

RESERVIST

Official Publication of the United States Coast Guard Reserve

reserve.uscg.mil/magazine

A soldier in full camouflage gear, including a helmet and tactical vest, is kneeling in a field of tall grass and brush. The soldier is holding an M4-style rifle and aiming it towards the right. The background shows a line of trees and a clear blue sky.

THE DESIRED EFFECT:

TAKING THE PSU BACK TO ITS ROOTS

Volume LXIX ≈ Issue 4 • 2022



EARN \$1,000 and an LOC when you SCOUT TALENT AND REFER.

This incentive is available for a limited time to any **Active Duty, Reserve, Civilian, Retired, or Auxiliary** member of the Coast Guard whose referral successfully enlists in the Coast Guard or Coast Guard Reserve.



HERE'S HOW:

1. **ENGAGE.** Find and interest people ages 17-41.
2. **REQUEST.** Get their contact info to connect a recruiter.
3. **ASK.** Have them refer another person to you.



ENGAGEMENT TIPS:

- Use the candidate's name. Learn about their goals and show how joining can help.
- Speak plainly. Avoid acronyms or jargon.
- Share your stories! Why did you join? What's your most interesting Coast Guard experience?
- Refer specific enlistment questions to a recruiter.

Some limitations apply.



SCAN TO
EMAIL YOUR
REFERRAL

GoCoastGuard.com 





8



14



22



30

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Editor's Note | 2 |
| Letters | 3 |
| Up Front | 4 |
| The View from the Bridge | 6 |
| Deckplate Soundings | 7 |
| Around the Reserve | 8 |
| The Desired Effect | 14 |
| Shipmates in Focus | 22 |
| The More You Know | 26 |
| Retiree SITREP | 29 |
| A Light on Yesteryear | 30 |
| Bulletin Board | 34 |
| Awards | 37 |
| Taps | 39 |
| Parting Shots | 40 |

On the covers:

FRONT: A member of PSU 309 takes an active response position during the tactical exercises of Exercise Desired Effect.

Photo by Anastasia Devlin

BACK: Members of PSU 311 conduct combat security and medevacs during joint Department of Defense Exercise Resolute Hunter.

Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Logan Kellogg



RESERVIST

Celebrating Our 69th Year!

Volume LXIX ≈ Issue 4 • 2022
reserve.uscg.mil/magazine
thereservist@uscg.mil

MAGAZINE

Anastasia M. Devlin
Editor

Chris S. Rose
Creative Director

COMMAND

Adm. Linda L. Fagan
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

Rear Adm. Miriam Lafferty
Assistant Commandant
for Reserve

Capt. Susana Lee
Chief, Office of Reserve Policy and
Requirements Integration

Cmdr. Katy Coombs
Chief, Reserve Policy and Strategic
Communications Division

Lt. Cmdr. Samantha M. Block
Chief, Reserve Strategic
Communications

CONTACT INFORMATION

thereservist@uscg.mil

Commandant (CG-R55)
Attn: Editor, Reservist
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.,
SE (Stop-7721)
Washington, DC 20593-7721

http://reserve.uscg.mil
FB: @uscoastguardreserve
Twitter: @uscgrreserve
#uscgr

RESERVIST (COMDTPUB 1001.29) is published by the Assistant Commandant for Reserve, U.S. Coast Guard. It is intended for information only and is not authority for official action. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Homeland Security or Coast Guard. The editor reserves the right to select and edit all materials for publication. We continue to strive for perfection, yet unattained.

RESERVIST MAGAZINE

FROM THE EDITOR

As we near the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War this spring, two quotes stand out to me. The first is, “The time is always right to do what is right,” by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the second is “It’s never too late to do the right thing,” by Nelson Mandela.

It’s hard to believe that it wasn’t always seen as a great and honorable thing to be part of the military.

Reeeeeeeally hard to believe.

When I was a kid, we tied yellow ribbons on trees and made cards at school to support the troops in the Gulf War. For as long as I’ve been in the military, I’ve been thanked by strangers for my service, some just because they saw a sticker on my car—that’s all it took. My sons are fiercely proud of their father’s service.

I’ve never known a version of America that didn’t love, honor and support its veterans.

My own mentor, Master Chief Petty Officer Roger “Buck” Ward, is a Vietnam War veteran. A chief’s chief, he became near and dear to me when we were stationed together in Miami, and he even walked me down the aisle at my wedding.

We’d have long talks on leadership, and he was full of random stories about what it was like when he first joined the Coast Guard in 1967. For as many hilarious tales he’d tell me about ship life and the gruff chiefs he was raised by, he also recounted stories about how he was treated when he returned from the Vietnam War. How wearing the uniform would attract jeers and comments. How some of his fellow citizens—people he’d gone to Vietnam to protect—would post signs in their windows that they didn’t want sailors visiting their establishments.

There were no welcome home parades for these vets, and I can only imagine their confusion.

But our Vietnam veterans are the ones who fought for the honor we as service members have today. They withstood the harsh, misdirected treatment from some of their fellow Americans, and some, like Master Chief Ward, even continued to serve. (Knowing the salty, feisty guy that he is, the adversity likely made him double down!)

He never stopped taking pride in his uniform—in fact, he loves talking about the money he’d spent on tailoring and embroidery; he always noted how he’d iron his bell bottom uniform pants inside out so when they were worn, the curve would be juuuuuust right.

I know he never forgot that treatment after the war, but it also didn’t harden his heart to the service America deserved. That kind of resilience... you just can’t put a price on.

We’re approaching the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, and I’m glad to see that the Vietnam War Commemoration continues to make things right with our Services’ forefathers. You can read about the Coast Guard’s participation in the war on page 30, and for more information on the VWC, visit www.vietnamwar50th.com/.

To our veterans, and especially those who served in Vietnam, thank you for your resilience, and thank you for your service.



Anastasia Devlin
Editor-in-Chief

FROM OUR READERS

Remembering Douglas Munro

I enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1971. During Boot Camp some guy named Douglas Munro and Medal of Honor were mentioned in about five minutes or less, and through my active duty that was everything I knew about Petty Officer 1st Class Douglas Munro. Things had changed by the time I joined the Reserve.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Vince Patton went on a “Get to know SM1 Douglas Munro” crusade. After 10 years in Kennewick and one at LORSTA George, I was sent to Pier 36 in Seattle. I kept hearing more about Douglas. One day I noticed a highway sign had been put up along I-90 with Douglas’s name on it, showing directions to the Laurel Hills cemetery. I went to visit it one day. I was impressed to say the least. That year, his ceremony was on a Saturday. I asked and got permission to use a drill to attend. (I live about 30 miles from where Munro is buried.)

I started going to as many ceremonies as I could. Rain or shine. I always wore my bravos. (One time the D13 admiral walked up to me to shake my hand. He had pilot’s wings, and I had aircrew wings. We chatted about air stations and aircraft. We became good friends even after he retired.)

Last year had an almost normal turnout. I asked the emcee if I could take up five minutes of the precious time. He let me talk before the official program began. I told the crowd every time I’m able to talk to a U.S. Marine, I ask them if they know who Douglas Munro was. Mostly they didn’t know, but a year or so ago, I was at an event where the colors were posted by some young Marines. I asked them the same question. One stepped forward and said, “Yes, I do. He saved my grandfather’s life.”

September 27, 2022 was the 70th anniversary of our hero’s actions.

Petty Officer David Heath, USCG (ret.)

I had set aside your letter to read “when I got time,” and as you know, that can be a dangerous thing. Time has gotten away from me this summer! I did come across it again this morning, and finally got to read it fully. It was great to read about you honoring Petty Officer Munro’s service with your presence at ceremonies.

Thank you for calling attention to the anniversary of his death at Guadalcanal.

Munro’s Medal of Honor citation read, “He gallantly gave up his life in defense of his country.”

Simple words for such a great service. Thank you for keeping us honest, ET1!

Remembering Walter Handy

In February 1953, our senior class at a local high school in Washington, D.C., was visited by a Coast Guard Reserve officer on a recruitment mission. His pitch was persuasive enough to prompt me, along with several of my classmates, to enlist. That recruiter’s name was Lt. Cmdr. Walter K Handy, executive officer of ORTUPS 05-148 [organized training unit port security].



Little did I know then of his instrumentality in fostering the Coast Guard Reserve’s existence as a vital component of the nation’s uniformed services. All I knew then was that, as the unit’s executive officer, he instilled in me and all my shipmates a love for the service that, for me, still exists today, decades after my retirement as a chief warrant officer. To you, sir, fair winds and following seas. It was a privilege to know and serve under you.

**Chief Warrant Officer
Leonard J. Knott, USCGR (ret.)**

Thank you, sir. I appreciate you writing—Captain Handy was a dear friend of mine too, and it feels good to continue to remember him. I shared your kind words with his wife and daughters, who were appreciative.

He was a force, and the impact of his efforts to further the Reserve, both locally and nationally, will be felt for years to come.

Old idea finally comes to fruition

Every time I see pictures of Coast Guardsmen wearing their weapons in a tactical leg style holster, it makes me smile. Back in 1986, I was employed as a Deputy U. S. Marshal in Detroit, and augmenting Station Belle Isle. I received permission to use my tactical leg holster in lieu of the standard belt holster so I could submit this concept for possible use by boat crews. I also let others use it to see how they liked it and asked for feedback.

With one snap for the belt and two for the leg, it was easily removed when needed, such as an engineer going into the engine compartment of the 41-foot utility boat. It allowed for safe storage without having to remove the handgun from the holster. And if you knew how problematic sitting in the coxswain seat was with that belt holster, or even worse, the strings on the Sterns vests we wore back then, you would understand how moving the handgun to the upper thigh was highly desirable.

Well, in a nutshell, the trial period came and went; it was highly favored over the belt holster, and there was hope that it would be implemented. My suggestion was submitted, and I received the “thank you gift” of a small flashlight.

Unfortunately, the Coast Guard said that it was not practical, and the likelihood that it would be used now or in the foreseeable future was not going to happen. I don’t know what or how or when the change was made, and I don’t desire to get the credit, but I’m glad to see that the change was made. It was the intent all along to enhance officer safety back then. It just makes me chuckle a bit when I remember trying to suggest the change, and to see that it finally happened.

Petty Officer Steven Kurkowski, USCGR (ret.)

Change in the Coast Guard is sometimes like turning a cruise ship, so it’s good to hear that your idea bubbled up to the top finally. Love hearing that you shared knowledge gleaned from your civilian background to enhance Coast Guard ops!

UP FRONT



The aftermath

The view of the devastation along the coast of western Florida following Hurricane Ian, taken from a U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater MH-60 Jayhawk during overflights Oct. 1. Coast Guard assets were conducting search and rescue operations in response to the damages caused by Hurricane Ian.

Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Riley Perkowski





Captain
Matthew Michaelis

Deputy Chief of Operations,
Pacific Area

"Working closely with DoD, we are identifying and aligning mission requirements that leverage the unique PSU capabilities and sharpen our competitive edge."

My first encounter with a port security unit came from the bridge of Coast Guard Cutter Aquidneck, one of the original four 110-foot patrol boats deployed to the Northern Arabian Gulf for Operation Iraqi Freedom. We were met by two armed PSU boats early one morning in the spring of 2003 for an inbound escort into Kuwait Naval Base. As the executive officer at the time, it was reassuring to see fellow Coastguardsmen in this far-flung place and know that the Department of Defense leveraged Coast Guard expertise to safeguard us and other coalition forces during our brief replenishment stops. Just a few weeks later, I encountered PSU 313 after embarking Mina al-Bakr, one of two oil platforms just off southern Iraq, to review and coordinate our layered security posture with the PSU security forces there. Unbeknownst to me, PSU 311 and 313 deployed for follow-on support immediately after a successful U.S. Navy Special Warfare assault to capture the oil platforms. They were protecting these oil platforms against terrorist sabotage to safeguard shipping and restore a critical source of revenue for a new Iraqi government, all while demonstrating the versatility and adaptability that defines our PSUs.

Today, our PSUs remain an agile force provider. They play a critical role in protecting strategic maritime operations in an environment of increasing global competition, and they are unique in the Coast Guard in that they deploy as a self-sufficient, expeditionary unit. In addition to supporting combat operations in the Gulf War and Iraqi Freedom, PSUs have admirably served Joint Task Force Guantanamo (JTF-GTMO) as the Maritime Security Detachment (MARSECDET) since early 2002. In this role, PSUs provide a persistent maritime capability to support the safe and humane care and custody of armed conflict detainees. However, due to changing operational requirements, PSU 305 will be the final MARSECDET and, at the end of their current deployment, will transfer the authority for this mission to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. As the mission winds down, PSUs will readjust course as the nimble force that they are.

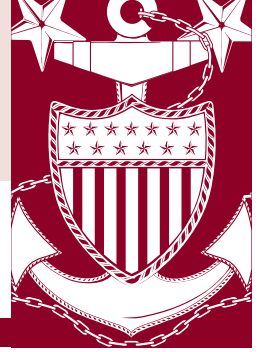
This is an exciting time for the PSU community as the focus shifts from a long-standing enduring mission to new opportunities that highlight the communities' joint capabilities. Working closely with DoD, we are identifying and aligning mission requirements that leverage the unique PSU capabilities and sharpen our competitive edge. For future PSU employment, we aim to:

- ***Seek opportunities for shorter, focused deployments;***
- ***Build rotations with pre-deployment training that seamlessly support combatant commanders;***
- ***Facilitate robust joint C2 relationships with Navy Maritime Enforcement Security Squadrons;***
- ***Leverage "adaptive force packages" tailored to actual requirements to maximize effectiveness.***

Recognizing the shift in operational requirements from JTF-GTMO and striving to ensure a sustained and agile expeditionary capability, the PSU community recently undertook numerous unit-developed exercises or participated in national level joint exercises, as described in this issue. These exercises are just one part of a larger long-term effort to bolster readiness. Additionally, Pacific Area is working closely with stakeholders across the enterprise to ensure the PSU community innovates to meet emerging threats through upgraded equipment and facilities, pursuit of new technologies, and an improved standard training regime to strengthen the capabilities that are the cornerstones to the PSU missions. These initiatives across the whole of the PSU community are necessary to ensure the units are ready to answer the call and mobilize for an assigned mission anywhere in the world, just as they have done in the past.

For reservists on the fence about PSUs, or departing members of our active duty work force looking to continue to serve, I encourage you to learn more about this small, close-knit community known for providing career-enhancing opportunities while exercising unique Coast Guard capabilities.

Semper Paratus.



