

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
District 5 SR - Division 23
Flotilla 23-07 Herring Bay, Maryland

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A COOPERATIVE EFFORT

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It is not unheard of for two different organizations to find that by combining their resources it can benefit both groups in meeting their individual goals. In the case of boating safety, this has led to the Coast Guard Auxiliary joining hands with the Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP) in expanding both group's role in reducing the number of boating accidents on the Chesapeake Bay through a comprehensive boating education program. A handful of Auxiliarists hold membership in both groups and are therefore aware of upcoming events that could require mutual assistance.

While this is not a unique idea, what does make this special is that it was begun as an unofficial grass roots effort among the members themselves.

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Auxiliarist Joe DiStefano reviewing chapter questions with students.



Last spring, Flotilla 23-07 was in need of additional vessel examiners (VE) for their VE Day at Herrington Harbor North in Tracy's Landing, Maryland. Gini Shrift, Flotilla Commander reached out to Anna Dahlstrom, Reserve Officer Coordinator (ROC) with the NRP, and asked for her assistance in providing VE personnel to aid with the usual backlog of VE requests that day. She was able to provide that support which greatly helped in accomplishing the goal. Since then, NRP personnel have asked for and been given assistance in manning their public affairs booths by Auxiliarists at local marinas. This arrangement has given the boating public an opportunity to have their specific questions answered by either a Federal or State boating representative, in one place.

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COAST GUARD ACADEMY ASSISTANCE

From September 18-22, 2023, Flotilla 23-07 Auxiliarist, Dr. Robin Ainsworth, went on Temporary Duty (TDY) to the Coast Guard Academy (CGA). She augmented the dental clinic to help out with performing dental exams on the Second Class Year (third year/Junior) Cadets. Because the Cadets have rigorous training schedules, in addition to their class time, there is only a limited amount of time each year for them to receive their dental exams, which is a requirement for Readiness. All four Classes of Cadets are required to receive an annual dental exam. Their first dental exam is done when they arrive on the Academy's campus the summer of their first year known as Swab Summer. They then receive their subsequent exams in September of their second and third years. By August of their fourth year, they receive their last dental exam from the Academy clinic. They must be dentally qualified, along with other medical requirements, prior to the beginning of their Commissioning process.

Due to the high operational tempo during the week of dental exams, the CGA dental clinic usually asks for at least one dentist to help them in their effort to complete 250+ (average classes of cadets) exams. The Academy Dental Clinic is billeted for three dental officers but currently only have two dentists. With the shortage of dental officers, in addition to all health care providers, Coast Guard-wide, they requested Auxiliary Health Care support again this year. Dr. Ainsworth provided \$8,800.00 in dental services during the week she was there and prevented an active-duty dentist from another Coast Guard Clinic from needing to leave their post to help out. She took advantage of being in New London and was able to take a self-guided tour on the Coast Guard Cutter Barque Eagle before it went underway that week.

The Auxiliary Health Services has four divisions; Operational Medicine, Work-Life, Safety and Environmental Health, and Administrative. The Operation Medicine division currently has 65 providers that include eight dentists. Unlike the Auxiliary Chaplain Service, which is its own stand-alone Flotilla, the Auxiliary Health Service members are integrated with their respective local Flotillas.

Robin Ainsworth, FSO-CS, FSO-SR



Back row: LCDR Blake Donaldson, retired CAPT Robin Ainsworth, CDR Scott Eckhart, Karen Robertson, Sheethal Mathew
Front row: Angelica Riebel, Reina Garcia, HS3 Madyson Lynch - photo by HSC Marvin Ainsworth



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

NEW FIRE EXTINGUISHER SYMBOL

The American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) located in Eastport, Maryland has recently issued an update to their A-4 Fire Fighting Equipment standard. One of the changes is the upcoming requirement for participating boat manufactures to begin installing the new symbol as shown below.

ABYC is a non-profit, member organization that develops voluntary global safety standards for the design, construction, maintenance, and repair of recreational boats. It's mission is to write, revise, and maintain technical standards for the recreational boating industry and performs this under the auspices of the United States Coast Guard and the National Marine Manufacturing Association, to name just a few.

