

# RESERVIST

Official Publication of the United States Coast Guard Reserve

[reserve.uscg.mil/magazine](http://reserve.uscg.mil/magazine)

## AN OFFICE IN THE CLOUDS

Coast Guard reservists balance their  
need to fly with their need to serve.

Volume LXV ≈ Issue 3 • 2018

**A**LWAYS WEAR A LIFE JACKET.

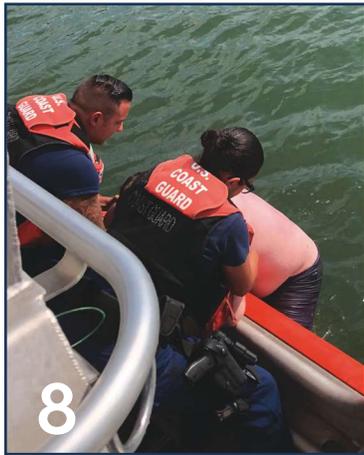
**B**RING A RADIO.

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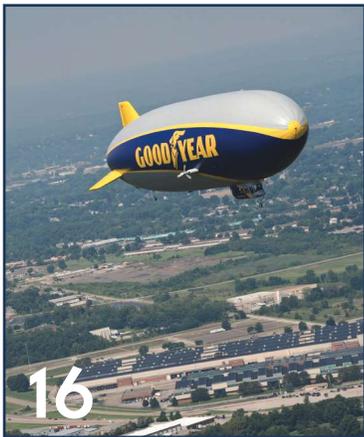


**BE SAFE.**  
**BE SEEN.**





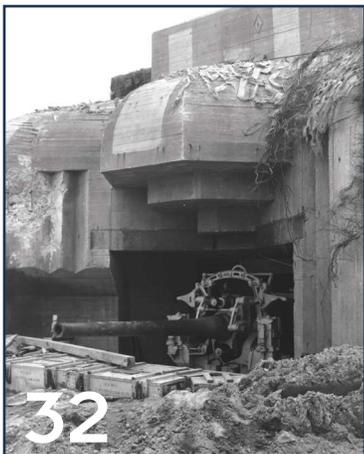
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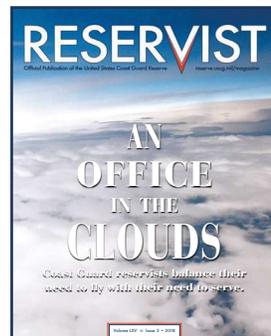


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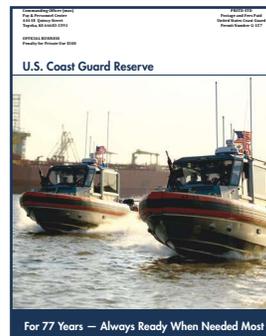
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## On the Covers



A photo taken from the window of a KC-135 Stratotanker as it flies through clouds in the path of totality.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Trevor Rhyne



Boat crews from Coast Guard Station Houston conduct law enforcement training, March 22. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Johanna Strickland.



# RESERVIST

Celebrating Our 65th Year!

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[reserve.uscg.mil/magazine](http://reserve.uscg.mil/magazine)  
[thereservist@uscg.mil](mailto:thereservist@uscg.mil)

## MAGAZINE

A. M. Devlin  
Editor

Chris S. Rose  
Creative Director

## COMMAND

**Adm. Karl L. Schultz**  
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

**Rear Adm. Matthew W. Sibley**  
Acting Director of Reserve

**Capt. William F. Csisar**  
Chief, Office of Reserve Affairs

**Cmdr. Alexander C. Foos**  
Chief, Reserve Information Division

**Petty Officer 1st Class Emaia Rise**  
Reserve Webmaster

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Commandant (CG-1313)  
 Attn: Editor, Reservist  
 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.,  
 SE (Stop-7907)  
 Washington, DC 20593-7907

[thereservist@uscg.mil](mailto:thereservist@uscg.mil)

<http://reserve.uscg.mil>  
 FB - @uscoastguardreserve  
 Twitter - @uscgreseve  
 #uscgr

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## FROM THE EDITOR

I can count on some great mentors in my life, the first and strongest being my mother. After her, Master Chief Buck Ward (leadership), Master Chief Jeff Smith (editing), CWO Luke Pinneo (writing), Maj. Antony Andreas (self-discipline). I soak up these brass-tacks discussions with my friends and mentors, people who challenge me to be better.

When I was little, I spent a lot of time working with my dad in his woodshop in the basement. When we'd get into discussions, I remember him telling me that what mattered was that I gave everything to the effort. He'd ask, "Were you the best Stacey Burns you could be?"

Such a simple strategy for helping a child be the best version of herself. As Coast Guardsmen, we need to keep that mentor in our lives, constantly challenging us to be the best versions of ourselves.

Blaine Meserve-Nibley works in Coast Guard recruiting, training recruiters in how to recruit reservists. He helps them understand where the applicants are coming from, and how to connect an applicant to the "why." As in, "Why do you want to serve?" He showed me a part of his presentation, which involves a video of a talk given by Simon Sinek entitled, "The Millennial Question."

Now, don't let the title throw you off. I appreciated Sinek's points about millennials, but one of the more salient points he made toward the end of the talk was about technology.

I used to think technology was making me into the most efficient version of myself, and thereby, the best version. My calendar appointments were set to chime, keeping me on track. My gps app got me from A to B in the fastest time possible. My phone conversations were reduced to a single line text message.

But efficient isn't always best. My sons have never seen me page slowly through a newspaper, stop to ask for directions or randomly pop by a friend's house for cup of coffee—interactions that make life slower and more meaningful.

On top of that, Sinek points to the dopamine effect of social media and technology (the happiness of getting a message or a "like") as an addiction.

"If you're at dinner with your friends, and you're texting someone who's not there, that's a problem. That's an addiction. If you're sitting in a meeting with people you're supposed to be listening and speaking to, and you put your phone on the table, that sends a subconscious message to the room: 'you're just not that important.' The fact that you can't put the phone away, that's because you're addicted. If you wake up and check your phone before saying good morning... you have an addiction."

I'm guilty of checking my phone as I wait for a meeting to start, rather than looking around the table and starting conversations. "THAT's where trust starts," said Sinek, citing the need for the opportunity to form relationships slowly. When he goes to dinner, he leaves his phone at home, because he said, "Ideas happen when your mind wanders. That's called innovation, but we're taking away all those little moments."

Trust. Relationships. Innovation. Things we all need to be a better version of ourselves. Thanks, Blaine, for being a great mentor, to me and to countless recruiters I know you've inspired. Thank you to those of you who reach down to mentor others. It's our duty to make ourselves better as Coast Guardsmen, and to pass that knowledge on to others.

Wrap a rubber band around your phone and put it down. Enjoy your summer, friends.

**Anastasia Devlin**  
Editor-in-Chief

## FROM OUR READERS



### New admiral

I had the honor and privilege to drill at Sector Lake Michigan for most of Adm. Sibley's tour as commanding officer. I had talked with him about a star in his future as I was retiring, and he assured me that it wasn't in the cards, yet my prediction came true. I have no doubt that he will serve the Reserve component and its members well. Congratulations Admiral...

**MCPO Peter J. Vickerman, USCGR (RET)**

*Roger that, Master Chief. We're looking forward to great things from the admiral. He's off to a running start, and we're happy to have him writing the View From the Bridge for this issue (page 6).*

### Retired commander honors fallen in Gettysburg

During this summer in Gettysburg, they are doing what they call "100 nights of taps" where, every night at 7 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day, a bugler will stand at the base of the Soldier's National Monument—the spot in the Gettysburg Soldier's National Cemetery where President Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address—and sound taps.

I was there with my family the evening of June 30, the eve of the 155th anniversary of the battle (which lasted from July 1-3, 1863) when retired Coast Guard reservist and TRACEN Yorktown civilian, Lt. Cmdr. Rich Stoud, happened to be the selected bugler for the evening. Prior to his performance, he was introduced, and his

service history was read aloud to the crowd of people in attendance that evening. He played true, not missing a note, and represented our service proudly. Lt. Cmdr. Stoud is a member of several organizations that provide live buglers for military funerals and the like. I imagine there are numerous others who represent the Coast Guard in such fashion and their efforts deserve recognition.

**Cmdr. William J. Kintz**  
**Coast Guard Cyber Command**

*Thanks, Commander. I imagine our readers would agree with you, and I got in touch with Mr. Stoud, who served in the Coast Guard for 23 years.*

*He said he started playing taps in 2002, five years before he retired. In 2009, he auditioned for Bugles Across America, an organization that aims to replace recordings of taps at military funerals with live musicians. Since then, he's played live taps for all branches of the service, as well as the 150th anniversary of taps, the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's death and, most recently, on the Fourth of July at Berkley Plantation in Virginia, the place where taps was composed.*

*"Taps is the emotional peak of a funeral ceremony," he said. "I get to honor our veterans' service, and I get to represent my service in uniform."*

*Bravo Zulu, Commander. You make us proud.*



## BUCKET LIST CHRONICLES

When we saw our former magazine editor, Jeff Smith, at the MCPO-CGR change of watch in May, he and his wife Marilyn told us about their upcoming 'bucket list' trip to Europe. In early June they flew to Budapest and began a two-week journey, visiting Hungary, Austria, Germany, France and Spain.

The first week was spent cruising east to west on the beautiful and historic Danube River visiting ancient castles and abbeys along the way. Disembarking in Nuremberg, they travelled by high-speed train to Paris. There, they picked up a rental car and spent the next seven days traveling through France. Their first destination was the birthplace of Jeff's paternal grandmother. Born in Bellocq, France, she migrated to the U.S. through Ellis Island in the early 1900s.

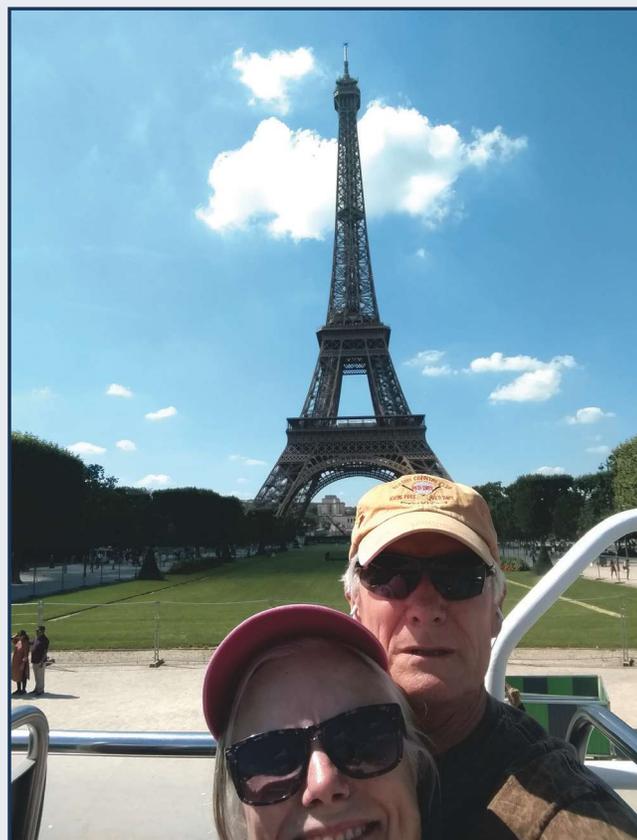
"The feeling I had walking the streets in the tiny village where my grandmother was born and grew to adulthood is difficult to put into words," Jeff said. "In one sense, it was like going back in time, as it appears not that much has changed since she was there."

Following a side trip to the fabulous port city of San Sebastián on the north coast of Spain, the Smiths returned to northern France, spending time in Paris. They also traveled along the Normandy coast, including stops at Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery, as well as the village of Sainte Mere-Eglise where the 82nd and 101st Airborne landed June 6, 1944.

"Standing at Omaha Beach and looking west to Pointe du Hoc, where the 2nd Ranger Division scaled 100 foot vertical cliffs," said Jeff, "it was hard to imagine the determination and raw courage required to break through the German defenses."

"So, river cruise, check. Paris, check. Normandy, check. Grandmother's birthplace, check. Bonus visit to Spain, check. Plan next trip, check."

You're living the life, Jeff. *Anime es bonus*, indeed.



UP FRONT



The Coast Guard Cutter *Nathan Bruckenthal* moored to a pier in Old Town Alexandria, Va.. The *Bruckenthal* was commissioned July 25, and is the Coast Guard's 28th fast response cutter, named after Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Bruckenthal, who was fatally wounded during Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Arabian Gulf in 2004.

Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Loumania Stewart.





Rear Adm.  
Matthew W. Sibley

Acting Director,  
Coast Guard Reserve

***"...the commandant's strategic direction is for the Coast Guard to be Ready, Relevant and Responsive as a service. If the Reserve has proven anything over the past 77 years, it's that we're always ALL THREE of these things."***

I'm humbled at this opportunity to return to the Reserve and Military Personnel Directorate to be your director. As a former Great Lakes sector commander, I have deep appreciation of the value of the Reserve. Whether playing the role of supported commander during the annual Operation Summerstock or the supporting commander for surge operations across our great nation and beyond—a vibrant and strong Reserve is an essential element of Coast Guard mission success.

I can't help but feel that it's appropriate I come into this job at the same time as the World Cup! As a long-time player and coach, I know how critical it is for winning teams to have a strong bench. The Reserve, in many ways, acts as a "ready bench" when the Coast Guard, and our nation needs it most. One needs only to look back to our last hurricane season to see how valuable the Reserve is to carrying out Coast Guard missions. To achieve and maintain this state of readiness, we must continue to focus on:

- Building criterion, processes and systems that will identify the right mix of skills to retain in the Reserve, and
- Robustly supporting the training and management of that properly apportioned force.

This approach aligns with our new commandant's guiding principles, which call for our service to be Ready, Relevant and Responsive. I would offer that the commandant was sending a message of support to the Reserve, as one of our most important charges is to maintain a high degree of readiness, in relevant competencies, necessary to respond to all hazards within 48 hours.

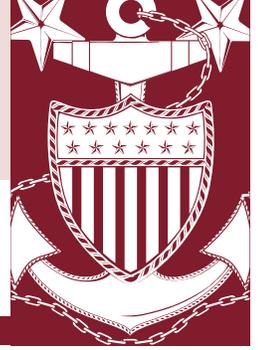
The future of the Reserve is bright, and I'm proud to be a part of it. Look no further than the new Reserve Component Policy Statement released by the commandant. We are contingency-based and focused on the mission needs of the Coast Guard within four prioritized focus areas with defense operations as our top priority. A contingency-based workforce requires a strong understanding of contingency requirements at the Area-level, and we are actively engaged with the Deputy Commandant for Operations (DCO) staff to include these requirements in the Force Planning Construct. This may result in changes to the current rating structure within the Reserve allowing us to free up positions for higher priority needs. What it will be is scientific and repeatable, so we can take comfort in knowing the decisions made are conscious and intentional, based on the best data available.

Another significant milestone in improving Reserve management was the kickoff of the Reserve Governance Integrated Project Team (IPT) earlier this year. This team will be reviewing Headquarters governance processes and make recommendations that will allow the Reserve to field the most effective and relevant Reserve force in Coast Guard history. The team has robust participation from both the active and reserve components and will provide proposed courses of action to the commandant no later than Oct. 15, so stand by for valuable feedback!

As I mentioned, the commandant's strategic direction is for the Coast Guard to be Ready, Relevant and Responsive as a service. If the Reserve has proven anything over the past 77 years, it's that we are always ALL THREE of these things. Last year's hurricane season proved this to be true once again, and I know that you are all standing ready for another potentially busy season. With that in mind, the time is now for everyone to check their readiness.

