
EIGHT



BELLS

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

Volume XLI No. 10

November 2015

FLOTILLA COMMANDER
FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER
PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

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Whatley Law
Charles Trippe
Paul Burns

COMMODORE JOSEPH E. NORMAN 1930-2015

We mourn the loss of our Flotilla member Joe Norman age 85, who passed away Sunday, November 1, 2015 after an extended illness.

Joe was born in Mt. Vernon, NY on July 30, 1930. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Florida. Joe was predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Blanche S. Norman; his son, Gary E. Norman; parents, Joseph and Anna Norman; and brother, Robert Norman. Joe's wife, Blanche and Brother Bob, were also members of Flotilla 14-8.

Joe was a member of the U.S. Marine Corp and a combat veteran of the Korean War.

Joe joined Flotilla 14-8 in 1980, serving as Flotilla Commander, Division Captain, District Commodore, National Vice Commodore Atlantic and National Rear Commodore.

Joe's presence at our monthly flotilla meetings gave our members insight on the operations and plans of the Coast Guard Auxiliary on District and National levels that few Auxiliarists ever get to see. He was a mentor by nature and countless Auxiliary Leaders can attribute their success in the Coast Guard Auxiliary to guidance and leadership of Commodore Joseph E. Norman.



FROM YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER



Shipmates,

I recently had the opportunity to ride along with the 87' cutter Diamondback for a stern tow and refueling training mission with the 210' cutter Tahoma in the Atlantic Ocean.

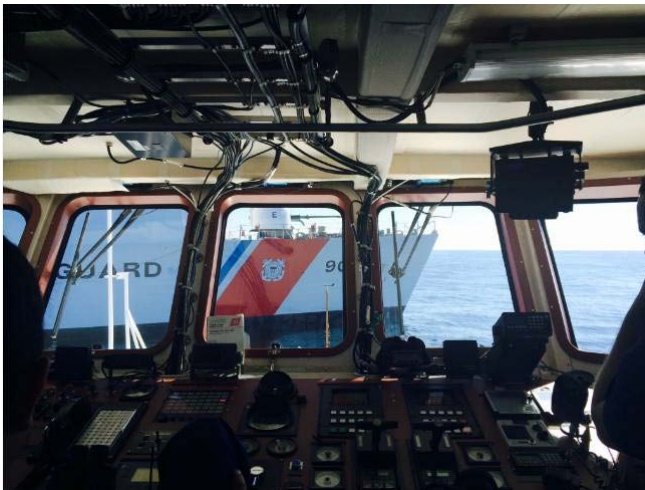
We met up with the Tahoma and we were the boat in tow as we stayed dead in the water while the Tahoma practiced 3 passes before setting up for the stern tow and then executing the fuel line transfer.

Both crews went into action as if it were a routine event. It was anything but routine. Rolling seas and two ships constantly within 30'-50' apart made for a very exciting event.

Having been aboard the Diamondback before, I knew the crew and the ship's command had this event well under control. I watched as the "XPO" and "Diamondback Actual" directed the crew and ship with exceptional skill and professionalism.

It was an extraordinary day for me and one of the reasons that I serve in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. If you have an interest in becoming an operational Auxiliarist with the gold side, please talk to me about these experiences. Bill Sekeres, the Area Unit Coordinator, could help you with other opportunities like the Gate Watchstander, Radio Watchstander programs and Aux Food Service.

Whatley Law, FC 14-8 2015



Photos by Whatley Law

FLOTILLA VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Flotilla Elections will be held at our regular flotilla meeting on December 8th.

We need to have a quorum in order to hold these elections, so please make every effort to attend the meeting.

The election committee has vetted FC Candidate, Whatley Law, and VFC Candidate Paul Thomas as being qualified to run for these offices. Any flotilla member who desires to run for these offices may contact election committee chairman, Dan Hess at flame68dah@aol.com.

The candidate's membership status must be BQ or higher, has passed the Administrative Procedures Course, or the Flotilla Leadership Course and must be Qualified in at least one of the following areas : Instructor, Vessel Examiner, Boat Crew.

Charles Trippe, VFC 14-8 2015

IMMEDIATE PAST FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S REPORT



MANDATORY TRAINING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE THAT WE FACE IN THESE FINAL 2 MONTHS OF THE YEAR

We learned some hard facts that we may have overlooked in all the changes and memos about the Mandatory Training (AuxMT).