For the past few months, I have had the honor of serving the various units at Districts 11, 13, 14, and 17, as well as our eight port security units, strategically located throughout the country. It has been great visiting the different units, meeting the fantastic members serving the Pacific Area, and really hearing from our workforce to understand concerns and ways we can make our service better for all our members. My goal is to ensure all our members find value in serving and feel valued by the service. The proficiency and teamwork displayed by our reservists bolsters our service's reputation as the professional and trusted organization we are.

I have served the Coast Guard for over 22 years, in both the Active and Reserve Components. Prior to this assignment, my knowledge of the PSU mission and capabilities was limited. In order to better understand what exactly PSUs train and mobilize for, I began visiting the units and engaging with leaders who serve or have served at these units. In September, I joined PSU 309 from Port Clinton, Ohio, as they conducted a full unit mobilization and training evolution called Exercise Desired Effect. The entire unit, along with members from three other PSUs, mobilized to a remote location in Missouri to complete weapons qualifications, train in tactical boat operations, and test entry control point security. Members were given various security scenarios, both on the water and ashore, and trained in how to respond and react to the scenarios, as well as work with a tactical operations center setup using unit owned equipment.

What I witnessed was shipmates partnering to build strong unit cohesion and master skills needed for a successful mission. The command leveraged contractors and subject matter experts to build scenarios and provide classroom and hands-on training. Leaders at all levels and from various units worked together, taking the time to teach skills and allow each other to build towards mastery, explaining new procedures and ensuring that every member was ready for the possible scenarios they could be facing. The training involved long days, long nights, and many lessons learned, but it fostered unit camaraderie that will be necessary to ensure success of their future mission. The exercise allowed all members to use strategic leadership to grow in proficiency and teamwork.

As the Reserve, the readiness of our people is paramount; the work done by the PSU of getting back to its expeditionary roots and testing that readiness, can be a game changer. Future PSU deployments will require all members to be masters at the basic expeditionary skills and adaptable to real-world security situations. The training foundations learned during Exercise Desired Effect will foster the future readiness needs. As the PSU employment evolves, our members serving at the units will have the demand to be experts at providing both shore side and waterside security to critical infrastructure and high value assets.

Seeing our units at work reminds me that it is our people who make this the world's greatest Coast Guard. The Coast Guard Reserve is a component of the total workforce dedicated to training, readiness, and mission success. No matter if it's a planned exercise or a contingency response, the men and women who serve in the Coast Guard Reserve naturally come together to not only accomplish our mission, but to ensure all our members are well trained and are vital to the operation. This is what we do best! The devotion to training and readiness displayed at our PSUs is an example of the hard work and dedication displayed by all members of the Coast Guard, whether serving in the Active or Reserve components, as one of our civilian employees, and our Auxiliary.

Semper Paratus.



**Master Chief Petty Officer
Shannan Garretson**

**Reserve Command Master Chief
Pacific Area**

***"As the Reserve,
the readiness of our
people is paramount;
the work done by the
PSU of getting back
to its expeditionary
roots and testing that
readiness, can be a
game changer. "***



Members of PSU 311 conduct combat medical evacuation training during Exercise Resolute Hunter on St. Clemente Island, California, in June.

PSU 311 participates in DoD's Exercise Resolute Hunter

Story by Cmdr. Jeffrey S. Thomason, Port Security Unit 311

In June, Port Security Unit 311 participated in joint Department of Defense Exercise Resolute Hunter led by the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center based at Fallon Naval Air Station in Fallon, Nevada. The joint and coalition exercise tested the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities of multiple air assets, culminating in several days of over water flight exercises. During the exercise, PSU 311 was deployed to San Clemente Island where they partnered with a U.S. Navy Helicopter Combat Squadron, HSC-23. San Clemente Island is a rugged landscape with base camp sited over 900 feet above sea level and operating areas and facilities in different parts of the island.

PSU 311 created a base camp for 90 members aboard the decommissioned airfield at Naval Air Landing Field San Clemente Island and conducted several days of waterside, shoreside, and communications training at several locations on the island.

Members of PSU 301, sailors from Maritime Expeditionary Squadron 11 and Maritime Expeditionary Group 1, and nine members from Coast Guard Communications Command joined PSU 311 as augments. The ComComm team brought a 27-foot mobile communications van, which allowed the unit to set up a satellite and wireless network and allowed for the use of secure internet video conferencing with the operational commander at Pacific Area. This also allowed for secure internet connections back to the exercise leads at Fallon NAS and assisted HSC-23 in meeting their exercise objectives.

While aboard the island, PSU 311 took advantage of their partnerships with HSC-23 by utilizing SH-60S aircraft for conducting medevac training for all divisions, and incorporating the MQ-8 Fire Scout ISR drone into their waterside exercises, giving the unit a clear operational maritime tactical picture out to over 20 miles from the security zone enforced by PSU 311

transportable port security boats. The PSU's medical division staff worked long hours to tend to the mix of daily sick call patients and even provided aid to a contractor on the island who had injured themselves in a nearby work area.

The exercise tested several new potential capabilities for a PSU including field portable tactical use of a PRC-117G battery pack and charger, linked satellite communications to other PSU's within the United States and cutters. It also integrated the data links from the MQ-8 directly into the tactical operations center for use by operations staff in directing water security operations.

The engineering division laid out a 14-tent, two-generator base camp, adapting and improvising with conditions throughout the exercise. The camp was ably administrated by a rotating chief of the watch who ensured health and welfare of all throughout the exercise. Exercise support was provided by Coast Guard C5I, California National Guard, contractors from Harris Corporation, and the base at NALF SCI. Their support was critical in ensuring that the exercise was a success. PSU 311 tested and validated over 30 required operational capabilities throughout the exercise and again demonstrated the Coast Guard's value as a joint service partner. ≈

***Editor's note:** Cmdr. Thomason was the commanding officer of PSU 311 during the exercise. He retired in August after 30 years of service.*



PSU 311 took advantage of their partnerships with U.S. Navy Helicopter Combat Squadron, HSC-23, by utilizing SH-60S aircraft. PSU 311 tested and validated over 30 required operational capabilities throughout the exercise.

PSU 307 returns home following 9-month deployment

Story by Seventh Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office

Members from Coast Guard Port Security Unit 307 returned home to Clearwater Oct. 3 following a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During the deployment, unit operations focused on seaward security, providing more than 30,000 hours of around-the-clock waterside and shoreside anti-terrorism and force protection defense security to Department of Defense assets and personnel at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

"I could not be more proud of the crew of Port Security Unit 307 for their highly successful deployment, where they flawlessly executed their mission with skill and precision," said Cmdr. Gregory S. Rogers, PSU 307's commanding officer. "Our members excelled in every task that was assigned and proved their ability to execute complex operations and training in a joint operating environment."

PSU 307 also escorted marine traffic in and out of port and enforced the naval defense sea area security zone around the base. Unit personnel worked closely with service members from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Security Forces, Marine Corps Security Forces Company, and Air Force and Army personnel conducting interagency operations and training at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

"I want to thank our families, because without their support this deployment have been impossible," said Rogers. "We have completed our mission, and it is now time to spend valuable time with our families."



Support equipment is required to mobilize and demobilize deployable specialized forces worldwide. A PSU 307 transportable port security boat is carefully unloaded from a C-17 Sept. 19 via forklift following a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Photo by Chief Petty Officer Judy Silverstein, USCGR, Ret.

Commissioned in 1999, PSU 307 is one of eight U.S. Coast Guard port security units located across the United States. PSUs are Coast Guard Reserve-staffed units and deployable specialized forces assigned to the commander of Coast Guard Pacific Area in Alameda, California. In 2017, PSU 307 deployed to Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria, and in 2021, they deployed to New Orleans following Hurricane Ida. ≈

After 40 days underwater, the *Aleutian Isle* is lifted out of the water.
Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Sullenberger.



Sector Puget Sound responds to the *Aleutian Isle* sinking

By Lt. Cmdrs. Ana Fuschetto, Julie Duncan, and Jennifer Wong-Reiss

On a Saturday afternoon in mid-August, the Sector Puget Sound Joint Harbor Operations Center received a report that the 58-foot fishing vessel *Aleutian Isle* was sinking off of the west side of San Juan Island, near the Canadian border, with five people on board.

A nearby commercial fishing vessel was able to rescue everyone safely, but the *Aleutian Isle* sank into 140 feet of water near Sunset Point. With an estimated 2,500 gallons of diesel onboard the vessel, concerns quickly shifted to the protection of the nearby ecological sensitive areas and the endangered southern resident killer whale species in the area.

The following day, a three-mile sheen was reported near the site where the *Aleutian Isle* sank. As pollution response efforts intensified and more governmental agencies became involved in the response, a modified incident management team was stood up, which comprised both active duty and reservists performing drills that day. During the first few days of the incident, the IMT was largely supported by other reservists from across the Sector.

The vessel eventually shifted and sunk to a depth of around 250 feet, creating significant logistical challenges, and a full unified command was stood up at the Sector, including members of the Coast Guard, Washington Department of Ecology, San Juan County Office of Emergency Management,

and the Swinomish Tribe. The UC also had support from NOAA, the National Weather Service, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Islands' Oil Spill Association, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The location, sea depth, tides and currents, and pollution potential commanded shoreline cleanup and assessment technique teams via drone and on foot, whale monitoring, air monitoring, safety zone enforcement, deployment of thousands of feet of precautionary boom, unmanned aircraft systems and helicopter overflights, and dive operations. Mobilized reservists quickly and seamlessly integrated into the interagency operations and overcame challenges in communicating with responders in remote areas; they also developed creative technological solutions for sharing information with partner agencies.

A remote operated vehicle detected no major fractures to the hull or the fuel tanks, and a crane barge, special equipment, and divers began to arrive on scene.

After countless hours of planning, rigging, and waiting, sea conditions were finally ideal for the *Aleutian Isle* to be raised to the surface; crews began dewatering and defueling the vessel, eventually moving it to shallower water for safer operations.

After 40 days underwater, the *Aleutian Isle* was lifted onto a barge, and crews continued to remove fuel and hazardous material, securing the vessel for transit to a shipyard for survey.

On Sept. 22, the UC declared that the vessel no longer posed a significant threat to the environment. What started as a straightforward rescue operation turned into a 50-day, multiagency, Type 2 incident.

Reservists filled a variety of roles on scene and within the IMT that are typically filled by active duty members. As their active duty counterparts balanced day-to-day missions with the incident response demands, the reservists continued to step up to support the IMT.

The majority of the reservists filled roles within the planning section, some for the very first time. They worked to refine schedules,



Petty Officers 3rd Class Shanell and Kiana Sullenberger are yeomen, reservists and identical twin sisters. Both served on short-term active duty orders to fill roles as unit leaders within the planning section of the *Aleutian Isle* response.

Photo by Lt. Cmdr Ana Fuschetto.



Active duty members, reservists and civilians staffed the incident management team as part of the 50-day response. From left: Rob Nakama, Lt. Cmdr Julie Duncan, Lt. Chris Gray, Petty Officer 3rd Class Shanell Sullenberger and Lt. Tyler Hames.

resources, and balance workloads with leaders across the Sector to help fill staffing gaps.

Our reservists have consistently valued readiness and ICS qualifications with active participation in industry-led exercises and an annual reserve mobilization exercise. With this real event, reservists made significant strides in ICS qualification progression and unit readiness posture.

These members also facilitated ICS training of active duty personnel, using downtime to provide opportunities for almost 100 sign-offs within just a few days. The ability of our Sector's reservists to seamlessly integrate with the active duty with enthusiasm serves as a testament to their dedication and commitment. ≈

Coast Guard Cutter *Wahoo* remains on scene where the *Aleutian Isle* sank in 250 feet of water.





Members of Port Security Unit 312 explain the missions and responsibilities of PSUs to employers.

PACAREA/D11 host Boss Lift with ESGR

Story by Cmdr. Steve Donley, Pacific Area

Photos by Petty Officer 3rd Class Hunter Schnabel, 11th District Public Affairs Office

Coast Guard Pacific Area and District 11 held a “Boss Lift” Sept. 17, hosted at Sector San Francisco. A Boss Lift event is an immersive experience where employers of reservists directly experience Coast Guard missions by going aboard small boats, cutters, and air assets.

Almost two dozen senior management officials representing public, private and non-profit employers visited with members of Coast Guard commands, including Air Station San Francisco, the Coast Guard Cutter Tern, Sector San Francisco, Station San Francisco, Pacific Strike Team, and Port Security Unit 312.

Examples of companies and agencies participating included Apple, Amazon, City of Oakland, California Highway Patrol,

Dignity Health, San Jose Water, and U.S. Postal Service.

Representatives from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve provided substantial support to the event, managing the volunteers, developing promotional flyers, managing the guest list, and communicating with employers. ESGR also provided morning refreshments, lunch, and award presentation materials.

Capt. Kevin Lavery, the District 11 senior Reserve officer kicked off the event by giving an overview of Coast Guard missions, and PSU 312 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Ben Lehrfeld guided employers through an overview of PSU missions. ESGR gave the employers an explanation of Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA); they also offered assist to employers with supporting their reservists.

Employers then toured units, visiting Station San Francisco, learning about Sector San Francisco’s boarding team and the Pacific Strike Team’s robotic capabilities, viewing fully equipped PSU small boat and crew, and exploring the Sector Command Center/Vessel Traffic Service. The employers later cruised San Francisco Bay aboard the Tern and heard about Coast Guard’s surface operation missions. After lunch, District 11 Commander Rear Adm. Andrew Sugimoto presented ESGR Patriot Awards to four employers who went above and beyond in support of their reservists. The event ended with a basket hoist demo by Air Station San Francisco and the Tern.

Toward the end of the event, employers signed statements of support for their reservists, pledging their support and encouragement for their dual-careered employees.

With the continual mobilization of reservists since 9/11, building positive relationships with their employers is critical in ensuring reservists know they are fully supported while on orders. ESGR is a vital organization that commands can partner with to build these relationships. For more information, visit ESGR.mil. ≈



Rear Adm. Andrew Sugimoto presents a Patriot Award to Rafael Nunez, Deputy Chief Postal Inspector for Western Field Offices and Francisco Garcia, Team Leader of Oakland/San Francisco External Crimes Team, the employers of Lt. Tyler Sherman a Sector San Francisco reservist.



Migrant ops in South Florida

An all-reserve 45-foot response boat crew from Station Mayport, Florida, transfers Cubans rescued off Marathon, Florida, to the Coast Guard Cutter *Vigorous* for repatriation. The reservists are on 45-day active duty orders assisting Station Marathon in the Florida Keys.

Photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Chris Jones.

M-ROC and roll

Numerous reservists were part of the 2022 Pacific Area Mission Risk and Opportunities Conference (MROC). The MROC validates and identifies PACAREA's top risks, opportunities, and investment priorities. It also identifies growing strategic initiatives that align with national, Department of Defense, and Coast Guard strategies.