I am excited about the direction we're headed in, as a service and as the Reserve component. I look forward to serving and supporting you as your director. We're a versatile team with a depth of experience and passion for service surpassed by none, and I pledge to you my strongest efforts to bring forward the policies and resources worthy of the Coast Guard Reserve.

*Semper Paratus.*



I'm humbled and excited to serve as the Thirteenth District reserve senior enlisted leader. It's an honor to be trusted to advocate for you as we continue to strengthen our organization, our shipmates and our families to be Ready, Relevant and Responsive. I look forward to working with senior leadership to champion your issues from the deck plate and implement positive policy changes.

I have no doubt my selection is due in large part to the challenges I faced during an extended tour with Port Security Unit 313. Exposure to uncomfortable and demanding situations pushes us to take a hard, honest look at both our technical competence and leadership abilities. In my humble opinion, there's no experience in the Coast Guard that shapes a person more than a PSU tour.

Leading teams in Korea, providing real-world security for navy LCUs offloading M1 Abrams tanks to a sandy beach and protecting a submerged fuel delivery pipeline is an intimate exposure to our Reserve mission capabilities on the global stage. The opportunity to live and work side-by-side with Seabee beachmasters, mechanized Army equipment operators, and host nation special forces in the mud, cold and rain of a foreign port is something Coast Guard reservists have been doing for more than 75 years.

The joint service environment in Guantanamo Bay is a perfect expeditionary experience to build tactical skill and confidence. The bonds of camaraderie developed while huddled with your crew in an M240 battle position, cruising the deep blue waters of the Caribbean, inserting Marines in full kit into remote swamps at 0200 hours, or flying port security boats across the planet in the back of C-17s...those bonds are invaluable to operational success wherever we deploy.

Many of my colleagues talk fondly of their days as a BM2 coxswain or MK3 overwatch gunner, weathering heavy storms on oil platforms in the Arabian Gulf. From the way they tell it, it sounds like the worst experience they ever had in life! No running water, homemade toilet seats, MREs for breakfast, lunch and dinner, bugs, extreme heat and missiles flying overhead. But it's those uncomfortable experiences in life that we often look back on with a smile. The hardest times provide unforgettable memories, develop bonds that last a lifetime, and build incredible resilience.

With standing orders to be a surge response force that is both agile and adaptive, we must seek every opportunity to develop resilience. Resilience, another important "R," is characterized by "toughness," or the Our ability to bounce back from challenges and hardships. This accumulates over time as we step outside our comfort zones and grow from challenges. Over the years, I discovered a few things can help sustain our resilience when the seas get rough:

- 1) Develop tight bonds with a few close friends to call on, day or night, who will not judge you for your faults or vulnerabilities. Developing bonds with our peers is like adding additional bands when our emotional rubber bands get stretched. There is strength in asking for and receiving help.
- 2) Get comfortable with being uncomfortable. If we stay hungry for opportunities, open ourselves to feedback, and routinely step outside our comfort zones, we develop patterns of habit that develop resilience. Over time, the ability to jump into new or challenging situations gets better—not necessarily easier, but we build toughness to keep leaning forward.
- 3) Keep the end in sight—many troubles are temporary and can be dealt with a little at a time. Maintain a routine of relaxation, exercise, sleep, healthy eating and useful work to stay balanced. Using the services offered through CGSUPRT can help keep perspective.

The demands for service in the Reserve expect us to have a bias for action so we're always ready to defend our homeland and accomplish missions in complex marine environments. Guided by our core values and a powerful history, we will continue to take care of each other as well as our missions. If you haven't been to a PSU, don't hesitate to put it on the top of your assignment list—you won't regret it. Thank you for your service and drive toward resilience.

*Semper Paratus.*



**Master Chief Petty Officer  
Ryan Hooper**

**Command Master Chief,  
Thirteenth District**

***"The hardest  
times can provide  
unforgettable  
memories, develop  
bonds that last a  
lifetime and build  
incredible resilience."***



## PSU 309 and *Vigilant* team up on drug interdiction

Coast Guard servicemembers from Port Security Unit 309 and Coast Guard Cutter *Vigilant* often conduct missions very different from each other. PSUs carry out defense and security operations, while cutters typically carry out drug interdiction, search-and-rescue or migrant interdiction cases.

Despite having different missions, these units often operate jointly with other Coast Guard assets and with international partners. In early June, both units collaborated to interdict illegal drugs one mile from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's shoreline.

PSU 309, based in Port Clinton, Ohio, is currently deployed to Guantanamo Bay where servicemembers are providing around-the-clock anti-terrorism force protection and security along the coastline and the naval station's defensive sea area, which extends three miles from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's shoreline.

The *Vigilant*, homeported in Port Canaveral, Fla., had a scheduled port call in Cuba to resupply the ship between patrols in the region.

What happened next was out of the ordinary for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. PSU 309 servicemembers standing watch from a shoreline observation post spotted a small boat crossing from Cuban waters into the naval station's defensive



A small boat leaves the scene after jettisoning packages of marijuana. The vessel was spotted by Port Security Unit 309 in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in June.

U.S. Coast Guard photo

sea area. The boat was immediately reported to a PSU 309 boat crew who was patrolling the waterway. The boat crew attempted to intercept the small boat, but as they closed the distance, the operators of the suspicious small boat began jettisoning packages and returned to Cuban waters.

PSU 309's boat crew and *Vigilant* crewmembers coordinated and executed a search pattern and located a total of 19 packages and four containers floating in the water. PSU 309's crew recovered the packages and transferred them to the *Vigilant*, where field testing positively identified 611 pounds of marijuana.

Coordination between PSU 309, *Vigilant*, the Seventh District and the Cuban Border Guard resulted in the interdiction of the small boat in Cuban waters by the Cuban Border Guard.

"I'm really proud of how our crews quickly recognized and responded to the potential threat as the suspicious boat entered into restricted waters," said Capt. Matthew Wadleigh, PSU 309's commanding officer. "This case is an example of the valuable service our deployed members provide both at home and abroad, including here, safeguarding and protecting those who serve at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. It was rewarding to see it play out with all the commands in this joint environment."

PSU 309 is one of eight port security units that are part of Pacific Area's Deployable Specialized Forces. PSUs are staffed by reservists whose primary mission is defense readiness, including expeditionary anti-terrorism force protection security and defense in support of Department of Defense combatant commanders worldwide.

– Story by Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew Masaschi,  
PACAREA Public Affairs



Member of PSU 309 transfer 23 packages recovered from a suspected drug trafficker to the CGC *Vigilant* in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

U.S. Coast Guard photo



Reserve crewmembers from Station Marblehead, Ohio, responded to a search and rescue case July 1. Four people were rescued from their overturned canoe, as well as two Good Samaritans who attempted to help.

## Operation Summerstock in full swing

Story and photos by Chief Petty Officer Jarrod Sadulski, Station Marblehead

Station Marblehead, Ohio, is the busiest station in the Great Lakes. As part of Operation Summerstock, we're setting a great example for effective integration of reservists into the daily operations of a small boat station.

Here at Station Marblehead, we have four reservists on active duty orders in support of Summerstock. Three members are filling boat coxswain and boarding team roles within the duty sections, and the fourth is the lead boarding officer and a coxswain on the station's newly created law enforcement team, which conducts eight-hour law enforcement patrols throughout the week and averages forty to fifty boardings per week.

Through the additional personnel augmenting (by way of the Summerstock program) Station Marblehead's LE

team is leading the Great Lakes in law enforcement cases and has been working closely with Coast Guard Investigative Service, the Sector intel staff, and our local and interagency partners to address maritime law enforcement trends that exist in our area.

While on patrol July 1, Station Marblehead's LE team responded to a SAR case. Four people without lifejackets were on a canoe that overturned, and two others swam the half a mile out to assist them. The Good Samaritans brought a single lifejacket to the people in the water, until they began to struggle too.

The LE team aboard the 45 RBM rescued all six people from the water. We're continuing our busy summer, and already looking forward to doing it again next year.

# Station Yaquina Bay's reserve crew completes two weeks of active duty, including BTM college

Story and photos by Senior Chief Petty Officer Carl Boehmer, Station Yaquina Bay

In January, we started planning the boarding team member college with the active duty training staff, the first BTM college for our reservists. The active duty staff worked with Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Enright from District 13's mobile training team to set up the one-week course, and active duty from the station, sector, and district joined our six reserve members in the BTM college. To keep on top of all the material, we held nightly study halls to review.

"The guys quizzed each other around the table," said Chief Petty Officer Will Proctor, the reserve training petty officer. "They helped each other where they were lacking."

In our second week, the reservists transitioned to augmenting the active boat crews for a busy halibut fishing weekend. Reserve crews operating the 29-foot RBS II responded to two search and rescue cases and towed the vessels to safety. Other reservists serving as crew members on the 47-foot motor lifeboat responded to a case involving a vessel disabled at the entrance of the Yaquina Bay bar. Two more lives were saved, and the vessel was towed into safety.

The second week also included firearms training and range qualification, all instructed by the Station's active duty staff. By the end of the second week, our reserve crew completed all the required tasks and passed their boards, becoming the first reserve BTMs at Station Yaquina Bay.

"I was blessed when I showed up here. I can't take any credit," said the station's commanding officer, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Molloy. "The way the active duty and reservists collaborate, it's probably the best program you'll see in the Reserve."

Station Yaquina Bay is one of only two surf stations with reservists assigned.

"Three of my reservists are in GTMO supporting the PSU

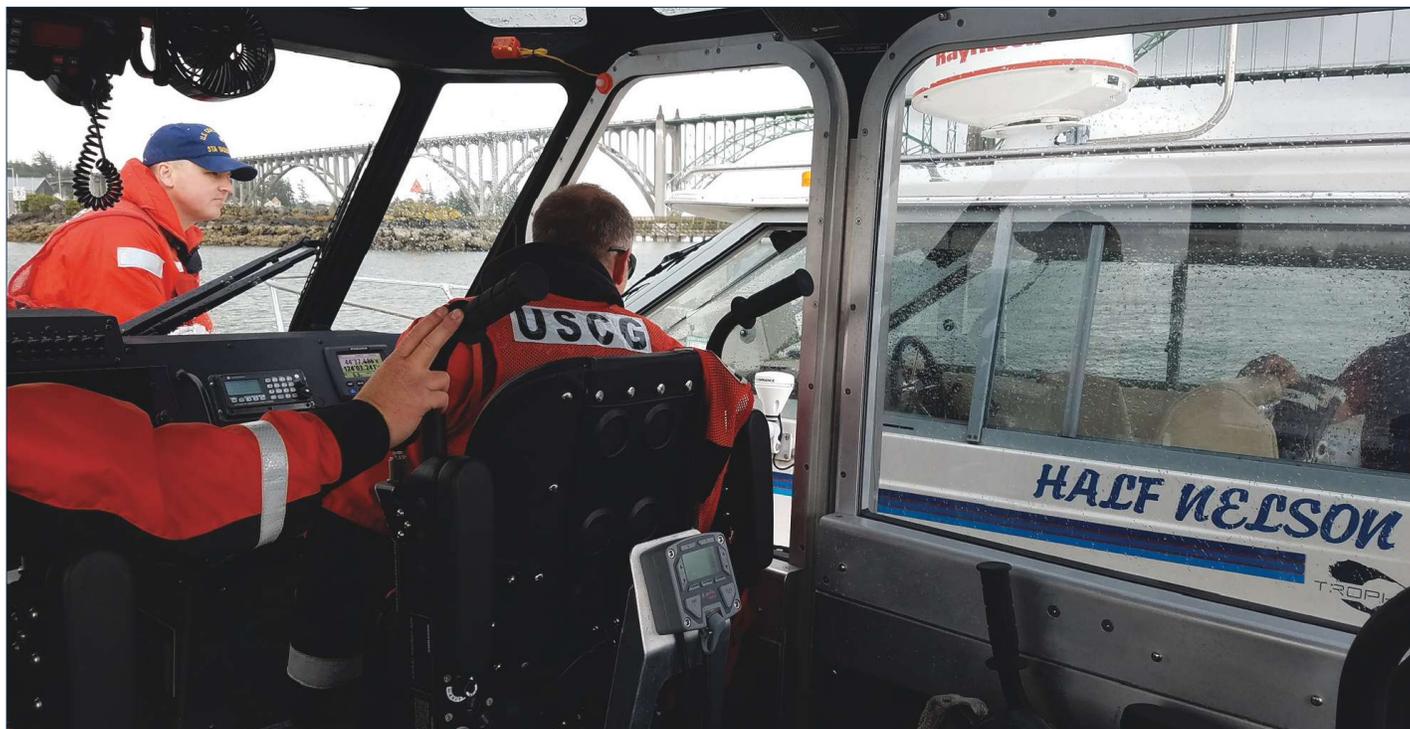
mission, and they're crushing their underway hours," said Molloy.

"The difficulty [in the Pacific Northwest] is that, six months out of the year, the winds and seas are so hard we can't use the RBS, so [our reservists] are becoming qualified on the motor life boat too," he said.

The station's reserve training program is successful because of the relationship between the active duty and reserve members, and support from our commanding officer, who promotes the highest level of training to keep us proficient.



Above: Members take part in law enforcement training as part of the station's first boarding team member college. Reservists spent their evenings studying as well, leading to the qualification of six new BTMs. Below: Reserve crews from Station Yaquina Bay, Ore., perform boardings during their two weeks of active duty.





Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Sund educates a young boater on the missions of the Coast Guard Reserve. MSU's personnel often spend time educating the public on boating safety despite the high op-tempo.

## MSU Paducah's busy summer

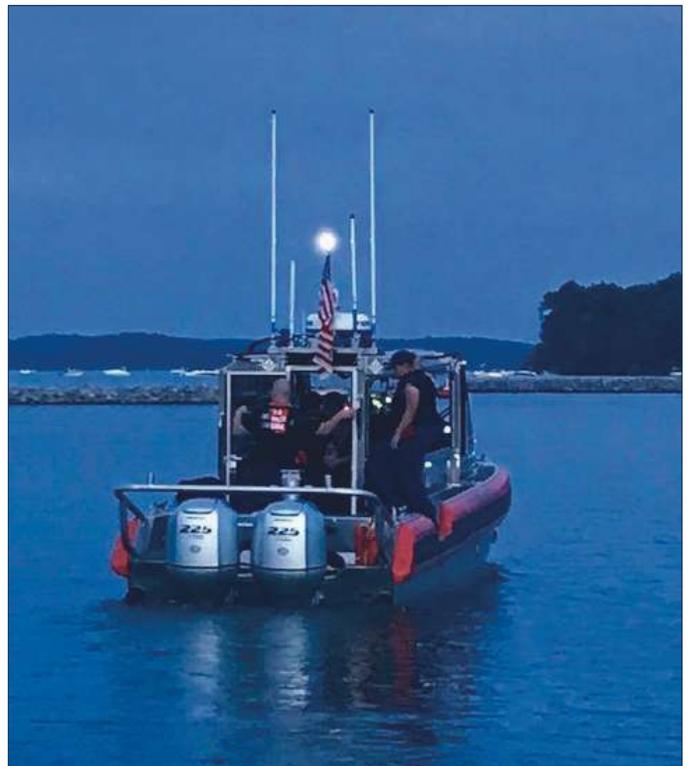
Story and photos by Lt. James Thomas

Summer has been busy for the reservists of Marine Safety Unit Paducah!

In just a few short weeks, crew members completed more than 120 recreational boardings as well as several tow vessel inspections along area rivers, interacting with several hundred boats throughout the demanding recreational and commercial area of responsibility.

MSU's boatcrews worked tirelessly to educate and promote boater safety throughout the extremely busy holiday marine events on Kentucky Lake as well as the Ohio and Tennessee River.

