

ON-WATCH

Flotilla 11-S-16-05

Coronado Bay, California

August 2009



ENSIGN ANNETTE BOSTON

Five years ago while serving as a Career Counselor for the Auxiliary, I was tending our booth at the National Career Fair at the San Diego Convention Center, when I met an extraordinary young lady. She was just finishing her junior year in high school and was about to become a senior and she expressed a desire to attend the Coast Guard Academy. This was exciting for me because I had the opportunity to introduce her to a very special program that the Coast Guard Academy offers to students between their junior and senior year. I talked to her about the Academy Introduction Mission, AIM. I explained to her that she could attend the Academy for one full week during the summer and get an idea of what cadet life would be like. Now I said that she was an extraordinary young lady and I was not exaggerating. Her GPA was just right, she was involved in sports, she worked out every day, and she was perfect! She put in her application, went through the interview process and was accepted to attend AIM. When she returned she was raring to go. She had already completed her application to attend the Academy. I was privileged to present her with her acceptance letter to the Academy at her Senior Scholarship Awards Program. Recently Jim and I received the announcement of her graduation from the United States Coast Guard Academy. She graduated with honors and is now an Ensign in the United States Coast Guard. She will be serving aboard the Cutter *Dallas*, in Charleston, South Carolina. Annette will be the Deck Watch Officer.

Both Division 16 and Flotilla 16-05 can be very proud of this young lady because we are the ones who encouraged her and helped her along the path to becoming a United States Coast Guard Officer.

I would get reports from other cadets and their parents about Annette and everyone was amazed at her enthusiasm and energy. She had some challenges along the way. She said that in her first year at

the Academy she didn't know if she would make it or not. There was so much to do and so little time, but once she mastered her time management skills, she said it became easier. She has sailed on the Barque Eagle at least four times. She recalled that while crossing the equator they sailed into a horrific storm. The crew was awakened in the middle of the night to report top side. They didn't have time to get out of their pajamas, so clad in her pajamas and wearing flip flops on her feet she was told to climb the rigging of one of the masts to repair a couple of lines. She said, "I can't I don't have shoes on." She was told that she must because they had to get the sails down NOW! Annette climbed the rigging in her pajamas and flip flops, repaired the lines and got the sails in. I am told that if you could see her climbing the rigging she is swift and agile.

My hat is off to Ensign Annette Boston. The Coast Guard is fortunate to have this wonderful young lady to serve the Coast Guard and our beloved country, the United States of America. Congratulations, Ensign!

Submitted by: Lee Davis, Career Counselor, USCG Academy



How Nautical Terms Came About

SR-John Kerley recommended a new addition to the On-Watch bulletin. He has also provided the material for this issue. If you have any terms you find interesting please forward them for future issues.

In the 18th and 19th century, punishment was carried out with a cat-of-nine-tails lash which was kept in a bag visible to the crew. When an infraction requiring corporal punishment occurred, one of the first signs would be the sight of an empty bag, or "look out, the cats out of the bag".

The term "spick and span" is used to mean spotless (and the name of a detergent). It comes from the old Norwegian "spic" and "span" meaning 'spike' and 'board', with the implication of nothing extra.

The word "quarantine" comes from the Spanish word "cuarenta", or forty (40). Forty is the number of days a ship was required to anchor off shore during the plague before it was allowed to enter port.



**Jeremy Thio
at the San Diego
Boat Show**

A New Auxiliarist On-Watch at the San Diego Boat Show

When my FSO-PA, Jim Davis, promoted standing watch at this January's San Diego Boat Show as a great learning opportunity for new Auxiliary members, I was a little bit apprehensive. After all, did I know enough about the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and boating to be able to answer all those visitors' questions? I

took the challenge and found out that yes, I was able to handle most of their questions. I believe that only two things are needed in order for an Auxiliarist to be able to handle at least seventy-five percent of visitors' questions. He or she must have: 1) passed the new member entrance exam and 2) completed the Boating Skills and Seamanship course. These are things that most, if not all, of us do when we enter the Auxiliary. Therefore, I recommend that any Auxiliarist who is interested in promoting boating safety attend our public affairs functions! No special training or qualifications is necessary, unless you would like to operate our friendly, cartoon-like, remote-controlled boat-on-wheels, Coastie. However, I simply left it to Jim Davis, who is the first Auxiliarist I ever met by the way, to maneuver this sophisticated female. With him at the helm, Coastie never runs out of amusing things to say to our guests. And oh, I have not yet mentioned what to do with the twenty-five percent of questions that I could not answer. Well, I simply deferred them to more experienced Auxiliarists, and they usually got the job done.

