A. SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE
ADM THAD W. ALLEN, COMMANDANT

1. February 19 marks the sixty-eighth anniversary of the Coast Guard Reserve. I congratulate the men and women of the Coast Guard Reserve on another exceptional year of service to our country.

2. The Coast Guard Reserve was created in 1941 when Congress amended the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Reserve Act. Since that time, Coast Guard Reservists have diligently stood the watch at home and abroad ready for all threats and all hazards.

3. As we move toward modernizing our Coast Guard, the Reserve force remains vital to our success. I am committed to improving the readiness of the reserve component by creating and sourcing an organizational structure that allows us to adequately train, administratively support and mobilize reservists in support of our defense and national security responsibilities. The Reserve Force Readiness System (RFRS) will reposition full time support billets at the mission execution level where their primary responsibility will be to maximize reserve readiness through proper training, administration, and mobilization of all reservists. RFRS will allow us to improve and capitalize on the readiness posture the Coast Guard Reserve provides as a dedicated, trained work force with a unique blend of civilian and military skill sets.

4. Our rapidly changing world presents new challenges for our service and our nation. The Reserve Force serves a critical role in our ability to meet these challenges by providing an enhanced surge capability. Through our informed, active support of RFRS, we stand united in our services commitment to provide the best organizational construct to support our reserve force.

5. I encourage all Team Coast Guard members to congratulate your Reserve shipmates on the occasion of the Reserves sixty-eighth anniversary. To each reservist: I am proud of your service, your commitment and your contributions.

B. LONG RANGE IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING OF SHIPS

The United States Coast Guard has recognized Pole Star Space Applications Limited as the U.S. testing ASP that will issue Conformance Test Reports (CTR) on behalf of the United States. U.S. Vessel owner/operators subject to the LAIT regulation are encouraged to
to submit a Conformance Test Request via the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center website to start the scheduling process. Vessel owner/operators should also note that only the U.S. Coast Guard can initiate requests to Pole Star to schedule and perform LRIT conformance tests.

Requests for LRIT conformance tests may be submitted by visiting the "Contact Us" page at http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/misc/NIS_contact_us.htm. On this page, choose "LRIT" from the "Subject" pull down menu, enter your contact information and enter "Test Scheduling" in the comments field. A representative from the U.S. Coast Guard LRIT Sponsor's Office will respond with the forms necessary to obtain the information required to perform the conformance test. Once these forms have been completed and approved by the Coast Guard, a request will be submitted to Pole Star to initiate your LRIT conformance test(s).

Operators of U.S. flagged vessels subject to the regulation may also view information on how to comply by following the Domestic Vessels links on the USCG Homeport website at http://homeport.uscg.mil. In addition, all U.S. flagged vessel operators subject to the LRIT Regulation are encouraged to visit http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/lrit/default.htm to obtain the latest LRIT reference documentation and review information regarding LRIT implementation.

If you have questions regarding this message, you may email the Navigation Center at: mailto:webmaster@navcen.uscg.mil.

C. National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) Weekly Poll

Gathering information about boating attitudes is what the NSBC believes is a good way to understand the issues. They recognize their polling project is not a statistically valid way to conclude what is really happening on the water; however it is something that can promote discussion and thought. You can go to: http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/ and take the poll. Anyone with a polling question they would like posted can submit it to cgauxstu@yahoo.com for forwarding to the NSBC.

D. Conversation with the Commandant

Manny Romero, Division Chief, Training, National Department of Public Affairs

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SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thad Allen was here February 5 to meet with leaders from Auxiliary Division 10 (D11-SR)—whose members form the essence of the Coast Guard on Arizona’s desert lakes.

In a relaxed breakfast meeting designed to acquaint the Admiral with local personnel, the Coast Guard leader spoke of several initiatives to help align the Auxiliary with the Coast Guard modernization program.

He also expressed his favorable impression of the transition between Administrations and his early interactions with the new President and DHS Secretary (former Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano.)

He noted, “I have been through several transitions in my career, and I can tell you that this one has been by far the smoothest and most collegial, thanks to the professionalism of both the incoming and outgoing administrations.”

As to what to expect from the new Administration, “You can expect them to be inclusive and focus on how we all work together and how can we arrive at the best conclusion,” he said.

Turning to the Coast Guard modernization program, the Admiral alluded to his push for more transparency through “better use of the Internet, social media and networking. I think that’s right in line with where the president is going with e-government.”

“And,” he added, “I think you’re going to see a real push for making information more available to the public and make everything more transparent. That’s a real hallmark of this new administration moving forward.”

Known as a strong proponent of the Auxiliary, ADM Allen has worked closely with Auxiliary National leadership for the past several years as part of his “product line management” goal to make the Coast Guard more successful in the 21st Century.

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Our new command structure “should give us some significant opportunities to more closely align with the Auxiliary...to serve you better and give you more visibility with us,” he said.

“It allows us to pull the skills and talents you have and put them to use for what we need beyond the traditional operational, inspection and education missions that you do,” he said. ADM Allen has often praised the Auxiliary during his long Coast Guard career. The Tucson, Ariz. native did so again with this “hometown” audience by saying, “I’ve relied on you folks my entire 40 years in the Coast Guard at one point or another—every command.” Earlier he had complimented Division 10 on earning several diversity awards.

“I think we’ve barely begun to tap the talents of the Auxiliary,” he said. “My philosophy is that there is nothing an Auxiliarist can’t do, unless precluded by qualification or legal restriction such as law enforcement.

