



DIRAUX NOTES FOR MARCH 2014

FROM THE DESK of CDR Chappelka, DISTRICT 13 DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY

It was in March of 2011 that the Japanese earthquake and tsunami caused devastation in Japan and significant damage in parts of District 13 especially southern Oregon. The Oso mudslide and recent earthquakes in Yellowstone are stark reminders that we live in a geologically active area.

At home I find myself in a constant contest in removing heavy objects from the top of book shelves and away from where people may be sleeping or sitting when an earthquake strikes. My daughters challenge me back with earthquake tips they have gotten at school. The recent tragedy at Oso has prompted all of us to review how we would notify our workplaces, local authorities and out of area family members in the event of a disaster. It is heartbreaking to hear how much effort is going into just confirming if someone is truly missing or just out of contact or out of the area. Recent tests with D13's AIMS system have shown that with increasing familiarity we are getting better with our accountability systems. I encourage you though at your next Flotilla or Division meeting to stress the importance of letting your shipmates know of your status after disaster strikes where you live, whether or not you happen to be there at the time. I also highly recommend that you review the following two websites and take action to see how the tips provided could improve the safety of your home and workplace.

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/nca/prepare/index.php>

<http://www.police.uci.edu/em/EarthquakeSafetyTop10.pdf>

FROM THE DESK of CWO Chris Brown, OTO/ASSISTANT DIRAUX

Greetings D13 Auxiliary!

I would like to provide a few talking points this month, one business-related and a short family 'sea' story that I told a few members' who attended the Southern Area Training Conference (SATC).

First of all, isn't the spring the best time of the year? Last weekend I fired up my pressure washer and knocked off a full winter season of mildew/moss from my personal boat. I can honestly say I didn't actually enjoy this chore; however, the results were marvelous! Now, the only thing lacking is a fresh coat of marine grade wax! Kind of reminds me of all the hours I have waking up at the break of dawn and completing a fresh water wash-down prior to pulling into port! One of my favorite recycled quotes that date back to the day I entered the CG was when my salty *CHIEF* would exclaim "A clean ship is a HAPPY ship, let's make her SMILE!" Oh how I miss those days, my ships, and more importantly the men and women I served with at the time!

Okay, now down to business. I have received a couple PPE orders over the last few months and unfortunately, I am unable to fill. Surprisingly, my storage facility DOES NOT have any XL dry suits and we are down to our

last XXL dry suit. I have a few in a pile that will be sent out for repair but I wanted to include in this month's communication article.

If Flotillas have any excess PPE (regardless of the kind) then they are requested to let DIRAUX know for further direction. Maintaining a large stockpile of unissued PPE is neither desired nor is authorized. I request you contact me and I will make arrangements to send you a shipping label or re-direct the gear to another Flotilla for re-issue.

DIRAUX does receive annual PPE funds however I generally use those funds to switch out worn gear and items that require service replacements. Needing to restock a large amount of required PPE will have a dramatic effect on our annual budget. My wish is to engage all of our leadership and make one last effort to reclaim gear that is not being used. Thank you.

My final talking point centers around a discussion I had with my daughter and amazingly relates to my thoughts of this year's OTO theme. The scenario was CDR Chappelka and I were prepping for a meeting a few weeks ago and as a result, I was assigned a task. My job was to initially start the briefing sheet. That sheet is generally provided by the presenter as a read ahead to the senior officer and is meant to guide our talking points and the discussion. In this particular task, I started and then delivered to CDR Chappelka for the final edit to ensure our message was aligned. As I was fully engaged in a creative writing mode, which if you know me doesn't come often, my daughter happened to call both my cell and office telephone lines. Obviously, she wanted to speak to me (or as I thought). As it turned out, she was out of school for early dismissal two of those days and because of her boredom, she proceeded to annoy me by interrupting me.

On her second half day, and during my final preparations for the meeting, she called again and in a long drawn-out voice (to annoy me) she asked if 'CDR Chappelka and I were ready for the meeting.' I replied 'yes.' She then asked in her familiar long drawn-out voice 'if I was delivering a presentation' and a few other questions. Hastily, I replied to her 'I need to go, thank you for showing concern but I think we have covered our bases.'

Her reply to me was 'Okay, okay; don't forget all of your supplies and lastly Daddy, DON'T FORGET TO SMILE.' Well needless to say her last comment stopped me dead in my tracks.

So ladies and gentlemen, as we begin this year's boating season...

Do what you do but please DON'T FORGET TO ... SMILE.

Thanks in advance; let's continue to keep a sharp eye on each other.

FOREVER AND ALWAYS -- NEXT WATCH!!!

FROM THE DESK of YN1 Jennifer L. Gonzales

Now that we are back to traveling more I wanted to send you what the pay center sent out as the biggest reason travel vouchers get returned.

