

# inside ACQUISITION

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CG-9 NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS



Members of the offshore patrol cutter project resident office and Coast Guard Stations Panama City and Destin celebrate Jean Strickland's 100th birthday in December 2022. Strickland was a member of the Coast Guard Women's Reserve during World War II. U.S. Coast Guard photo.

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## SPARs legacy serves as inspiration for OPC PRO members

By Ali Clark (CG-925)

The offshore patrol cutter (OPC) project resident office (PRO) and members of Coast Guard Stations Panama City and Destin got a jump on Women's History Month by celebrating Coast Guard SPAR Seaman Second Class Dorothy "Jean" Strickland's 100th birthday in December 2022. "Meeting Mrs. Strickland was akin to speaking to a photo taken during an incredible time in history," said Cmdr. Geoffrey Sahlin, executive officer of the OPC PRO. "Her story, as seen in her [2019 interview](#), afforded a look back to a different time with lessons not told in history books."



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After seeing a Facebook post requesting cards for the milestone birthday, Carlon Brietzke, a production controller at OPC PRO, coordinated with the local American Veterans Post 2298 and the Clifford Chester Sims State Veterans Nursing Home in Panama City, Florida, and enlisted the help of fellow OPC PRO members to ensure that Strickland was able to celebrate her milestone to the fullest extent.

Born Dec. 25, 1922, Strickland joined the Coast Guard in August 1944, traveling via train from Los Angeles to West Palm Beach, Florida, for basic training. "I heard on the radio that they needed women so the men could be sent overseas. So, I thought, well, I am eligible. I went down and quit my job and joined the service ... the Coast Guard."



WWII female recruitment poster, Coast Guard 1941-1945.

Strickland was stationed at a South San Francisco Air Base as a switchboard operator for the duration of her service, separating in 1945. When asked if there was a story that stuck out from her time in service, she mentioned the head of the base where she was stationed. "We had to walk from the main highway to base. If he was driving, he would always stop and pick us up and drive us onto base. He was always a gentleman; just a really nice guy," she said, smiling.

Strickland met her husband, Navy Seaman First Class Howard Lee Strickland, prior to separating. They were married in San Francisco and had five children, four boys and one girl.

The Coast Guard Women's Reserve, affectionally called SPARs (a nautical term and acronym for Semper Paratus, Always Ready), was created with the passage of legislation in November 1942. During World War II, many Coast Guard members and officers were reassigned for duty at sea, leaving open critical positions at Coast Guard facilities across the nation. The SPARs provided the answer to the problem, recruiting and training women to perform duties on shore while the service fully supported mission needs at sea and abroad. The women were under military law and discipline, filling jobs that could not have been done by civilians.

Women joined the SPARs for many reasons, including feeling an intense patriotic duty and a desire to help the war effort. In early 1944, the Coast Guard sent recruiters out to find new members instead of waiting for them to walk into an office. In October 1944, the Coast Guard authorized recruiters to accept Black women for enlistment, and within the first six months, four made the application and were accepted.

SPARs trained at boot camps in the Midwest, New York and at the Palm Beach Biltmore Hotel in Florida. At boot camp, the women learned Coast Guard history, ranks and insignia, information about nautical terms and job-specific information. SPAR officers faced the same training as the enlisted women even if their jobs and training stations were different. Officers trained in Massachusetts and the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. There was a total of 955 SPAR officers.

SPARs went on to be assigned to every Coast Guard district except Puerto Rico, due to the lack of suitable housing. Women filled administrative and supervisory jobs, served as communication and barracks officers, and performed other roles. Traditional clerical work represented most of the tasks the women did, but some performed specialized jobs, filling billets as parachute riggers, radiomen, vehicle drivers and air control tower operators.

Service in the Coast Guard Women's Reserve was not meant to be a long-term assignment; it was only developed to fill critical needs of World War II and six months after. On June 30, 1946, SPAR demobilization-completion day arrived, and the women departed the service with enthusiasm and pride, just as they entered.

More than 10,000 women volunteered for service between 1942 and 1946 and became the pioneers of today's Coast Guard women. The Coast Guard continues to recognize the SPARs' contributions today. National security cutter Stratton was named after



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Dorothy Stratton, commanding officer of the reserve unit. Stratton was dean of women at Purdue University and a lieutenant in the Navy Women's Reserve. She eventually was promoted to captain. Fast response cutter 61 is set to be named after Olivia Hooker, who in February 1945 became one of the first Black women to join the SPARs. Hooker earned the rank of petty officer second class during her time with the Coast Guard.