The Paducah Marine Safety Unit is the busiest in the Coast Guard's Sector Ohio Valley. The AOR is located near the convergence of five major rivers, and with river levels that can fluctuate as much as 40 feet, the unit has its challenges, but the MSU Paducah reservists proved they're ready for it.



Reservists from Marine Safety Unit Paducah in Paducah, Ky., patrol safety and security zones for local area fireworks displays over the Fourth of July weekend.

# RJAG training designed to meet critical need for disaster support

Story by Cmdr. Scott Hale

After a year of unprecedented demand for legal support in response to national contingencies, 37 members of the Coast Guard's Reserve Judge Advocate General (RJAG) program gathered at Headquarters in April for five days of intensive training. The Judge Advocate General of the Coast Guard, Rear Adm. Steven Andersen welcomed attendees, thanked them for their commitment to proficiency and readiness and reinforced his vision for the program. Andersen noted that Reserve judge advocates make up almost 25 percent of the Coast Guard JAG military workforce and are critical to meeting the high demand for legal support during contingency operations, especially during the 2017 hurricane response.

The goals of the seminar were for attorneys to attain the Contingency Missions Lawyer (CONT-LAW) competency and yeomen to earn the Documentation Unit Leader (DUL) qualification. The seminar exceeded all expectations—17 attorneys and seven members completing their respective competencies and qualifications, more than doubling the program's competency attainment score to an extraordinary 80 percent.

Demonstrating true integration, active duty members and members outside the RJAG billets joined the training and earned



Mr. Daniel Stoner, left, discusses qualifications for the ICS-based competency Documentation Unit Leader with Chief Petty Officers Jon Dyer and Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Webb. Seven yeoman became DUL qualified at the annual conference.

Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Amy Haley.

competencies and qualifications as well.

In addition to focused training modules, attendees had the unique opportunity to visit FEMA Headquarters and speak to agency attorneys while touring their command center. The group also heard from John Havranek, associate general counsel for operations and enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security, who discussed unique legal challenges encountered during contingencies.

"The JAG and RJAG have built a tremendous partnership," said Calvin Lederer, deputy JAG. "We look forward to meeting any challenge that may lie ahead. Together, we are ready to meet the needs of our service."

This program remains a critical and relevant legal force in garrison, ready to provide incident commanders legal advice during a myriad of contingency operations. Equally important, RJAGs play a critical legal assistance role providing advice and claims support to Coast Guard members affected by disaster. For example, during the last hurricane season, contingency response attorneys logged over 550 cases supporting affected personnel.

Capt. Michael Barton, senior reserve officer at the RJAG, closed the week-long seminar, and he charged members to hone their legal skills and maintain their readiness posture to ensure they remain ready to meet the needs of the Coast Guard.



The members of the RJAG hold a one-week, all-hands conference annually. Here, they discuss lessons learned from the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

Photo by Cmdr. Scott Hale.

# New leader takes charge of CG Reserve Unit U.S. Southern Command

Story and photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Murray

Rear Adm. James M. Kelly, commanding officer of Coast Guard Reserve Unit U.S. Southern Command, transferred command to Capt. Steven J. Hill during a ceremony held at Coast Guard Base Miami Beach June 25.

Kelly assumed duties as the commanding officer in July 2016. He is currently assigned to Coast Guard Headquarters, as the Reserve Forces Chief of Staff.

Hill's prior unit was in Coast Guard 8th District Headquarters where he served as deputy chief of staff and senior reserve officer. He supported multi-mission operations to safeguard 900 miles of coastline and 10,300 miles of inland navigable waterways in an area of responsibility encompassing 26 states, and supported by 870 reservists, to protect the Gulf Coast and the Heartland.

Coast Guard Reserve Unit SOUTHCOM provides a ready-reserve force of deployable Coast Guard expertise, prepared and equipped to conduct intelligence, operations, planning, and other specialized duties in garrison and throughout the Americas in support of U.S. diplomatic, defense and homeland security goals.

SOUTHCOM is one of nine unified combatant commands in the Department of Defense. SOUTHCOM is responsible for providing contingency planning, operations, and security cooperation in Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored



Capt. Steven Hill and Rear Adm. James Kelly, incoming and outgoing (respectively) commanding officers, pose with the members of Coast Guard Reserve Unit Southern Command.

tradition which formally restates the continuity of command will be maintained and is a formal ritual conducted before the assembled company of command. It conveys to the officers, enlisted members, civilian employees and auxiliary members of the Coast Guard that although the authority of command is relinquished by a leader and is assumed by another, it is still maintained without interruption.

## CG Reserve Unit NORTHCOM changes command

Story and photo by Lt. Cmdr. Jenn Loth

Capt. Alan Tubbs, commanding officer of Coast Guard Reserve Unit U.S. Northern Command was relieved by Capt. Ronald Catudal in a time-honored change of command ceremony held at Peterson Air Force Base June 8 in Colorado Springs, Colo. The presiding official was Rear Adm. Melissa Bert, deputy director of operations for NORTHCOM.

Catudal, the incoming commanding officer, previously served as the Chief of Reserve Incident Management for Coast Guard Atlantic Area.

Tubbs assumed command in August 2017, serving as the principle advisor to the Director of Reserve Forces NORTHCOM on all Coast Guard Reserve matters. He was mobilized as the J9 Interagency Chief to support U.S. Army North, coordinating recovery efforts in response to Hurricane HARVEY. After an outstanding performance of duties in Texas, Lt Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan personally requested him again as J9 interagency liaison officer in Puerto Rico for the Hurricane Maria response efforts. Captain Tubbs was instrumental in demonstrating the significant advantages of integrating Coast Guard Reserve personnel to support combatant commanders in coordinating Department of Defense response operations and mission assignments with federal, state and local agencies. Through his leadership and initiatives, 55 percent of the unit activated to fill critical roles



Capt. Ron Catudal and Capt. Alan Tubbs, incoming and outgoing (respectively) commanding officers of Coast Guard Reserve Unit Northern Command.

in the response to the 2017 hurricane season. Tubbs retired June 30 after more than 40 years of exceptional service to the Coast Guard.



Navy CRS-1 Charlie Company commander and Coast Guard reservist Cmdr. Paul Margulies (center, kneeling), takes time out for a group picture with his sailors.

## Coast Guard reservist takes command of Navy Coastal Riverine Squadron ONE “Charlie” Company

In January, Navy Coastal Riverine Squadron ONE (CRS-1) Coast Guard senior reserve officer, Cmdr. Paul Margulies, was selected to be the CRS-1 Charlie Company commander. As the only Coast Guard member among just two other Navy officers in the entire 130-sailor unit, Margulies commands a hi-optempo Navy expeditionary warfare unit the same size as a Coast Guard port security unit. A Coast Guard officer commanding a Navy CRS company is extremely rare and only occurs after out-competing other Navy commanders for the coveted position.

Charlie Company is headquartered in Alameda, Calif., and has two platoons with one (seaward) in Alameda and the other (landward) in El Paso, Texas. Charlie Company drill weekends mainly focus on readiness, which consists of underway seamanship, boat maintenance, weapons training and communication equipment instruction. At the company commander level, there's a lot of planning for exercises, mobilization preparations and expeditionary warfare (EXW) qualifications, which concentrate heavily on the navigation, engineering and crewman proficiencies.

Success in this very demanding position comes with an open mind and a “ready to work” mentality, said Margulies. A day does not go by that he is not checking his Navy Marine Corp Intranet (NMCI) email account, communicating with his command cadre or keeping abreast of his Navy sailors’ status at the company level. One of his primary responsibilities is ensuring his company is ready and prepared for rapid mobilization. Margulies said contrary to popular belief, assignment to a Navy CRS in any position does not increase a member’s chances of deploying. In fact, unlike a PSU, a Coast

Guard member of any rank or rate will only deploy with a Navy CRS if they volunteer for one of the seven-month WAVE mobilizations to the Horn of Africa. Even then, there’s a high likelihood a member will not be selected.

Service in a Navy coastal riverine squadron company can be a force multiplier for those with successive tours at a PSU or in a combatant command because of the broad perspective gained through a full tour.

It can be daunting at first, said Margulies, but once you overcome the “sticker shock” and find your niche, it’s a great place to be. It may take several months to feel comfortable in this very challenging role.

The structure between a CRS and a PSU has distinct differences, but the supporting skillsets and general mission parameters mirror one another very closely. Both provide an expeditionary boat capability with landward security and support. Margulies said service in a CRS is unique in that you are working directly in a Navy command, and, while the missions are similar, the overall mechanics behind those missions are different.

His key to success is stay flexible, stay relevant and stay involved.

For Coast Guard reservists who seek an expeditionary assignment but want a mission or experience different than that of a PSU, Margulies highly recommends a tour in a CRS. There are numerous, rewarding leadership opportunities which will provide any Coast Guard officer or enlisted member an expeditionary warfare adventure of a lifetime.

— Submitted by Capt. Evan Galbo



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20593-0001

## RESERVE COMPONENT POLICY STATEMENT

America's Coast Guard is an Armed Service, a critical instrument of national security, and a key component to the Nation's emergency response capability. As the Coast Guard's ready force in garrison, the Reserve Component provides operationally capable and ready personnel to support Coast Guard surge and mobilization requirements in the Homeland and abroad. For over seventy-five years, our extraordinary reservists have accomplished this through augmenting the Service's day-to-day missions while standing ready to mobilize in times of crisis.

Serving as the Coast Guard's only dedicated surge force the Reserve Component is a contingency-based workforce, trained locally and deployed globally to provide appropriately trained personnel to meet mission requirements within the prioritized focus areas of Defense Operations, Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security, Incident Response and Management, & Mission Support.

It is the duty of every commander, commanding officer, officer-in-charge and program manager to provide the leadership and training necessary for assigned Reserve Component members to be expertly trained and prepared for active-duty when and where they are required. Active Duty for Training (ADT), Inactive Duty Training (IDT) and assigned competencies should relate to the prioritized focus areas. Additionally I place the same level of responsibility on every reservist to acquire and maintain the skills and personal readiness that our Coast Guard mission sets and core values demand.

The Reserve Component is as relevant and critical to the Coast Guard's organizational success today as at any time since 1941. We will continue to honor our citizen-sailors and meet the needs of the Nation by adhering to our core values and bringing a total workforce perspective to solve complex problems.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karl L. Schultz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

KARL L. SCHULTZ  
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

# AN OFFICE IN THE CLOUDS

The Coast Guard is the only military branch that does not have a reserve aviation program, but more than a few have found a way to stay in the service they love while also pursuing their love of flying.



Goodyear Blimp Wingfoot One makes a night landing at Wingfoot Lake in Pompano Beach, Fla.

Photo courtesy Goodyear



## Jay Perdue, pilot blimp pilot, Goodyear

### LT, Sector Miami prevention department

Fun fact: in the history of flight, there's been more trained astronauts than blimp pilots. As one of less than a dozen Goodyear pilots nationwide, Jay Perdue has a rare skill.

This self-proclaimed 'perpetual student' has always had an intense thirst for knowledge. That drive propelled him to become, among other things, a certified welder, an EMT, a scientist and a pilot.

"Welding is nothing but manipulating the chemistry of the metallic elements... beautiful," said Perdue, a jack-of-all-trades. "I made some tables, a bouquet of flowers for my wife that won't die, and became overall repair man in the neighborhood."

Perdue grew up, like so many other Coast Guardsmen, in South Florida, and he'd wanted to be a pilot since he was 10. He remembered seeing the famed airship fly over his schoolyard playground and watching its graceful flight without realizing his classmates had returned to class without him. In college, he began pursuing the physics of flying while simultaneously working his way up to a masters in pharmaceutical chemistry.

Even after taking a job as a scientist doing research and development for GlaxoSmithKline, Perdue continued to spend his early mornings in a news chopper and his nights teaching others

to fly. He continued to add ratings to his license, learning how to fly seaplanes, commercial aircraft, and using instruments only.

"It's one of those things where I get bored quick," said Perdue.

It was around that time that he began to look for a way to give back to his country, and he chose to become a reserve Coast Guard officer in 2010. "I always thought that the Coast Guard's mission was above all others," said Perdue, "and the history of saving lives is exceptional."

Oddly enough, he didn't choose the flight community or the SAR dogs—the scientist in him won out, and he entered the marine safety field.

"There's a science to prevention," said Perdue. "[The idea of] stopping things from happening before there's a response—that's what got me excited."

Perdue works as a prevention officer at Coast Guard Sector Miami in the inspections branch. There, he trains Sector personnel in both handling pollution cases and conducting facilities inspections. During last year's huge hurricane operation, Perdue put his job on hold for a few days. He became the Coast Guard liaison for the Palm Beach County emergency operations center while the state of Florida rode out Hurricane Irma.

"I can fly almost anything," said Perdue, "but it's great to go [to Sector Miami] and do something completely different."

When a friend of his told him about a rare opportunity at Goodyear, Perdue threw himself into the training. After a year of training, he added a fourteenth rating to his pilot's license: commercial LTA, or "lighter-than-air." Today, he is one of the four pilots who fly the 246-foot Wingfoot One, based in Pompano Beach, Fla. The semi-rigid Zeppelin airship has the rare tail number N1A, a continued homage to the company's existence since the early days of flight.

"I'm a very special car tire salesman," Perdue said, laughing. His nonchalance belies the difficulties of such a prestigious job. A blimp pilot can be in the seat for more than a dozen hours with no rest, and there's no autopilot. He needs to be constantly aware of the strength of the wind on a light, bulky airship, the effects of the temperature on the helium and the weight of rainwater that soaks the external fabric.

Perdue credits his success, in large part, to the support from his wife of more than 25 years; the two were high school sweethearts. He said, "She's been my cheerleader my whole life. Whatever I wanted to do, she said, 'We'll find a way to do it.' She knows I need to satisfy my need to learn."

When he flies, his eyes rove the skyline as his brain calculates the science of flight, and satellite radio fills the tiny, 12-person cabin. The view is gorgeous during the day, and it holds an altogether different and equal beauty at night.

"You're only a thousand feet above the country, going 30 miles an hour," said Perdue. "You'll never see it all."

That's exciting for a guy who loves a challenge—trying to see it all. He's flown over so many types of events, every type of sport from college basketball to Nascar, from the PGA to the NFL to the NBA.

"The funny thing is that I'm not a big sports guy," said Perdue. "I pray for overtime so I can fly more." ≈



## Goliath Demisie, pilot 737NG pilot, American Airlines LT, National Command Center, CGHQ

For an airplane-obsessed little boy, there wasn't anything cooler than getting to sit in the cockpit of an airliner. While wearing the captain's hat. Back in the mid-80s in Ethiopia, three-year-old Goliath Demisie was already thrilled to get an airplane ride on a 737-200, but afterward, when the two pilots asked him if he might want to fly too one day, the experience stuck with him.

"I put the hat on, and I never wanted to leave," said Demisie, who grew up with a penchant for seeking new challenges.

He and his family migrated to America in the mid-90s, and after high school, Demisie spent the next few years working on his bachelors' degree in aviation. While at Averett University, he met a fellow classmate and pilot, Eric Tucker, whose father was a retired Coast Guard chief warrant officer.

Tucker and Demisie became friends, attained pilot's licenses, and eventually established an aviation fraternity at the school. Neither forgot the stories of the 30-year bosun warrant, and eventually both pilots made their way to the Coast Guard: Demisie through officer candidate school, and Tucker, through a single trip to Coast Guard Station Boston. (Tucker fell in love with driving boats, and while he maintains his pilot's license, he's now a tactical coxswain and operations officer at Coast Guard Station San Francisco.)

Demisie, who had always envisioned himself taking a commission in the Air Force flying C-130s, took a sharp career turn after hearing about the Coast Guard's search and rescue mission from Tucker's father. In 2008, he joined the Coast Guard under the Blue21 program, which guaranteed him a job as a Coast Guard pilot.