- If you want to hold a staff office in 2016, you need to complete AuxMT
- If you want to teach a PE class in 2016, you need to complete AuxMT
- If you want to do a VE in 2016, you need to complete AuxMT

- If you want to be a Program visitor, if you want to serve as as Coxswain, or Boat Crew. If you want to participate in direct support with the Coast Guard, you need to complete all 10 Auxiliary Mandated Training Courses.

We have seen more than one interpretation of the "Concequences" of not completing AuxMT by the end of this year. My advice is to forget about the conequnces, and just finish the training. It seems like there is more energy being spent on not completing these courses than just getting the job done. And in my not-so-humble opinion, we are wasting time, and volunteer hours resisting what we all must do.

We have had several members in the last 30 days work to close the gap in their training, but going into 2016 with one less Vessel Examiner, one less Instructor, one less Program Visitor, one less Staff Officer, or Boat Crewman hurts our ability to function in 2016 and will have a noticable negative impact on our flotilla and the community that we serve.

If you run into a roadblock, I will personally help you overcome that roadblock. Just ask. I will help.

YOU NEED TO FULLFILL YOUR CURRENCY REQUIREMENTS BY DECEMBER 15

There are opportunities to finish all your VEs, PVs, IT and OPS hours before the deadline. If you are afraid that you are not going to be able to complete your requirements on time, call me. I can show you where the opportunities lie, because they are everywhere!

Paul Burns, IPFC 14-8 2015

FLOTILLA STAFF OFFICER'S REPORTS

COMMUNICATION SERVICES – PAUL BURNS



Computer issues may cause roadblocks with the Auxiliary Mandated Training, but it cannot be used as an excuse for not completing it.

Most problems come from old versions of Internet Explorer, or not having the most current version of Adobe Flash and Java. Here are some tips.

Having the latest Internet Browser.

You can use Microsoft Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, and Mozilla Firefox to access and successfully complete AuxMT. (Windows 10 users should avoid using the new browser called "Edge".) Internet Explorer Version 11 comes with Windows 10, and can be accessed from your "All

Apps" menu. If one of these browsers causes you trouble, try another browser. All of these are free.

Adobe Flash Player

Adobe Flash must be the newest version. [Here is a Link to download the latest update](#)

<https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

Java

Having the latest version of JAVA installed on your computer, solves many issues. [Here is a link to download the latest version of Java](#) <https://www.java.com/en/> . Click on "Free Java Download". When you after you install the new version, you will need to uninstall the previous version. The Java installer should prompt you to uninstall any old versions.

Finally, if your computer keeps throwing AuxMT problems at you. You can watch the videos of each AuxMT module then fill out the "Self Certification Form" and send it to your flotilla commander for approval. The National Training Directorate's website has a [document which can link you to the Videos, The Instuctor PowerPoint Presentations, even PDF versions if you rather read the book](#). There is also a link on the page to the Self Certification form.

http://tdept.cgaux.org/mt/Revised_Website_Mandated_Training_reh_10April2015.pdf

There is a route around every road block that you may encounter with Mandatory Training. If you get stuck, let me help you.

Paul Burns, FSO-CS 2015

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BOB STRONG



A Kids Halloween party at the Florida Tackle & Gun Club (FT&GC) on the same date as our October ABS course cancelled that course.

The last ABS course for 2015 will be held on November 21 at the FT&GC. Any instructors, who still need hours, please contact me immediately.

A retired couple, who just bought a 38' trawler, are planning to take our course as a refresher prior to beginning the East Coast Great loop in spring 2016. They lived in Tennessee before retiring to Florida and have considerable boating experience running the locks on the Tennessee River. They are anxious to share their experience with us.

This might be an excellent opportunity for any new members who need to attend the basic course to become BQ qualified to attend.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE 2015

PUBLIC AFFAIRS - DAVID HOWELS



Local Media Involvement:

Paul Burns, IPFC 14-8 wrote an article headlining the new app available from the US Coast Guard in Mandarin’s local paper.

Of Special Interest:

Our fellowship dinner was held at Hibachi Grill in Tinseltown with a smaller than normal turnout but background stories were exchanged and bonds forged.

President Barack Obama announced “new investments” in the Arctic, including an acceleration of the new heavy icebreaker program. The US icebreaker fleet consists of only three ships, only two of which are operational. The Polar Sea is still laid up after five of her six engines failed in 2010.

David Howells, Acting FSO-PA 2015

PUBLICATIONS – PAUL BURNS



The deadline for the December Newsletter is November 29th.

Staff Officers should submit summaries of the accomplishments and notable events that occurred over the past year. It will give us all a review of our work for 2015 and a benchmark to make plans for 2016.

Remember to copy your Division Staff Officer on your reports, and copy me on your Division reports. The SOs also need to summarize the year in review. They will appreciate your comments.

