

---

# EIGHT



# BELLS

---

Monthly Voice of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 14-8 Jacksonville, Florida  
Seventh Coast Guard District

Volume XXXV No. 10

December 2009

---



## **USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 14-8 Change of Watch Dinner Meeting**

*Uniform: Tropical Blue  
Guests: Appropriate civilian attire*

## FROM THE FLOTILLA COMMANDER



November is a busy month. It's the beginning of the Christmas Season and the New Year celebration as well as the month we celebrate the beginnings of our country.

Almost in the middle of November is Veteran's Day. On 11 November, 1918, at 1100 hours, WW I ended with the signing of the armistice in a railcar in France. 9 million soldiers died during that war and there were 21 million wounded. From 1918 to 1954 this date was known as Armistice Day and was a day to show appreciation for those living veterans of WW I. In 1954 Congress changed the name to Veteran's Day to recognize all American veterans.

On 11 November 2009, all across the Nation, people met to show appreciation for those who served their country. Our Flotilla was right there with membership in the Veteran's Day Parade and the Division Auxiliary Color Guard. Other members attended special services like the one held at Westminster Woods where 90 WW II veterans reside. I attended those services with my Grandson Erik who is a Boy Scout in Troop 101. Troop 101 presented the colors and served dinner for the residents following the service. I was able to salute the veterans as they entered the dining hall and as they left. These were the true heroes of a war that's been over for more than 60 years and they stood or sat a little taller and returned my salute. It was a humbling experience.

I am proud of those who put on the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. I'm proud of those of you in Flotilla 14-8 who have chosen to continue to serve in a uniformed capacity as a volunteer. Those of you who actively participate in the processes allowed by our organization are worthy of praise and appreciation for your dedication and service and I am proud to be part of what you do.

As we approach Thanksgiving we can reflect on what it means to be free and to appreciate those who sacrificed for that freedom. In 1863, in the middle of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November as "a day of thanksgiving and praise". In 1941 Congress declared the fourth Thursday in November as America's Thanksgiving Day. As we go about our busy lives let's not forget the heritage that we have in this great country and for those who made it that way. You are a part of that living heritage. Thank you for your service.

Jeff Blomgren, Flotilla Commander

## STAFF REPORTS

### COMMUNICATION SERVICES (CS):



Calling all staff officers! Many of us have accepted new responsibilities in the Flotilla for 2010 and some of us have taken on more than one staff officer position. I would like you take a look at your staff officer web pages on the flotilla website and decide on any updates that would be helpful for the upcoming year. I will be working on these updates as you send them to me with a goal to have all staff officer pages updated in January.

The staff officer web page is an excellent place to combine information about the office with links to national web pages on the subject, as well as local news and reports that would be helpful to our membership.

I would like to have a brief message to the membership about your office. This would be especially helpful orienting and training new members. Include links to district and national web pages that would help our membership, obtain materials, manuals and forms, find training, or submit reports. I can easily add news or change information from your email communications.

Just send me an email with your thoughts. [burnspb@mindspring.com](mailto:burnspb@mindspring.com)

Paul Burns, FSO-CS

---

### OPERATIONS (OP):



Neill Thaggard's boat has been officially approved as a facility, and this will increase our operations capabilities. With more days on the water possible, I am hopeful this will attract more of our members to operations.

The division leaders sent out a letter outlining some of the requirements for individuals wanting to get into operations. The bottom line is that they want us to be trained and ready just like the gold side, of course, taking into consideration our chronological differences. This requires a serious commitment of time and energy--just like almost anything rewarding does.

Upcoming events include a towing exercise with Station Mayport scheduled for 12/19/09, and fireworks at Jacksonville Landing on New Year's eve

Whit Vick, FSO-OP

---

Mandarin Christian School Hosts Viet Nam Traveling Wall November 12. Mandarin Christian School was the site of the Viet Nam Memorial Wall display and the school recognized veterans with the band playing a medley that included all five branches of the service. Members stood for their respective branches. The display included an Army uniform on a chair near the table. There were a pair of children's red rubber boots included in the display. The boots were left there by a child who attended the original wall display in Washington, DC. When questioned why the child left his boots where the uniform was, (see picture) he answered that "every soldier needed boots". The boots have stayed with the display since and the child who donated those boots is currently serving in the United States Marine Corps.







Flotilla Commander Jeff Blomgren attended the Mandarin Christian School Veteran's Day Chapel at the invitation of his grandson Erik Blomgren who plays trombone in the school band. Behind is the Traveling Viet Nam Memorial Wall.

Boy Scout Troop 101 Recognizes Veterans on Veteran's Day Boy Scout Troop 101 was invited by Westminster Woods Retirement Center to present the colors during a Veteran's Day ceremony and luncheon. 20 Boy Scouts and their leaders were on hand to present the colors and take part in serving lunch to the residents. There are currently 90 veterans of WW II and Korea living at the Center. Flotilla Commander Jeff Blomgren attended the ceremony with his grandson Erik Blomgren who is a second class scout with Boy Scout Troop 101. FC Blomgren was able to salute each of the veterans as they entered the lunch room and the salute was proudly returned with many saying what branch of service they represented.