Both Area commands facilitate a conference with their respective districts independently. What follows is a meeting with the Coast Guard commandant at the National Risk and Opportunities Conference (NROC) where they use the information from the MROCs to shape strategic investment priorities and establish mission priorities that guide force allocation. More than 70 personnel attended, including nine admirals and their senior enlisted advisors, as well as numerous senior officers and senior enlisted personnel. Among them were a number of reservists, including Capt. Joanna Hiigel, Capt. Jason Lehto, Lt. Brian Henderson, Lt.j.g. Liesl Olsen, and Ensign Alex Opp. ≈



Photo courtesy of Senior Chief Petty Officer Bryan Mastrangelo

Turtle power

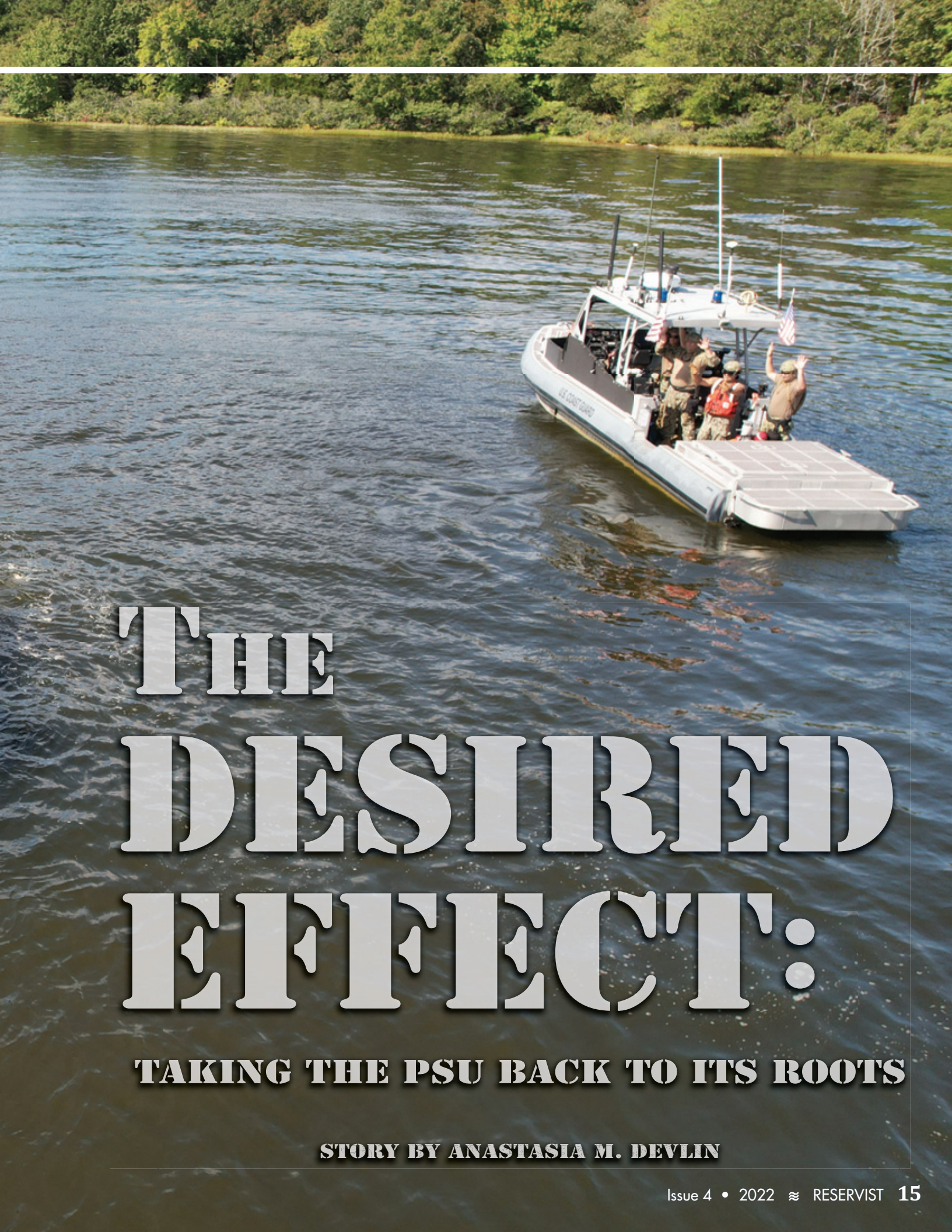
While underway for his 45-foot response boat (RB-M) coxswain check-ride, Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike DiMaggio received a channel 16 VHF call from a local mariner reporting a turtle in distress inside Jones Inlet in Freeport, New York. DiMaggio and his crew diverted to investigate along with another 29-foot response boat crew. Upon arrival on scene, both crews were able to rescue a Kemp's ridley sea turtle that was fully entangled in a heavy test fishing line.

The Kemp's ridley sea turtle, also called the Atlantic ridley sea turtle, is the smallest and rarest species of sea turtle and is the world's most endangered species of sea turtle. The lucky fellow was transferred to the Riverhead Foundation Rescue Center for examination and rehabilitation, and DiMaggio did indeed pass the check-ride. ≈



The crew of a PSU 309 transportable port security boat stops an opposition force boat crew (right) during a waterside drill as part of Exercise Desired Effect in September.

Photo courtesy PSU 309



THE DESIRED EFFECT:

TAKING THE PSU BACK TO ITS ROOTS

STORY BY ANASTASIA M. DEVLIN



Upon arrival on location in Farmington, Missouri, the crew of Port Security Unit 309 set up a tent city. Photo courtesy PSU 309

At one in the morning, the gunshots started. Rolling out of the rack, bleary-eyed, unit personnel pulled on clothing and grabbed bulletproof vests. Zipping out of the tent entrance into the cool night, their awareness coming to them with every gun report, they checked each other over, mid-stride, reporting to the staging area.

A man was being dragged backward from the entry control point, or ECP, seemingly unresponsive.

"I need that ammo soon!" one of the gate guards called.

"Ammo inbound!" another called back.

Surreal echoes rang out from weapons on both sides of the concertina wire that wrapped around the perimeter of the bivouac. Lights glinted through the branches as the team peered through the dark, identifying movement in the trees. Then, a roll of bullets sounded from the M240B overwatch providing cover.

The final day of the Port Security Unit 309's exercise, Desired Effect, was off to a wild start.

BACK TO THE EXPEDITIONARY ROOTS

For the last 20 years, the Coast Guard's PSUs have become associated with their continual, rotational deployments to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The PSUs have also integrated mobilized adaptive force packages for contingency response efforts and significant security events like hurricane responses, presidential inaugurations, and exercises in Korea.

However, while demonstrating the versatility of the units, these missions didn't test all the operational capabilities that PSUs were designed to execute. PSUs are expeditionary units, which means they're required to be ready to deploy in as little as 96 hours, and, once on location, be self-sustaining for up to 30 days.

"Guantanamo Bay is an established mission with an existing infrastructure in a permissive environment with a predictable rotation cycle," said Cmdr. Erin Bennett, the Coast Guard's expeditionary program manager at Headquarters. "We need to

keep sharpening our actual skills for the expeditionary mission. Those are perishable skills; they can atrophy over time."

Port security units are one of the larger types of units in the Coast Guard. They have a complement of approximately 150 people comprising 12 boat crews, three security squads, and command, logistics, communications and engineering departments. They integrate with Department of Defense and host-nation military partners to provide layered defensive protective functions, including protection for strategic shipping and high value assets.

While the mission in Cuba has become synonymous with the PSUs, two years ago, Lt. Cmdr. Ryan Kowalske, executive officer for Coast Guard PSU 309, began forming a plan to bring the PSU back to its roots. The best time to implement it would be during the unit's two weeks of active duty, or ADT-AT.

"We needed to exercise the things we could be called to do in a real time environment," said Kowalske, a former cutterman with more than 20 years in. "First, we wanted the qual[ification]s. We're a qual-centric organization, and that was important. But the second piece was this: the first time you're exercising something shouldn't be in a real-world event. We wanted to get all the lessons learned to refine our processes now to know that, when we need to move the unit, we're capable of doing so."

Commanding Officer Cmdr. Todd Remusat took command of the Ohio-based PSU in 2021, and he remembered deploying to the 2010 Haitian earthquake with Florida's PSU 307 as the operations officer. He supported Kowalske's idea unequivocally.

"To my knowledge, the only unscheduled expeditionary deployment [PSUs have] ever done was the Haitian earthquake," Remusat said. "I wanted our people to see, as close as possible, what a full mobilization looked like in an expeditionary setting."

Master Chief Petty Officer Rick Ilcisko, a 10-year veteran of 309, reported to the PSU to relieve Master Chief Petty Officer Joe Katchko as the command master chief in a change-of-

watch ceremony held midway through the training.

“It’s hard enough to get a small boat station coxswain qualified on one weekend a month, let alone what we do at our level,” said Ilcisko, a retired police officer with an air of contagious calm. “There’s so many more qualifications involved with a deployable unit. That’s why we’re given 60 drills instead of [a typical reservist’s] 48, and sometimes 60 doesn’t get it done.”

MAKE A PLAN, AND MAKE IT WIDE

Not only did the unit need a location that could support all the personnel as part of Exercise Desired Effect, but they’d need a range, berthing, instructors, and a boat ramp with access to an expanse of water. After coming up short trying to identify internal training options, Kowalske found Asymmetric Solutions, a contractor in Farmington, Missouri, about 600 miles from the PSU’s home base in Port Clinton, Ohio. He also worked with other PSUs to source instructors and offer the training opportunity to others.

Moving 80% of the unit, four trailered vessels, an armory and enough gear and supplies to support them for two weeks called for a massive plan. Remusat and Kowalske tried to leave most of the unit (outside of the department heads) in the dark—similar to no-notice PSU expeditionary deployments—so they couldn’t plan.

The engineering shop chief, Chief Petty Officer Shawn Spicer, a 15-year member of both the Reserve and PSU 309, said he came on active duty orders in March to begin planning for the evolution. Working closely with Director of Logistics (DOL) and branches of the DoD from Hawaii to New York, Spicer secured C-17 and C-130J airframes for personnel and gear transport; he also trained members of the engineering department on truck and trailer use, saving the PSU tens of thousands of dollars in transportation costs.

A chief’s chief, Spicer leveraged his military experience and connections formed over the last dozen years to find efficiencies and opportunities for the unit. In one instance, he and another petty officer worked with a local Missouri National Guard base to use Humvees and light transport trucks for the duration of the training; in another, he worked with a park ranger to set up an optional off-road Humvee driving course.

Spicer said he liked working out the coordination puzzle of engineering department responsibilities across areas like safety, transport, tents and vessel maintenance.

“I enjoy it,” he said. “I’m an engineer by trade, so tinkering with stuff and trying to make it fit has always been one of my fortes.”

SMOKIN’ ‘EM

Command cadre members recognized the huge training opportunity. More than half of its members had advanced or promoted in the past year, and they were understaffed by about 25% of the unit. But as the excitement about the training spread, members who’d be reporting in the following month requested to report early, and there was overlap with those transferring out.

Early on a Saturday in September, the PSU’s personnel flew via C-17 down to Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, convoyed to the training site in Missouri, and began the process of setting up the bivouac.

Waterside, shoreside and engineering personnel worked together to put up massive tents with air conditioning units to combat the 95-degree days. Four gray transportable port security boats were dropped neatly next to a floating lakeside dock, and fixed fighting positions were set up along the water. MREs sat on a pallet under a nearby pavilion with picnic tables and white boards for scheduled and impromptu training, and

The commanding officer of the PSU, Cmdr. Todd Reumsat, debriefs with his crew following an early morning entry control point exercise.

Photo courtesy PSU 309





An instructor from Asymmetric Solutions scratches out a diagram in the dirt during a post-patrol discussion with PSU 309's shoreside division.

Photo courtesy PSU 309

a plastic “water buffalo” nearby offered a constant source of hydration. The communications division set up a working tactical operations center overlooking the water and the ECP; there, they tested both regular PSU communication equipment and previewed potential new “situational awareness” software that could generate a real-time common operating picture.

Because the exercise took place at an off-season, 5000-acre scout camp, they were able to take advantage of showers and latrines that normally wouldn't be readily available to the unit in a typical expeditionary deployment setting.

The sight of folks sharpening knives, trading more valuable pieces of MREs and going over manuals became commonplace. While some blue uniforms were worn in the first few days, the supply petty officer worked to get everyone's camouflage-style Navy Type-III uniforms ordered and on scene by the first weekend.

Every day (with the exception of a Sunday off for a morale barbecue), the unit worked through sign-offs and trainings, and every evening, after a family-style dinner (catered by the contractors), they studied and planned for the following day's events.

“We ran training from 0600 to 2200; they were smoked at the end of every day,” said Remusat. “With 100% positive control over the whole unit, we were able to get more accomplished, versus conducting training at the unit.”

Ilcisko agreed, noting the increase in crew cohesion.

“Those relationships come from spending that many hours together,” said Ilcisko. “It's like a big family living together in a college dorm. You're stuck to figure things out together.”

FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE

This wasn't the first rodeo for Petty Officer 1st Class Kenneth Frost, a member of 309's shoreside division. Frost is the former chief of police and current safety director for the City of Freemont, Ohio, and he was stationed at 309 as a legacy port securityman from 2002 to 2008. He caught up with an old

shipmate who was transferring back—none other than Master Chief Ilcisko.

“[Ilcisko] said, ‘I'm going back to the PSU as the CMC, and we need good people,’” said Frost, remembering their conversation. “That was all he needed to say. I said, ‘Where do I sign, and how fast can you get me there?’”

Frost worked with the leadership at 309 and his former command at Station Toledo to report in early—the day the exercise began. The concept of being tested by an outside company piqued his interest, but he also wanted to solidify the bond with his new team.

“I felt it was important for me to go to that training so I could be part of the team and have people be used to me being around,” said Frost. “It was a trust building thing between me and the team.”

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brendan Cross, a member of 309's waterside division, was also intrigued by the prospect of a new style of training.

As another Ilcisko convert, Cross had heard enough stories about PSU missions while working with Ilcisko at Station Buffalo to make the switch to 309. Even though it meant a four-hour commute, Cross, who works for a Buffalo-based architecture firm, said he was excited to dig into the fast-paced training.

Once the tent city was established, waterside and shoreside divisions split off for a week's worth of layered trainings specific to the petty officers' needs, depending on their qualification progress. Shoreside division worked through PSU insignia requirements, team movements, and weapons qualifications. They established elevated watchtowers and mapped out an ECP for practice scenarios.

Waterside division went down to the lake and spent time recertifying on the gray 32-foot TPSBs, alternating lessons in general seamanship and familiarization with relevant manuals.