“There’s no one right way to be an Auxiliarist. When I was in Group Long Island Sound years ago, as an O-6 (Captain), I took one of our Auxiliarists and she deployed on the Eagle for an entire summer as a cook. And they never ate so good,” he quipped.

The Coast Guard leader responded to audience inquiries ranging from how the Auxiliary can help military families, to how implementation of the new Rescue 21 project will affect inland areas. Designed to harness global positioning, Rescue 21 will replace aging, obsolete radio equipment and close 88 known coverage gaps along U.S. coastal regions.

General Dynamics C4 Systems of Scottsdale is the production contractor to replace the Coast Guard’s outdated system in the contiguous 48 states and Hawaii. The Coast Guard will be the system integrator for deployment to sectors in Alaska.

ADM Allen was in Scottsdale to conduct an annual program review with the CEO of General Dynamics.

Division 10 (D11-SR) covers Arizona’s inland lakes and Lake Powell as part of Coast Guard Sector San Diego, District 11 (Southern Region).

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E. COAST GUARD MODERNIZATION STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

1. Rear Admiral Jody Breckenridge, Director of the Coast Guard’s Strategic Transformation Team, requests your participation in a survey that will help the Coast Guard assess and improve communication among its workforce regarding Modernization efforts.

2. Provided below is a link to the Coast Guard Modernization Strategic Communications Assessment Survey. Please take the estimated 10 minutes to complete it. Simply click on the link to begin the survey.

   http://survey.uscg.mil/Perseus/se.ashx?s=OD82C073313E1E88

3. All Coast Guard Active Duty, Civilian, Reserve, and Auxiliary personnel have been asked to participate in this survey. It will be available for participation until March 19, 2009. All survey responses are confidential and must be collected via the electronic survey form to be included in official results.

4. Thank you in advance for your support of this measurement initiative. Your feedback will not only assess the effectiveness of Coast Guard Modernization communication efforts to date, but also help shape future communications strategies for the entire Coast Guard.

F. MODERNIZATION OF ATLANTIC AREA COMMAND AND STAFF

VADM R. J. Papp, JR., Commander, Coast Guard Atlantic Area

1. As the year progresses, modernization will become more apparent in the way the Coast Guard executes the strategy for Maritime Safety, Security, and Stewardship. This is my first of several messages communicating how LANTAREA will transition to the Coast Guard Operations Command (OPCOM) once appropriate Congressional Authorizations are granted. This first message will focus on a critical step towards modernization as Atlantic Areas transition to a numbered staff. This transition will establish an organization that will allow LANTAREA to better support our operational forces, align us with CG Headquarters, and concurrently posture LANTAREA for future modernization implementation.

2. Within the next few months, Atlantic Area Staff will begin a phased, internal transition from its current command and control construct to a numbered staff. Specifically, the planned transition dates, which are subject to bargaining, are outlined below:

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3. The modernization of Atlantic Area Command and Staff before 1 June 2009 offers several advantages that include, but are not limited to: implementing a more responsive organization that includes separation of the LANT/D5 Command Center for better mission cognizance and improved LANTAREA operations oversight of tactical mission execution, aligning the current command and control construct with OPCOMS envisioned organization to facilitate an easy transition once Congressional Authorization is obtained, implementing a new Operations Requirements and Analysis Division (LANT-7), and validating and deploying critical operational processes before OPTEMPO peaks during summer SAR and hurricane seasons.

4. As a follow-on to this ALCOAST, LANTAREA will release a video in which I will talk to our operational forces about modernization. There will be a targeted distribution of this video as a DVD to operational field commands. It will also be posted in the Coast Guards modernization section of CG central and on the OPCOM web page accessible through http://cgweb.lant.uscg.mil/.

5. Additional information regarding modernization, chartered work groups, organizational constructs, strategic communications, frequently asked questions, and implementation timelines can be obtained within the modernization section in CG central and the OPCOM web page. Questions or comments regarding OPCOM implementation can be directed to LANTAREA by sending an email to opcom_implementation@uscg.mil.

6. I understand that organizational change is difficult on all personnel, both personally and professionally. However, modernizing the Atlantic Area Command and Staff will improve our ability to support our operational commanders and best posture Atlantic area to transition easily to OPCOM once authorized. I am excited about this opportunity for our service, and am committed to its continued success.
G. Planned Termination of LORAN-C Program

VADM V. S. Crea, Vice Commandant and Chief Operating Officer

To the Men and Women of the United States Coast Guard,

Earlier today, the President released his Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. This document is an outline of the President’s initiatives and sets the stage for his full budget submission that we expect to be delivered to Congress within the next few months.

The Budget identifies potential savings across the federal government to reduce the Nation's deficit and to discontinue outdated programs. Included is termination of the LORAN-C program in the coming year, specifically "the termination of outdated systems such as the terrestrial-based, long-range radio navigation (LORAN-C) operated by the U.S. Coast Guard resulting in an offset of $36 million in 2010 and $190 million over five years". Further details of the termination plan will be available upon the submission of the President's full budget.

The Commandant and I understand the uncertainty this planned termination creates among the highly dedicated men and women who operate and support our LORAN-C Stations, often under very challenging conditions.

Please be assured that as Guardians, we are committed to look after our shipmates. CG-1 and CGPC are actively engaged to support our workforce during this process. We will ensure all Loran Station and program personnel are kept fully informed throughout this dynamic period.

I appreciate your devotion to duty, flexibility and dedication to our Coast Guard and our nation.