This symbol will now be displayed at the intended location of each portable fire extinguisher on newly built recreational vessels. If they are in a locker or another enclosed space, this new symbol will now be identifying the location of the fire extinguisher at that access point.



NEW ANNUAL INSPECTION REQUIREMENT

An annual requirement is established for Auxiliarists to undergo a uniform inspection by either their Flotilla Commander (FC), Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC), Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC), or other elected officer in their Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) (e.g., uniform inspections may be conducted for attendees at a district conference or division training forum). Multiple opportunities shall be provided Auxiliarists to undergo this inspection.

This requirement shall be effective starting with Calendar Year 2024. An Auxiliarist may wear any uniform they are qualified to wear (e.g., a certified vessel examiner may opt to be inspected in the Operational Dress Uniform, Coast Guard Working Uniform, or Alternative Working Uniform with authorized Vessel Examiner polo shirt; an Auxiliarist who only wears the Blue Blazer Outfit for their Auxiliary activities must wear that for inspection purposes). If an Auxiliarist does not own an Auxiliary uniform nor wears the Blue Blazer Outfit then they must notify their FC and are exempt from meeting this inspection requirement. Dinner Dress uniforms, Hot Weather Uniform versions, the Auxiliary jump suit, flight suit, or any organizational clothing are not authorized for the purpose of this annual inspection.

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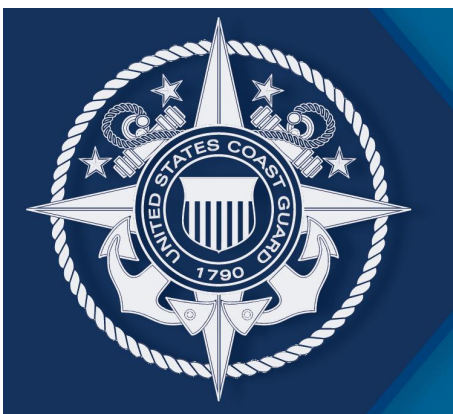
A COOPERATIVE EFFORT (CONT'D)

With the success of those events, the next logical collaboration was to join forces in presenting a boating safety course to the public. NRP scheduled a Maryland Boating Safety Class at Harbor Cove Marina in Deale, Maryland which ran on October 7 and 14. In an effort to meet that goal, they asked two of Flotilla 23-07's qualified instructors to lend assistance at the class. In attendance were 13 students from the surrounding Deale area along with two NRP RO instructors-in-training. Class was scheduled to begin at 8:00 both mornings and the instructors covered the topics of Knowing Your Boat, Before You Get Underway, Operating Your Boat Safely, Legal Requirements, Boating Emergencies, and Enjoying Water Sports.

In addition, on the last day the students were given the opportunity to learn about operating a VHF radio and how to call for assistance. Instruction was also provided on how to read a chart and navigating the local waters. As luck would have it, one of the students, Julia Powell, happened to be the Chief of the Navigation Services Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She gave a brief overview of the agency's change over to a paperless chart system which is going into effect shortly.

Following the positive results of the class at the Harbor Cove Marina, it is expected that future assistance between the two organizations will continue and both will benefit from sharing each others resources.

Frank Voltaggio, FSO-PB



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome aboard to our newest and soon to be members to Flotilla 23-07:

Helen Gemignani
Joseph Sheehan - pending transfer
Kimberle Zimmerman Sheehan - pending transfer
Yvette Moore - in process

PASSING THOUGHT

You meet people who forget you. You forget people you meet. But sometimes you meet those people you can't forget. Those are your friends.

Mark Twain

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 4 - Cold Water Immersion Class, Public Library, Edgewater, Maryland, 1300 - 1600

November 13 - Flotilla meeting and elections, Cedarhurst Community Center, Shady Side, Maryland, 1900

December 11 - Flotilla meeting, Cedarhurst Community Center, Shady Side, Maryland, 1900

January 8 - Flotilla meeting, Cedarhurst Community Center, Shady Side, Maryland, 1900

January 21 - Division 23 Change of Watch, Renditions Country Club, Davidsonville, Maryland, 1300

February 13 - Flotilla meeting, Cedarhurst Community Center, Shady Side, Maryland, 1900

Visit us at:

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=054-23-07>

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Page 1 photo by Frank Voltaggio.