"The lifesaving mission seemed more important than anything else," he said.

While in OCS, Demisie's plans shifted again, dramatically, and he gave up his seat at flight school.

"Flying would have been awesome—specifically flying helicopters would have been awesome—but I decided that I wanted to give something else a try. I opted to go the prevention route," he said. "It looked interesting, and it was something I'd never done. It was the best choice I could have made."

He spent a three-year tour at Coast Guard Sector New York working in vessel inspections, but eventually, he switched to the Reserve so he could return to his career as a pilot.

Today, Demisie serves as a reserve watchstander at the National Command Center at Coast Guard Headquarters. His duties are indistinguishable from the active duty watchstanders, and he coordinates his 12-hour duty shifts with his airline schedule as a pilot.

The commute to work is just part of the routine, and after making flights into Newark from Houston on drill weekends, Demisie has grown accustomed to the extra step. These days it's just an extra flight from South Carolina to D.C. once a month to fulfill his obligation as a reservist.

"It's a little tough balancing both careers," said Demisie, "but I wouldn't do it any other way."

Demisie continues to seek challenges. Since joining the Coast Guard, he's finished two masters degrees, become a speaker for the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals, and earned his rating as a flight instructor.

He now flies a 737NG for American Airlines, the same kind of aircraft he sat in more than 30 years ago as a child.

"I love the being exposed to new ideas and concepts; that's the only way you can grow as a person," said Demisie. "The variety of experiences makes you a much more valuable asset to the Coast Guard." ≈



## **Bill Pearson, jet pilot**

**assistant chief pilot, Chubb Insurance Aviation**

**MK1, Station Manasquan Inlet, N.J.**

Like a lot of other kids who grew up on the coast, Bill Pearson remembered seeing Coast Guard helicopters flying over his house where he grew up in New Jersey. He knew even back then that he was going to fly one day.

Flight training was expensive though, and, without a lot of money, Pearson's next option was the military. In 1991, Coast Guard recruiters landed him a job in aviation as an electrician (AE), but advancement was slow. When he took a

job at Coast Guard Air Station Brooklyn, N.Y., Pearson began commuting home on the weekends to spend his own money on private flying lessons.

“Coast Guard was where I started, but the story is all intertwined,” said Pearson.

He eventually earned both his aircrew wings with the Coast Guard and his private pilot’s license in fixed wing aircraft. He kept going, adding additional ratings and working his way up to civilian flight instructor.

He managed both career paths until 1998 when he left active duty to fly full time as a flight instructor for McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. He felt a little out of his element when he reported to his first unit as a Coast Guard reservist less than an hour away at Station Manasquan Inlet, N.J. He wouldn’t stay long, though. After a new position took him too far outside reasonable commuting distance, he left the Coast Guard.

Over the years, he encountered a lot of former Coast Guard pilots in the airline industry, and they encouraged him to go back despite a now 10-year break in service.

Pearson found himself back in bootcamp at 39 years old, a plank owner of a brand-new program called the Direct Entry Petty Officer Training, or DEPOT. The first class had seven members.

He laughed remembering how quick his machinery technician (MK) A-school instructors took note of him—not only was he the oldest student in the class, but he had aircrew wings and three rows of ribbons.

After finishing boot camp for a second time, as well as completing a second A-school as a machinery technician

(MK), he also found himself back at Station Manasquan Inlet for a second time. There, Pearson worked his way up to first class, and he became a section leader, as well as the first reservist qualified on the RBS II. He recently spent two weeks of active duty on TCTO maintenance doing interior work on the station’s RBS II, leading the junior petty officers through the evolution.

“[Being a reservist is] hard, but it’s rewarding,” said Pearson, who acknowledged the difficulty in keeping up with currency hours while maintaining his civilian career. “The fun part is being out on the water,” he said, “especially in summertime, out on the water, with all the people.”

For Pearson, though, nothing compares to flying. After serving for several years as the standardization and training officer for Citation Air, he joined Chubb Insurance, and in 2017, he became their assistant chief pilot.

He still flies just as much as any of his pilots, and while he does spend a lot of time away from home flying executives all over the world on the G450, G550, and G650ER, he’s been able to visit Asia, Europe, Australia—places he never imagined he’d see in his life. He never takes it for granted that he can fly to any location in the world on the G6 with only one fuel stop.

Getting to those places, though, is half the fun.

“There’s a certain thrill you get when it’s a beautiful, sunny day, you’re on the runway, you’re cleared for take-off and you push the throttles up,” said Pearson. “I’ve got a great view out of my office.” ≈



Petty Officer 1st Class William Pearson (center) stands with command and crew members from Station Manasquan Inlet, N.J., following a successful boat crew member (BCM) check ride last year. Also pictured are Petty Officer 2nd Class Wesley Pearson, Station Executive Officer in Charge Chief Petty Officer Zach Gray, Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Goszka and Petty Officer 3rd Class Abigail Gall.

Photo courtesy William Pearson.



2017

**RESERVE  
ENLISTED  
PERSON  
OF THE  
YEAR**



Petty Officer 1st Class Jeff Melitski receives his award from First District Commander, Rear Adm. Steven Poulin.



## U.S. COAST GUARD RESERVE ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR: ME1 JEFF P. MELITSKI

The Coast Guard prides itself on honor, respect and devotion to duty for the men and women in its ranks. Once a year, a member of the Coast Guard is selected as the top performer in the service for the both the active duty and the Reserve component through the enlisted person of the year program.

For 2017, the Coast Guard recently selected New Jersey native Petty Officer 1st Class Jeff P. Melitski as the Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year.

Melitski, a maritime enforcement specialist assigned to the Enforcement Division at Sector New York, was recognized for being among the first reservists to volunteer for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

During his deployment to the Seventh and Eighth Coast Guard Districts, Melitski displayed outstanding courage when he used his skills as an EMT to assist in the rescue of a late-term and high-risk pregnant patient.

Melitski overcame scarce resources and limited time to obtain the essential medical equipment necessary for the rescue. His quick action and experience led to the safe transfer of both the patient and unborn child when they were airlifted from Borinquen, Puerto Rico, to Miami.

However, rescuing this soon-to-be mother in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico was not the first time Melitski demonstrated his true character. In December 2017, he displayed additional courage when he noticed fire coming from his neighbor's house. Melitski ran into the smoke-filled home and immediately assisted with the safe evacuation of the elderly resident.

In his spare time (when he is not running to the rescue of a person in need) Melitski serves as a role model to his peers and embodies the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty in the community. This includes contributing over 200 hours to philanthropic causes like the Police Association Survivor and Widows Fund, Toys for Tots and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program.

During his off-hours in the community, Melitski can be found volunteering his time coaching local youth football and baseball. He also completed his masters degree in 2017.

Nineteen years ago, Melitski reached one of his lifelong dreams when he became a police officer. He wanted to do something good whether it was defending the peace or helping those in a moment of need. However, Melitski also had another lifelong dream in wanting to serve not only his community but to serve his country.

Just shy of his 39th birthday, Melitski found himself fulfilling this desire to serve when he arrived at Cape May as the oldest male recruit at the time.

"So much fulfillment has come from being a member in the Coast Guard with the many talented individuals in this service," said Melitski. "Being able to be part of something bigger than oneself is a tremendous honor in being able to serve this country."

Melitski was recognized for his dedication to service and country as a Coast Guard reservist during an enlisted person of the year ceremony April 18 at the same place he began his Coast Guard journey in Cape May, N.J.

Selection is based on display of pride, professionalism, and dedication of Coast Guard core values and is decided on annually by a panel of master chief petty officers, led by the master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard.

As a result of being recognized as the Coast Guard Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year, Melitski also received a field promotion to petty officer first class during the ceremony.

Through his dedication and professionalism, Melitski serves as a role model to his peers and embodies the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty. ≈

— Story by Petty Officer 3rd Class Hunter Medley



Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Webb is congratulated by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Eric Johnson.



## 5TH DISTRICT RESERVE ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR: MK1 MICHAEL WEBB

The Fifth District recognized Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Webb of Coast Guard Station Wrightsville Beach, N.C., as their Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year. The Texas native has served as a reservist at the station for more than 15 years. He joined the Coast Guard after meeting a petty officer who offered him a tour and boat ride. "After my encounter with the active duty crew at Station Wrightsville Beach and learning more about the Coast Guard's mission, I knew it was the right choice," he said. "Being afforded the opportunity to give back to our nation by protecting the community is something I am incredibly proud of."

Webb is not only an outstanding member of the engineering department, he's instrumental in ensuring the training and administrative requirements are met for all members assigned. His collateral duties include crewmember, truck and trailer operator, first aid/CPR instructor, communications watch-stander and boat crew examination board member.

Over the last year, Webb led the Station Wrightsville Beach reserve crew as the acting SERA for six months, increasing readiness and deployability, and guiding his shipmates through interactions with Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, work-life programs and challenging life events. The crew maintained a

90% deployability status.

For almost two decades, Webb's made himself an expert in fire safety. He's a fire academy instructor at Durham Technical Community College and works as an assistant fire marshal/fire plans examiner with the Durham County Fire Marshal's Office in Durham, N.C. His professionalism and knowledge have earned him recognition again and again within his occupation as a previous "firefighter of the year" and "rescue officer of the year."

Webb serves as a pillar in the community, spearheading a youth fire-setting intervention program to help prevent youth from starting fires and demonstrates the possible catastrophic effects. Collaborating with Habitat for Humanity as a volunteer, Webb guarantees that the homes built are equipped with sprinkler systems in order to protect the house and families. An Eagle Scout, his enthusiasm and dedication to service is showcased through his involvement with a local Boy Scout troop where he continues to train future leaders.

Webb's superior leadership, community involvement, mission support and commitment to service upholds the highest traditions and values of the Coast Guard. ≈



Petty Officer 1st Class John Hendrix stands with members of Sector Charleston.



## 7TH DISTRICT RESERVE ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR: MST1 JOHN HENDRIX

After working extensive hours as a firefighter, Petty Officer 1st Class John Hendrix arrives at Sector Charleston on his drill weekend, where he is affectionately greeted by both active duty and reserve members. He eagerly discusses the plan of the weekend with the training officer. He then spends his weekend helping the Reserve members become well trained and qualified crew members. He inspects their gear and puts in the extra effort to make sure they have the necessary tools, ensuring the

operational safety and mobilization readiness of all Sector Charleston reserve members.

Due to his dedication and work ethic, Hendrix was named the Seventh District's Enlisted Person of the Year-Reserve Component.

Hendrix is an exemplary reservist. His nomination came as a direct result of his outstanding work with the Sector Charleston inspections division while balancing his career as a professional

firefighter. During his time with Sector Charleston, his tireless work ethic has directly affected Sector Charleston's success by creating a force multiplier for container and facility inspections. Hendrix, a qualified container inspector, led and participated in over 75 container inspections within the Port of Charleston. Additionally, as an instructor at the two-week container inspector college (which he helped develop), Hendrix led eight members from Sector Charleston and Sector Jacksonville to obtaining their inspector qualifications.

The leadership skills exemplified by Hendrix are of the highest caliber. His professionalism and expertise was particularly sought after following landfall of Hurricane Harvey. Hendrix quickly volunteered for Title 14 deployment to Houston. During his deployment, Hendrix provided support to Sector Houston's prevention department by working as a facility inspector. Hendrix was responsible for conducting port assessments of the impacted waterways and played a pivotal role in the quick reopening of the Port of Houston, which ultimately aided in the delivery of much needed post-hurricane relief supplies.

In addition to his impressive work for the Coast Guard, Hendrix volunteers his time to his community. During 2017, Hendrix participated in a community outreach event talking to a Boy Scout troop about the Coast Guard's marine safety and Reserve programs. In conjunction with this mentorship, Hendrix also provided first aid and CPR training so each member of the troop could earn a Boy Scout First Aid Merit Badge. Additionally, using his experience and knowledge of the Incident Command System from Deepwater Horizon, vessel boardings, pollution responses and his work as a professional firefighter, Hendrix assisted his Local Emergency Planning Commission in Lexington County, S.C., in disaster preparedness by conducting training and assisting with planning for emergency response interoperability under the National Incident Management System.

According to Senior Chief Petty Officer James Lee, his selection as EPOY was a combination of military service, volunteer service and work ethic.

"Petty Officer Hendrix exemplifies the highest levels of leadership, teamwork and competence in every facet of his life, from his Coast Guard career to his job as a firefighter and his commitment to those in need," said Lee.

Hendrix says being selected as the D7 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year is a very humbling experience. "I am very appreciative of the recognition and support from Sector Charleston leadership and my peers, of my accomplishments both here at the Sector and Coast Guard wide," said Hendrix. ≈



## 8TH DISTRICT RESERVE ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR: MST1 GREG HALTER

Though he was born in upstate New York, Petty Officer 1st Class Greg Halter's family moved to Florida. He was extremely bright, and, at 17, he was accepted to Florida State University. With a truckload of credit hours, he qualified as a junior in his first year, prompting his student advisor to encourage him to declare a major.

With pressure mounting, Halter decided jumping out of an airplane was a lot more fun, so he left FSU to enlist in the Army as an airborne paratrooper. He loved serving, and he was sad to leave the service to care for his son as a single dad.

A decade later, Halter got the itch to get back in uniform. With seven years of prior service under his belt, he still had a need to serve.

While he was working as a deputy sheriff in Wilmington, N.C., a friend told Halter about the Coast Guard. The friend, a marine science technician, explained the responsibilities of her job field. Halter's interest was piqued, and he arranged to meet a recruiter.

His son was in the sixth grade, he was newly married to his wife and there was a lot of "stuff" going on, but joining the Reserve was definitely a family decision.

Little did he know the adventure was just beginning. After completing three weeks of basic training, he rolled right into 10 weeks of marine science technician A-school. From there, he mobilized twice for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response, all within 18 months of enlisting.

"My wife Dora was there for me; she just picked up the ball and ran with it," Halter said. "She's definitely my anchor, and she keeps me grounded."

By the end of his second deployment to Deepwater Horizon, he had moved up from being a safety team member to the safety officer with all of coastal Louisiana under his area of responsibility.

"I kind of got indoctrinated by fire and jumped in with both feet," Halter said.

In 2013, he moved to Texas to start a new job with the Occupational Safety and



Petty Officer 1st Class Greg Halter and wife Dora stand with Adm. Paul Zukunft at the Eighth District Enlisted Person of the Year dinner March 2.

Health Administration as a compliance officer, and he transferred to Sector Houston-Galveston. Three years later, Halter accepted a position with the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., working on the Presidential Transition Team for seven months, setting the foundation for his nomination as the Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year for the Eighth District.

"When a solicitation came out for a sharp first class petty officer to be a part of the Presidential Transition Team, the first person I thought of was Halter," said Lt. Cmdr. Omar Barajas, reserve program administrator at Sector Houston-Galveston. "We've got a lot of great reservists here at the sector, but some people are those 'stand

outs,' and he was one of them," said Barajas.

It was only five days after moving to D.C. that he was mobilized for Hurricane Harvey, landing him back at his old stomping grounds as a safety officer for the Hurricane Harvey ESF-10 Charlie Branch for pollution and vessel recovery in Port Arthur, Texas.

"Petty Officer Halter was an exceptional safety officer monitoring safe operations for more than 100 federal, state and local responders," said Lt. JoEllen Arons of the Atlantic Strike Team. "He oversaw pollution mitigation for displaced vessels and provided vital support to the command staff during VIP visits."

"I owe all of my career opportunities to the Coast Guard," Halter said. "My last three

jobs are a direct result of being a Coast Guard reservist."

Building effective relationships seems to be a common thread throughout Halter's career, an element he fosters by giving credit where it's due and recognizing the people that have enabled him to succeed.

