE Fellows Program

Guardians,

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Evelyn Ellis, the associate dean for Academic Support Services at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, was selected for this year's [American Council on Education](#) (ACE) Fellows Program.

Established in 1965, the ACE Fellows Program is one of the longest running leadership development programs in the nation, preparing senior leaders to address critical issues at institutions of higher learning. The program condenses years of on-the-job experience and skills development into a single semester or year.

Dr. Ellis was one of only 46 college and university senior faculty and administrators, and the only one from Connecticut, selected for the program nationwide. She has previously earned a Bachelor of Science in secondary education, a Master's degree in education at the University of Texas at El Paso, a Doctorate of Education at the University of Southern California, and holds a second Master's degree from Drury University in Springfield, MO. At the Academy she is responsible for administrative oversight of the institution's Honors Program, Hewitt Writing and Reading Center, Academic Advising Services and a host of other faculty and student development initiatives.



[Dr. Evelyn Ellis](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

During this program, fellows observe and work with a college or university president and other senior officers at a host institution, attend decision-making meetings and focus on issues affecting higher education. Projects have included implementing a post-tenure review process, developing a teaching-learning center and recruitment and retention of diverse faculty members. Dr. Ellis is currently reviewing a number of possible host institutions in the Northeast.

To date, more than 300 program graduates have gone on to serve as chief executive officers of various colleges and universities across the country. "I am most appreciative that the Academy is investing in its future by choosing to invest in me," Ellis said. "I look forward to delivering a great return on their investment."

Congratulations to Dr. Ellis and the Coast Guard Academy!

Posted at 4/16/2010 07:22:00 AM 0 comments



Thursday, April 15, 2010

Jeremy Renner (The Hurt Locker) and Brian Geraghty (The Hurt Locker and The Guardian) at the TAPS Gala

Guardians,

On Tuesday night Pam and I had the honor of representing the Coast Guard at the Annual TAPS Gala in Washington.



Jeremy Renner (The Hurt Locker) and Brian Geraghty (The Hurt Locker and The Guardian) at the TAPS Gala Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

TAPS is the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. Their mission statement from their web site (<http://www.taps.org/>) is:

"Caring for the families of the fallen... TAPS is the 24/7 tragedy assistance resource for ANYONE who has suffered the loss of a military loved one, regardless of the relationship to the deceased or the circumstance of the death. Founded out of tragedy in 1994, TAPS has established itself as the front line resource to the families and loved ones of our military men and women. TAPS provides comfort and care through comprehensive services and programs including peer based emotional support, case work assistance, crisis intervention, and grief and trauma resources."

Bonnie Carroll is the Chairman and Founder of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), the national Veterans Service Organization providing peer based emotional support, grief and trauma resources and information, casualty casework assistance and crisis intervention for all those affected by the death of a loved one serving in, or in support of, the armed forces. Bonnie founded TAPS after the loss of her husband in 1992.

The senior military officer was ADM Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and his wife Deborah. Kyra Phillips the mid morning CNN Anchor was the Mistress of Ceremonies and we were also honored to have Academy Award nominee Jeremy Renner and Brian Geraghty who starred in the movie The Hurt Locker join us. If Brian looks familiar to our Coast Guard family you may remember him as one of the rescue swimmers in training from the movie The Guardian.

We salute the leadership, staff, and many volunteers who have made TAPS such a valuable resource to our military families.

Please visit their web site.

ADM A

Posted at 4/15/2010 12:20:00 PM 0 comments



First ME "A" School Class Graduates

Guardians,

Yesterday, VADM Pekoske presided over the graduation of the first Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME) "A" school class from the [Maritime Law Enforcement Academy](#) in Charleston, SC. Ms. Connie Patrick, the Director of the [Federal Law Enforcement Training Center](#) (FLETC) which is co-located with the MLEA in Charleston, also participated in the ceremony. Here is the ALCOAST ([MEAlcoast.pdf](#)) we released to highlight this event.



First ME "A" School Class

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Twenty four Coast Guard members, 15 Reservists and 9 active duty, completed the nine and a half week course that focused on law enforcement, security, physical fitness, firearms, Tactical Casualty Combat Care (TCCC), and Apprentice Leadership Fundamentals. The "A" school course is groundbreaking through its partnership with FLETC and their expertise in firearms training.

Although the ME rate was officially established on January 01, 2010 when 1,053 active duty and 988 reserve members lateraled over to become MEs, this graduation represented the first formal training opportunity for the future

leaders of this rate. Two subsequent classes will be convened in fiscal year 2010 and will produce an additional 24 active duty and 48 reserve MEs for the Service.