Flotilla Commander Jeff Blomgren and his son Kirk Blomgren were able to spend time together during the MAD. Kirk is a Navy veteran who was a gunner's mate aboard a guided missile frigate in the Persian Gulf.

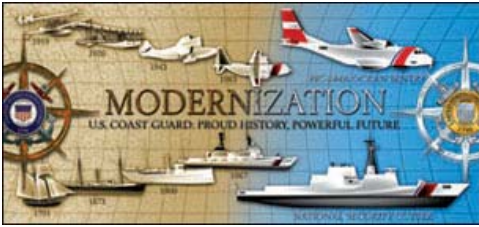


Bob Strong handed out materials and spoke to many CSX employees who were interested in boating safety and the Auxiliary.



Division Honor Guard at the Veterans Day Parade picture by Bob Strong





U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard  
Auxiliary**



# News Release

November 23, 2009

Contact: Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Cindy Beckert

## Three Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville units awarded for meritorious service



**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Rear Adm. Steve Branham, commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, hands a coin to Chief Petty Officer Robert E. Lehmann, officer in charge, Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team Jacksonville Beach, Fla. U.S. Coast Guard photo 3rd Class Cindy Beckert.**



**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Rear Adm. Steve Branham, commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, awards Chief Petty Officer Jim J. Devane, officer in charge, Coast Guard Station Mayport, Fla., the Meritorious Unit Commendation at Sector Jacksonville, Nov. 23, 2009. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Cindy Beckert.**



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Rear Adm. Steve Branham, commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, speaks to Station Mayport, Fla., crewmembers at Sector Jacksonville, Nov. 23, 2009. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Cindy Beckert.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -Three Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville units were awarded the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, Nov. 23, 2009, at Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville.

Rear Adm. Steve Branham, commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, presented the three Meritorious Unit Commendations. The commendation is awarded to any unit of the U.S. Coast Guard which has distinguished itself by either valorous or meritorious achievement or service in support Coast Guard operations.

Recipients of the commendation are Aids to Navigation Team Jacksonville Beach, Fla., the construction tender Hammer, and Station Mayport, Fla.

ANT Jacksonville Beach and the Hammer crewmembers received the commendations for meritorious service from April 2009 to July 2009 while working in partnership to conduct aids to navigation operations on a light range in the St. Johns River. Guardians replaced a discrepant navigational aid that is considered the most critical by bar pilots navigating deep draft ships into the port of Jacksonville.

The commitment, risk management and ingenuity employed by the two units saved the Coast Guard significant time, money and effort and quickly provided mariners with a critical aid to safely navigate commercial vessels through the jetties at the entrance of the St. Johns River.

Station Mayport crewmembers received the commendation for overall excellence in ports, waterways, and coastal security, including conducting more than 1,208 security patrols between October 2006 and October 2009. In addition, Station Mayport crewmembers provided critical waterside security to over 88 military outload vessels transporting nearly four million square feet of essential military cargo and provided force protection for 80 submarine movements.

For more information about the aids to navigation project in the St. Johns River please click the link below

[Coast Guard reignites the light that guides](#)



**FLOTILLA 14-8**  
**GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 1930**  
**FLORIDA TACKLE AND GUN CLUB**  
**9010 San Jose Blvd**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- |     |    |                                                                                  |
|-----|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dec | 01 | Change of Watch at the Athens Café starting at 1830                              |
|     | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FSO-PB                                     |
|     | 31 | JAX Landing New Years Eve Fireworks                                              |
| Jan | 05 | Tackle & Gun Club – 1930 Flotilla Meeting                                        |
|     | 09 | Division Change of Watch Dinner – Captain’s Club, Beach Blvd (Details to Follow) |
|     | 16 | Division 14 Board and General Meetings – 0900 – Stellar Building                 |
|     | 20 | Eight Bells Deadline – Reports due to FC and FSO-PB                              |

FLOTILLA COMMANDER  
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER  
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

[Jblomgren1408@bellsouth.net](mailto:Jblomgren1408@bellsouth.net)  
[cmtrippe@mppkj.com](mailto:cmtrippe@mppkj.com)  
[hara701@yahoo.com](mailto:hara701@yahoo.com)

Jeff A. Blomgren  
Charles Trippe  
Sarah Tamargo



**8 IS GREAT !**

Visit our award winning website at <http://a0701408.uscgaux.info/>

*EIGHT BELLS is published at no expense to the government. Cost of its publication is borne by the dues paying members of Flotilla 14-8 of the 7th District U.S. Coast Guard.*

*PRIVACY ACT: Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization.*