



What's Happening in M

By Greg Kester, DC-Md

I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on some of the major initiatives being worked on by your M Department national staff.

- The Commercial Vessel Division has worked with Coast Guard Headquarters to develop the Commercial Vessel Policy Letter issued August 9th. This policy letter sets forth the basic training and currency requirements for participation in these programs. Uninspected vessels are those commercial vessels which do not require the Coast Guard to issue a Certificate of Inspection prior to the vessel being placed in service. As commercial vessels, these vessels are not eligible for a recreational Vessel Safety Check due to the difference in requirements established by the Code of Federal Regulations.
- Project planning and implementation of the Tiger Team Initiative sponsored by LANTAREA has begun. This Tiger Team Initiative is one of LANTAREA's Prevention

Division goals to strengthen partnership with the Auxiliary. LANTAREA is pursuing the development of a "Tiger Team" composed of Auxiliary personnel to raise Auxiliary operational level of participation in the Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety (CFVS), Uninspected Towing Vessel (UTV) and Uninspected Passenger Vessel (UPV) programs. With most active duty resources dedicated to other missions, it is difficult to support these programs without Auxiliary participation. This "Tiger Team" will be a force multiplier for critical, understaffed, yet important safety initiatives, while raising the Auxiliary program's visibility within the Coast Guard.

The 'Tiger Team' will consist of Auxiliary personnel that will be home-based out of the Atlantic Area Prevention Office and report directly to the Chief, Uninspected Vessel Activities. The Tiger Team will also be the

direct link to the Division Chief, Auxiliary Commercial Vessel Examination Division for Auxiliary personnel activities.



Commercial Fishing Vessel safety demo, Marc Sayer, Paul Smith-Valley and MSTC John Hart, USCG boarding a raft.

REC Surge Support – Due to the new requirement for professional mariners to appear in person at Regional Examination Centers for ID verification and fingerprinting. This has resulted in an increase of approximately 40 percent in walk-in traffic at the Coast Guard's 17 Regional Examination Centers (RECs) and burdened the staffs with processing this additional business. This operation is of the **highest importance** and **essential** to maintaining the safety and security of our ports and waterways. This is an opportunity for the Auxiliary and our membership to make a needed and appreciated contribution of direct support to the USCG by augmenting at affected offices.

- Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were developed in partnership with the Marketing Department and provided to

WBZ News Radio in Boston. These PSAs are sponsored by a local benefactor located in the Boston, MA area. Marketing made the contact and secured a commitment from the benefactor to fund AWW PSAs and drafts were prepared and reviewed by Auxiliary and Coast Guard Headquarters. These PSAs began airing in early August.

- The AWW Division has helped develop several new materials. A Spanish language tri-fold AWW brochure is in printing and will be available in late August 2006. A new poster, smaller and more suitable for marina and marine store use is in printing and will be available in late August 2006. New versions of our DVD's, released in February are being developed with an introduction by the new Commandant
- The Environmental Protection Division is developing a presentation package detailing the history of the auxiliary and environmental missions of the Coast Guard. The presentation can be used to promote cooperation with community groups and facilitate recruiting of new members with interests in environmental protection activities. We anticipate completion of this project by the end of September and it will be available on the M Department website.
- Efforts have begun to update the MSAM PQS and Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection course to include sectorization. While this project will take time to

"Saving the Sea from People and People from the Sea"

- complete and go through the approval process, we anticipate the new material will be available sometime in 2007.
- The M and O Departments have worked together to establish an OMS Directorate website. Located at <http://oms.auxodept.org> this website will feature the many issues where the Operations and Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Departments collaborate. Our first initiative is to support your efforts in Contingency Planning. We have searched for information and tools to help you plan and provide for contingency or surge response.

These are by no means all of the projects being worked on by your national staff. We encourage you to give us your input about areas where you see a need. We look forward to hearing from you.



The TRIDENT PROGRAM

by Dane Hahn, BC-MOP, Peter Fagley 1NR26 and Ron Doeshier DSO-MS 1NR.

The TRIDENT program is an Auxiliary opportunity created to enhance the partnership between Coast Guard Marine Safety Specialists and Auxiliary members. The TRIDENT is a traditional symbol of the sea and sea power and was chosen to signify the Coast three-pronged approach to our marine safety missions: prevention, preparedness and response..

TRIDENT allows the Auxiliary to augment the Coast Guard active duty, reserve and civil service branches to meet the challenges of ever expanding missions and responsibilities for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection. Auxiliary members may train and qualify to specific performance standards (PQSs) and then perform duties while actually being integrated with active Coast Guard Units.

Clearly, this activity requires an individual with a strong sense of mission who is both willing and capable of making a serious commitment of time and energy - but the rewards are great – both to the individual Auxiliarists and to the Coast Guard personnel they work closely with.

The PQSs involve the mastering of skills and knowledge associated with specific subject areas in Marine Safety and Environmental Protection. Active duty and reserve branch members follow a sequence of training at Coast Guard schools starting with completion of basic training, followed by more individually focused informal and on-the-job training (OJT) program at their assigned Units. This process is described in the Coast Guard Marine Safety Manual (MSM), Volume I, Chapter 7.