The ME rating will help us build a more responsive workforce and fulfill our obligations as America's Maritime Guardian.

Posted at [4/15/2010 08:14:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Wednesday, April 14, 2010

"When Families Grieve"

Guardians,

Yesterday I had the opportunity to meet some remarkable people from Sesame Workshop (a nonprofit educational organization of Sesame Street) and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). Deputy Secretary of Defense Bill Lynn and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, ADM Mike Mullen, hosted a screening of a Public Broadcasting System (PBS) special that will air tonight entitled "Talk, Listen, Connect: When Families Grieve." This special follows earlier Sesame Workshop efforts that deal with the impact of military deployments on families and coping with changes that are part of deployments and homecomings.

"When Families Grieve" is a thoughtful, sensitive treatment of the impact of the loss parents in families. The special will be hosted by Katie Couric and will feature stories from families who have experienced a loss. Sesame Workshop states, "Starring the Sesame Street Muppets, the powerful and heartwarming show will share strategies that have helped families cope with grief."

I had the chance to have lunch and speak with the families who participated in this project, the TAPS staff, and the wonderful artists who bring the Muppets to life. You can find out more at www.sesameworkshop.org/initiatives/emotion/tlc.

(Sesame Workshop, Sesame Street, and associated characters, trademarks, and design elements are owned and licensed by Sesame Workshop. All rights reserved)

ADM A

Posted at [4/14/2010 06:20:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Tuesday, April 13, 2010

FY11 Budget Hearing

Guardians,

Earlier today, I testified before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security regarding our Fiscal Year 2011 budget request.

Here are my written ([WrittenStatement.pdf](#)) and oral ([OralStatement.pdf](#)) statements.

Posted at [4/13/2010 06:24:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Sunday, April 11, 2010

Modernization Series: PSC Surge Staffing Branch

Guest Post by RDML Daniel Neptun, Commander, CG Personnel Service Center:

The Coast Guard's response to the Haiti earthquake on 12 January 2010 has been larger and more resource intensive than any contingency operation since Hurricane KATRINA in the summer and fall of 2005. Coming so soon after our transition to the modernized Mission Support Organization, the significant requirements of this event tested our newly implemented mission support structure.

Following this first major test, I am pleased to report that all accounts and measures indicate the [Personnel Service Center \(PSC\) Surge Staffing Branch \(SSB\)](#) plays an effective, critical role in the operational readiness of deployed assets. Coast Guard [senior leaders](#) within LANTAREA, PACAREA, FORCECOM, and the [Mission Support Organization](#) have even remarked that the surge staffing function was enhanced through Modernization by uniting the capability and expertise from the legacy Maintenance and Logistics Commands (MLCs) and Integrated Support Commands (ISCs).

PSC's surge staffing function was prominently on display in the Haiti operations as, in partnership with LANTAREA, PACAREA, FORCECOM, the Districts, and the Mission Support Organization's Logistics and Service Centers, the SSB met an unprecedented level of Requests for Forces (RFFs) and tracked forward personnel deployments. SSB filled more than 300 individual position requirements, each in less than one day on average, using the [Mobilization Readiness Tracking Tool \(MRTT\) Volunteer Bulletin Board](#).

I extend sincere appreciation to all involved commands for the support, and operational and personal sacrifices, of their officers, crews, and staffs in making the mission in Haiti a success that continues beyond the initial response surge.

To learn more about the uncovered gem in our modernized Service that is the Surge Staffing Branch, please read [CAPT David Kranking's post](#) on the DCMS Log blog.

Bravo Zulu,
RDML Neptun

Posted at [4/11/2010 09:37:00 PM @comments](#) 



Saluting our Guardians: National IMAGE Conference and Coast Guard Foundation's New Orleans Dinner

Guardians,

Last week we participated in two events that recognized the performance of our people. The first was the the National IMAGE Conference and Banquet held in San Diego and the second was the Coast Guard Foundation's Salute to the Guardians of the Heartland in New Orleans.

The theme of the National Image Conference this year was "Reaching New Heights Through Leadership Development, Partnering, and Outreach." National IMAGE, Inc. is a national, non-profit association established in 1972 by concerned Mexican Americans in the federal government. Their mission is to develop and increase employment and educational opportunities and to further the advancement of Hispanics. At this year's banquet 15 individuals from all five services and the Department of Defense were recognized for their achievements. It was my honor to deliver the keynote address on Thursday evening.