Halter, shies away from taking credit for his successes, citing his wife as the person who holds down the fort at home and keeps the ship running straight. According to Halter, she's the first person he calls when an opportunity comes his way. "I say, 'Hey, you know the Coast Guard has an opportunity...,' and she's always supportive and says, 'Have fun, be safe and I love you.'" ≈



**Petty Officer 1st Class Glenn Hyzak performs weapons maintenance.**

*Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Amanda Dunford.*



## 11TH DISTRICT RESERVE ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR: ME1 GLENN HYZAK

Petty Officer 1st Class Glenn Hyzak, a reserve maritime enforcement specialist assigned to Coast Guard Sector San Diego, was honored as the Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year for the service's Pacific Southwest region during a ceremony April 5 in Alameda, Calif.

The Texas native joined the Coast Guard in 2004, and has served in various law enforcement billets including two tours at Maritime Safety and Security Teams and a tour at Pacific Tactical Law Enforcement Team, where he was part of the law enforcement detachments as well as the training staff. Two years ago, Hyzak joined the Reserve, bringing a wealth of law enforcement knowledge and experience with him.

"He's changed the way our law enforcement program on the reserve side of the house is run by leaps and bounds," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Adam Mowbray, reserve liaison for the the Sector San Diego enforcement branch. "ME1's a great guy and it's never about him, it's always about others."

"I can't help but be involved, I always want to know what's going on and help out where I can," said Hyzak, who serves as a law enforcement instructor at his unit, ensuring high standards of training for his shipmates. "You always want to give 100 percent on the training, because you never know when that person's going to be a part of your boarding team. I want to have everyone at the same level of training and just always pursue more."

As a qualified boarding officer, Hyzak conducted 20 boardings, two shore side ferry terminal boardings, and seven interagency law-enforcement operations with local and federal law agencies in the San Diego area.

Hyzak was part of the Coast Guard's 2017 hurricane response. He deployed to the U.S. Virgin Islands in the wake of Hurricane Maria where he conducted security missions in the affected area.

"We did courtesy patrols for the active duty members who were evacuated off the island," said Hyzak. "We were able to check on their houses, make sure they were still standing and look out for our shipmates."

Hyzak finished his bachelors in criminal justice in early 2017 and is currently working toward his masters. He plans to attend law school. ≈



# 9TH DISTRICT RESERVE ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR: BM1 ANDREW M. ARNOLD

Petty Officer 1st Class Andrew M. Arnold, a reserve boatswain's mate assigned to Coast Guard Station Marblehead, Ohio, was selected as the Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year for the Ninth District.

Arnold, who joined the Reserve in 2006, normally serves as the reserve training petty officer for the station, but during last year's incredibly busy summer season, he executed the duties of first lieutenant for Operation Summerstock (a position normally held by an active duty member). There, he was responsible for training, tasking and mentoring more than a dozen junior personnel.

As a boarding officer and RBS/RBM coxswain, Arnold is responsible for training future coxswains, crew members and

watchstanders. He completed over 200 underway hours as a small boat coxswain without mishap, which directly improved readiness and seamanship of active duty and reserve coxswain and crew.

He also is a member of the station's boat crew examination board for active and reserve qualification boards. His expertise and skill has been called upon by the station for previous summer seasons when they experienced shortages of qualified personnel. In 2012, Arnold deployed with Port Security Unit 309 to Kuwait.

In his job as a social studies teacher for North Canton, Ohio, public schools, he serves as department chairman. In his spare time, Arnold coaches lacrosse and is currently working on his masters degree in educational leadership. ≈



Petty Officer 2nd Class Tim Porter receives his award, flanked by his commanding officer, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Molloy, and SERA Chief Petty Officer Carl Boehmer.

Photo courtesy of Station Yaquina Bay.



# 13TH DISTRICT RESERVE ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR: BM2 TIM PORTER

Petty Officer 2nd Class Tim Porter from Coast Guard Station Yaquina Bay, Ore., was selected as the District 13 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year.

Porter, a native of the Florida Keys, joined the Reserve in 2012 and became an essential part of Station Yaquina Bay, serving as a coxswain on the RBSII and a crewman on the 47-foot motor life boat. As the lead reserve coxswain trainer, his expertise was invaluable as an underway instructor during the station's coxswain college, and his efforts directly resulted in the successful certification of four coxswains. Porter contributed to the station's mission again and again, staying late to help others on completing tasks and qualifications and, at one point, doing points-only drills to augment the active crew during busy fishing seasons. As a seasoned coxswain, he oversaw active duty crew, helping ensure the safety of upwards of 600 recreational vessels per day.

Porter, who is president of an investment firm in his civilian occupation, used his background to counsel numerous station personnel (junior and senior, of both components) on their financial well-being. His knowledge, advice and encouragement motivated members to begin, or increase, contributions to their retirement, increasing retention rates and members' financial

security. He recently earned his masters degree in personal financial planning.

In his spare time, Porter conducts an extensive amount of community outreach. He leads a mentorship program for incarcerated youth. He's worked with Homes for Our Troops and the Financial Planning Association to provide free financial services to wounded veterans. For the last ten years, Porter has run a Thanksgiving outreach through his church in Salem, Ore., which delivers dinner, toys and Christmas trees to families in need. Under his leadership, the event has now grown to serve 1,000 people per year, including the Salem-Keizer school district, local businesses and more than 200 volunteers.

"It's humbling and a privilege to work alongside someone who cares so deeply and invests so much into the accomplishments of others," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Molloy, commanding officer of Station Yaquina Bay.

The station's SERA, Senior Chief Petty Officer Carl Boehmer echoed his sentiments.

"Petty Officer Porter is a dedicated reserve member and represents our core values both on and off duty," said Boehmer. "He has affected the lives of many families from his selfless volunteering in his community." ≈



Rear Adm. Vincent Atkins and Master Chief Petty Officer Edward Lewis flank Petty Officer 1st Class Mark Camacho at an awards ceremony April 6.

Photo by David C. Livingston



# 14TH DISTRICT RESERVE ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR: ME1 MARK CAMACHO

Petty Officer 1st Class Mark Camacho a maritime enforcement specialist at Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor, Guam, was selected as the District 14 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year.

Born and raised in Guam, Camacho enlisted in the Reserve in 2004. He currently works for the Judiciary of Guam as a probation officer. This year, he handled more than 275 cases, but volunteered twice to take a set of orders to assist Sector Guam which was experiencing a heavy training workload due to a personnel turnover rate of more than 55 percent. Camacho filled the gap, serving as a boat crew member, boarding officer, law enforcement petty officer and law enforcement instructor. He conducted multiple law enforcement trainings to bring the new staff up to

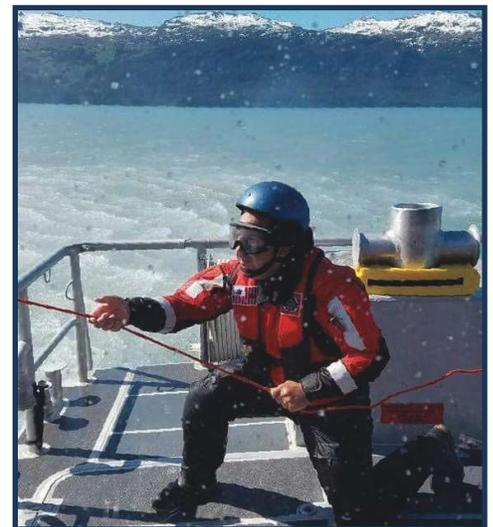
speed, resulting in 11 newly certified members in critical positions. Camacho also planned, organized and executed a two-day joint agency law enforcement training college that included Coast Guard, Port Police, and the Guam Police Department's Marine Division.

In addition to his civilian and military careers, Camacho is a dedicated member of the civilian volunteer police reserve, a facet of the Guam Police Department. He volunteered time to assist with the annual Kids Care Photo ID event, which provides children's families with free identifying booklets that ensured the safety more than 200 children via a rapid identification method in the event of an Amber Alert. ≈



# 17TH DISTRICT RESERVE ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR: MK3 JAMIE J. SCHROEDER

Station Valdez reservist, Petty Officer 3rd Class Jamie Schroeder, conducts helo ops in Valdez, Alaska.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Jamie Schroeder a machinery technician at Coast Guard Station Valdez, Alaska, was selected as the District 17 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year.

Schroeder, a native of Minnesota, moved to Alaska in 2011 and, shortly after, entered the Coast Guard Reserve. After attending A-school in 2013, Schroeder quickly established himself as a high performer, becoming boat crew qualified on both the RBSII and the RBM. He would go on to become the station's first reserve RBM engineer.

In January 2017, Schroeder volunteered to deploy to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with Port Security Unit 305. There, he became deck watch officer qualified and earned his boat crew qualification on the transportable port security boats as well as his trailering qualification—later, teaching his shipmates to qualify on and maintain the TPSBs.

He created and maintained a system for tracking boat maintenance and developed an inventory control system for parts consumed, increasing efficiency in projecting schedules and future engineering needs.

Schroeder was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer medal for his many hours spent helping at the Coast Guard Lighthouse Museum preparing assets for community outreach and doing community service projects to improve unit berthing areas.

Schroeder is currently working toward his masters degree in finance and economics, and in his spare time, he helps with both an alcohol recovery group and feeding homeless community members at his church. He is regarded as a star performer who leads by example in his work and in his community. ≈



# HOW ARE YOU SPENDING YOUR WEEKEND?

As a member of the Coast Guard Reserve, you will be working side by side with full-time Coast Guardsmen. No matter what mission, you'll typically serve two days a month and two weeks a year at a base near your home. Receive training in such diverse fields as computer processing, mechanics, or communications. Want to operate boats and save lives? Qualify as a boat coxswain and lead real lifesaving missions.

## Plus, reservists get the benefits of:

- Intensive, highly specialized training in transferable skills.
- Work-life balance—You can advance your civilian career while you serve.
- Competitive pay for serving one weekend a month and two weeks per year.
- Low-cost, quality medical and dental coverage.
- Education assistance through the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve.
- Retirement plan for your part-time service.

Join now at [GoCoastGuard.com](https://www.GoCoastGuard.com)





## The process behind funding PPE

All Coast Guard personnel in boat crew billets, regardless of status (break in or certified) are issued the required Rescue Survival and Systems (R&S) personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE, which is identified in the Rescue and Survival Systems Manual (CIM 10470.10G), must be cared for and maintained in accordance with its respective maintenance procedure card (MPC). Each unit's R&S petty officer oversees his or her program, but oftentimes relies on the members to maintain their gear. Each piece of gear has its own MPC to maintain high quality and prolong product longevity. (Standard gear issue information is found on MPC KB0026.0.)

There's a process to maintaining PPE. All issued gear issued is documented, and accountability is maintained through annual inventories and periodic inspections.

Oversight of the R&S program occurs during each unit's Boat Forces Standardization (STAN) Team visit. Some recent findings from STAN visits include incorrect documentation, improper assembly of safety features (line, knots, retro, etc.), and missing/incomplete gear. The RFO and self-assessment mirror a STAN visit by using STAN checklists, so, PPE gets inspected annually.

Funding is provided to each unit with reservists (those who require PPE) assigned. An allotment of PPE money is a line item in the unit's budget and is funded for each active duty and reservist on the Personnel Allowance List (PAL). (This is a change from years past when only filled billets received funds for PPE.) The PPE allotment is based on a five-year replacement cycle. This money comes from Headquarters and is dispersed through the areas to the districts; from there, it's distributed to the sectors, which allotted to each of their units that require PPE for their billets.

If a unit doesn't have the resources to provide the required PPE for its members, forward a memo requesting the necessary funding through the chain of command to the Office of Boat Forces (CG-731). In the memo, document the shortfall and the measures taken to correct the issue. As with any problem, try

***"Surprisingly, the amount of funding for PPE, nationally, has not increased in over five years even though the cost of the equipment goes up each year."***



to resolve PPE discrepancies at the lowest level, but if additional funding is necessary to provide protection for our boat crews, send it up the chain!

Surprisingly, the amount of funding for PPE, nationally, has not increased in over five years even though the cost of the equipment goes up each year. Too often, units are relying on end-of-year requests to supplement their R&S program, which undermines the allotment for PPE at the national level. If units don't request the funds they need in order to adequately protect all their personnel, the system of supply and demand doesn't work.

We look forward to helping you protect your shipmates.

— Story by Chief Petty Officer Jon Jones,  
Standardization Team  
and Don Hartmayer,  
Office of Boat Forces

# From the Office of Boat Forces

Submitted by Mr. Donald P. Hartmayer, Program Analyst, CG-731

## Reserve RBS Boat Crew Member Course

2/5-2/16/2018

MK2 Darla Coleman Station Milford Haven  
MK2 Jordan Sanders Station Milford Haven  
ME3 Victor Arreola Station Rio Vista

6/18-6/29/2018

MK3 Eric Jarrell Station Georgetown  
BM3 Christopher Rohrer Station Washington

## RBS Coxswain Intro Course

2/26-3/9/2018

BM3 Michael Ippolito Station Niagara

4/2-4/13/2018

BM3 Daniel Mangold Station Philadelphia  
BM3 Angella Sargent Station Philadelphia  
BM2 Shane Wagner Station Wilmette Harbor

05/07-05/18/2018

BM3 Jaramie Pender Station Fort Macon  
BM3 Shane Parent Station Grand Haven

6/4-6/15/2018

BM3 Amanda Bal Station Atlantic City  
BM3 Michael Rojas Station Atlantic City  
BM3 Brendan Reilly MSU Pittsburgh  
BM3 Samuel Murdock Sector Ohio Valley

## Boarding Officer Practical Course

3/12-3/23/2018

ME3 Joshua Lore Station Cape May  
ME2 Holly Musser Station Portland

3/26-4/6/2018

MK3 James Smith MSU Huntington  
BM1 Peter Bechtold MSU Pittsburgh  
ME1 Kyle Fischer Sector Lower Miss River  
ME2 Christopher Garner Sector Lower Miss River

4/23-5/4/2018

MECS Kevin Hicks Station Pensacola  
MK1 Nickolas Grant MSD Quad Cities

## Boarding Team Member Course

4/9-4/20/2018

ME2 Brian Wolf Station Atlantic City  
ME3 Michael Baranich Station Atlantic City

## Chief Petty Officer Academy

6/18-6/29/2018

BMC Raniel Heredia Station Cortez  
BMC Rachael Michael Station Elizabeth City  
MEC Jonathan Simmons Station Georgetown  
BMC Steven Grant Station Gloucester  
MKC Darin Sims Station Lake Worth Inlet  
BMC Jorge Carbajal Station Mayport  
BMC Patrick Davis Station Milwaukee  
BMC James Longo Station New York  
BMC Christopher Ward Station Pensacola  
BMC Michael Dames Station Portsmouth  
BMC John Navolis Station San Diego  
BMC Amanda Mejia Station Sandy Hook  
BMC Jason Holobinko Station Sandy Hook  
BMC Richard Vetterl Station Sandy Hook

## ICS-300

3/6-3/9/2018

BMC Thomas Franks Station Cape May  
ME2 Mark Klimowicz Station Philadelphia  
ME2 Ryan Morgan Station Philadelphia

3/13-3/16/2018

MKC David Madison Station Elizabeth City  
BMC Ute Kavanaugh Station Monterey  
ME1 Matthew Tirone Station Monterey  
MK1 Matthew Ashton Station Monterey  
BMC Kristina Jones Station Rio Vista  
BMC Ryan Boyd Station San Francisco

4/3-4/6/2018

ME1 Kenneth Randazzo Station Belle Isle

4/24-4/27/2018

ME1 Brandon Manuel MSU Baton Rouge  
ME1 Brad Manuel MSU Baton Rouge  
ME1 Alex Sider MSU Baton Rouge  
MKC Jolene Scarlett MSU Baton Rouge

## ICS-339 DIVS

3/14-3/15/2018

BM1 Adam Kraft Station Cortez  
BMC Paul Russell Station Ft. Myers Beach

4/18-4/19/2018

BMC Alfred Jurison Station Honolulu  
BMC Joshua Taitano Station Honolulu



**BOAT FORCES RESERVE**  
READY TO RESPOND

The Office of Boat Forces congratulates the graduates from the above courses, and recognizes the effort and leadership it takes to produce this number of certifications. Keep up the great work, and stay "Ready, Relevant and Responsive." **BZ to ALL!!**



German prisoners march out of surrendered Cherbourg under American Army guard.

