



Safety Lines

The Newsletter of the Department of
Marine Safety and Environmental Protection
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
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NATIONAL MARINE SAFETY STAFF HONORS RADM NORTH

The National Marine Safety Staff honored RADM Robert C. North, USCG, on the occasion of his retirement from the Coast Guard on Friday, April 27, 2001. In ceremonies held on the lawn at the Telecommunications and Information Systems Command (TISCOM) headquarters in Alexandria Virginia, national staff members formed up as part of the Honor Platoon of Coast Guard active duty, Reserve and Auxiliary members. The national staff contingent was led by COMO George Jeandheur, NADCO, OMS, and included COMO Helmut Hertle, Department Chief, and staff division chiefs John Shanahan, Jack Nourie, Mike True and Greg Kester.

The retirement ceremonies marked the end of RADM North's distinguished 34-year career in the Coast Guard, including four years as Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection. The Auxiliary's marine safety and environmental protection mission and program literally "grew up" on his watch. The retirement ceremony reflected our "Team Coast Guard" approach to marine safety missions. COMO Jeandheur assisted in striking RADM North's flag and the DC-M and division chiefs joined ranks with active duty and Reserve members to render personal honors and to stand final inspection by RADM North.

Retirement ceremonies were led by Admiral James Loy, Commandant of the Coast Guard, and were attended by hundreds of active duty, Reserve, Auxiliary, civilian and retired members and a large contingent of international maritime officials and executives from the shipping industry and the maritime community.

A reception was held following the official ceremonies in which RADM North was recognized for his distinguished service to the Coast Guard, the Nation and to the international maritime community. Among the lovely gifts presented, two deserve particular note. One was a striking stained glass panel, nearly four feet long, displaying the new Marine Safety device in stained glass, with the Admiral's two stars displayed above the device. It was presented by recently retired CAPT Brian Basel and his wife, the artist, and was the centerpiece of attraction for all. The other was a handmade display table and shadow box containing the insignia, medals and awards of RADM North's career, a gift from his headquarters' staff.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary recognized RADM North's support and leadership with the presentation by COMO Jeandheur of a beautifully mounted Honorary Member certificate. Department gifts included a mounted "Plank Owner's" certificate in our Department and a handheld GPS unit.

RADM North's remarks to assembled guests included a line from the poet Robert Frost, in which he observed that he still had "a lot of snap in his garters" and that he looked forward to continuing his work in the maritime community. Scuttlebutt has it that RADM North is a candidate for the presidency of the New York State Maritime Academy at Fort Schuyler, his alma mater.

We wish Admiral North well in whatever voyages lie ahead and remain forever grateful for the personal leadership he's provided to plot our course for this program.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE AUXILIARY MARINE SAFETY PROGRAM

This has been a busy year to date for the Auxiliary's marine safety and environmental protection program, with lots of new activities and initiatives to report on. Here's a rundown and overview of some of the things going on in our busy department.

1. New Staff Additions: Please join us in welcoming Tom Hunt, BC-MSS; Denise Mosca, BC-MEE; Gregory Hargrove, BC-MVP; Joanne Kaufmann, BC-MVG; Gordon Sweiter, BC-MVG (a promotion for Gordon); Peter Concepcion, BA-MVG; and Audrey Murphy-True, BA-MVA. In addition, we received official confirmation of Karel Kester's appointment as BC-MOI; Karel had been serving in an acting capacity since the first of the year.

We're working hard to review new staff applications for remaining vacancies and plan on additional appointments this coming month. Watch "Safety Lines" for upcoming staff appointments.

2. New Web Site: The Department has a new subsidiary Web page, linked to and a part of the AUXWEB site. We've posted a lot of new information on this Web page and will be expanding it over the coming weeks to insure that we participate fully in NACO's challenge to all departments to become "e-Auxiliary" – fully installing and maintaining our communications program on the Web.
3. New Mission Statement: The national staff has taken the input provided by DSOs in the weeks since N-TRAIN to prepare a very straightforward, one-page mission statement. It states very clearly who we are, what we do and how we accomplish our missions. Please use this statement to guide your work, both within the Auxiliary and in your support missions to the Coast Guard. A copy the [Department's Mission Statement](#) is posted on the MSEP Web site.

4. New Program Objectives: Over the last month, each division chief, as a national program manager, has developed and submitted program objectives for the year. We'll use these documents as a management tool to define our expectations and the measures and timetables necessary to accomplish our objectives. DC-M is currently reviewing these objectives. They'll be published on our Web site in the coming weeks so that all hands can review our programs and focus on the objectives that we've set. (Just like a good skipper, we need to lay out our course and plan our voyage – or risk winding up on the rocks!)
5. Documentation of Policy Guidelines and Best Practices: We continue to receive reports from the DSOs that describe successful local initiatives in marine safety and environmental protection. We will continue to report on these initiatives as *Best Practices* that can be used to model other local programs. In addition, the national staff is looking to standardize program management and practices – very simply, making sure we don't continue to "reinvent the wheel." We are working to document the guidelines for each of our programs so that we and our customers can have a clear understanding of how we expect to perform our missions. These guidelines and *Best Practices* will be posted on our new Web site for your review and guidance. We look forward to receiving your comments.

SAFETY LINES is distributed to AUXWEB: the National EXCOM; all National Board Members; the Chief Director and all District Directors of Auxiliary; all DSO-MS and DSO-OP officers; and by copy to all District, Division and Flotilla M staff. Editor Karel Kester, BC-MOI; e-mail at kester@televiso.com Phone: 303-776-1834