Paul Burns, FSO-PB 2015

FINANCE – BOB STRONG



Both voluntary resignations and disenrollment for non-payment of dues have been processed, we hope that we don't have to do any more this year, but because of the District and National dues increases to \$39 per member, we really cannot afford to carry anybody over who hasn't paid.

Our roster is currently at 44 members.

Bob Strong, FSO-PE 2015



December 15, 2015

Make Note Of This Date!

Halloween, Thanksgiving, December holidays, the New Year – I feel like the “holiday season” is already here. And with it comes all the deadlines.

This year, not only do you need to have your missions recorded to keep your certifications, many of us also have to complete “Mandatory Training”.

Many of the members, me included, wait until a deadline to submit the required documents. But, **DON'T WAIT TOO LONG**. After December 15, 2015, I cannot promise that your reports will be entered into AUXDATA in time to receive credit for 2015. It is a lot easier to **stay out** of REYR than to **get out** of REYR.

Mandatory training can be taken on line, in a classroom workshop, or by Self Certification (which should be the exception). Below I have explained the options:

1. When the course is taken on line in AUXLMS, upon completion, it will be submitted to AUXDATA directly and will show up on reports the following Monday and in AuxInfo the week after that. There is nothing more you need to do. That being said, some members have had problems - they get a message that the course has been completed but it never gets submitted to AUXDATA. If you have some proof (screen shot) that you completed the course, send it to me, FSO-IS, and I will submit it to the SO-IS/DSO-IS and after verifying, it will be entered into AUXDATA.
2. Classroom Workshops – Paul Burns has been/is holding workshops on these courses. The classes will be submitted by the instructor via a 7039 Workshop form and entered by me (FSO-IS). If you are in need of this training, please check with Paul Burns to see if/when he is scheduling a workshop.
3. Self-Certification - this should be the exception for cases where someone cannot get into AUXLMS or take a classroom workshop. The FC or designated officer needs to approve the self-attestation. Once approved it is sent to me (FSO-IS) for entry.

If you are having a problem accessing AUXLMS or accessing an individual course, it may be a problem with the browser (Firefox, IE, Google Chrome, Safari, Edge) you are using. Unfortunately, from my own experience, I found out a problem can be with the “plug-in” (programs that work with the browser). AUXLMS needs Adobe Acrobat and the browser may need to have the “plug-in” added. If you are having problems and need additional information, please contact me.

Marion Linda, FSO-IS 2015

MEMBER TRAINING – Cris Vonderheide



A Successful Member Training Day

Flotilla 14-8 Hosted a training seminar targeted at helping Auxiliarists who had problems completing the AuxMT courses. Auxiliarists from every flotilla in the division joined our own members to complete 8 of the 10 Mandated Courses in one sitting.

Paul Burns, Paul Thomas, David Howells, and Chuck Hayes from Flotilla 14-2 taught the AuxMT courses in two rooms and assisted attendees to overcome login, password, and computer challenges.

Here is a link to the information that you need to complete this important training by the end of the year. http://tdept.cgaux.org/mt/Revised_Website_Mandated_Training_reh_10April2015.pdf

Cris Vonderheide FSO-MT 2015

Mandated Training "What If" I have not completed it by January 1, 2016?

I know that there has been many questions and controversy about the consequences not completing the Auxiliary Mandated Training. Here are some answers to commonly asked questions concerning AuxMT just released from the National Training Directorate.

My best advice is to complete this training ASAP then you do not have to worry about the "What Ifs"

Elections/Appointments

(1) Q: Do I have to complete AUXMT if I'm elected or appointed to office in 2015 in order to serve in 2016?

A: No, in this case you may serve your full term in 2016 without having completed AUXMT. However, beginning on January 1, 2016 you must have completed and be current in all AUXMT in order to be nominated for elected office (i.e., by the date of nomination) or to be appointed to a staff office.

(2) Q: To be certified by the Director of Auxiliary, do Auxiliarists who are awaiting January 1, 2016 to begin their term of elected office need to complete AUXMT before this date?

A: No. Elections held and appointments made in 2015 (i.e., prior to January 1, 2016) for 2016 elected and appointed positions should be executed and certified by the Director of Auxiliary without consideration of AUXMT completion. Beginning January 1, 2016 and in order to be nominated for elected office or to be appointed to a staff office, Auxiliarists must complete and be current in all AUXMT. This holds true for any elections and appointments that occur in 2016 and in the future.

(3) Q: So if an elected or appointed office opens up mid-term in 2016 and I'm the replacement, do I have to complete AUXMT?