[Coast Guard Foundation New Orleans Dinner Awardees](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Coast Guard personnel who were recognized included:

LT David Fernandez, President of the San Francisco Chapter of the Association of Naval Sea Officers (ANSO).

HS1 Elias Gomez, USCGC MOHWAK, who distinguished himself caring for those wounded in Haiti following the devastating earthquake in January.

Auxiliarist, Dr. Mary Gibbons, Fifth District, who supports units in the Hampton Roads area and has been instrumental in the 200-mile Tom's Run and fund raising for Leukemia research.

Coast Guard personnel also participated in booths in the exhibit hall, workshops, and panels. Our thanks to CAPT Charlie Diaz who served as the banquet MC, Chaplain Leroy Young, Reserve Petty Officer Mike Dalager who sang the National Anthem, the Coast Guard Brass Ensemble who provided musical support, and the Coast Guard Honor Guard. Local Coast Guard units also conducted a very popular SAR demonstration for the attendees.

Thanks also to Mr. Manuel Oliverez, Chairman and CEO on National IMAGE for his leadership and collaboration.

Following the keel laying ceremony for the USCGC BERNARD C. WEBBER in Lockport, LA on Friday morning, we traveled to New Orleans for the Coast Guard Foundation Guardian of the Heartland Award Dinner.

Honored this year was the crew of CG 6540 from Air Station New Orleans for the rescue of 4 persons from a capsized 17 foot boat in Lake Pontchartrain on 17 October 2009. Together with the Saint Tammany Parish Sheriffs Office the crew saved all 4 persons. Notable in this rescue was the work of AST1 Brian Lauberstein who located a small child in the water who was severely hypothermic. The child had a core body temperature of 82 degrees intermittent vital signs. AST1 Lauberstein initiated CPR and continued until the child was delivered to a hospital where he miraculously recovered. Later his grandfather was rescued after 24 hours in the water. We salute the other members of the flight crew as well: CDR Bill Irwin, LTJG Daniel Miller, and AET2 Kevin Garcia.

As we have noted many times on this blog and elsewhere, the Coast Guard Foundation provides incredible support to our personnel and families. This was the best event in the history of the New Orleans dinner and we congratulate all of those who devoted so much time to insure its success.

ADM A

Posted at [4/11/2010 10:08:00 AM @comments](#) 



Friday, April 9, 2010

FRC Keel Laying - CGC Bernard C. Webber

Guardians,

First let me thank those of you who sent "get well" wishes for my father, DCC Clyde W. Allen (USCG retired) , after he broke his hip. He is recovering and we hope to see him complete his rehabilitation and return home. After a week of emergency leave I wanted to update you on several keys events that have taken place recently.

Today was a perfect Coast Guard day at Bollinger Shipyard in Lockport, LA where we conducted the official keel laying ceremony for our first Fast Response Cutter of the Sentinel Class. As we announced earlier all Sentinel Class cutters will be named after enlisted heroes of our Service.



FRC Keel Laying - CGC Bernard C. Webber
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Today the keel was laid for the USCGC BERNARD C. WEBBER. Much has been said and written about BM1 Bernie Webber's implausible rescue of 32 survivors of the Tanker PENDLETON which had broken in half off Chatham, MA in February of 1952. On this day we recognized that performance in formally naming the cutter. We were thrilled to have Bernie's daughter Mrs. Pattie Hamilton sponsor the cutter. Her heart felt words for her father inspired us all. In keeping with her sponsor role she imprinted her initials on to the keel. She was joined by her husband, Air National Guard LTCOL Bruce Hamilton, and their two daughters (Leah and Hilary) who served as maids of honor.

Additionally, we were joined by Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, Senator Mary Landrieu, Senator David Vitter, and New Orleans Mayor-elect Mitch Landrieu. VADM Bob Papp our Ancient Mariner and my nominated successor attended with his wife Linda along with Master Chief Skip Bowen and numerous senior Coast Guard leaders.

The WEBBER is the first of 58 planned cutters in the Sentinel Class. We anticipate choosing the names of cutters 2 through 12 in the near future and will pass those names when that process is completed.

I am extremely proud of our acquisition team led by RADM Ron Rabago who have moved quickly but with proper adherence to our new acquisition guidelines to start this production line.