This year's theme for Women's History Month is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." SPARs like Strickland, Stratton and Hooker told stories of courage, service and devotion to the Coast Guard and the nation. Bravo Zulu.■

## Air Station Savannah plays key role in airspace security during SpaceX launches

By Danielle Lanahan (CG-925)

For 30 years, Air Station Savannah was essential to the security of the airspace surrounding NASA rocket launches during a time commonly referred to as the space shuttle era. When NASA ended its space shuttle program in 2010, Savannah's Rotary Wing Air Intercept (RWAI) unit applied their exceptional flight skills to other areas within the Coast Guard until SpaceX reintroduced human spaceflight in May 2020 with the launch of Crew Demo-2.

Lt. Cmdr. Mike Gibson, director of Aviation Special Missions Policy, provided background on the Coast Guard's relationship with NASA. "Once NASA got back into the human spaceflight business, they requested air defense support from North American Aerospace Defense Command, who recommended deployable RWAI assets be part of the security package. NASA made that request, and we began support with the first manned launch of Crew Demo-2 on May 30, 2020."

The successful launch of Crew-6 March 2, 2023, from Cape Canaveral, Florida, marks the seventh launch for which the air station has provided critical flight restriction enforcement since NASA's resumption of manned spaceflights. All airspace surrounding a launch is restricted by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), meaning any type of aviation vehicle is prohibited from coming within preset distances of the launch. Should any unknown aircraft violate the FAA order, the RWAI crew on duty will intercept the craft in the air and escort it to the ground.

The highly trained RWAI crew remains on standby before and during the launch, poised to fly at a moment's notice and intercept any unfamiliar aircraft that might trespass into the designated airspace. Pilots who fly for the unit possess exceptional flight skills and decision-making abilities, as the mission dictates pilots fly in extremely close quarters with other aircraft in order to intercept them.

The upgraded MH-65E helicopter also gives pilots more tools to execute the mission – the Echo configuration automates more flight control functions through use of the Common Avionics Architecture (CAAS) and Automatic Flight Control systems, allowing pilots to set parameters like altitude limits to prevent accidental overclimb into uncontrolled airspace. This and other upgrades ensure that pilots are able to focus on flying the mission with heightened awareness.



The SpaceX Crew-6 launch underway March 2, 2023. Photo courtesy of SpaceX.

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“The Echo drastically increases situational awareness and allows for much more complex mission calculations,” says RWAI pilot Lt. Cmdr. Sam Ingham. “This creates larger safety margins in an inherently dangerous environment.”

According to Gibson, Air Station Savannah has sent NASA-requested RWAI resources to every official U.S. Government human spaceflight launch as part of Operation Noble Eagle. The latest launch was supported by Lt. Cmdr. Felipe Guardiola, Lt. Cmdr. Michael Gonzales and Petty Officer 2nd Class Connor Covert.

“NASA and the Coast Guard have a great relationship, and we’re happy to come down and help where we can,” said Ingham. “Also, it’s cool to have front row seats to watch rockets go to space.”

The MH-65E conversion and sustainment program continually receives feedback from the operational fleet on how the capabilities of the upgraded Echo allow the crew to continually be safer and more efficient when executing the mission. “It’s really incredible to hear from these crews that the upgrades to the Echo model are increasing their situational awareness,” said Cmdr. Karyn Forsyth, acquisition program manager for the MH-65. “Crews have more confidence in CAAS and its capabilities, especially when performing these special missions.”

The Coast Guard short range recovery helicopter program delivered the fifth and final MH-65E to Air Station Savannah, making it the ninth air station to fully transition to the upgraded configuration. ■



A picture of the Air Station Savannah patch taken in space during the SpaceX Crew-4 launch April 27, 2022. Photo courtesy of SpaceX.

## Sixth annual Head of the Contracting Activity Awards presented

By CG-925 Staff

Six individuals and two teams from within the Coast Guard contracting and procurement (C&P) community were recognized for their exceptional performance in fiscal year 2022 during the annual Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA) Awards held March 14, 2023, at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. There were 37 nominees out of the total 1,000- to 1,200-member C&P workforce in seven award categories. Additional details on the awardees are available on the Acquisition Directorate website.