At the boat show, I also found out that the public really does associate us Auxiliarists with the Coast Guard. As I was walking on the sidewalk outside the convention center, a woman recognized the operational dress uniform I was wearing and stopped just to thank me and shake my hand. I must say that I am proud to live in a country whose citizens still respect its service members. I was even mistaken for a security guard, which was not necessarily a bad thing. It gave me the opportunity to give someone directions on how to get to the exhibition hall where the boat show was being held and also to help a man locate his truck in the vast underground parking structure. I definitely experienced a large degree of satisfaction in helping people accomplish even the simplest of tasks. While I was on watch, a fellow Auxiliary member assured me that the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is one of the best volunteer organizations out there, and I second that statement!

Thanks to all who make this possible.

Submitted by Jeremy Thio



THE BEST SEAT

You never grow too old to enjoy fireworks. The closer you get, the better they are. As an Auxiliarist I have had the best seat in the house while on patrol. The place where I have seen the most fireworks is in Glorietta Bay in Coronado. I have video taped the fireworks. I have also seen many fireworks in San Diego Bay such as when we had the Republican Convention in San Diego. I have seen fireworks on the bay for the Super Bowl and the Pop concerts. The most unusual fireworks that I have witnessed were from the Mallard with Jack and Joan Swartz. These were day time fireworks. When the fireworks ascended into the air and exploded all kinds of colored paper came out of them, filling the air with color. The occasion for these day time fireworks was in celebration of the beginning of the Cruise Ship Business as we know it today in San Diego.



Another first for Flotilla 16-05 happened on May 30, 2009. I was asked to crew on Tuxedo Ride, Harry Roberts facility. Jack Ruben was the coxswain; Harry Roberts, Ed Wilson and I were the crew. Rhea Lovan was aboard as a trainee. We launched at South Shore in Mission Bay for fireworks patrol at Sea World. After a meeting with the fireworks barge's people, we found out what we were expected to do. Prior to this meeting we had no information about what we were there to do. Now that we had this information about what was expected of us, we went on a familiarization patrol of the bay to ready ourselves for the night's duties. Some of our crew, who had grown up in San Diego, was reminiscing about when we were younger and how much time we had spent on Mission Bay as youngsters. We went to our station on the bay and we were able to watch the fireworks. We had the best seats in the House.

During our orientation with the owners of the fireworks barge, Jim and Debbie Ludwig, they said they had never had assistance from the Auxiliary before. They thanked us and said that they were very happy we were there. Another first for flotilla 16-05!

Submitted by: Jim Davis



The Eleventh District's Diversity Plan

As Auxiliaries we know we are a part of “Team Coast Guard”. As part of that team we are all responsible for implementing the Directions and Policies of the Commandant of the Coast Guard. This includes the Diversity Program. Did you know that Flotilla 16-05 has a Staff Diversity Officer who has diligently worked the last few years to fulfill the ideals of this program? For those who do not know, Michael Rias is our Diversity Staff Officer.

Michael Rias described his job, “I would say what I attempt is to reach people in diverse communities such as Native American’s, via cultural day events and Pow-wow’s, to share the word in person not (through) the Internet.” The pictures included here are from the Sycuan Pow-wow he attended. The idea is to inform diverse groups of the opportunities provided by the Auxiliary.

The FDA, or Flotilla Diversity Advisor, is appointed by the Flotilla Commander. FDA Rias’ job is to create and maintain the Flotilla Diversity management plan. He is also responsible for coordinating, advising and training us, as Flotilla members. His goal and our job are to support and accomplish the various goals of the National Commodore’s 3-Star Award of Excellence for Managing Diversity. There are several requirements to fulfill for this award, most of which have been accomplished by FDA Rias and the Flotilla. However, to take advantage of this program and make it work for us we all must understand what diversity is and how it can strengthen us.

What is diversity? Understanding diversity means understanding the differences that make each person unique. Uniqueness includes our biology, a part of which is our gender, skin, and eye color. Uniqueness also includes our ethnicity, which is our culture, customs, language, and sense of identity. Our family life for each of us is also different and includes values, traditions and social class. Religion, individual philosophies of life and our beliefs vary, which are also part of what makes us unique. We are all from a different geographical areas of the world which often adds to our unique perspectives

and feelings about where we are now. One last and important area of our individual uniqueness is our varied experiences. Our experiences come from school, travel, work and most importantly our experiences with other people.

The Coast Guard's diversity program is about people. It includes the environment we work in and how we value and appreciate those that are unlike ourselves. It is about how we think and how we translate our thoughts into how we act with other team members. For the Coast Guard, diversity is a matter of readiness. The Coast Guard believes in training its people by providing the proper tools. Once we have the proper tools the team is encouraged learn about its perceptions through their own assessments.

The Auxiliary's retention and recruitment is all about Diversity. The program will only strengthen our Flotillas by enriching our varied backgrounds, skills and experiences. Diverse individuals help us, as individuals and as a group, gain new insights and perspectives and give us the opportunity for new outlooks. By tapping into diverse communities we can tap into the various talents of their community members. Understanding and appreciating differences can enrich all of our lives and our world.



Article written from various sources including but not limited to National Diversity Training Seminar, USCG Auxiliary National Diversity. The 11th District Diversity Implementation Plan and FDB-Michael Rias