U.S. Navy photo

## Quentin Walsh

### D-Day planner and liberator of Cherbourg

Story by William H. Thiesen, Ph.D., Historian, Coast Guard Atlantic Area

Coast Guard officer Quentin Robert Walsh experienced one of the most colorful careers in the history of the Coast Guard. A native of Groton, Conn., Walsh grew up just across the Thames River from the Coast Guard Academy in New London. Aggressive by nature, Walsh established himself as a leader while attending the Academy. He was a fine athlete and a standout boxer, serving as co-captain of the Academy's boxing team. His tenacity would serve him well in Normandy during the D-Day invasion.

Just prior to the U.S. entry into World War II, Walsh received a variety of war-related assignments. He served as navigator and gunnery officer on board the 327-foot Coast Guard Cutter *Campbell* while the cutter convoyed merchantmen across the North Atlantic as part of the American Neutrality Patrols. During Walsh's assignment, *Campbell* also served on the Lisbon station to protect U.S. citizens in Portugal, threatened at the time by the spread of war in Europe. In November 1941, Walsh received orders to the famous Coast Guard-manned troop transport *Joseph T. Dickman*, ferrying British troops

from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Mumbai, India. The *Dickman* also supported amphibious training with Marines on the North Carolina coast and landed U.S. troops at Cuba, Puerto Rico and Bermuda.

Walsh left the *Dickman* in September 1942, and, after less than a year in the States, he received orders to the staff of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, London. As a member of the Naval Forces staff, Walsh gained full knowledge of Phase Neptune, the amphibious operation associated with Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Europe. This landing would prove the largest amphibious operation in world history and Walsh had to formulate plans to restore operations in liberated French ports to expedite re-supply of Allied armies by ship.

In addition to planning post D-Day port operations, Walsh received orders to form a unit to carry out his plans. His extensive naval background and leadership ability served him well as he formed Navy Task Unit 127.2.8 with fifty men from the Navy's Construction Battalion units. Sea Bees were the best possible choice for Walsh's mission, because they came equipped

## **"...Walsh convinced the commanding officer to surrender the stronghold."**

with combat training in addition to their expertise in construction, engineering and heavy machinery operation. Walsh's task unit would serve with VII Corps of General Omar Bradley's First Army.

After an initial postponement due to poor weather conditions, the D-Day invasion took place June 6, 1944. Walsh and his men landed on Saturday, D + 4, at Utah Beach and advanced westward toward the port of Cherbourg. Walsh's mission was to secure the harbor and prepare the port facilities to receive shipments of troops and supplies as soon possible. When Walsh's unit entered the city June 26 as part of the Army's 79th Infantry Division, he came under fire from machine gun nests still defending German positions, and his unit uncovered stubborn pockets of enemy resistance.

By the following day, Walsh's men had fought their way through to Cherbourg's harbor. During this assault, Walsh moved his men quickly to occupy strategic parts of the port and take control the harbor. During the assault, the men in his unit experienced a twenty-five percent casualty rate. By the end of the day, Walsh's unit had advanced to the city's old naval arsenal, where he accepted the surrender of 400 German troops.

After capturing Cherbourg's port facilities, Walsh learned that the Germans held American paratroopers in the city's old citadel at Fort du Homet. In the highlight of the Cherbourg operation, and likely his career, Walsh and one of his officers put themselves in harm's way to save the lives of the Americans. The two officers entered the fort under a flag of truce and met with the commanding officer of the German garrison. By greatly exaggerating the numeric strength of his small force of Sea Bees, Walsh convinced the commanding officer to surrender the stronghold. With the surrender of Fort du Homet, Walsh and his men disarmed another 350 German troops and liberated over fifty American prisoners.



**Cmdr. Quentin R. Walsh stands in his dress blue uniform bearing his recently awarded Navy Cross Medal.**

*Coast Guard Collection*

With Cherbourg secured, Cmdr. Walsh began preparing the port for operations. He established a naval operations center, surveyed the harbor and collected vital intelligence from German prisoners, free French partisans and slave laborers that had worked around the port. With this information, Walsh mapped underwater obstructions, navigable channels and minefields in the harbor and its approaches. He sent this information to Allied minesweepers using shallow-draft wooden sailing vessels, which were immune to underwater mines. By doing this, Walsh accelerated use of the port by forwarding intelligence directly to the minesweepers rather than going through slow-moving official channels.

Within a few short days of entering Cherbourg, Walsh's fifty men had taken 750 German troops, liberated fifty American prisoners, captured Cherbourg's port and helped clear the harbor of enemy mines and obstructions. By his third day in Cherbourg, the Navy decommissioned his unit and designated him as Cherbourg's assistant port director. His unit had not only secured Cherbourg and saved American lives, it sped to the front

lines thousands of troops and millions of tons of ammunition, equipment and war material. For his achievements and selfless devotion to duty, Walsh received the Navy Cross, the Navy's highest recognition for heroism beside the Medal of Honor.

After a month of shipping operations, the Navy assigned Walsh to lead a naval reconnaissance party of 400 men to examine the French ports of Brittany, including the port of Brest. As part of VIII Corps of General George Patton's Third Army, Walsh's men completed this mission by the end of August 1944. Next, Walsh's unit joined forces with the First Canadian Army to open the Port of Le Havre. Once again, his men came under enemy fire as soon as they entered the city, but they completed the mission within two weeks.

After Le Havre, Walsh contracted a severe case of viral pneumonia. He was hospitalized in London then he returned to the States. During the next year, he helped oversee the permanent transfer of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation from the Commerce Department into the Coast Guard. In the meantime, his health problems persisted, and, in 1946, the service placed him on the retired list due to physical disability. With the onset of the Korean War, he returned to active duty in 1951. He served as liaison officer between the Coast Guard and Treasury Department and later served as aide to the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury overseeing Coast Guard affairs. Walsh finally retired as a captain in 1960.

Quentin Walsh passed away in 2000. His career had spanned some of the most eventful years in Coast Guard history, including Prohibition, World War II and the post-war modernization of the service. Walsh was a member of the long blue line and he played an important role in the service's missions of law enforcement, fisheries management, combat operations, port security, and organizational change. ≈



**Cherbourg's bombed-out citadel overlooks the dockyards that Quentin Walsh's men captured.**

*U.S. Navy photo*



## Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty: Lt. Waymando Brown

Lt. Waymando Brown is the 2018 Coast Guard Reserve recipient of the Capt. John G. Witherspoon Inspirational Leadership Award. Brown, the shoreside division security officer for Coast Guard Port Security Unit 308 in Kiln, Miss., led his team through the difficult operations in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria last year.

When it comes to being a leader, look after your crew, look after the mission, never put anyone in a situation that you wouldn't want to be put in yourself, be a good Coastie and live by that code, said Brown.

"I love being operational—being on a boat," said Brown and if there's an opportunity to be in the field with my guys, I'm always going to lead the charge. I'm not one to sit on the sidelines where it's safe and bark commands. I'm going to be on the playing field with them. I think my guys know that of me and know that I'm never going to ask them to do something that I wouldn't do myself."



Lt. Waymando Brown talks to a survivor of Hurricane Maria in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

U.S. Coast Guard photo

A good leader can recognize the needs of his or her people. For example, family issues have the potential to distract from the job.

When it comes to family, Brown says being a husband and father of two toddlers helped him become a better leader.

"I think that helps me be a leader in the Coast Guard, having a family and knowing the demands and the balance that you need to strike," said Brown. "I think they help me understand so when a subordinate tells me something is going on with their family, I can work with that shipmate. I can understand the kind of pull that would have on his attention and mental state."

Martin Luther King Jr. is widely regarded as a great leader, so it's no surprise that many find leadership inspiration from his quotes. Brown found Dr. King so inspirational that he tattooed one of his quotes on his arm:

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in the moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy." ≈

— Story by Petty Officer 3rd Class Lora Ratliff

This article originally appeared in the Coast Guard Compass blog at [coastguard.dodlive.mil](http://coastguard.dodlive.mil).



Lt. Waymando Brown (second from left) speaks to his crew during response efforts after Hurricane Maria hit San Juan, Puerto Rico.

U.S. Coast Guard photo

# PSU petty officer medals in San Diego Police and Fire Championships

Petty Officer 2nd Class Matt Couto of Coast Guard Port Security Unit 312 represented the Fresno Police Department in the 2018 U.S. Police and Fire Championships in San Diego, Calif. He competed in four individual swimming events including the 100 individual medley, 200 individual medley, 50m breast stroke, and 50m back stroke. Couto medaled in all four events earning a gold medal, two silver medals, and one bronze medal.

Couto, a Fresno police officer, has been with the department for 12 years. He currently serves as part of the Central Investigations Unit, which investigates commercial and residential burglaries.

Couto, the grandson of a former Coast Guardsman, joined the Reserve in 2013 and was immediately assigned to PSU 312 in San Francisco. As a maritime enforcement specialist, he's provided security at the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum in San Francisco and deployed to South Korea in support of the Combined Joint Logistics Over the Shore Exercise. ≈

— Submitted by Chief Petty Officer Diana Murphy



# Fleet-footed reservist covers 100 miles in less than 24 hours

Coast Guard reservist Lt. Jeff Miller recently spent the day going for a run. This sounds normal for a military officer, but Miller took all but fifteen minutes of that day, and he covered more than 100 miles of northwestern California. Specifically, it took the lieutenant 23 hours and 44 minutes to run the world's oldest 100-mile trail run, the Western States 100-Mile Endurance Run, held June 23-24. Sub-30 hour finishers earn a bronze belt buckle, but Miller's sub-24 hour time jumped him up to the coveted hand-made silver belt buckle.

Each year, several hundred runners climb more than 18,000 feet and descend 23,000 feet, following a path originally meant to prove that horses could still cover 100 miles in a day. The current race -- just shy of running four marathons back to back -- is so grueling that, historically, 20 to 50 percent of the starters never make it to the finish line, and the weather varies so greatly that alternative "snow routes" are planned.

Because less than 400 entries are allowed per year, Miller won his entrance to the race



in a lottery. He trained for eight months before heading out to the starting line in Squaw Valley, Calif., but Miller has been running marathons and ultra-marathons for more than a decade, including the 2018 Boston Marathon in April.

"What can I say? Toenails come and go," said Miller, who's apparently tougher than an armadillo with a heart of stone wearing a football helmet.

Miller, a resident of Corpus Christi, Texas, serves as an attorney for the Department of Justice, as well as being a reservist at Coast Guard Pacific Area's Legal Services Command. ≈



## The Importance of Mentoring

I was recently selected to be a part of the Recruit Company Mentor Program at Training Center Cape May, N.J. With 27 years in the Reserve, starting as a seaman recruit and rising through the ranks to ultimately serve as a commander, I knew I could offer some advice about way forward while providing key tips for success.

I met up with 21 members who were successfully completing the Direct Enlisted Petty Officer Training (DEPOT) program, and I was honored to speak at their graduation ceremony. This ceremony was a celebration of some important traits demonstrated by these new members—traits that included, among others, commitment, dedication and perseverance.

The mere fact that these members had made it through DEPOT showed their commitment to the training program, to becoming leaders and to service. Not only commitment to service in the Coast Guard, but a commitment to serving this nation. They dedicated their time, sacrificed by being away from their family and friends, and dedicated their lives to one of the most fulfilling aspects of their career. They showed their willingness to persevere. This not only includes perseverance to successfully completing something they started but perseverance to thrive and excel. Anything is possible if you take the initiative and stay on track to reach your Coast Guard career goals. Some of these goals will be set for them based on the ratings they chose, but most are the goals they have or will set for themselves.

I was grateful for the opportunity to return to Cape May to talk to some of the newest members. I remember when I was much younger, and much better looking, stepping off the bus in 1991 with company commanders yelling at me, confused about where I was going and what to do next. I discovered things about myself I didn't know I was capable of doing, and I found a path in life that gave me direction and purpose. I hope that DEPOT will do the same thing for these members.

One of the greatest things about this organization is that it gives people at all levels the opportunity to lead. Most of the 21 graduates would enter the Coast Guard as petty officers, which translates to instant leaders. Being a



Cmdr. Kevin M. Tyrrell

leader in the Coast Guard comes with great responsibility, so I reminded them to make sure they continue to show commitment, dedication and perseverance by inspiring others and helping to mold the next generation of Coast Guard members. I once read that true leadership lies in guiding others to success, in ensuring that everyone is performing at their best, doing the work they are pledged to do and doing it well.

I encourage everyone, especially those with many years of experience, to look for ways to mentor junior personnel. Mentoring others provides a great opportunity to pass on your experiences to help others avoid pitfalls and put them on the path toward success. You can have a sense of pride in knowing that you are helping to help make the Coast Guard a place where people will want to work and excel for years to come. ≈

— *Story by Cmdr. Kevin M. Tyrrell*  
*Senior Reserve Officer, Base New Orleans*

*Cmdr. Tyrrell enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1991 and attended Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination in 2000. In his civilian career, he currently serves as an assistant special agent in charge for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Miami, overseeing the financial crimes division.*



**Lt. Stephen Graff shakes the hand of a graduate during the graduation ceremony for members of the Direct Entry Petty Officer Training class 03-18, at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, N.J. Graff volunteered to act as the company's mentor during their training and provided them insight on serving in the Coast Guard.** Photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Edwards

# SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES)

Beginning this fall, Coast Guardsmen will no longer update their Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) forms on paper at their units. The certification process will move to the MilConnect portal in October, <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>. The SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES) will serve as the system of record for all SGLI election information. This new process should ensure proper premiums are deducted from members' pay, ensure accurate insurance claims and reduce errors in paperwork.

## SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (SGLI) Online Enrollment System (SOES)



### SGLI ELECTION Process As Is

**1** Member goes to unit admin during business hours to change SGLI elections using SGLV 8286 or 8286A.

**2** Unit admin reviews member elections and coverage information.

**3** Unit admin counsels member on any unusual beneficiary elections.

**4** Member signs elections with actual signature.

**5** Servicing Personnel Office updates SGLI / FSGLI premium changes in Direct Access.

**6** SGLI/FSGLI premium changes are effective the month following coverage approval

**7** If election change requires spouse notification, the unit admin generates a letter and mails to spouse at current address on record.



### SOES New Process

**1** Member accesses SOES to change SGLI elections via the milConnect portal using DS Logon or CAC, 24 hours, 7 days a week where internet access is available.

**2** SOES guides member through the election process providing consistent guidance through customized counseling messages.

**3** Member signs elections in SOES with a CAC or DS Logon and receives an immediate email confirmation of elections.

**4** SOES transfers changes in coverage to Direct Access for premium deductions to begin.

**5** If election change requires spouse notification, SOES produces letters that are mailed by DMDC within 3 to 4 days.



### SOES TRAINING MODULES:

Self Service Application: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/training/SOES/SOES.htm>

Administrator Application: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/training/SOES/SOES\\_Admin.htm](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/training/SOES/SOES_Admin.htm)



## First District Reserve staff conducts ICS workshop

The First District Reserve staff conducted an Incident Command System workshop along with a tabletop exercise during the unit's semi-annual all-hands weekend April 8.