Allen Tillman of the Office of Contract Operations (CG-912) earned the award for Outstanding Contracting Professional of the Year. His family cheers his accomplishment at the awards presentation. U.S. Coast Guard photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Ronald Hodges.



Ebony Newbon of the C5I Office of Contracting and Procurement (CG-914) also was recognized as Outstanding Contracting Professional of the Year.

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Susan Ferralli of the Office of Contract Operations (CG-912) was named Supervisor of the Year. Head of the Contracting Activity, Keith J. O'Neill, congratulates her on her accomplishment.



Vice Adm. Paul Thomas, Coast Guard deputy commandant for mission support, chats with attendees before the ceremony. Thomas encouraged the group to continue their use of creative C&P strategies in line with the Coast Guard Mission Support watch words: responsive, integrated and innovative.



Guest speaker Nina Ferraro, deputy chief procurement officer for the Department of Homeland Security, said the accomplishments by the award winners and nominees made it obvious that Coast Guard C&P "is working day in and day out to meet the needs of the Coast Guard."



The team of Chris Stine, Doug Sansone and Annette Berg of the Office of Procurement Policy and Oversight (CG-914) receives the awards for Innovative Contracting Team of the Year.



Christopher Sibrel of DOL-9 was named Bridge Builder of the Year.



Adam Birkland, Gabe Perez, Gina Sirianni and Wes Whisner of Shore Infrastructure Logistics Center were honored as Outstanding Contracting Team of the Year.



Bahar Cabrera of DOL-9 (left) receives the award for Rising Star of the Year from Jeanette Briley, who provides administrative support for CG-91.



Jeffrey Center of Director of Operational Logistics - Office of Procurement and Contracting (DOL-9) is recognized as Outstanding Procurement Professional of the Year by O'Neill.

## MARCH WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

### Departing CG-9 employees:

Farewell; thank you for your service and good luck in your future endeavors!

- Michelle Taninecz, CG-9122
- Lt. David Kent, CG-926, Research and Development Center
- Chief Warrant Officer 3 William Sheriff, CG-9323, In-Service Vessel Sustainment Project Resident Office
- Capt. Adam Kerr, CG-9336

### New CG-9 employees:

Welcome aboard to our newest CG-9 members! Current employees – please seek out these individuals, introduce yourselves and make them feel welcome.

- Deborah Hughes, CG-9125
- Phillip Harkins, CG-9141
- Emily Richardson, CG-9141
- Susan Salaj, CG-9142
- Charles Boyd, CG-9311
- Dana Giannas, CG-932
- Sebastian Murray, CG-933
- James Bailey, CG-9335

### Leadership resources:

CG-9 employees looking for information on professional development opportunities should make sure they have read this article on the MyCG site:

- [Calling all leaders: Coast Guard releases a step-by-step guide to developing your skills](#)

Looking for an easier way to develop leadership skills? The Coast Guard Leadership Development Framework is a policy and training tool that communicates what the service expects from its leaders as they progress in their career. And the LDF has just been updated – from 91 pages to eight, written in plain language and organized by areas of focus.

### Resources:

For more information, visit the [Office of Leadership \(CG-128\) website](#)

## Legacy portal access ends March 31

CG-9's migration to the [new Portal environment](#) has started. Here's an update to keep you informed of the migration status.

The [CG-9 Migration Hub](#) has been set up to provide migration guidance for what to expect, Portal user actions required and migration schedule.

CG-9 has eight incremental migration events scheduled from January through March 2023. Refer to the [CG-9 Migration Hub](#) for migration schedule and required CG-9 Portal user pre/post migration actions.

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**Completed:**

- **Phase 1:** Jan. 3, 2023 – C-9 top level sites completed final data migration (does not include CG-91, 92 or 93 subsites). Migration banner added to migrated sites/subsites. Delete permissions restored for migrated sites/subsites.
- **Phase 2:** Jan. 1, 2023 – Online Document Coordination and Review System (DCARS) launched for new packages.
- **Phase 3:** Jan. 9, 2023 – Online Funding Request Portal (FRP) launched for new FRP packages.
- **Phase 4:** February 2023 – Final migration of CG-91 sites and subsites completed.
- **Phase 5:** February 2023 – Final migration of DCARS completed.
- **Phase 6:** Feb. 13-23, 2023 – Final migration of CG-92 sites and subsites completed. Refer to CG-9 Migration Hub site for user migration preparation and post migration actions.
- **Phase 7:** Feb. 20-24, 2023 – Legacy FRP final migration completed.
- **Phase 8:** Mar. 13-24, 2023 – Final migration of legacy CG-93 sites.