The 270-acre lake provided the perfect amount of space to open the throttles on the TPSBs and practice waterside protection of high value assets.

“We spent a few days on that, then rolled right into tactics,” said Cross, who appreciated the background of both the Coast Guard instructors as well as those from the contractors. He said the instructors were creative, patient and hands-on; the teaching style helped students gain confidence as they learned.

“Mistakes might happen,” said Cross, “but that’s why we’re in that training environment.”

The company used by the Coast Guard, Asymmetric Solutions, had never taught Coast Guardsmen before, but they welcomed them to their extensive facilities for classes and demonstrations.

The PSU’s command cadre worked in concert with the contractors to ensure the courses taught adhered to the required syllabus from the Coast Guard. The company also offered other trainings based on the instructors’ military and law enforcement experience that sparked the interest of many PSU members, such as hand-to-hand combat fighting, emergency field medicine, and emergency vehicle repair using a welding technique involving car batteries. They even worked with Air Station Mobile to land a Coast Guard MH-60T Jayhawk helicopter at the facility to meet waterside qualification requirements.

Kowalske said the contractors real-world experience gave perspective to the training.

“A good example is this: when you believe there’s an IED present in your entry control point, everybody tells you go to ‘radios silent’ because keying up your radio could potentially set off the bomb,” said Kowalske. “Our guys can get hung up on that, avoiding use of the radios. These contractors, having been in that situation in real life, reminded them not to focus on that. If it’s more important to get the message out, just use

the radio. The chance of it setting off the IED are extremely low. We get so focused on the binary black-and-white in some of our training events, but these instructors with real-world experience are able to provide insight.”

Frost gave another perspective, comparing it to the difference between a team scrimmaging at practice, versus the benefit of being tested by an outside team.

“If you read the bios on the instructors, who are all former special forces people, you know they’re going to challenge you in a different direction.”

Despite the long days and high heat, the excitement and pride in the crew was palpable as they moved through the second week, which culminated in both a two-day exercise and a range of qualification boards.

POPPING OFF

In the darkness Wednesday morning of week two, the sounds of gunfire brought the crew out of their cots. A woman had come to the gate requesting help, but only long enough to distract the guards. The ECP was under attack.

Through the confusion and the volleys of bullets, Coast Guard safety officers in red hats floated by like ghosts, ignored by the players. (The paint-tipped bullets were fired from special M4s provided by the contractors for the safety of all participants.) The tableau of Coast Guardsmen firing into the woods at opposition forces, while simultaneously calling to each other for ammunition and backup created an eerie feeling of realism.

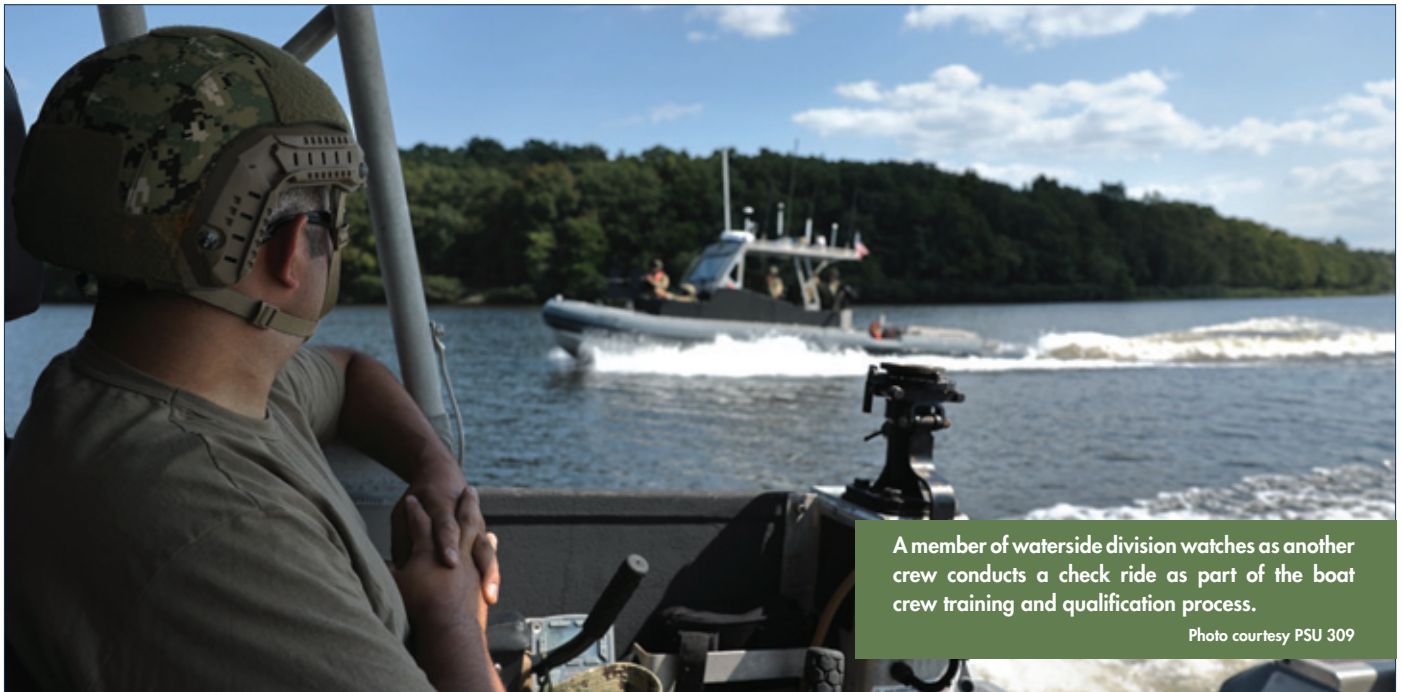
Frost said that’s when the training kicks in.

“You hear that in the middle of the night, and the first thing that goes through your mind is, ‘My brothers and sisters are



Waterside crews conduct morning boat checks on four of the PSU’s transportable port security boats.

Photo courtesy PSU 309



A member of waterside division watches as another crew conducts a check ride as part of the boat crew training and qualification process.

Photo courtesy PSU 309

out there, I've got to get to them.' So that first emotional reaction is, 'My team is in trouble what do I do, how fast can I get to them,' but by the time you get your gear on and your helmet on and you regain your senses a little, then your training kicks in and you formulate a plan."

Frost said even things he'd learned 15 years ago from his first stint with the PSU came back to him, triggering his response like a reflex.

"You just unconsciously know it—what to do, how to get your gear on, team movements—to where the team leaders can just come in and give you the hand signals or arm movements, and you know where to go, what to do, how to move as one unit," said Frost.

After a quick debrief following the evolution at the ECP, exercise action picked up on the lake, where an opposition force (or OPFOR) vessel began a simulated attack on two HVAs—one at anchor and one underway.

As the vessels dodged each other, their sharp turns and evasive maneuvers tossed up a heavy wake. Back on shore and hidden in the trees, security teams watched the red and green lights on the water, weapons at the ready.

Radios at the TOC picked up the dialogue of the security boat coordinating directly with those in the fixed fighting positions on shore to cover down on the OPFOR boat.

Kowalske said that handoff of engagement was one of the most important aspects to train on, ensuring both continued engagement with the OPFOR as well as the protection of the security boat coxswain and crew.

"We get so few opportunities to exercise those in tandem," said Kowalske, "so we took full advantage of our ability to test both."

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The head of the Coast Guard, Adm. Linda Fagan, laid out in her Commandant's Intent a goal of sharpening the service's competitive edge and using new technologies to create a more agile workforce.

This exercise got the PSU moving in a way it hadn't seen in more than a decade, and a reinvigorated style of training sparked excitement in a community that's hasn't visited its

expeditionary roots in a while.

"The two weeks of [ADT] training is always valuable, but this level of evolution puts a new spin on it," said Remusat. "This was a total success—it helps us prepare the unit for future mobilizations on the horizon."

While inspirational, it was also hugely beneficial. Kowalske said the unit had achieved more than 2,400 individual qualification tasks and more than 45 qualifications had been completed. The department heads and command cadre of the PSU also developed a "deployment checklist" to be shared with the other Coast Guard PSUs, as well as a laundry list of more than 500 lessons learned from the evolution.

"We knew there would be extremely candid feedback," said Kowalske, "but it's better to learn those lessons in a training environment where you can identify and overcome them."

NO RISK, NO REWARD

Bennett said there's no doubt in his mind: a PSU assignment, enlisted or officer, is going to be most challenging Reserve assignment. But that's also where the reward is.

"It's very career enhancing," said Bennett. "That's why you get credit for it, whether on a selection board, a senior enlistment panel or the service wide [exam]."

The unit continues to receive interest from others who've heard about the training, and they're planning their next evolution with the same contractor (though on a smaller scale) this spring.

Ilcisko continues to field inquiries from the badge community, local recruiters, and members of other units' command cadre. He said it's almost a full-time job to educate people inside and outside the service on life at a PSU.

The biggest benefit? To a person, almost every member of PSU 309 has the same answer:

"I love the blue side, don't get me wrong," said Frost, "but nothing in the world compares to the camaraderie you have at a PSU. It's very much a brotherhood, 100% a brotherhood." ≈



The PSU's command cadre worked in concert with the contractors to ensure the courses taught adhered to the required syllabus from the Coast Guard. The company also offered other trainings based on the instructors' military and law enforcement experience that sparked the interest of many PSU members, such as hand-to-hand combat fighting, emergency field medicine, and emergency vehicle repair using a welding technique involving car batteries.

Photos courtesy PSU 309





Meritorious advancement... just what the doctor ordered

Story by Anastasia Devlin

On Friday, Sept. 30, Petty Officer 3rd Class Cayley Miller was meritoriously promoted to the rank of petty officer second class by Coast Guard Vice Commandant Adm. Steven Poulin during the recognition ceremony for Operation Allies Welcome.

Miller, a nursing student, was recently was recalled to active duty for nine months as the medical operations chief for OAW.

There, she replaced an active duty lieutenant at the command; she coordinated care for medically fragile patients coming from Afghanistan, with medical providers on both sides of the transfer to ensure no lapses in care occurred en route. Much of the time, she was working with medical officers from Health and Human Services, as well as the Public Health Service.

She also worked to get a pharmacy and a lab set up at the OAW site at the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service location in Camp Springs, Maryland, to reduce the off-campus transfers for the patients.

"It was an amazing experience," said Miller.

Miller was an active duty corpsman for six years until joining the Reserve in 2019. When she was called to attend a ceremony at Headquarters, she said she'd heard they were doing something special for her, but had no idea what it was.

She said she learned a lot from the medical personnel she worked with, as well as the experience itself.

"During the ceremony, the vice commandant said most of the people here joined to help other people," said Miller, who will continue serving through nursing school, "and I really enjoy helping and taking care of people." ≈



Petty Officer 2nd Class Cayley Miller poses with Capt. Michael Paradise, Master Chief Petty Officer Tim Beard, and Rear Adm. Miriam Lafferty after being meritoriously promoted by Coast Guard Vice Commandant Adm. Steven Poulin for her work as the medical operations chief at Operation Allies Welcome.

Photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandon Giles.



Petty Officer 1st Class Jephtha Tanksley, from Station Charleston, interns with South Carolina Ports in the Port of Charleston as part of his degree program at the College of Charleston.

Coast Guard experience benefits supply chain internship

Story by Tom Cunneff and photos by Mike Ledford, courtesy of *College of Charleston* magazine

The supply chain involves a great deal of overseas transportation, so what could be more natural than a former active-duty Coast Guard officer pursuing a career in it?

A nontraditional student attending the College of Charleston on the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Jephtha Tanksley, 32, was in the Coast Guard for five-plus years, stationed up and down the East Coast. He is now a part of the Coast Guard Reserve in Charleston and is just finishing up an eight-week internship in the marketing and sales department for the South Carolina Ports. An Atlanta native, he hopes to work in the maritime realm of supply chain and logistics after he graduates in May 2023.

The College Today caught up with Tanksley to find out about his years in the Coast Guard, why he came to the College and what he plans to do with his degree.

What have you learned during your internship?

I've learned an incredible amount about the way cargo flows through our state, and how South Carolina Ports facilitates that movement. Working with the marketing and sales team has given me the opportunity to see many different aspects of the port and what happens here. I've also learned that South Carolina Ports is a huge driver of economic prosperity in the state, and it's been amazing to be part of a team with such an impact.

Why did you decide to major in supply chain management?

I luckily chose supply chain management and global logistics and transportation before COVID was even a thing. I saw the potential opportunities in the field and thought that it would be a smart choice for a career with broad knowledge. Supply chains and logistics will always be critical, and having the opportunity to focus on that specifically with my major and minor was perfect.

What do you find most interesting about the industry?

I find the interactions between seemingly totally unrelated

things can have long-running implications. Things that you would think have no relationship can be closely tied together when it comes to supply chain and logistics. Learning more has improved my perspective of the things that cause disruptions and problems within the global supply chain. Also, the scale of everything that happens: Everything about the port is big. From the container volume to the cranes and the ships, everything seems to be massive.

What's your experience been like at the College being an older, nontraditional student?

Having a different perspective has allowed me to provide input that others might not have experienced otherwise, and the same thing for others to me. There are times where I'm reminded of the differences from your typical student, but it's been a wonderful experience. I've become close with other veteran students, and value those friendships.

What do you do in the Coast Guard Reserve?

I conduct my monthly drills and active duty training at Station Charleston downtown. I am a boatswain's mate first class, and the short answer is that I drive 29- and 45-foot boats and help to manage the day-to-day operations of my Reserve section. Here at Coast Guard Station Charleston, we conduct search and rescue, law enforcement, maritime security and other operations from roughly McClellanville to Edisto.

What stands out most about your time in the Coast Guard?

I'd say the variety of the missions and the fact that nothing is ever the same. One day we could be greeting kids at a community event and the next we are 40 miles offshore in poor weather assisting a stranded boater. All of that's done with a crew that you have come to trust implicitly, and that trust is what makes operations so smooth. ≈

Silver to Gold: an AUX transitions to the Reserve

Story and interview by John Saran, Coast Guard Auxiliary

On July 6, 2022, Michael Barth was commissioned as an ensign in the Coast Guard Reserve. This transition came after more than five years of service in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Throughout his Auxiliary career, Barth used his professional training and time management skills to navigate both a Wall Street career and his Auxiliary service, which, in 2019, totaled more than 2,000 hours in public outreach and recreational boating safety activities in the New York City area. That same year, Barth was named the Auxiliarist of the Year for the entire Coast Guard.

Through his time in the Auxiliary, he built a vast network of active duty, Reserve and Auxiliary contacts who prepared him for his journey to the Reserve. The Auxiliary Public Affairs Directorate interviewed the new reservist last summer, just prior to the start of his tour at Coast Guard Sector New York.