Auxiliarists may qualify for some standard Coast Guard PQSs (e.g., Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examiner and some 34 additional active duty and reserve PQSs), but because Auxiliarists have certain legal restrictions and practical limitations, the Coast Guard has authorized sixteen Auxiliary-specific PQSs that parallel and supplement those set up for the active duty and reserve branches.

Auxiliary-specific PQSs follow the general pattern of the Coast Guard's formal training and qualifications coupled with rigorous task-specific self-study and mentored OJT. As with the active duty and reserve, Auxiliary members completing the PQS process must meet a Unit oral review board to ensure they can couple the many individual elements of knowledge and skills toward the whole of the mission.

And, as with the active duty and reserve, Auxiliary members will be awarded their PQS Letter of Designation from the Coast Guard Unit Commander. Once awarded, that PQS can then be added to the Auxiliarist's records and AUXDATA.



The TRIDENT is the symbol on the M-Pro breast device worn by Coast Guard Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection personnel who have achieved "professional" status through extended training, acquiring multiple PQS skills, and dedicated service over a period of four years. An Auxiliary version, the TRIDENT device, was authorized in 2002.

It is recommended that interested members begin with the "Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection" course. This on-line, entry-level course is a basic qualification course and serves as an introduction and overview of the programs and missions of the MS/MEP. It is available through

the USCG Auxiliary National Testing Center's on-line testing facilities.

The advanced course work (the Good Mate Course, Initial Indoctrination to Marine Safety and ICS-100) is in the specific subject area of Marine Safety and Environmental Protection. The course descriptions are available for viewing through the "M" Department's web site (follow TRIDENT PROGRAM links) and these courses can be taken on-line, again, through the Auxiliary National Testing Center's on-line testing facilities, with the exception of the IIMS course. The IIMS course is available the Educational service officer ESO at your local USCG unit.

Completion of at least four of the Qualifications are part the requirement for the TRIDENT PROGRAM device award. The current list of sixteen Auxiliary Personal Qualification Standards (PQS) can also be found on the "M" Department web site, again click the tab at the top of the page titled 'TRIDENT PROGRAM' and follow the link. Locally approved PQS standards are not accepted nationally, and remain a local qualification only.

The time in service requirement has been set at a minimum of 96 hours per year for a minimum of four years, in sustained support of the various MS/MEP programs. The total of four years need not be consecutive to be credited for the awarding of the TRIDENT device.

Some 378 members have now qualified in at least one of the Auxiliary Marine Safety and Environmental Protection PQSs. If you will make the commitment to earn the Trident, you'll be among a

fine group of mission-focused Auxiliarists. It is at least a four year commitment, but there's no time like the present to take the first step, so why not take the Introduction course and let us know what you think.



Inspecting the loading arm at a cargo facility: Auxiliarists Kevin Cady, Bob Gelles, MST3 Joe Coakley, USCG and Facility Manager Todd Bayreuther.



Marine Safety Trident Training Ribbon.

The ribbon is approved, but not yet available. It is currently in Heraldry and then must be sourced. The proposed criteria are as follows: On the completion of ALL education prerequisite requirements for the Trident device a person would be awarded the ribbon.

The trainee then receives a star for each PQS completed until they earn the Trident device. At that time the

ribbon will be removed (like the Specialty Course ribbon) and be replaced by the Auxiliary Trident device.

At this time, the ribbon is not authorized for wear on the Auxiliary uniform.



Who Are You? We'd like to know...

Maybe that sounds a little funny—because we sort of know who you are. After all, we have our lists and email addresses. And you can see the distribution chart right here...

And, we know you are proud to wear the uniform (Silver? Gold?) and willing to bring your personal strengths forward as a force extender. And we know you are committed to the goals of the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary.

What we don't know is what you hope to find in this newsletter. I'd like to know what you'd like to read in these pages, whether it be news, features, biographies, photo essays or what.

As one of the newest members of the "M" Department it has become my

"Saving the Sea from People and People from the Sea"

assignment to assemble Safety Lines, and to make it interesting for you.

I'm sure we'll get to know each other over time, but your input will help give me a "jump start".

Send your requests to Dane Hahn, BC-MOP at editor@exitllre.com and to the extent possible, I'll see this newsletter becomes more responsive to your editorial desires.

DISTRIBUTION

Auxiliary

- *Auxiliary National Board*
- *NADCOs*
- *All Auxiliary M Staff via chain*

USCG

- *G-PCX*
- *HQ Program Managers*
- *Area Chiefs of P*
- *District Chiefs of P*
- *Sector Commanders*



**Congratulations
Kevin Cady, DVC-MO
First Ever Auxiliarist of the
Year**



WEBLINKS OF INTEREST

Link to the "M" Department:
<http://auxmdept.org/links.htm>

Link to the Safety Lines Library:
http://www.auxmdept.org/main_safety_lines_news.htm

Link to the OMS Directorate Website:
<http://oms.auxodept.org>



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