Top10 most common reasons why a travel claim is returned to the traveler:

- 1.) Block 15 of the claim does not accurately reflect the actual travel dates and/or travel modes.
- 2.) The traveler has already received full reimbursement of all entitlements.
- 3.) The travel order/amendment is missing an original AO handwritten blue ink signature.
- 4.) The travel claim is missing an original handwritten blue ink signature by either the traveler or the AO.
- 5.) Block 13 of the claim is missing the dependents address upon receipt of orders; blocks 13 and 6 cannot list the same address.
- 6.) Block 6 of the claim must list the current residential address.
- 7.) Block 16 of the claim must be checked to receive reimbursement for use of POV MALT.
- 8.) Block 5 of the claim must be checked accordingly for reimbursement. (DLA/DEPN/MBR).
- 9.) The SSN is doesn't match the SSN on file for member.
- 10.) Block 17 of the claim for duration of travel is blank.

FROM THE DESK of Charles K. Claytor, Auxiliary Affairs Specialist

Already at the end of the second quarter and it seems like we are just getting started. So let's begin by discussing the procedure for requesting a C-School. First, determine what you are interested in and start by going to the C-School schedule at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=aux00>. Find the course that you're interested in and determine whether or not the dates fit your schedule. Choose a primary and an alternate just in case. Then, talk with your Flotilla Commander to see how they can best use your skills once you have completed the C-School. Next, complete the Short Term Training Request (STTR). Have your Flotilla Commander sign the STTR and then forward the document to the appropriate DSO for his/her approval. The DSO will forward to DIRAUX via email for submission into Direct Access. Notification of C-School approval will be by a method yet to be determined but at the minimum when you receive instructions on how to request travel. You will also receive your travel orders at the same time. This process is somewhat different that in the past and the reason has to do with the limited numbers of available slots or seats in the schools. If a C-School has several times and locations, you must choose a location that is closest to the Pacific Northwest. Attending a C-School in Florida when one is available in California will only be granted when it benefits the needs of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Please don't ask for Florida because you want to visit Disney World on vacation while you are there. This won't be allowed. You will also be asked to fulfill a FSO/SO/DSO position once you have completed the appropriate C-School.

There has been a major addition to the New Member Application. All new applicants must submit and sign the new "Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc., Consent to Membership" form. That form can be found at <HTTP://WWW.USCG.MIL/AUXILIARY/CGAUXA-INC-CONSENT-FORM-MAR14.PDF>. No new member applications will be entered in AUXDATA without the new consent form. Current members are exempt from completing the form. CURRENT MEMBERS DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE THE FORM! If you have any additional questions concerning this new requirement, please channel those questions up through your chain of leadership. Eventually, this new form will be made a permanent part of the new member application and when you download the new member application from the National FORMS website, it will be a part of the application. Don't forget to review your new member application before submitting to DIRAUX. I return almost 50% of all applications submitted for some type of error that could have easily been avoided had someone taken just a few minutes to review.

FROM THE DESK of Shirley A. Blanchett, Auxiliary Affairs Assistant

Auxiliarist of the Week



KENNETH G. FOX

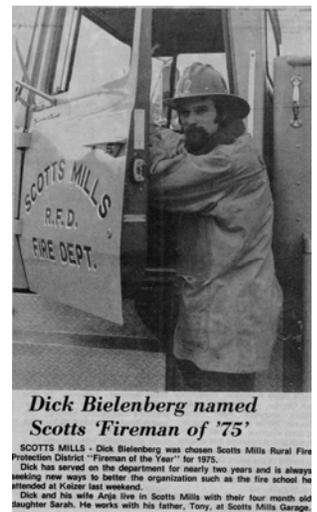
Congratulations to Kenneth G. Fox, FI 10-07, for receiving Auxiliarist of the Week award for the week of 24 February 2014.

PICTURES OF YOURSELF DURING MILITARY DUTY, PEACE CORPS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, OR OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE:

Do you have pictures of yourself from your time served in uniform or other public service? The DIRAUX is requesting pictures of our Auxiliary membership who have served through many different avenues. We are collecting items for the history of the Auxiliary in the Thirteenth District and the uniformed public service of many of our members. Please submit pictures that you would like to share, along with year and type of service, to the DIRAUX office. Point of contact: Shirley Blanchett, email: shirley.a.blanchett@uscg.mil



Bob Kesson, and Bonnie Kesson, on HOODOO Mountain at 6,000 feet
Kootenai County Sheriff Volunteer Search and Rescue
Bob is the Communication Manager for Law Enforcement, fire and EMS
Bonnie works in the Office of Emergency Management



Dick Bielenberg, FI 68
Volunteer Fire Fighter
Scotts Mills, Oregon 1975

COAST GUARD PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS: We have coloring books, stickers, color-ons, and activity books available for interested flotillas. Please send an email to shirley.a.blanchett@uscg.mil to make a request.