Ensign Michael Barth, center, is joined by friends, shipmates, and Auxiliary members of Sector New York and the New York Recruiting Office at his enlistment oath ceremony.

Photo by Daniel Henry

Q: What inspired your transition from the Auxiliary to the Reserve?

I had an incredible experience in the Auxiliary and have had the opportunity to take part in a multitude of Coast Guard missions. I wanted to continue my service to the Coast Guard and take on additional responsibility, as well as have opportunities to deploy and take part in law enforcement and defense operations. I am excited to report to the incident management division of Sector New York and plan on qualifying in my specialty areas while also working on additional qualifications that will serve me well as a response officer.

Q: What training or experiences from your Auxiliary service prepared you?

My five years in the Auxiliary allowed me to learn the inner workings of the Coast Guard organization, including its structure, missions and core values. Along the way, I picked up specific job-related tasks such as writing awards, learning public affairs policies, engaging in response and prevention augmentation roles, and earning qualifications that will pay dividends in my Reserve career. My incident command system qualifications will carry over, which will provide a nice foundation for my training.



Lt. j.g. Benjamin Stern shakes the hand of Ensign Michael Barth July 6. Stern was Barth's assistant platoon officer throughout Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination.

Photo courtesy of Ensign Michael Barth

Q: Talk about your experience going through the Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination course over those five weeks at the Coast Guard Academy. What was your greatest challenge and your greatest accomplishment?

It was an incredible experience. The overarching mission of ROCI is to prepare officer candidates to serve effectively as officers. Candidates face mental, physical and academic challenges, and are expected to digest a significant amount of information, master uniform preparation, and serve in leadership roles. Oftentimes, short notice is given before taking on an assigned duty, and you must learn the ins and outs of the role quickly. The biggest challenge was working through competing deadlines with homework assignments, leadership roles, exams, and other military obligations, but, with proper time management and dedication, it's both doable and rewarding. My biggest accomplishment was being voted in as the executive officer of my company, which showed the unit's confidence in my leadership.

Q: Do you have any advice for auxiliarists considering active duty or Reserve careers?

- Try to get as much exposure as you can with Coast Guard missions.
- Augment your local units and work toward active duty qualifications or the Auxiliary's equivalent. Response, prevention, recruiting and public affairs are all great avenues.
- Build a network in the fields you would like to enter.
- Don't be afraid to try something new. The Auxiliary provides a low-risk environment to experiment with different career fields.

Auxiliarists with special skills and backgrounds can take the leap to help the Coast Guard fill critical personnel needs. This transition aligns with the Commandant's intent of transforming the Coast Guard workforce by leveraging talent and resources already within the organization. Seasoned Auxiliarists can more quickly adjust to a Reserve role given they already embody the core values, have existing institutional knowledge, and likely have served in augmentation roles with local units. Moreover, reservists can remain members of the Auxiliary, which provides a bridge for Auxiliary units to better integrate within Team Coast Guard. ≈

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Programs for Reserve Members



CGMA is a resource to help you navigate life's storms. Our grant and interest-free loan programs promote readiness and relieve financial distress of Coast Guard members and their families. To learn more, visit cgmahq.org

Disaster and Emergency Assistance



- Basic Living Expenses
- Closing Costs
- Debt Management
- Disaster Assistance
- Emergency Travel
- Funeral Expenses
- General Assistance
- Medical/Dental Expenses
- Pay & Allowance Assistance
- Rental Assistance

Day to Day Assistance



- Adoption Grants & Loans
- Assisted Reproductive Services Loan
- Breast Milk Shipment
- Child Care
- Child Support
- Elder Care
- Financial Education Childcare Reimbursement
- Layette Baby Supplies Program
- Vehicle Repairs/Expenses

Education Assistance



- Education Loan
- Stafford/PLUS Loan Free Reimbursement
- Supplemental Education Grant

"CGMA helped me out tremendously after Hurricane Michael. I am a reservist and my regular job I am a nurse at a prison. The Hurricane destroyed it and I lost my job, on top of having to deal with car damages and house damages. Insurances didn't cover everything and all this with having two small children and my wife not having power for fifteen days. I wasn't sure what I was going to do and I finally turned to CGMA for help and they were there for me in a BIG way!"

BM1 Jeremy Suber, USCGR, on navigating the compounding challenges of storm damage to both home and vehicle, as well as the lack of income after a job loss.



CGMA works because of the generosity of the Coast Guard community. Make a difference in the life of a shipmate.

Scan below to donate



Explore other ways to give at
cgmahq.org/give



Lt. Cmdr. Dave Holden and his wife, Morgan, a retired Coast Guard commander (shown here during a family trip with their children and summer babysitter), took advantage of CGMA's assisted reproductive services loan program.

Financial assistance available for Coast Guardsmen seeking reproductive care

Story by Keisha Reynolds, MyCG

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance is off-setting the high costs of fertility treatments for the Coast Guard workforce by offering an Assisted Reproductive Services loan. This interest-free loan provides up to \$6,000 to support fertility care not covered by TRICARE.

CGMA recognizes that military service impacts family planning. According to a 2018 survey by Service Women's Action Network, 37% of active duty women struggle with trying to conceive while serving, a rate more than three times higher than the national average of 12%. While this statistic shows the impact to active duty women, CGMA recognizes that reproductive service needs are not unique to women. The loan is available to all qualifying members of the workforce for CGMA assistance: Coast Guard active duty, reserve, civilian employees, retirees, auxiliary, as well as, public health service and US Navy Chaplains attached to the Coast Guard.

On a path familiar to many female officers, Morgan Holden, a retired Coast Guard commander, delayed having children for many years, putting an afloat career first. After six years of consecutive afloat tours, she married Lt. Cmdr. David Holden, who currently serves as a Reserve Component manager in the 17th District. The Holdens welcomed their first child and then, after time, had a second where she experienced complications during that pregnancy. However, when their second child turned two, they were ready to expand their family with a third. Previous birth complications, Holden's maternal age of 38, and new genetic information they received eventually led them towards IVF.

Holden said, "IVF was more than expected. It took more patience, more money and was more invasive than I ever thought was possible. I went through two egg retrievals, multiple surgeries, six embryo transfers, a cross-country PCS, changing doctors, and flying cryo-preserved embryos cross-country for us to finally have our little girl—three years and \$70,000 later."

Perhaps serendipitously, Holden was serving on the CGMA board when the funding was unanimously approved. From Holden's perspective, the loan is particularly helpful for young families,

"It's pretty much a no-brainer," she said. "It's easier to get a CGMA loan than it is to get a loan through an IVF center, it's zero interest, and it's really fast," she added. "It can be in your bank account in two days. When a family is at the point of needing a fertility treatment plan, the last thing they want to worry about is how to get enough money for the initial round of testing—testing that can pinpoint where the concerns are stemming from and, unfortunately, just isn't covered by TRICARE."

Holden's husband, David, weighed in on the process, its impact on families, and his support role as Holden's husband.

"Learning how to give shots, multiple surgeries, taking leave, trips to the doctors, and being there for recovery adds stress to an already demanding dual-military family," he said. "IVF was another huge event that was added onto our world that we both are happy to have gone through, despite all the challenges that it created."

The Holdens now have a two-year-old, a seven-year-old, and an 11-year-old.

The CGMA loan is available regardless of marital status, gender, age, or sexual orientation, a point Holden is passionate about making clear. “More and more active duty members, both women and men, need fertility assistance to expand their families,” she said. “While there are a few [military treatment facilities] that have fertility support for military families, they still have substantial out-of-pocket costs, long wait times, and

have restrictions on who qualifies for support.”

CGMA is the first military aid society to offer such a financial fertility assistance program. Coast Guard personnel may apply for assistance online at: www.cgmahq.org.

General assistance for emergencies, day-to-day expenses, and education support is available to the entire Coast Guard community: uniformed members, civilian employees, retirees and auxiliaries. To donate or request support, call (800) 881-2462 or email cgma@cgmahq.org. ≈

Reservists may be exempted from Law Enforcement Instructor-Course to maintain LEI qualification

Story by Annie Sheehan, MyCG

As of Oct. 1, Coast Guard unit law enforcement instructors are required to take the eight-day Law Enforcement Instructor-Course to maintain their designation. Reservists who qualify may submit a waiver for exemption from this requirement.

In order to qualify, a reservist must be a full-time civilian law enforcement professional, a designated training officer (or equivalent through their agency), and have already met the prerequisites for the LEI curriculum. Once they fulfill the requirements, they are awarded the LEI Direct Access competency code and designated as a unit LEI.

“Talent management is a key aspect of the Commandant’s Ready Workforce 2030 strategy. Reservists bring a tremendous amount of skill and experience to the Coast Guard,” said Cmdr. Nolan Cain, deputy division chief of the Office of Law Enforcement and Policy Standards (CG-MLE-2). “Leveraging the expertise of field training officers from other agencies bolsters our organization’s ability to provide high quality law enforcement training throughout the fleet.”

The LEI Course began several years ago because of a study that identified a need for a standardized instructional program. One of the recommendations was to develop a comprehensive residential training course where all prospective law enforcement instructors could immerse themselves in approved LE curriculum, practice their instructor capabilities, and return to their unit to teach.

After launching the LEI Course, MLE-2 saw an increase in the quality of law enforcement professionals through annual unit LE readiness assessments. Test scores rose in both knowledge-based examinations as well as physical demonstrations. Following these positive results, in 2017, MLE-2 announced the program would be mandatory for all law enforcement instructors in 2022.

Over the last year, MLE-2 has seen an increase in training requests and has been able to send the maximum number of students through the course every session. Although there are 441 LE designated units throughout the Coast Guard, there are only 280 opportunities to attend school this year. Other



Department of Homeland Security agencies also send personnel to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in South Carolina for training, which limits the number of available spaces for Coast Guard members. Additionally, the pandemic created delays in training.

Recognizing space limitation, MLE-2 needed to determine the best way to train both active duty members as well as give reservists the credit they deserve for their civilian jobs. Since many reservists are full-time law enforcement officers and many are field training officers, it makes sense to allow eligible reservists to request an exemption for the LEI-C and receive credit for their civilian work.

“In the week following the exemption announcement for qualified reservists, we have seen a 200% increase in reservists eligible for the law enforcement instructor designation at operational units as compared to the last two years,” said Chief Warrant Officer Lee Conroy from MLE-2.

Such strategic thinking and problem-solving goes hand-in-hand with RW2030. A big portion of RW 2030 being talent management, MLE-2 implements that concept through planning curriculum, delegating resources, and capitalizing on and championing talent within the Reserve. ≈

Coast Guard updates Readiness Management Period (RMP) policy for reservists aiding recruitment

Story by Zach Shapiro, MyCG

In September, the Coast Guard updated the Reserve Duty Status and Participation Manual. Under the revised policy, reservists will be compensated by points-only Readiness Management Period (RMP) for assisting the Coast Guard through voluntary recruiting efforts.

Reservists are encouraged to support recruiting efforts by building bonds with prospective Coast Guard applicants through outreach visits, mentoring, unit visits, or officer interviews.

Interested members of the Selected Reserve are required to request command approval and schedule RMPs in advance of reporting for duty. Non-paid RMPs must last at least two hours (excluding travel time). Members may not conduct more than 36 RMPs in a fiscal year and no more than one per day.

The “Everyone is a Recruiter” program has also been modified to include a \$500 cash bonus for referrals that result in an individual’s enlistment in the Coast Guard as an active duty or Reserve member.

As a reminder, Recruiting Liaisons should log RMP activity



on the Coast Guard Recruiting IMT Sharepoint page. For questions, contact HQS-DG-LST-CG-R55@uscg.mil or read ALCOAST 357/22.

The advancement opt-out option

Story by Annie Sheehan, MyCG

As part of Ready Workforce 2030 and the Commandant’s 100-Day Action Plan, enlisted members may now opt out of advancement with fewer long-term career implications.

Previous policy required commands to document a member’s desire to opt-out of advancement in an administrative remark entry form (CG-3307) that would stay in a member’s service record for the duration of their career. Under the revised policy, members may elect to opt out of advancement via a standard memorandum to the Coast Guard Personnel and Pay Center.

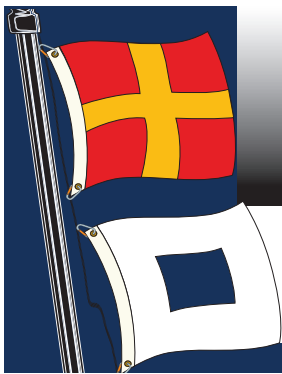
“The permanent entry documenting a member’s desire to opt-out of advancement was somewhat ambiguous, and it was up to the reader to determine whether the entry was positive or negative,” said Capt. Jonathan Carter, who leads the Enlisted Personnel Management division. “This revised policy removes that ambiguity.”

The new policy also offers more flexibility regarding a member’s eligibility to compete for future advancement opportunities. Under the previous policy, enlisted members who opted out of advancement were required to wait a full year from the date of their election before being eligible to compete for advancement again.

“That wait could sometimes be longer than a year depending on the member’s advancement opt-out date,” Carter said. “Under the revised policy, [enlisted] members who elect to opt out of advancement between May 1 and November 1 will be eligible to compete in the very next advancement competition, if all other advancement requirements are met.”

For more information regarding these policy changes, contact HQS-PolicyandStandard@uscg.mil.





New HR system streamlines access to military records for veterans

Story by Michael Lemorie and Ensign Tom Slattery,
Personnel Service Center

As the Coast Guard transitions from our current military records system to an improved 100% electronic system, it's important to clarify the different parts of the military record and access moving forward. Currently the Coast Guard Military Human Resource Record (CGMHRR) consists of the Servicing Personnel Office personnel data record, the unit PDR, and the electronically imaged PDR (EIPDR). These records documented your career, meet legal requirements, and contain the necessary documents that ensured proper pay and PCS transfers while you were a member of the Coast Guard. Your CGMHRR is composed of three different and geographically separated records:

- 1. SPO PDR:** This is maintained by your assigned SPO, contains various documents such as PCS orders, departing worksheets, BAH worksheets, etc., and primarily functions as the source document repository to justify your pay and benefits.
- 2. UNIT PDR:** This is used at smaller units not directly served by a personnel and admin (P&A) office or a SPO, and where underway missions are too lengthy and distant to allow for the SPO to update your SPO PDR. It contains the same types of documents as the SPO PDR, as well as items like qualification letters and 3307s. It's maintained by your local unit, and it's periodically merged into your SPO PDR.
- 3. EIPDR:** This is maintained by Coast Guard Headquarters in an electronic system called Perceptive Content, and it functions as your Official Military Personnel File (OMPF). This is the part of your record that you were concerned with when preparing for a board or panel. It outlines your career and achievements and serves as your proof of service and justification when applying for veterans benefits. This record is eventually moved to the National Archives within established time frames, and it is never destroyed.