Our thanks for the courtesies extended by the Bollinger team and the terrific support of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

ADM A

Posted at [4/09/2010 05:30:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)



TRACEN Petaluma Solar Array Goes Live

Guest Post from Mr. Daniel Gore, Energy Program Manager (CG-4):

On April 1st, 2010, the 875 kW solar photovoltaic (PV) array at TRACEN Petaluma cleared its final milestone and officially went live. This project is the largest solar PV project in the Coast Guard. It is the first time the Coast Guard has implemented a Power Purchase Agreement; a process that may prove increasingly effective in meeting statutorily mandated renewable energy goals.



Petaluma Solar Array
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Over two years in the making, the project was led by Petaluma senior engineer Tony vanWinden in partnership with the Coast Guard Energy Program, attorneys, contracting officers, financial analysts, technical staff, and numerous other critical personnel nationwide.

The project consists of 5,232 panels with a peak output of 875 kW and an expected annual generation of 1.5 million kWh. The project is expected to save the Coast Guard 1.5 million dollars in energy costs over the life of the project, while preventing over 2 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

As previously stated, the project was executed as part of an alternatively financed 25 year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), the first of its kind for both the Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security. The contractor will own and operate the array, selling electricity to Petaluma at a known rate through the contract period. The contractor will claim tax benefits associated with renewable generation while the Coast Guard earns the renewable energy credits, which count towards statutory requirements. Coast Guard cost savings are realized through reduced cost of electricity and reduced peak demand charges.

The project had to overcome many hurdles, the last of which revolved around the negotiation of an electricity

interconnect agreement with the local utility. That hurdle was cleared on April 1st, allowing the project to go live. The lessons learned during this project will serve to facilitate future Coast Guard energy projects.

Congratulations to the entire project acquisition team!

Posted at [4/09/2010 09:46:00 AM](#) [2@comments](#) 



Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Coast Guard Outreach at Lincoln University

Guest Post by RADM Cynthia Coogan,
Assistant Commandant for Intelligence and Criminal Investigations
(CG-2):

Last week, I posted a [guest blog](#) about a combined CG-2 and CG-12 recruiting visit to New Jersey City University. To continue the momentum from that successful visit, CG-2 staff and the CG Recruiting Office in St. Louis visited [Lincoln University](#) for a [Job Fair on March 24, 2010](#).

CG-2 partnered with Lincoln University in August 2009. Lincoln University, a [Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#) (HBCU), remains committed to serving a diverse student body by providing an array of undergraduate and graduate academic programs. Lincoln University was selected for its criminal justice program and rich military tradition. U.S. News and World Report ranked Lincoln University third for economic diversity, fifth for campus ethnic diversity, and ninth for most international students among master's level universities in the Midwest.



[CGIS Staff Member Jennifer Duey at Lincoln University](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Offering a wide variety of academic programs and degrees, we additionally targeted Lincoln University's Department of Military Sciences and Criminal Justice programs to integrate internships with [Coast Guard Investigative Services](#) (CGIS) opportunities in St. Louis and nationwide.

While recruiting for our military officer programs and enlisted opportunities, we are also actively recruiting for the next generation of civilian Guardians using the authorities provided under the [Federal Career Intern Program](#) (FCIP). FCIP is designed to recruit and attract exceptional individuals into a variety of occupations and is intended for positions at grade levels GS-5, 7, and 9.

In addition to the Intern Program, we are recruiting for entry level CGIS agent positions. By the end of the job fair, the Coast Guard recruiting team met and spoke with approximately 75 students, including undergraduate, graduate, and Lincoln University Alumni. The team collected several resumes from students interested in the CGIS opportunities as well as newly designated CG-2 FCIP positions.

I am extremely proud with the continued outreach of our recruitment teams and I look forward to continued successes.

Posted at [4/06/2010 10:43:00 AM](#) [0@comments](#) 



Monday, April 5, 2010

Modernization Series: Change Management

Guest post from RADM Ronald Hewitt, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources (CG-1):

Guardians,
In a [recent post](#) I talked about good communication as one of the critical success factors to implement change. As announced in [ALCOAST 066/10](#), the Coast Guard has adopted a Change Management methodology. The first tenet of this methodology is Awareness. While communication, in and of itself, does not always produce awareness, it is the first step to enable change. Like any communication effort, to build awareness for change, there are questions that need to be answered:

- Why are we changing?
- What happens if we don't change?
- How does the change impact our organization?
- What is the nature of the change?
- How does the change align with the vision for the organization?
- Whom will the change affect?
- What's in it for me (WIIFM)?
- Where and when will these changes occur?

By adopting a Change Management methodology, interlaced with a solid project management plan, awareness will be a key aspect to consider in measuring project success.