A: Yes, in this case you must have completed and be current in all your AUXMT in order to be nominated for the elected office (i.e., by the date of nomination) or to be appointed to the staff office.

Activities/Orders/C-Schools

(4) Q: Regarding limited Coast Guard augmentation and participation in Coast Guard public affairs events, what is meant by the requirement that initial AUXMT completion and currency maintenance will be required to be eligible for augmentation positions at Coast Guard units or to participate in public affairs activities with other-than-Auxiliary personnel?

A: Starting January 1, 2016, Auxiliarists who provide augmentation at CG units directly alongside CG counterparts must have completed and be current in their AUXMT. Examples include: an Auxiliarist who works the front desk at a sector office; an AUXFS who cooks in the station galley; an Auxiliarist who helps with paperwork/filing in a DIRAUX office; an Auxiliarist who serves as part of a CG crew like QMOW on a cutter or on a CG small boat. Use of a CG exchange at a CG unit does not constitute augmentation for the purpose of this AUXMT provision, nor does attending an Auxiliary unit meeting (e.g., flotilla meeting; division meeting; member training forum) that is held at a CG unit. In addition, this provision does not apply to Auxiliarists who perform authorized activities at locations other than CG units such as attending Auxiliary meetings and training forums, vessel safety checks, boating safety course instruction, public affairs booths manned only by Auxiliary personnel, or meeting with other agency counterparts to coordinate boating safety efforts.

(5) Q: After January 1, 2016, is a member eligible for orders in the AOM system if they have not completed all their mandatory courses?

A: Yes, a member will still be eligible for orders after January 1, 2016. The reason is that AUXMT REYR implications kick in after the end of 2016 if a member has not completed their AUXMT requirements by then, and being in REYR at that point would make them ineligible for orders. As far as first-time qualifications are concerned, after January 1, 2016, AUXMT has to be completed like any other task before qualification is granted. All put another way, the answer would be "No" if the date in the question were changed to January 1, 2017.

(6) Q: I plan to attend the AUX-10 C-School as part of becoming the FSO-IS in 2016, do I have to complete AUXMT?

A: Yes, you cannot attend any C-Schools or National or Regional conferences under CG orders until you have completed and are current in AUXMT.

Qualifications/Certifications/Re-certifications

(7) Q: I completed the requirements for my last certification to become TRIDENT qualified in 2016, do I have to complete AUXMT?

A: Yes, beginning January 1, 2016, your certification and qualification in all competencies will not be made until all AUXMT is complete.

(8) Q: I must re-certify my Coxswain qualifications (3 year renewal) in 2016, do I have to complete AUXMT?

A: Yes, beginning January 1, 2016, re-certifications in all competencies will require completion of and currency in AUXMT.

(9) Q: My BED is January 1, 2016 and I expect to complete all tasks for VE qualification in 2016, do I have to complete AUXMT?

A: Yes, although you have until December 31, 2017 to complete your AUXMT, you must still complete your AUXMT prior to obtaining that qualification.

Awards

(10) Q: I am up for an award in 2016, do I have to complete AUXMT?

A: Beginning January 1, 2016, AUXMT completion and currency are required in order to receive any iteration of the Auxiliary Member Service Award, and in order to be nominated for the national Auxiliarist of the Year and Commodore Greanoff Inspirational Leadership Award. Auxiliary regions may implement a similar requirement for Auxiliarist of the Year recognition among their Auxiliary units.

Administrative

(11) Q: My CGAUX ID card expires in 2016 and I need a replacement, do I have to complete AUXMT?

A: Yes, beginning January 1, 2016, you must have completed all AUXMT to get an updated ID card.

(12) Q: I will reach my 15th year in 2017 and can retire without taking the mandated courses. Do I have to complete AUXMT in order to retire and receive all my retired benefits (retired ID card, notices, etc.)?

A: No, completion of AUXMT is required to continue in competencies, receive awards, hold office, etc., but it is not required to maintain membership; therefore, completion of AUXMT is not required to retain benefits from Auxiliary retirement.