This arrangement of mixed PDRs in different locations could be challenging for yeomen to navigate when attempting to assist members in a timely and efficient manner, and it was confusing for the members themselves.

The new Interactive Personnel Electronics Records Management System (iPERMS) system solves these problems by merging all the parts of your record into a new 100% electronic CGMHRR that is accessible to all current members and veterans. You will have instant access to your CGMHRR with your DS logon or CAC ID, and you will be able to review and identify any potential discrepancies or missing documents. The access link is <https://iperms.mymilrecord.uscg.mil/login>.

Veterans will not only have an easier way to retrieve a copy of their OMPF, but agencies such as Department of Veterans Affairs will have a streamlined capability to view records when making benefit determinations.

The Personnel Service Center is excited for this new capability to go live this fall and provide a higher level of customer support to our members and veterans. ≈

RETIREMENTS

RET-1 (with pay)

June 2022

MKC Manuel Huevo

July 2022

CAPT Daniel Clark
CDR Donald Davis
CDR Kenneth Dimtry

September 2022

CDR James Weakley
LCDR Scott Poyer
LCDR Robert Rayhill
CWO Virginia Kostowski

CWO Brandon Scott
MKCS James Schipper
MSTCS Benno Heni
DCC Glin Nelson
MSTC James Rachwal
OSC Brian O'Dowd
SKC John Kercher
SKC Carlos Rivera
SKC Robert Springer
MK1 Michael Kuebler
BM2 Dennis Post
YN2 Lionel Barela

RET-2 (without pay)

June 2021

BMCS Spencer Wilson
DCC Todd Heigert

July 2022

CAPT Daniel Clark
CAPT Diane Croff
CAPT Steven Hill
CAPT James Johnson
CAPT Maureen Kallgren
CAPT Mark Murakami
CAPT Michael Vaughn
CDR Jereme Altendorf
CDR Michael Calhoun
CDR James Cullen
CDR Andria Davis
CDR Donald Davis
CDR Sonja Downs
CDR Aaron Leatherwood
CDR John Massingill
CDR Tavis McElheny
CDR Michelle Noonan
CDR John Parsons
CDR Benjamin Perman
CDR Robert Staneszweski
CDR Antonio Valenin
CDR Walter Vega
CDR Carlton Yamada
LCDR Francis Arenas

LCDR Clinton Arnold
LCDR Craig Bailey
LCDR Otis Barrett
LCDR George Cabanas
LCDR Lee Cuthbertson
LCDR Scott Gondeck
LCDR Gregory Kim
LCDR Liam LaRue
LCDR Anaelmo Martinez
LCDR Thomas O'Brien
LCDR Monica Villegas
LCDR Robert Wyman
LT Raymond McKay
LT Francis Miller
CWO Charles Hauswith
CWO Tyler Krulla
BMCM Jeffrey Wildes
MECM Michael Emery
GMC Martin Minjuns
MKC Angila Berni
MKC John Ward
BM1 Matthew Stanberry
ET1 Jonathan Powell
ME1 Robert Hemenway
ME1 Sean Kreller
MK1 Martin Eves
MK2 Andrew Eckel
MK2 Stephen Stover
OS2 Joseph Finn

— Compiled by
YNC Joseph R. McGonagle, USCGR (ret.)



The Coast Guard Cutter *Point Cypress*, an 82-foot patrol boat, displays its camouflage paint scheme in Vietnam. U.S. Coast Guard photo



Coast Guard joins the fight in Vietnam

Story by Capt. Alex R. Larzelere, USCGR (ret.)

Vietnam is usually remembered as a war fought in jungles and rice paddies, but there was another conflict as well—a sailor’s war—and much of it fought from the decks of United States Coast Guard cutters. The service played a significant role in securing Vietnam’s 1,200-mile coastline, sending some 8,000 Coast Guardsmen and 56 combatant vessels to the region. Coast Guardsmen destroyed enemy supply ships, supported ground units, rescued American and other friendly forces, and performed many more duties, including carrying out humanitarian roles, which are common to the Coast Guard. Yet, the Coast Guard’s involvement in the Vietnam War is still little known.

Early in the Vietnam War, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese obtained their supplies in many ways. Forces allied with the Republic of South Vietnam could not stop the enemy’s flow of personnel, arms and supplies.

In February 1965, a U.S. Army pilot flying over Vung Ro Bay near Qui Nhon noticed an “island” moving slowly from one side of the bay to the other. Upon closer observation, he saw the island was a carefully camouflaged ship. Intelligence sources determined the ship was North Vietnamese and engaged in supplying enemy forces. Air strikes were called in, and the vessel was sunk.

A tight security and surveillance system was necessary. With more than a thousand miles of coastline and over 60,000 junks

and sampans to control, this would be no easy chore. To provide this coverage, the Coastal Surveillance Force was established in March 1965. Called “Market Time” after the native boats using the waterways for fishing and marketing, this task force provided a single command to integrate sea-, air- and land-based units and coordinate U.S. Navy, Coast Guard and South Vietnamese naval units.

Squadron One

The backbone of the Coast Guard fleet was the 82-foot patrol boat. Known as Squadron One, 26 of them saw action. The 82-footers’ main job was choking off the enemy’s seaborne supplies. Much of the action took place near the borders. Division 12, out of Da Nang in the north, patrolled the 17th parallel. Division 11, based at An Thoi in the south, guarded the border between Cambodia and South Vietnam. At first, these patrol boats formed a barrier from the shore straight out into the ocean. They cut off the enemy which was attempting to enter South Vietnamese waters. However, the North Vietnamese sent their supplies far out to sea in large, steel-hulled vessels to beat the blockade by going around it.

The Coast Guard and Navy had to change tactics. Rather than trying to catch the enemy as they entered Southern waters, the two sea services decided to engage the enemy as they approached

the drop-off points. The boats formed a picket line along the shoreline and covered the area with radar. When a target was spotted, they attacked.

A year after the new defensive schedule was set up, enemy smuggling was stopped cold. In desperation, the communists tried a tactical change of their own. In February 1968, the North Vietnamese ran four large trawlers south all at once, in the hope of getting something through; of those, three were destroyed and one retreated. After that, enemy seaborne smuggling was largely carried out in small sampans.

The patrol boats also worked with the Navy SEALs and military recon units. They also provided emergency support to Special Forces camps, transported personnel, evacuated wounded and provided naval-gunfire support. Around two years into Operation Market Time, naval operations were extended further offshore and expanded into the Gulf of Thailand.

Market Time units stopped many enemy vessels carrying supplies and personnel. Due to the success of the operation where many of the trawler “kills” were in southern Vietnam near the Ca Mau Peninsula, the enemy was forced to carry supplies over the Ho Chi Minh Trail, an extraordinarily long land route.

Squadron Three

As time went on, the Coast Guard increased its support by providing five high-endurance cutters, and Coast Guard Squadron Three was born. The cutters, which ranged in size from 255 to 378 feet, kept their peacetime white paint job instead of taking a coat of gray, like the patrol boats. They were nicknamed “white ghosts” by the Viet Cong.

The HECs had five-inch deck guns and, therefore, brought with them far greater firepower than the patrol boats had. These ships had shallow drafts, and they could run in close to the shore and bring their big guns down on enemy encampments.

Shortly after their arrival, Squadron Three ships began battling the Viet Cong. Coast Guard Cutter *Rush*, working with an Australian



The 82-foot patrol boats of Squadron One deploy from Subic Bay in the Philippines to the theater of operations in Vietnam. U.S. Coast Guard photo

destroyer, brought its guns to the aid of a small Special Forces camp in the village of Song Ong Doc. The village, which was located in the middle of Viet Cong-held territory, was being overrun. Gunfire from the two ships drove off the attackers, leaving 64 Viet Cong dead. Like the patrol boats, the large cutters were multi-mission ships. They supported amphibious assaults and gave logistical support for Coast Guard patrol vessels and the Navy’s PCFs (patrol craft fast, or swift boats).

The aviators

In addition to the patrol boats and HECs, 12 Coast Guard aviators flew in Vietnam between 1968 and 1975. They flew with the Air Force as part of a service exchange program out of Tuy Hoa and Da Nang, Vietnam, as well as from Thailand and the Philippines. Helicopter pilots flew Air Force HH-3s, known as “Jolly Green Giants,” and later HH-53s; fixed wing pilots flew Air Force C-130s. These aviators flew hundreds of rescue missions over enemy-infested jungles. Their actions kept a lot of American pilots out of prison camps.

One of the Coast Guard’s pilots was Lt. Jack Rittichier, who served as a pilot with the Air Force’s 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron. While attempting to rescue a downed U.S. fighter pilot, Rittichier’s helicopter came under hostile enemy fire and crashed in a ball of flame in a mountainous region west of Da Nang. Rittichier became the first Coast Guard combat casualty in Vietnam, and a hangar at Coast Guard Air Station Detroit is named in Rittichier’s honor.

Other support roles

Along with their combat role, Coast Guardsmen were part of an essential support mission. Coast Guard port securitymen, a rating composed solely of reservists, were on hand as experts for safe loading and unloading of ammunition. Explosive loading detachments (ELD teams) were also set up. With one officer and seven enlisted, they could stop any U.S. flagged vessel from loading or unloading cargo, and they strictly enforced safety regulations. ELD teams encountered their share of bizarre and deadly situations as they struggled to keep the harbors from blowing up. Fire was a constant enemy. Vietnamese families living aboard ammunition barges cooked with open flames, while both Vietnamese and American stevedores smoked as they unloaded their cargoes.

Enemy attack was a constant threat.



Coast Guard pilots Jack Rittichier, right, and Lonnie Mixon received medals for their role in flying helicopter rescue missions in Vietnam.

U.S. Coast Guard photo

In February 1968, an offloading merchant ship took nine recoilless-rifle hits at Ca Lai; fire started immediately. The ELD team, battling against time, rushed onto the burning ship, charged the hoses, and doused the fire before the ship exploded.

The Coast Guard's Merchant Marine Detail personnel helped keep merchant vessels sailing by providing investigative and judicial services and diplomacy. They served the merchant sailor both afloat and ashore. Though normally in the background, these officers were vital to the supply effort in Vietnam.

Other Coast Guardsmen were assigned to keeping the harbors safe. Before ships could reach the docks, they had to safely navigate into the harbors. Coast Guard buoy tenders marked the channels to help keep the traffic moving and repacked batteries used in the lighthouses along the coast.

Long Range Aids to Navigation stations were set up and manned by the Coast Guard. The LORAN stations sent out electronic signals to help mariners and aviators fix their positions.

Lifesavers at heart

Perhaps the most intangible item Coast Guardsmen brought was their humanity. Lifesavers at heart, they never left that behind, even in combat. Coast Guardsmen performed many medical missions, but also gave of themselves to Vietnamese civilians.

In 1969, the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Sebago* celebrated the Coast Guard's birthday by rebuilding the orphanage at Quin Nhon. The village of Song Ong Doc was "adopted" by the Coast Guard. Crewmen from all of the cutters working in the Gulf of Thailand built schools and dispensaries, set up playground equipment, and handed out Christmas presents.

The Coast Guard's presence began to wind down as Vietnamization was phased in. The patrol boats and several of the HECs were turned over to the South Vietnamese, becoming the core of the South Vietnamese navy.

By the time they left, Coast Guard cutters had cruised over five million miles, participated in nearly 6,000 naval gunfire missions, and boarded nearly 250,000 junks and sampans.



Fireman Heriberto Hernandez, a Coast Guardsman who was killed in action, posthumously received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals. Hernandez is the namesake for one of the Service's fast response cutters.

U.S. Coast Guard photo

The service successfully completed their mission to dry up the enemy supply routes. With Coast Guardsmen patrolling the coast, an enemy junk had only a 10% chance of slipping through, and a steel-hulled vessel had no chance at all—not a bad job for the low-key warriors of the United States Coast Guard. ≈

Editor's note: This is an edited version of an article that was published in Reservist in November of 1996. It was updated for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War by Dr. William Thiesen, the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area historian.

Vietnam War Commemoration honors vets on upcoming 50th anniversary

Story by Eric Minton

It's the "welcome home!" that Vietnam War veterans never got. It's the gratitude all those who served during that period didn't receive.

From May 11-13, 2023, the nation will thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families with a festival, ceremonies, and a concert on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., commemorating the 50th anniversary of American troops' service and sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

Staging "Welcome Home!" is the U.S. Vietnam War Commemoration, authorized by Congress in 2008, established by the Secretary of Defense and launched by the president in 2012. In addition to Vietnam veterans and their families—with distinct recognition given to former prisoners of war and families of those listed as missing in action and unaccounted for—the Commemoration recognizes the contributions of American citizens, federal agencies, other organizations, and allies, as well as technological, science, and medical advances related to military research during the war.



Since 2012, more than 3.37 million who served between Nov. 1, 1955, and May 15, 1975, and their families have been individually thanked in more than 23,000 ceremonies hosted by more than 12,000 commemorative partners. That's still less than half of U.S. Vietnam veterans the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates are living today.

Next May's "Welcome Home!" is a national-scale effort to reach all Vietnam veterans. The centerpiece will be "Camp Legacy," adjacent to the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. It will feature historical exhibits, veterans services organizations, an outdoor stage for daily performances, and rally points where Vietnam veterans, families, and others can gather. A wreath-laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is just one of the ceremonies planned, and a musical and multimedia concert will cap the event May 13.

The Commemoration's charter runs through 2025. For more information visit www.vietnamwar50th.com. ≈



MAJOR U.S. COAST GUARD ORGANIZATIONS VIETNAM WAR



**TASK FORCE 115
(MARKET TIME)
USNAVFORV, 1965**



**COAST GUARD ACTIVITIES VIETNAM
U.S. Coast Guard, 1968-1970**



**COAST GUARD LORAN STATION,
CON SON
1966-1973, Con Son**



**COAST GUARD LORAN STATION,
LAMPANG, THAILAND
USCGA-V, 1966-1973
Lampang, Thailand**



**COAST GUARD LORAN STATION,
SATTAHIP, THAILAND
USCGA-V, 1966-1973
Sattahip, Thailand**



**COAST GUARD LORAN STATION,
TAN MY
USCGA-V, 1966-1973
Tan My**



**COAST GUARD LORAN STATION,
UDORN, THAILAND
USCGA-V, 1966-1973
Udorn, Thailand**



**COAST GUARD SQUADRON ONE
(RONONE) TF-115
USNAVFORV, 1965-1970
An Thoi**



**COAST GUARD SQUADRON THREE
(RONTHREE) TF-115
USNAVFORV, 1967-1972
Da Nang, Cat Lo, An Thoi**

A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS OUR VIETNAM WAR VETERANS

WWW.VIETNAMWAR50TH.COM • 877-387-9951

Bulletin Board



@USCoastGuard Reserve

ATTENTION RESERVISTS:

Coast Guard Reserve wants your story ideas for our social media channels.