For more information about Change Management, I invite you to read [Ms. Claudia Isaacoff's post](#) on the DCMS log and take advantage of the [Change Management \(CM\) tools](#) available to you on CG Portal.

Thank you for your receptiveness to change. Together we will make a better Coast Guard.

Semper Paratus!

RADM Ron Hewitt
Assistant Commandant for Human Resources

Posted at [4/05/2010 05:12:00 PM](#) [2 comments](#)



Friday, April 2, 2010

Efficiencies in Vessel Response Plan Program

Guest Post by CDR Lee Boone and Mr. Timothy Brown, Office of Vessel Activities (CG-543):

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 required certain ships to have Vessel Response Plans (VRPs). Over the years, the financial and logistical burden of maintaining so many VRPs became overwhelming. To remedy that problem, the Office of Vessel Activities (CG-543) made major changes to the VRP program to reduce costs, improve efficiency and customer service. The initiatives will save millions of dollars during the next five years.

Before we took action, the annual cost of the contract to support VRP review ballooned and 24 off-site contracted personnel were needed to manage a VRP inventory of over 3,000 paper plans covering more than 22,000 vessels. These were stored in a 2,000 square foot library which is roughly equivalent to a 4 bedroom home full of VRPs.

In September 2009, we moved forward with a new strategic action plan and rebid the existing contract to reflect these new processing needs. We were able to cut staffing levels in half and co-located the contract staff within Coast Guard Headquarters alongside the CG-543 VRP management team. This side by side collaborative environment provided an opportunity to reduce review times and improve quality assurance.

As part of the move to Headquarters, the staff purged outdated and obsolete VRPs, reducing the library by 22 percent or the equivalent of a master bedroom and bath. The total cost savings from these changes add up to approximately \$7 million for the total VRP program over the next 5 years.

The change that most industry customers will notice is that we are using email to send approval letters and to fix errors in plans. Vessel operators now save time and money as their vessels receive approval to operate within days, instead of weeks. To support this initiative, we developed a database to automate plan tracking. The reports are published daily on our website, homeport.uscg.mil/vrp. The next phase of improvements is the summer 2010 launch of a web based portal to allow for complete electronic submission and review of VRPs. This eVRP system will allow customers to upload their plans and revisions directly to the Coast Guard for review.

Since VRPs will be maintained electronically this will give Coast Guard field responders instant access in the event of a spill or other casualty and will allow the VRP staff to phase-out our paper based library; our old 4 bedroom house! The gains in efficiency to both the Coast Guard and vessel owners and operators are expected to dramatically improve.

Posted at [4/02/2010 03:40:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#)



Thursday, April 1, 2010

DHS Efficiency Review Program

Guardians,

On Monday, Secretary Napolitano kicked off a week-long series of events to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the DHS Efficiency Review program. The Coast Guard was featured several times during the event reflecting the great work that Captain Jerry Doherty, Chief of the Coast Guard's Efficiency Review Office, and his team are doing to meet the Secretary's goals.

Through the Efficiency Review program, the Secretary challenges all agencies, components, offices, and employees of the Department to coordinate efforts in finding ways to save money and avoid unnecessary costs. The overarching goal is to make



lasting and meaningful improvements that will promote greater transparency and customer satisfaction in government, while bringing the different parts of the Department together.

[Secretary Napolitano and CG Efficiency Team](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Over the past year, Coast Guard units and members have responded to the Secretary's challenge by suggesting and implementing hundreds of initiatives, from simple common-sense reforms to longer-lasting systematic changes. We highlighted two of these initiatives at the ceremony:

- 1) The Small Boat Product Line, and LCDR Matt Lake and MKC Seth Eury (pictured with Secretary Napolitano, RDML Ostebo (CG-4) and Mr. Jeff Orner (CG-4d)), were honored for a series of initiatives that have increased the affordable readiness of the Coast Guard boat fleet.
- 2) The CG Yard and Mr. Rick Eschenbach (who was unable to attend the ceremony) were recognized during the broadcast for establishing the Renewable Energy Center, making use of methane gas waste generated from a nearby landfill to offset 50 percent of the total energy demand for the Yard.

As Guardians, it is part of our mission to be good stewards of the environment and the resources we have been entrusted with. Towards that end, the Efficiency Review is a valuable effort and I am proud of all the Coast Guard men and women who have contributed to its success.

Posted at [4/01/2010 11:21:00 AM](#) [1 comments](#) 



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