**Upcoming:**

- **Metadata Extraction:** March 2023 – Final migration of legacy completed FRP packages metadata

**How to prepare for final site migration:**

- Confirm all site content has been transitioned from the legacy CG-9 Portal site to the new SharePoint Online CG-9 Portal site/subsites.
- Do not wait to verify migrated sites' content as there may be a queue to address missing online Portal content. Some missing content can be resolved at the user level. If unable to resolve the missing content issue, please submit a [CG-9 Portal Support Ticket](#).
- PLEASE NOTE: The CG-9 Portal Support and C5I Migration Teams have limited resources and will address issues in the order of ticket submission.

**What to expect once a final site migration is complete:**

- A migration banner will be posted to the migrated legacy site informing users of the new SharePoint Online Portal location and the final migration phase is complete for the scheduled sites/subsites.
- Users are required to use the new SharePoint Online CG-9 Portal site/subsites. Do not use or add content to the legacy CG-9 Portal sites once they have been migrated. If this should happen, users are responsible for updating the information to their (new) online CG-9 Portal site.
- Site owners and users are responsible for confirming site content, links, permissions and functionality. Portal alerts and favorite links will also need to be updated. Visit the [CG-9 Portal Migration Hub](#) for online Portal tips/instructions.
- Be patient while learning and navigating the new SharePoint Online Portal environment. Expect there will be Portal items that need to be fixed either by the C5I Migration Team, CG-9 Portal Support Team and/or users as this is considered a major migration. With this migration comes enhanced functionality, look and feel and seamless integration among Microsoft products.

**Post migration next steps:**

- The major components of the migration are concluding shortly. The Knowledge Management Team will be transitioning into the post migration administration and remediation phase. This involves prioritizing Portal projects identified during the rebuild of custom Portal tools, updating Portal policies, ticket remediation, developing online training material and coordinating training sessions. Please continue to submit tickets for Portal support needs

**CG-9 Portal Migration communications:**

- [CG-9 Portal Migration Hub](#) provides updates to the CG-9 Migration Schedule, Online

**How do I find my pages?**

Legacy Portal sites (<https://cg.portal.uscg.mil>) will no longer be accessible beginning April 1. You may want to ensure you can find the pages you use regularly within the new SharePoint environment before the deadline passes.

One easy way to find pages is to open the page on the legacy portal, then substitute "<https://uscg.sharepoint.mil.us/>" at the beginning of the URL. You can then either "Follow" the page by clicking on the star at the upper right of the page, or create a bookmark within the browser.

The substitute method won't work for every page (especially outside of CG-9) but it's a good place to start.

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Portal Tips and What to Expect.

- [comdt-cg-9-km-leadership@uscg.mil](mailto:comdt-cg-9-km-leadership@uscg.mil) – use this email address to send questions or concerns related to CG-9 Portal migration.
- [CG-9 Portal Support Ticket](#) – use this link to submit a ticket for CG-9 Portal support or questions/concerns.
- CG-9 All Users Forum Teams Chat – join the Teams chat for migration discussions/questions. Instruction for how to join using a code are included on the CG-9 Portal Migration Hub and listed on the graphic. ■

## Join CG-9 All Users Forum for CG-9 Portal Migration

To Join:

1. Open MS Teams Desktop application.
2. Click the Teams icon in the left side bar.
3. Go to the bottom and find the “Join or create a team.”
4. Click “Join or create a team.”
5. Enter code “whev05” in the “Join a team with a code” box, then click Join.

Discuss the latest information and actions required for CG-9 Portal migration.



**Acquisition**  
Directorate

“The Coast Guard Acquisition Directorate empowers a workforce motivated by leadership, integrity and teamwork to deliver the assets and systems that increase operational readiness, enhance mission performance, and create a safer working environment.”

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