If you have pictures or videos of all the great work you or your unit are performing around the world, we want to know!

Submit content to:
USCGReservePAO@gmail.com

@USCGReserve

#USCGR



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

STRATEGY



The Commandant's Strategy is available NOW!

<https://www.uscg.mil/Leadership/Senior-Leadership/Resource-Library/>

OCTOBER 2022
WASHINGTON, D.C.



In early September, Rear Adm. Miriam Lafferty visited Coast Guard personnel working at the Southwest border. There, reservists assisted with data entry and information verification, allowing Customs and Border Protection agents to focus on final case file determination and interdiction operations.

Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Carleton Johnson



On Sept. 30 at Coast Guard Headquarters, Rear Adm. Miriam Lafferty, Assistant Commandant for Reserve, was promoted to the rank of rear admiral upper half by Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Linda Fagan. Lafferty's promotion was attended by her husband, her mother, and many friends and shipmates.

Photo by Anastasia Devlin



Master Chief Petty Officer Tad N. Tucker is pinned with his new collar insignia by his sons Kia'I and Nainoa at a ceremony that took place at Makapuu Lighthouse on Oahu, Hawaii, Oct. 3. Tucker, a 24-year member of the Coast Guard Reserve, was on active-duty orders at Civil Engineering Unit Honolulu.

Photo by Capt. Jack Laufer (ret.).



TO CHANGE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS:

Selected Reservists

Use Direct Access
<https://hcm.direct-access.uscg.mil/>
or contact your unit servicing personnel office.

Individual Ready Reservists

Contact IRR Personnel Support Unit

Email:

ARL-PF-CGPSC-rpm-3-Query@uscg.mil

Mail:

Commander (rpm-3)
U.S. Coast Guard
Personnel Service Center
2703 MLK Jr. Ave SE Stop 7200
Washington, DC 20593-7200

Retired Reservists

Use Direct Access
<http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/>
Email Personnel Service Center at
ppc-dg-customer@uscg.mil
or call 1-866-772-8724

TELL US
YOUR STORY:
thereservist@uscg.mil

“That all may labor as one” Story by Cmdr. Jon Bernhardt, CG Headquarters

On Sept. 23, after 40 weeks of both online and face-to-face training, the National Defense University-Joint Forces Staff College graduated 64 students of Seminar 22-1, included three Coast Guard reservists, leading to Joint Professional Military Education phase II.

The Joint and Combined Warfighting School (JCWS), as a part of the Joint Forces Staff College, prepares students (from all services and components) for joint, interagency, and multinational combined staff duty with a focus on joint operational planning. Seminar 22-1 JCWS students come to the program with a solid understanding of joint operations experience and the foundations from JPME phase I. The 40-week course broke down into five sections:

joint force fundamentals, academic essay, strategy and campaign design, integrated contingency planning, and a capstone.

The Staff College’s motto, “that all may labor as one,” rings true. Each student works individually to master joint and combined planning concepts, but then works as part of an integrated student team to demonstrate mastery. In addition to academics, the course also builds a tight student network, an understanding of each student’s service and functional expertise, and shared values for future work. Loosely coined “joint acculturation” by the instructors, students make connections and leave with the ability to be a productive planning team for any potential problem, anytime, anywhere.



Coast Guard Reserve members graduate from the Joint and Combined Warfighting School Sept. 23. From left: Capt. Ronzelle Green and Cmdrs. Jonathan Bernhardt and Brian Wm. Dudley.



On August 17, Chief Petty Officer Scott Slingland was presented with the Coast Guard Commendation Medal to recognize his contributions while assigned to the Office of Boat Forces.

Photo courtesy of Don Hartmayer.



On Sept. 11, Master Chief Petty Officer Alexander Jansen of Marine Safety Detachment Quad Cities in Rock Island, Illinois, pinned on his second star surrounded by family, friends and shipmates.

Photo courtesy of Linda Robinson.



In August, Master Chief Petty Officer Michael Bazzrea of Station Galveston was pinned with his second star by his son Hunter and his wife Kim. Also pictured are Senior Chief Petty Officer Terrance Mayweather of Sector Houston, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Reserve Tim Beard (placing the cover).

Photo courtesy of the Bazzrea family.



Master Chief Petty Officer Katchko is presented with the Coast Guard Commendation Medal Sept. 19 by Cmdr. Todd Remusat, commanding officer of PSU 309 to recognize his contributions while assigned to the unit.

Photo courtesy PSU 309



Sector New York Enforcement’s Petty Officer 1st Class David Sansone received a Coast Guard Achievement Medal with Operational Device in August for his work on multiple events during the pandemic.

Photo by Lt.j.g. Jennifer Darkazalli



Chief Petty Officer Adam Chittick from Base Seattle is pinned with his new anchors Sept. 10 by his wife, Hailey, and Chief Petty Officer Mark Littlepage.

Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Jenn Wong

AWARDS



Defense Meritorious Service Medal

CDR Nicholas Frieden
CDR Frank Puzzini



Meritorious Service Medal with "O" device

LCDR Timothy Brown
LCDR Brian Churchill
MECS Kevin Colon
CDR Elisabeth Dorrian
CDR William Gentile
LCDR Logan Huffman
CDR Krystal Kenshalo
CDR Jennifer Loth
LT Todd Pagel
CDR Austin Shutt



Meritorious Service Medal

BMC William Edson
CDR Jacob Ferreira
LCDR Daniel Grossman
CAPT Joanna Hiigel
CDR John Massingill
CAPT Natalie Murphy
CDR Herbert Pell
PERS3 Tayla Smith



Coast Guard Commendation Medal with "O" device

BMCS Adrien Cheval
IV1 Joe Correa
CDR John Elkins
LT Bradford Honeycutt
LCDR Paul Jansen
ITCM James Krise
LTJG Jeremy Lorenzo-Rivera
MSTC Mathew Mader
LT Kurtis Mau
LT Mickaela Nicholson
LT Todd Pagel
LT Marc Phelps
LCDR Mikal Powers
DCC Philip Prisco
CDR Janisse Quiñones
LCDR Stephen Rabel
LCDR Kyle Reese
LCDR Jeremy Schisler
LT Adam Schmid
LT Nicolas Sites
LCDR Kyle Stearns
LT Heidi Will
CDR Joseph Wright
LCDR Krysta Zangle



Coast Guard Commendation Medal

MSTC Scott Binko
YNCM Lena Boulanger
LCDR Miah Clay
BMC Michael Demopoulos
F&S2 Aaron Dolak
LT Joshua Fowler
ME1 Jacob Frane
LCDR Diana Gertsch
YN1 Claudia Gonzalez
LCDR Kyle Higgins
LCDR Jonathan Hsieh
LCDR Glenn Katsuki
LCDR Noelle Kitenko
SKC Jessica Loftus
MKC Thomas McCullough
LT Terri Medlin

LT Blaine O'Reilly
LCDR Grant Pagarigan
LT Todd Pagel
CDR Nicholas Porta
BMC William Proctor
LCDR William Rapoza
LT John Savarese
BMC Otto Schlicht
BMCS Daniel Stoner
YN1 Carly Tozer
MSTC James Wilkinson
MSTCM James Wood



Joint Service Achievement Medal

CDR Robert Vespi



Coast Guard Achievement Medal with "O" device

MST3 Alec Arruda
ME1 Gregory Bass
LT Peter Bermont
LT Erica Berrigan
LTJG Michael Bettencourt
GM2 Anthony Bianco
LTJG Justin Binger
ENG2 Anthony Birds
ME1 Kyle Bishop
LT Ashley Boutwell
DCC John Brennan
CDR Jeffrey Brodeur
BM2 Jason Brown
MEC Michael Burch
LT Cynthia Burris
LCDR Michael Carney
BM2 Ryan Carrasco
MEC Rory Carroll
MECS Brian Cash
LT Jose Castro
LTJG Alexandra Chapman
HS1 Somnang Chea
ME1 Alexander Correa
ENG2 Joshua Dalton
BM1 Alyssa Dejesus
BM1 Darin Elliott
BM1 Alexandra Eustis
BMC Patrick Ferguson
MST1 Monica Flanders
LCDR Steven Florio
MK1 Michael Franco
MK1 Rawle Fraser
ME2 Brian Gardiner
BM1 Christye Greene
ME1 James Gregg
ME2 Andrew Haase
DC1 Kyle Harter
MEC David Heaphy
ME2 Jacob Higginbotham
ETC Nickoles Hill
LCDR Daniel Hubbard
BM1 Corey Hughes
BM1 Kyle John
ME1 Arthur Johnson
BM2 Peter Kalman
MKC Micah Keech
MSTC Paul Kelly
BM1 Thomas Kelly
BMC James Ketcham
BMC John Kindler
BM1 Michael King
MK2 Matthew Kohler
BM1 James Lane



In August, Lt. Nathan Heltzel and Lt.j.g. Jennifer Darkazalli received the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with Operational Device; Lt. Joe Santos received the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with Operational Device.

Photo courtesy of Lt.j.g. Jennifer Darkazalli



Coast Guard Achievement Medal

DC2 Jayscott Aggerup
LTJG Jessica Aloisio
ME1 Gabriel Aquino
CSCS Andrea Bisignani
DC2 Ryan Brookes
LCDR Bryan Brownlee
CS2 Rene Camacho Franqui
SK1 James Cimini
CDR Kevin Crews
LT James Crone
HSCM Michelle Foster
LT Laura Garofalo
LTJG Kyle Giddings
LCDR Joan Glinn
LT Andrea Graff
MST1 Rachel Gridleywaters
BMC Richard Griffin
YN1 Luran Hallgreen
MK2 Jack Harris
LCDR Charlayne Holliday
DC1 Matthew Hunkin
IT2 Ian Johnson
PERS2 Crystal Kinnaird
LT Mark Longhi
ENS Dylan Marston
YN2 Katherine Mayer
SK1 Lindsey McLain
LT Amber Menden
ME2 Nikolas Millito
ENS Scotty Noe
MEC Chris Obermeyer
HS1 Benjamynt Potvin
BMC William Proctor
YN1 Reynard Ramos
LT Kate Sheehan
IT2 John Sherer
LTJG Erika Szillus
LCDR Josiah Toepfer
MKCS Andrew Watland
ME2 Ryan Webb
LTJG Kelsey Wilson
BMC Ian Yaffe



Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon

ET3 Jared Albright
BM1 Justin Angel
YN1 Ecaterina Antonov
MK2 Richard Armas

LTJG Avery Lowe
BM1 Bryce Makowski
ME1 Steven Manuel
ME1 Luis Montalvo
LT Barrett Moorhouse
MK2 Lorenzo Morales
MK2 Kristopher Nenna
BMC Nicholas Newhall
ME2 Bradley Nicolini
MK2 Anthony Olean
ME2 Chancellor Oliver
MLES2 Malcom Osteen
MST2 David Paice
LCDR Jeremy Pichette
BMC Nathan Plavcan
LCDR Ethan Postrel
ME1 Martin Potter
MEC Michael Roberts
ME2 Adrian Rodriguez
BM3 Jordan Rosell
ME1 Joseph Rothenberger
ME1 Gregory Royal
DC2 Jacob Schweitzer
BMC Glen Sefcik
ME1 Christopher Segali
YN1 Jessica Shingleton
LT Steven Shook
BMC Joshua Smith
ME1 Adrian Soto
MEC Carlos Sowell
BM1 Colin Stoddard
MK1 Jay Tacker
LT Makio Tazawa
ME2 Matthew Thomas
LTJG Kamal Thomas
BM3 Steven Thompson
MK1 Gregory Thornburg
BMC Joseph Toomey
ET1 Bjorn Tovsrud
MST1 Melanie Tymes
ME1 Christopher Vervooren
ME2 Hunter Wick
BM1 Robert Wilfong
BM1 Brian Williams
BM1 Reginald Wills
BM1 Aaron Wisner
ME2 Jason Woods
MSTC Christopher Wooten
SKC Benjamin Zylstra

MK2 Trevor Atkinson
 ME2 Mohammad Aziz
 ME2 David Bellville
 EM2 Lukas Breen
 CS2 Jonathan Brown
 LTJG Ryan Burns
 OS3 Christopher Cabral
 OS2 Ryan Carden
 BM2 Ryan Carrasco
 BM2 Christian Carte
 ME2 Ethan Cates
 ME2 Ryan Chandler
 MST1 January Clark
 ME2 Rachel Coleman
 ME2 Garrett Coltham
 ME2 Jesse Coulter
 ME2 Nicholas Coyle
 ME1 Martin Crew
 MKC Chad Cruset
 ME1 Jonathan Cruz-Sepulveda
 HS3 Veronica Dailey
 BM3 Jedediah Defee
 MST1 Erin Degenstein
 IS2 Joseph Dehmer
 LTJG Catherine Dutton
 ME3 Shawn Eggers
 BM3 Cameron Eline
 IV2 Marion Eppright
 BM3 David Estrada
 MLES2 Justin Feldman
 BM3 Josephine Foster
 ME2 Brandon Fox
 BM3 Tyler Frederick
 MK1 Virgilio Garcia
 ME2 Brian Gardiner
 MK3 Curtis Gionet
 ME1 Michael Giuttari
 ME3 Jacob Godbee
 CDR Dan Godiksen
 DC2 Casey Greer
 BM1 Joseph Guajardo
 BM3 Gilmar Guimaraes
 MK2 Reginald Harris
 YN2 William Heil
 MST3 Nicholas Heiple
 ME2 James Hewgley
 MK1 Ian Hileman
 MK2 Stephanie Horvat
 IV2 Lucas Hvasta
 MK2 Julio Irizarry
 BM3 Michael Jones
 GM2 Prentis Jones
 MK3 Elizabeth Jones
 ME1 David Kelley
 EM3 Dylan Kizer
 IV1 Louis Labarge
 ET1 Caleb Laura
 ME2 Maxwell Lawson
 ME2 Frank Lazarcheck
 MST2 Susanna Leigh
 DC2 Jared Linden
 BM1 Scott Logan
 ME2 Rachel Longfellow
 DC2 Jerry Lopez Betancourt
 MK3 Cheryl Machleder
 ME2 Benjamin Magargee
 ME2 Shae Massey
 BM3 Joshua McDermott
 MKC Haley Nix
 MEC Chris Obermeyer
 HS3 Brandon Ojeda
 IVC John O'Malley
 ENS Alexander Opp
 YN2 Justin Oreizi
 MEC Richard Ottway
 LTJG Zachary Parker
 ME2 Edgar Peraza
 BMC George Plotts
 MK2 Eric Ramirez