Paul Thomas Presenting "Suicide Prevention" at the Member Training Day, November 7, 2015

Photo By Paul Burns

Graveside Service for Commodore Joseph E. Norman

Photos by Vernon O'Brien USCGAUX Flotilla 14-8 Ret



Bob Strong, COMO George Jeandheur, COMO Bill Edgerton, Bill Sekeres, David Patrick, Paul Thomas, Dan Hess, Whatley Law, Paul Burns

**While You Are Enjoying Thanksgiving At Home With Your Family, Think About The Coast Guard Personnel Who Cannot Go Home.
Please Offer a Covered Dish, And Share Some Of Your Family Tradition With Those Who Serve Your Country With Honor, Respect, And Devotion To Duty!**

Photos by Mark Ellins - 2014 Thanksgiving at Mayport



Dear Division 14 Member,

Probably by now, those of you who attended (or will attend) your November Flotilla Meeting, have heard that the Division is requesting your support of our second Thanksgiving Dinner for our Active Duty Shipmates at Station Mayport. Here are some details that should help in making the day a success:

- Please consider making a dish that your flotilla runner can deliver to Station. Let your flotilla rep know what that is, how many it will serve and copy me so that we can coordinate what is promised and what is needed to supplement.
- We suggest use aluminum trays/pans where possible and if not, make sure you identify anything you wish to be returned to you.
- We ONLY need ONE runner from each flotilla to deliver items to Station. That runner should be prepared to stay, help serve and clean up afterwards. Please remember this dinner is for our AD shipmates and we may need to limit the number of Auxiliarists present.
- AUXFS members are encouraged to assist. Let me know if you are AUXFS and intend to help. You should also inform Chief Donahue.
- Your flotilla runner should deliver promised items to Station by 1000 hours on Thanksgiving Day.
- Division will purchase turkeys and ham and Station will cook them and supply potatoes. We will supply everything else, including green salad, except drinks.

Here are some ideas:

- Sweet potato, broccoli or green bean casseroles
- Vegetables pre-cooked and just need re-heating, carrots, green beans, peas, etc.
- Desserts - key lime pie, pumpkin pies (need a few), apple pie, brownies
- Bread rolls
- Cranberry sauce, jello mold, etc.
- Any dish special to your family tradition

Thank you for all you do for the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Vic Aquino DCDR & David Patrick VCDR



Mandarin News

Inland Distress Signals

By Contributing Writer Ralph Little, Flotilla 14-8

From the Vessel Safety Examiner's perspective, Visual Distress Signals (VDS) are a topic of some confusion to many inland boaters. Notice I said "inland" – that word and "night" are key to boaters in the Mandarin area.

VDS come in a variety of day and night forms, including smoke, flares, lights, flags and mirrors. Flare and smoke pyrotechnics are the most common but do expire, so check the dates when you buy. Arm signals are useful and visual, but not an approved form. The use of cell phones and radios may be options to gain assistance, but are also not considered as VDS.

VDS are one of 15 required items checked for award of the Safe Boater decal. The Coast Guard checklist is written to cover all situations, and in the case of VDS, the primary thrust is their required presence on boats 16' and over on coastal waters. There is little confusion for offshore operators, but examiners must consider local conditions in which vessels that ply the St. Johns River, and may be trailered, can easily access coastal waters. Note that "inland" includes most of the Intracoastal Waterway, and "coastal" begins at points two miles or more wide and connected to the sea. Consider also that portions of the St. Johns River are over two miles wide.

Whatever you choose must also cover day and night use. Like the "coastal" issue, "night" is a variable. While most boaters don't usually operate at night, it is highly likely they will at some time be out after sunset. Vessels 16' and over on coastal waters must always carry night-use VDS. A vessel operating solely inland and only in daytime is required to have some means of making a day distress signal. Night VDS are not required unless actually operating at that time. Otherwise, the only real difference from coastal is the option on how many signals to carry on an inland boat.



Yes, you could use a mirror or a regulation 3' square orange flag for day and an SOS light for night. However, those are fairly passive or mistakable, so on our big river I'd have those for backup to three day/night flares. To really stand out, three smoke signals are good for day. Not many observers mistake smoke coming from a boat.

Our flotilla will present the final Boating Safety Course of 2015 on the third Saturday of November in Mandarin. Visit our web site <http://SafeBoatingJacksonville.com> or call Bob at 904-721-1346 for more information.

Don't Forget our Meeting Tuesday, November 10th Fellowship - 7:00pm

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- NOV 10 **Regular Flotilla Meeting – 1900 – Florida Tackle and Gun Club**
- NOV 21 **About Boating Safely Public Education Class 7:30am**
- NOV 29 ***Eight Bells* Newsletter Deadline for Staff Reports, Pictures, and Articles**
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- DEC 8 **Regular Flotilla Meeting – 1900 – Florida Tackle and Gun Club**
Flotilla Officer Elections for FC and VFC
- DEC 15 **Deadline for yearly reporting, Currency Maintenance, and AuxMT Courses.**

8 IS GREAT !

Visit our award winning website at
<http://www.safeboatingjax.com/>



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