Led by Cmdr. Frank Stapleton, with assistance from Lt. Cmdr. T.J. Trifiro, the TTX differed from traditional ICS exercises because it simulated standing up the First District's Reserve Crisis Action Team (CAT).

During an event, the CAT employs a modified version of ICS, which is responsible for collecting and organizing information from field units and delivering a concise status update to an area command. There is no "Planning P," and many of the traditional elements of ICS have been removed.

"Writing a realistic scenario, tailored for an event where there are no operations or logistics branches can be quite challenging," said Cmdr. Frank Stapleton, reserve incident management branch. "The focus of the injects relied heavily on the receipt, vetting and dissemination of information."

In the scenario, a small plane crashes into a fuel terminal located in Providence, R.I. A fire, oil spill and marine casualty unfold, as well as information indicating a possible terrorist plot.

The focus of the TTX is information management, where the final product is a quality situation display. Injects were provided to all teams within the CAT.



Coast Guard members at First Coast Guard District in Boston, participate in an Incident Command System exercise on April 8. ICS exercises are a regular and important part of training and allow opportunities for enhancement of skills and qualification readiness for disaster response. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Lara Davis

Verifying officers Cmdr. Kelly Denning, Lt. Cmdr. Huelsman, Lt. Cmdr. John Bernhardt, Lt. Andrew Sheehy, Lt. Juan Harris, Lt. Kiley Hoppe, and PACS Zach Zubricki worked to qualify individuals within their respective teams.

"The TTX was a great success where 21 trainees received sign-offs on a total of 482 Performance Qualification Standard line items," Stapleton said. "Five qualifications were completed and two more are pending boards." ≈

— Story by Lt. Mitchell Otey



## Corpus Christi reservists complete pollution TTX

Reservists at Sector/Air Station Corpus Christi completed a tabletop exercise May 20 to test the setup of an incident command post and respond to a ship and barge collision, which resulted in an oil spill. Members made progress on qualifications, enabling them to enhance their readiness and skills prior to the upcoming hurricane season. ≈

— Story by Lt. j.g. Christopher Larocque

## New Orleans reservists test ICS skills on mock hurricane

Almost two dozen New Orleans-based Coast Guard personnel participated in a functional exercise May 5-6 to help members work toward Incident Command System qualifications and prepare for and respond to what is projected to be a higher than average hurricane season again this year.

This Hurricane Kathy Reserve/Auxiliary Exercise took members through an ICS Planning P and gave the participants an opportunity to prepare an incident action plan and respond accordingly to injects presented throughout the scenario. Participants worked on five different ICS qualifications and verifying officers were able to sign off on approximately 309 PQS items. Overall, this exercise was a big success and directly supports personnel training and preparation for mobilization. ≈

— Story by *Cmdr. Kevin M. Tyrrell*



## North Carolina reservists test HURREX skills

In May, Coast Guard Sector North Carolina reservists prepared for the season by executing a Reserve-led functional hurricane exercise, organized by the reserve Contingency Planning and Force Readiness Department. Reserve members assigned to Sector North Carolina and Sector Field Office Fort Macon, N.C, alongside their active duty counterparts, filled all ICS roles during this exercise. Simulating a category four hurricane, the Fifth District 2018 hurricane exercise (HURREX) occurred the week prior to the reserve event and, at its conclusion, 43 reservists immediately began their exercise, relieving the existing ICS command.

"We set out to achieve seamless integration, and one of the greatest successes of this year's hurricane exercises was when I looked around

the table during the morning and afternoon planning meetings, and saw a reservist, an active duty member and a member of the Auxiliary sitting next to each other and contributing their experience and expertise," said Sector North Carolina's commanding officer, Capt. Bion Stewart. "I feel confident this exercise highlighted not only the deep bench of incredible and diverse talent we have at Sector North Carolina, but the true value we all bring to the table during a crisis whether we are active duty, reserve or auxiliary. No matter how high I set the bar, this team jumps right over it every time."

Lt. Cmdr. Ted Caliga led the reserve force through the exercise as planning section chief. "It was the perfect take-over from beginning to end," said Caliga. "All positions worked to create a new incident action plan."

Realistic exercise injects including search and rescue, pollution response, navigation concerns, port functions, property damage, and medevacs sharpened the skills of all players involved, proving effectiveness in a dynamic disaster environment.

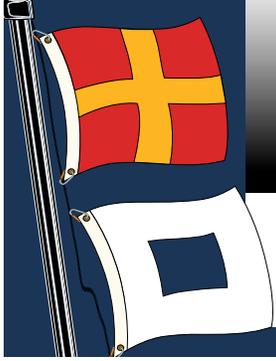


Not only were members able to become more proficient in their craft, but many obtained multiple signoffs, demonstrating task competency. To date, more than 36 ICS qualifications that have been attained from the time the HURREX took place.

Logistics Section Chief Lt. Cmdr. John Garr said, "The process was highly effective. It provided an outstanding way for reservists to obtain ICS qualifications and get real experience. It's a strong model for other sectors to follow." The HURREX provided significant training opportunities to practice and demonstrate ICS procedures at all levels of the process, allowing members to complete their respective ICS qualifications.

Sector North Carolina reservists enacted and tested the severe weather plan to remain effective and always ready this hurricane season. ≈

— Story and photos by *Lt. j.g. Jessica Tull, Sector North Carolina RFRS*



## Putting people first: Retired admiral reflects on service's 'people culture'

Rear Adm. Francis "Stash" Pelkowski is a veteran, merchant mariner, maritime industry business leader, licensed attorney and a professor at SUNY Maritime College. To say the 58-year-old father has accomplished a lot in life is a gross understatement. However, to hear him describe his early adult years leading to his enlistment in 1980, his present-day success and many achievements were far from predictable.

"I was a screwed-up kid, in a big way," said Pelkowski. "My work ethic was good, I would work at the local gas station and that type of thing, but it wasn't good for school. I knew that I needed to do something different, and I knew that I loved the water, and so I actually walked into a recruiting station that had all five services in a common suite. I went to the Coast Guard first."

Boot camp proved to be a transformative experience—the structure, discipline and mission resonated with Pelkowski. As the recruit progressed through basic training, his teamwork skills and leadership qualities emerged. On graduation day, Pelkowski, sharply dressed in his tropical blue uniform, met with his best friend from high school, Patrick McGovern who looked at the beaming graduate with a smile and said incredulously, "What happened to Stash Pelkowski? You're an entirely different person!"

Thirty-eight years later, the newly-retired admiral reflected on the Coast Guard's supportive people-focused culture.

"The way I look at it, the Coast Guard is a lifesaver, but not just for the public," said Pelkowski. "They save the lives of people that join, not all, but certainly for me. It dramatically changed my life. It's a very person-friendly, humanistic organization. We have a tremendous people culture."

At his retirement in May, Pelkowski remarked on the culture he's witnessed at all levels of the Coast Guard. "After I learned that Adm. Zunkuft had agreed to preside over this ceremony, I told him that I was surprised that he could fit it into his schedule. He casually said to me that he presides over every flag officer retirement. He said that we must value our people and their service. 'It's too important,' he said. That is our people culture, as executed by our most senior leader," said Pelkowski.

For the organization to be always ready, emphasis must be placed on supporting the people that perform the job. "It's all about the people," said Pelkowski. "We can have the greatest cutters, the greatest small boats, and the greatest aircraft in the world, but it's the people that execute the missions. Our focus as an organization on people makes total sense."



Francis "Stash" Pelkowski (right) participates in Joint Port Security training with Ron Catudal (center), now a Coast Guard Reserve captain, and a member of the U.S. Navy Reserve (left) aboard a U.S. Navy Inshore Boat Unit vessel while mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom shortly after September 11, 2001.

Photo courtesy of Rear Adm. Francis Pelkowski

Beyond facilitating operational readiness, Pelkowski views the people-focused culture as being in perfect alignment with the Coast Guard core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty. "If an individual shows devotion, a desire to perform and shows initiative, to me, that's where the people culture really kicks in," said Pelkowski. "If we see that devotion to duty, that's when we honor and respect them by being a teammate, by being someone they can rely on, and by being someone that they can learn from. We have a really good mentoring culture in the Coast Guard, and I would say it's at the superstar level in the Coast Guard Reserve."

Pelkowski recalled an experience that illustrated this. "When I joined, the Coast Guard Reserve was really separate from the Coast Guard. It was us and them. I showed up for my first two weeks of ADT in late August of 1980 at Coast Guard Station Shinnecock, fresh out of boot camp as a seaman apprentice. The commanding officer, an active duty lieutenant, grabbed me and said, 'I know you just got out of boot camp, but we're putting you in charge of your own cutter. Follow me.'"

The "cutter" turned out to be a lawn mower, and Pelkowski said he spent most of his two weeks clearing huge fields of high seagrass. Another reservist, a chief warrant officer, was not happy to hear about the lack of substantive training in Pelkowski's days. The warrant officer arranged for Pelkowski spend his evenings underway with the boat crew.

"He went to bat for me," said the admiral. "That was my first example of the Reserve culture at the time—they looked out for you."

Through his 38-year career with the Coast Guard Reserve, Pelkowski has both experienced and continued the organization's longstanding tradition of taking care of its members by putting people first.

Despite being a flag officer, Pelkowski has always recognized the importance of being approachable and thought of as a shipmate by his fellow reservists, in order to remain in-touch with the concerns of the people he can advocate for. "I tell people, 'Please don't think of me as an admiral, just think of me as a colleague and call my cellphone whenever you want. I don't care if it's two in the morning or it's Fourth of July. It's part of the Coast Guard system. That's what we do for each other.'"

Last January, Lt. Laura Gilbert became the project officer for the admiral's retirement. She said he was one of the most engaging leaders she'd ever worked with.

"When he was in the office drilling, he always had a couple mentoring sessions scheduled," said Gilbert. "He took it very seriously and made career counseling a priority."

Gilbert recounted her impression of Pelkowski's best leadership trait that promoted the people culture. "It's his ability to empower his people," said Gilbert. "He allowed me to do my job. His willingness to trust my judgment and listen to what I had to say really set the bar and created a work environment that I was proud to be a part of."

Pelkowski has a first-hand understanding of how crucial family and employer support is to a member's success in the Reserve. He has benefited from an accommodating civilian employer and great friendships. Pelkowski gives special credit to the enduring encouragement of his family, which enabled him to pursue his passion for service in the Coast Guard. "My kids' attitudes were a really big part of me being able to put a lot of time and effort into my Coast Guard Reserve work."

As Pelkowski prepares to leave the Coast Guard and chart a new course, he offered advice to future leaders: "Work hard, show initiative, and focus on operational competence early in your career. The leadership and management will come naturally," said Pelkowski. "If you do those things, it's my opinion that there will be many, many people within the Coast Guard who will help you along the way." ≈

*- Story by Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael White  
PADET New York*

## Retirement List

### RET-1 (With Pay)

#### JUNE 2008

BM1 Donald Wing

#### NOVEMBER 2016

LT George Self

#### MAY 2017

BM2 Timothy Holmes

#### JANUARY 2018

CAPT Scott Schaefer

#### MARCH 2018

MEC James Lanigan

#### APRIL 2018

CDR James Wallace

ENG3 John Innaimo

BMCM John Marschhauser

BMCS Peter Steele

EMC Randy Haynes  
HSC Douglas Wetzstein  
SKC Helen Walden  
YNC Sherry Sloan  
EM1 Richard Rosa  
MK1 William Hoffken

#### MAY 2018

CAPT Roslyn Burbank  
LCDR Kerry Christopher  
LCDR John Stanley  
LCDR Peter Virok  
BOSN4 James Paton  
F&S 4 Darden Stanley  
BMCM Neil Holmdahl  
BMCS Roger Mathurin  
PSC Avis Lawrence  
AMT1 Larry Pressnell

EM1 Gregory Olanolan  
ET1 Jay Fuller  
MST1 Ed Moroney  
YN1 Josefina Bryant  
EM2 Anthony Mazziott  
MST2 John Cullen

#### June 2018

CDR Mary Zvara  
LCDR Kenneth Bivens  
CWO James Warner  
YNCS Joy Harrison  
MSTC Mark Togna  
SKC Loretta VillaVerde  
ET1 Monica McCormack  
SK1 Genevieve Panni  
FS3 Philip Burbank

### RET-2 (Without Pay)

#### SEPTEMBER 2017

MK2 Cesar H. Perez

#### APRIL 2018

LT Peter J. Taddeo

BMC Aaron J. Insko

ITC Michael A. Vasquez

MKC Jeremy M. Bovenzi

#### MAY 2018

CDR Mark E. Fisher

LCDR Marcus A. Bay

LCDR Bret D. Mastronardi

BMCS George D. Zitzewitz  
BMC Mark T. Boivin  
BMC Lawrence L. Diamco  
CPO Natalie V. Riley  
GMC Michael M. Ward  
MKC Zachary K. Roberson  
ME1 Larry N. Ambrose  
GM2 Norvell H. Jenkins

#### JUNE 2018

CDR James B. Bernstein  
CDR Christopher E. Lee  
CDR Anna A. Stewart

CDR Lisa E. VanBuskirk  
LCDR Craig M. Filaskia  
BMCM Patrick K. O'Sullivan  
DCCM Mark C. Webb  
MKCM Daniel W. Jensen  
BMC Kenneth A. McNichols  
MEC Michael L. Smith  
YNC Tanya L. Brawner  
YNC Michael S. Gearhart  
YNC Brian K. Smith  
IV1 Joseph F. Graziane

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

# Bulletin Board

## Travel Management Center REQUIRED for lodging

Use of the Travel Management Center is required for all lodging when conducting official travel. Please note, the Department of Homeland Security considers lodging reservations made outside of the TMC as misuse of the Government Travel Charge Card unless an authorized exception is documented on the travel orders. Travelers must make all reservations for Coast Guard-funded travel, including commercial lodging, through ADTRAV. **Booking lodging reservations directly with hotels, or using commercial websites such as Expedia.com, Hotels.com, AIRBNB, etc., violates these requirements.**

Refer to ALCGPSC 067/18 for details.



## Save the Date! 2018 Coast Guard Ball

29 SEP ■ 5:00PM ■ WARDMAN PARK MARRIOTT,  
2660 WOODLEY ROAD NW, WASHINGTON D.C. 20008

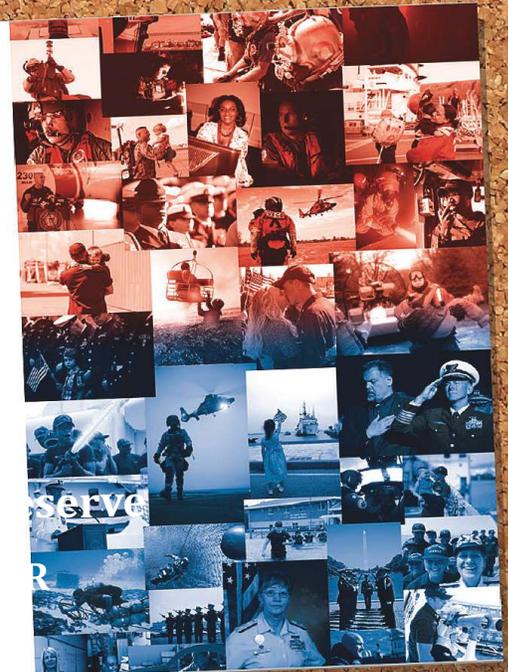


VISIT

[WWW.CoastGuardBall.Com](http://WWW.CoastGuardBall.Com)

CONTACT

[HQS-SMB-CGBallCommittee@uscg.mil](mailto:HQS-SMB-CGBallCommittee@uscg.mil)





### First female reserve HSCM pinned

Master Chief Petty Officer Terri Pierce pinned on her second star June 1, becoming the first female reserve master chief in the health services technician rating. Pierce served for the last three years as the senior reserve enlisted HS, assuming all of the E-8 and E-9 duties.