AMT3 Christian Reed
 ME2 Diego Rivera
 ME2 Brian Samuel
 ME3 Rafael Sanchez Vera
 LT Douglas Schneider
 ME2 Arbnor Shala
 ME2 Matthew Shattuck
 LTJG Tate Smith
 ME2 Cameron Snyder
 ME1 Justin Spotts
 ME2 Kyle Stanford
 ME1 Jim Suazo
 YN1 Carly Tozer
 OS2 Kyle Urquhart
 MK1 Nicholas Wagner
 F&S2 Jesse Williams



**Coast Guard
 Meritorious Team
 Commendation
 with "O" device**

GMC Jeffery Best
 BMC James Bradley
 ME1 Justin Bumgarner
 BM1 Korina Covaci
 LTJG Nickolas Grant
 BM1 Daniel Hutchinson
 MK2 Samuel Maugeri
 MECS Clinton Paul
 OS1 Jason Roman
 GM3 Jordan Sanson
 BM1 Jephtha Tanksley
 GMC Robert Trinkle
 MK2 William Vermeer



**Coast Guard
 Meritorious Team
 Commendation**

MST1 Jared Addison
 LT Andrea Alvarez Mistry
 CDR Christopher Anderson
 MK1 Akiyoshi Atsumi
 LCDR Tammy Bolin
 SKC Leonard Brownley
 MK2 Christopher Busch
 ME1 Brad Chapman
 HS3 Alejandra Claro
 MEC Michael Clouse
 ME1 Devin Dewitt
 BM3 Cameron Eline
 SK1 Aaron Ellis
 ME1 Travis Ferrantino
 ME1 Jordan Ford
 ME1 Jacob Frane
 BMC Eric Giles
 ME1 David Goins
 CDR Brandi Graham
 ME1 Addison Grantham
 SK1 Ashlie Gutierrez
 SKC Joan Hagstrom
 GM2 Brian Hancock
 BM1 Phillip Heinlein
 LCDR Katharine Howes
 LTJG Jazel Huston
 SK1 Lisa Jones
 SK2 Henry Killian
 MEC Drew Klingberg
 LT Kerry Kraft
 ENS Hunter Lawrimore
 SKC Scott Leaper
 ENG4 Ryan Ley
 MEC Miguel Longoria
 CDR Eric Marfull
 SKC Justin Masserini
 PA3 Jamie Mealor
 MK1 Ryan Mosbauer
 MK2 Cody Murphy
 MKC Brian Padgett

ENG4 John Pickett
 BM1 Jeffrey Pires
 MKC Ryan Raifsnider
 OCUI2 Cornell Richards
 MEC David Rousseau
 ME1 Sean Ryan
 MK1 Edward Schwager
 MKC Aaron Schwartz
 SK1 William Simokaitis
 MK1 James Smith
 ME2 Victor Sternberg
 MEC Adam Thompson
 MEC Andrew Webster
 ME1 Carlos White
 BM1 Brent Williams
 SKC Matthew Wilson
 LCDR Nathan Wojcik



**Coast Guard
 Good Conduct Medal**

YN1 Audrey Acuna
 ME1 David Blake
 ME3 Clark Brown
 ET3 Richard Carpenter
 EM2 Caroline Cushing
 BMC Shane Denny
 ET3 Nikolas Faulk
 EM2 Matthew Kerestes
 BMC John Kindler
 IS3 Eli Krebs
 DC1 James Lovelace
 MST2 Liam McCaffrey
 HS1 Benjamyn Potvin
 BM3 Payne Rankin
 IS2 Rodericjon Soriano
 YN1 Anita Stahley
 BMCS Daniel Stoner
 MEC Daniel Summers
 OS2 Kyle Urquhart
 BM2 Matthew Whitaker
 MST2 Marvel Wilson
 YN1 Thomas Yarbrough



**Coast Guard Reserve
 Good Conduct Medal**

MST1 James Alter
 ME1 David Blake
 BM3 Anita Chen
 BM1 Kody Cundy
 MK3 Ryan Dallavia
 BM1 Sean Delplato
 MKC Richard Dodge
 BMC Nicholas Doukas
 MST2 Cara Duran
 ME2 Anthony Edds
 ME1 Chad Elam
 BM1 Andrew Fontaine
 MKC Nathan Gracewski
 MSTC Jennifer Gramata
 MK3 Jason Halmi
 ME1 Robert Hicks
 PA1 Valerie Higdon
 MEC Brent Hooper
 BM2 Andrew Johnson
 MKC Shane Karlik
 BMC James Ketcham
 ME1 Paul King
 ME1 Stefon Kleinert
 IV2 Jonathan Less
 YN2 Guirnalda Lopez
 MK2 Joseph Mangrum
 MK3 John McFarland
 MSTC Blaine Meserve-Nibley
 CSC Kelly Minnick
 ME3 Daniel Navarro-Perez
 BM3 Matthew Newbill
 ME1 James Newton
 ME1 Jason Orozco

BM3 Holden Payseur
 ME2 Frank Polinik
 MK2 Michael Price
 BM1 Michael Ramos
 MST2 Galen Reding
 ME3 Leonardo Rivera
 YN2 Edward Rougerio
 BM2 Dean Salmon
 SK2 Braelynn Sinks
 MK2 Dewayne Taylor
 MST1 Justin Trujillo
 BMCM Janine Tschantz-Hahn
 ME3 Anthony Vogt
 IV1 Amber Webb
 MKC Donald Wiggins
 ME3 Leslie Williams
 MSTC Joseph Wilson



**Armed Forces
 Service Medal**

ETC Alberto Mascarenas
 ENS Alexander Opp
 YN1 Patrick Popescu
 BMC Ian Yaffe



**Humanitarian
 Service Medal**

BM3 Cameron Borgia
 YNC Daisy Brown
 CDR Sarah Ernst
 LT Brian Henderson
 YNCM Amerita Santos



**Outstanding Volunteer
 Service Medal**

ENG2 Anthony Birds
 BM2 Jason Brown
 YNCs Melanie Byrd
 BM1 Alyssa Dejesus
 MK2 Julio Irizarry
 BM3 Michael Jones
 ME2 Rachel Longfellow
 BM1 Aaron Wisner
 ME1 Justin Anderson
 MK2 Trevor Atkinson
 LCDR Alissa Bohnenstiehl
 LTJG Hector Fajardo
 BM1 Christye Greene
 LTJG Mackenzie Hannon
 MKCM Brian Hosking
 BM1 James Lane
 MK3 Cheryl Machleder
 MEC Carlos Sowell
 BM1 Robert Wilfong
 MSTC James Wilkinson
 BMC Ian Yaffe



**Armed Forces
 Reserve Medal
 with Hourglass**

LTJG Justin Binger
 ENG2 Anthony Birds
 LT Matthew Bowling
 MEC Michael Burch
 BM2 Ryan Carrasco
 ENS Alberto Claudio
 ME1 Alexander Correa
 ME1 Martin Crew
 ME1 Jonathan Cruz-Sepulveda
 BM1 Alyssa Dejesus
 MKC John Ebert
 BM1 Darin Elliott
 BMC Patrick Ferguson
 BM1 Christye Greene
 BM1 Scott Logan
 YN1 Patrick Popescu
 BM1 Robert Wilfong
 BM1 Brian Williams



Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization "M"

- ET3 Jared Albricht
- LTJG Rafael Allen
- ME1 Justin Anderson
- MK2 Trevor Atkinson
- ME2 Mohammad Aziz
- ME2 David Bellville
- GM2 Anthony Bianco
- ENG2 Anthony Birds
- LT Scott Boyd
- CS2 Jonathan Brown
- MEC Michael Burch
- OS3 Christopher Cabral
- OS2 Ryan Carden
- BM2 Ryan Carrasco
- ME2 Ethan Cates
- ME2 Ryan Chandler
- ME2 Rachel Coleman
- ME2 Garrett Coltham
- ME1 Alexander Correa
- BM3 Austin Crocker
- BM3 Jedediah Defee
- IS2 Joseph Dehmer
- BM1 Alyssa Dejesus
- CDR John Elkins
- BM1 Darin Elliott
- BM3 David Estrada
- BM1 Alexandra Eustis
- LTJG Hector Fajardo
- BMC Patrick Ferguson
- BM1 Joshua Folkert
- ME2 Brandon Fox
- MK1 Rawle Fraser
- ME2 Brian Gardiner
- MK3 Curtis Gionet
- ME1 Michael Giuttari

- ME3 Jacob Godbee
- BM1 Christye Greene
- ME1 James Gregg
- BM3 Gilmar Guimaraes
- ME2 Andrew Haase
- MK2 Reginald Harris
- DC1 Kyle Harter
- BM2 Charles Hartman
- ME2 James Hewgley
- ME2 Jacob Higginbotham
- MKCM Brian Hosking
- BM1 Corey Hughes
- BMCS Harvey Hyman
- MK2 Julio Irizarry
- ME1 Arthur Johnson
- BM3 Michael Jones
- GM2 Prentis Jones
- BM2 Peter Kalman
- BM1 Michael King
- EM3 Dylan Kizer
- BM1 James Lane
- ME2 Maxwell Lawson
- ME2 Frank Lazarcheck
- BM1 Scott Logan
- ME2 Rachel Longfellow
- DC2 Jerry Lopez Betancourt
- MK3 Cheryl Machleder
- ME2 Benjamin Magargee
- OS1 Steven Markley
- ME2 Shae Massey
- BM3 Joshua McDermott
- ME1 Luis Montalvo
- LT Benjamin Montz
- BM2 Alexander Morentin
- ME2 Bradley Nicolini
- ME2 Chancellor Oliver
- ME2 Edgar Peraza
- BMC Nathan Plavcan
- LT Daris Pruter

- HSC Nathaniel Puchala
- MK2 Eric Ramirez
- ME2 Adrian Rodriguez
- CDR Gregory Rogers
- BM3 Jordon Rosell
- ME1 Joseph Rothenberger
- ME1 Gregory Royal
- ETC Rhett Sampson
- ME2 Brian Samuel
- LCDR Glenn Sanchez
- DC2 Jacob Schweitzer
- ME2 Arbnor Shala
- ME2 Matthew Shattuck
- YN1 Jessica Shingleton
- ME2 Cameron Snyder
- ME1 Adrian Soto
- MEC Carlos Sowell
- ME1 Justin Spotts
- ME2 Kyle Stanford
- BM1 Colin Stoddard
- MK1 Jay Tacker
- ME2 Matthew Thomas
- BM3 Steven Thompson
- ET1 Bjorn Tovsrud
- LCDR Thinh Truong
- ME1 Christopher Vervooren
- ME2 Hunter Wick
- BM1 Robert Wilfong
- BM1 Brian Williams
- BM1 Brent Williams
- LT Trevor Wilson
- BM1 Aaron Wisner



Coast Guard Rifle Expert Medal

- LT Miguel Escalera
- BM1 Bryce Makowski
- BM1 Travis McConnell



Coast Guard Pistol Expert Medal

- LCDR Sean Carothers
- MK2 Joseph Mangrum



Advanced Boat Forces Operations Insignia

- LT Trevor Wilson



Boat Forces Operations Insignia

- BM3 Michael Jones
- LT Todd Pagel



Coast Guard Port Security Insignia

- LT Sara Cole
- BM3 James Failla
- LTJG Avery Lowe
- ME1 Justin Spotts



Coast Guard Basic Training Honor Graduate Ribbon

- SN Rylan Matyshock
- SN Nicholas Seth

TAPS

Shirley Schoemer Farish, 98, of Richmond, Virginia, passed away Aug. 17. Lovingly known as "Gap," she was born Nov. 19, 1923, in Butler, Pa. She served in the Coast Guard during World War II, and afterward, married John Farish in 1947. Shirley was a devoted, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. She was well known for her crafts, and she was a member of Beulah United Methodist Church and the Meadowbrook Women's Club. Introduced to an iPad in her late 80s, she reunited with family across the country. She was a wonderful matriarch and friend and will be missed. ≈



Chief Petty Officer Robert A. Person, 76, of Sherman, N.Y., passed away at home Thursday, April 28, following an extended illness. He was born July 12, 1945, in Erie, Pa., the son of the late Alvin and Helen Person. After high school, he joined the U. S. Coast Guard in 1965, where he was stationed at Grand Island, La. He served his country for 28 years including Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm as part of Port Security Unit 301. Bob worked at Panama Central School as the head of the bus garage and then was a New York State School Bus Inspector until he retired in 2002.



Bob was a member of the Sherman Community Church and the Masonic Lodge. He loved puzzles and working in his garage. He will always be remembered as a kind, loyal gentleman, with a genuine warm smile. He was a devoted husband, father, papa, and friend. ≈

Edward W. Dlugolecki, 62, passed away peacefully Feb. 19 surrounded by his loving family. Born March 4, 1959, in Utica, N.Y., Ed is the son of the late Joseph and Grace (Twitchell) Dlugolecki. Ed joined the Coast Guard in 1979 and served in various capacities, including Operation Desert Storm as part of Port Security Unit 301; he retired 2009.



Ed and his wife of 42 years, Bonni, enjoyed traveling in their camper with their beloved dog Cocoa; they rarely passed up an opportunity to go on adventures together. He is survived by his wife, three children, grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. ≈

PARTING SHOTS



Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, N.J., holds a Sunset Parade on base Aug. 7 to honor the Coast Guard's 232nd birthday and recognize regional operational commands. To ensure continued mission success, the service is embarking on its greatest transformation yet: transforming our workforce, sharpening our competitive edge and advancing our mission excellence.

Photo by Seaman Christian Lower

Coast Guard Cutter *Healy* crew members and their embarked science team enjoy ice liberty at the North Pole Oct. 2.

Photo by Chief Petty Officer Roy Mesen Scott.



Coast Guard Station Ludington tows a disabled 22-foot vessel July 18 near Ludington State Park Beach, Michigan, on Lake Michigan. The crew responded to the call after a report was made that the vessel had run aground, freed itself, and was struggling in the building sea state.

Photo courtesy of Station Ludington

Coast Guard units interdict a migrant voyage approximately 20 miles south of Boca Chica, Florida, Oct 18. The people were repatriated to Cuba Oct. 21.

U.S. Coast Guard photo



U.S. Coast Guard
Commandant (CG-R)
Stop 7721
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20593-7721

PRSTD STD
Postage and Fees Paid
United States Coast Guard
Permit Number G-157

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

U.S. Coast Guard Reserve



For 81 Years — Always Ready When Needed Most