Photo courtesy of Lt. Tracey Norman.

### Pentagon announces changes to Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Department of Defense issued a substantive change July 12 to department policy on the transfer by members of the uniformed services of Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to eligible family member recipients.

Effective one year from the date of this change, eligibility to transfer those benefits will be limited to service members with less than 16 years of total service (active duty service and/or selected reserves as applicable). Previously, there were no restrictions on when a service member could transfer educational benefits to their family members. The provision that requires a service member to have at least six years of service to apply to transfer benefits remains unchanged in the policy.

## TO CHANGE YOUR MAILING ADDRESS:

### Selected Reservists:

Please use Direct Access <https://portal.direct-access.us> or send your address change to your unit Servicing Personnel Office.

### Individual Ready Reservists:

Contact the IRR Personnel Support Unit:

**Email:**  
[ARL-PF-CGPSC-rpm-3-Query@uscg.mil](mailto:ARL-PF-CGPSC-rpm-3-Query@uscg.mil)

**Website:**  
<http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Personnel-Service-Center-PSC/Reserve-Personnel-Management-PSC-RPM/RPM-3/Individual-Ready-Reserve-IRR/>

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

### Retired Reservists:

Contact Personnel Service Center (ras) at:  
[ppc-dg-ras@uscg.mil](mailto:ppc-dg-ras@uscg.mil)  
Direct Access  
or use self-service:  
<http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/>  
or call 1-800-772-8724.



## Humanitarian Service Medal awarded for 2017 hurricane response operations



In a set of ALCOAST messages dated May 23, the Coast Guard released the eligibility criteria for the award of the Humanitarian Service Medal for Coast Guardsmen who responded to the 2017 hurricane season.

Service members who responded to Hurricane Harvey for one or more days between Aug. 23 and Oct. 31 and were physically present in the areas below, are eligible for the HSM.

The applicable Texas counties are Aransas, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller and Wharton counties. The applicable Louisiana parishes are Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine, Vermilion and Vernon.

Service members who responded to Hurricanes Irma or Maria for one or more days from Sept. 6 to Oct. 20 and were physically present in the areas below are eligible for the HSM.

The applicable areas are Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, certain Georgia counties (Camden, Charlton, Chatham, Coffee, Glynn, Liberty and McIntosh), the Caribbean Islands and the adjacent waters from Barbados northward to Anguilla and northwestward to the Straits of Florida.

See ALCOASTs 200/18 and 201/18 for more specific information regarding eligibility and submission guidelines.

## Wrapping the response

The Coast Guard-led Emergency Support Function-10 (ESF-10) mission was established to mitigate pollution and remove vessels displaced by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Coast Guard reservists from across the country supported the mission in St. Thomas, USVI, including Petty Officer 2nd Class Amanda Ogden from Sector Jacksonville and Petty Officer 2nd Class Amy D'Arecca from Sector Miami in the vessel owner outreach group; Lt. Cmdr. Arthur Hudman from Sector New York as operations branch director; Ensign Jayme DeGooyer from Sector Puget Sound and Ensign Duy Lam from Sector Maryland who both served in the documentation unit; Lt. Gregory Kim from Sector New York who served as resource unit leader; Chief Warrant Officer Dean Bunk from Sector San Juan who served in the vessel owner outreach group; and Lt. Ryan Schmid from Sector Corpus Christi who served as deputy incident commander.

Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Gina Ruoti.



## Reservists graduate from the U.S. Naval War College

Several Coast Guard Reserve members graduated from the U.S. Naval War College June 15. Defense Secretary James Mattis and Navy Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harley presented the diplomas. Among the graduates were Lt. Cmdr. Karl Garman of Coriveron Group 1, Lt. Cmdr. John Parsons of Sector Buffalo, N.Y., and Lt. Michael Walker of Coast Guard District Nine Legal, as well as Lt. Cmdr. Charlayne Holliday, of Coast Guard Headquarters, pictured receiving her diploma from Sec. Mattis.

Photos courtesy of Lt. Cmdr. Karl Garman.



## Aux PA class taught by Reserve PA chief

Ten auxiliaries from Coast Guard Auxiliary District 11 Southern completed a 16-hour public affairs refresher course at the Marine Exchange of Southern California in San Pedro April 15. The course was taught by Chief Petty Officer Michael Anderson, a reservist from Headquarters (CG-0922).

Pictured are Patrick O'Driscoll, Josh Motley, Paul Saba, Gerald Myers, David Smith and Keith Touzin. Back row: Commodore Harry Jacobs, Scott Hedblom, Douglas Bradford, Commodore Robert Holm, Commodore Bert Blanchette, and Chief Petty Officer Michael Anderson.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by Victoria Jacobs, courtesy of [www.uscgaux.info](http://www.uscgaux.info).



## Reserve MK team

The reservists at Station Manasquan Inlet, N.J., spent part of their recent two weeks of active duty doing regular maintenance to the station's smallboats. Led by active duty machinery technician Petty Officer 1st Class Lantz Fortner, Petty Officer 1st Class William Pearson, Petty Officer 2nd Class Wesley Pearson, and Petty Officers 3rd Class Abigail Gall and Corey Karp performed the "RB-S Height Adjust Fastener Check and Temporary repair" on the station's two 29-foot RBS platforms.

"The maintenance on the first boat took over 7 hours the first day," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Brian Miley. "However, by the second day, the team's efficiency and productivity was greatly increased. In the process, the reserve and the active duty members were able to forge a stronger relationship by working together to accomplish a mission critical task, which boosted morale."

The reservists shadowed their active duty counterparts and helped out where needed. On the outside, both Pearson and Karp are carpenters, Gall is an engineering technician, and MK1 Pearson is a pilot.

Photo by Senior Chief Petty Officer Brian Miley

## Newest GMC at PSU 305

Chief Petty Officer Forrest Gladman, a reserve gunner's mate and member of Port Security Unit 305, advanced to chief June 4.

Photo courtesy of Lt. Jenn Wong-Reiss.





## Father's Day retirement for MK2 conducted by 2LT son

On Father's Day, June 17, Petty Officer 2nd Class John Brycki, a member of Station Milwaukee, retired from the Coast Guard. Brycki's career was commemorated with an intimate ceremony held outdoors at Sector Lake Michigan in Milwaukee. This retirement was special for the machinery technician, because it was led by his son, 2nd Lt. Jacob Brycki, a member of the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Brycki enlisted in the Navy in 1985 and became a boiler technician before lateraling to machinist mate. During his service in the Navy, he served aboard the USS LaSalle and the USS Sierra, and deployed to the Persian Gulf for a year.

In 2006, Brycki enlisted in the Coast Guard as an MK2. He went on to become a member of the boat crew and the boarding team at Station Milwaukee. Fair winds and following seas, MK2.

Photo courtesy of Chief Petty Officer Tommar Franklin.

Shipmates gathered June 9 to recognize the extraordinary career and retirement of Cmdr. Richard More after 27 years of service. Pictured here, he stands with his Mary Jo and their children Ryan, Katie and Julia. More graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1991, and, after a break in service, he joined the Reserve in 2003. His service includes two tours at sea and work up and down the eastern seaboard, as well as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response. Fair winds and following seas, Commander.

Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Dickinson.



Sector Jacksonville gathered July 14 to recognize the accomplishments of Chief Petty Officer Jeanne Laxton as she prepares to depart for the Gulf Strike Team. Laxton has been a member of the Coast Guard since 2000 and previously served at Sector Puget Sound, Ore., Marine Safety Unit Savannah, Ga., and Coast Guard Cutter Jarvis. Pictured are Laxton and Lt. j.g. Sara Young.

Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Frank Puzzini.

# AWARDS

Editor's note: Send your unit's names and awards (no citation needed) to [TheReservist@uscg.mil](mailto:TheReservist@uscg.mil).



## Defense Meritorious Service Medal

RDML James Kelley  
CAPT Alan R. Tubbs  
CDR Michael Bolz  
LCDR Jennifer T. Loth



## Joint Service Commendation Medal

CDR Kevin Fernandez  
LCDR Casey E. Johnson



## Coast Guard Commendation Medal

CDR Richard E. More  
Lt. Meaghan E. Gies  
YNCS Leon Troy  
YN1 Keith McVicker



## Coast Guard Achievement Medal

BMC Patrick Davis  
YN1 Rosalia N. Rodriguez  
IT1 Matthew Dupuis



## Commandant's Letter of Commendation

MK1 Robert Harrold  
BM1 Justin Wood  
BM1 Jessie Sullivan  
BM2 Brian Donaghey



## Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon

BM1 Stephen Bammerski  
BM1 Thomas Carroll  
MK1 Robert Harrold



## Coast Guard Reserve Good Conduct Medal

HS2 Shawntae Guerrier



## Boat Forces Operations Insignia

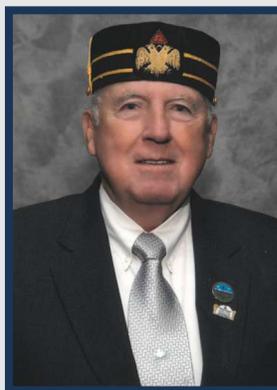
BM3 Bradley Hite  
BM3 Owen Rivera-Bentancourt



## Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation

BMC Jorge Carbajal	MK1 Robert Harrold
BMC Clint Cobb	YN1 Angela Vinson
BMC Patrick Davis	ME2 Ross Fenn
MKC David Dame	ME2 Darren Jansen
MK1 Donny Almonte	ME2 Austin MacDonald
BM1 Stephen Bammerski	MK2 Erika Gonzalez
BM1 Thomas Carroll	MK2 Eric Kasheta
BM1 Justin Wood	BM3 Bradley Hite
ME1 Kevin Colletti	BM3 Joshua Langan
ME1 Kyle Pitcock	ME3 Ethan Vinson
ME1 Roy Waters	

## TAPS



**Cmdr. Robert "Bob" Edward Buckley**, USCGR, 85, of Highlands Ranch, Colo., passed away surrounded by his loving family March 30. Robert is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary Anne, as well as his children John (Terri), Colleen Soto and Phillip (Cathi); grandchildren Joshua Robert (Laura), Natalie Anne (Stephen), Erin, Nathan (Marissa), Alex and Nicole; and great-grandchildren Kaitlyn, William, Oliver and Roselyn.

Buckley, who was born March 3, 1933, in Baldwin, N.Y., served his first four years of a long military career as a corpsman in the Navy during the Korean Conflict, then in the Coast Guard Reserve from 1959-1993 and 2000-2005.

He was a Los Angeles County deputy sheriff from 1956-64. He earned three letters of commendation during those eight years, including one for apprehending a robber despite being wounded during an exchange of gunfire. He was awarded a Purple Heart and a Silver Star (Valor) during his career.

Cmdr. Buckley found a love of teaching, and he became an instructor at the Modesto Junior College Criminal Justice Training Center. After retirement, he continued to be a law enforcement mentor and volunteer. He loved many things, delicious food, smooth wine, playing basketball with his grandkids and listening to classic music, but the thing he loved most was his family.

# PARTING SHOTS

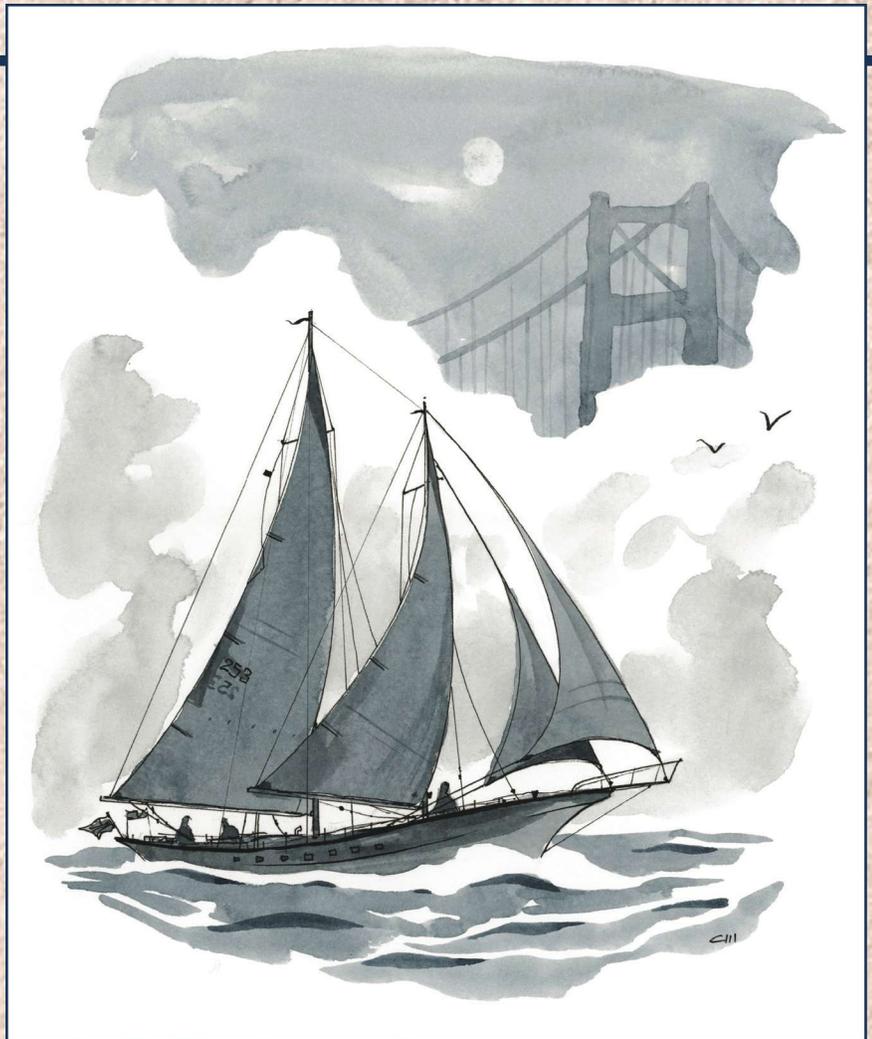
Coast Guard Cutter *Eagle* participates in the parade of sail during the 41st Norfolk Harborfest in Norfolk, Va., June 9. All cadets at the Coast Guard Academy serve a tour aboard the ship, learning sailing, seamanship, navigation, teamwork and leadership.

Photo by Coast Guard Auxiliariist Trey Clifton



The Coast Guard oversees the removal of *Stretch Duck 7* from Table Rock Lake in Branson, Mo., July 23, 2018. Missouri State Highway Patrol divers rigged the vessel, then a barge crane lifted it to the surface before it was towed to shore and loaded onto a flatbed trailer for transport to a secure facility.

Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Lora Ratliff



*Gloriana*, a 48-foot schooner and Coast Guard Auxiliary platform, patrols the San Francisco Bay. The schooner, built in 1949, is owned and sailed by Coast Guard Auxiliarist Nancy Schimmelman.

Coast Guard illustration by Petty Officer 2nd Class Cory J. Mendenhall

A Coast Guardsman aboard an interceptor boat launched from the Coast Guard Cutter *Steadfast* pursues a suspected smuggling vessel as the suspected smugglers throw bales overboard during a high-speed chase in international waters of the Eastern Pacific Ocean July 11, 2018. The suspected smugglers were able to evade capture but the interdiction resulted in the seizure of more than 5,000 kilograms of cocaine.

U.S. Coast Guard photo



Commanding Officer (mas)  
Pay & Personnel Center  
444 SE Quincy Street  
Topeka, KS 66683-3591

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# U.S. Coast Guard Reserve



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