



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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WebWatch

Division 8, 5NR

June 2011

A. The “Ten Commandments” of Boating Safety from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Vincent Pica, Chief of Staff, D1SR, U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

The United States Coast Guard characterizes their Auxiliary corps as a “force multiplier”, enabling the active-duty and reserves corps to do more with the budgeted dollars allocated by the US Congress. USCG Auxiliarists donate 100% of their time to the tasks authorized by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. And no task is more important than promulgating and expanding the safety of life at sea.

These Ten Commandments (well, that might be a bit of an over-statement, these are hardly divinely inspired and an understatement) are a lot more than 10 things you can do to enhance safety for you and your crew. However, the numbers associated with these 10 steps that any skipper can do, or insist is done, are compelling.

1. Thou Shall Wear a Life-jacket

If 16 mariners go into the water without a life-jacket – only 1 comes out. Conversely, if they fall overboard with a life-jacket, 15 come out. Which cadre do you want to be in? Always have an adequate supply of personal flotation devices aboard. Make sure that children are wearing life-jackets that fit correctly. Federal and State law requires that they have one on. Only you, the skipper, can insure that it fits them properly.

2. Never Shall Thou Drink and Drive

Whether a car or a boat, it is just plain crazy – and illegal – to drink and drive. Individual years vary but I have never seen alcohol account for less than 25% of boating accidents in a given year.

3. Take a Boating Safety Course

Yes, something as simple as an 8-hour boating safety class can make all the difference. 70% of boating accidents involve skippers who have never taken a boating safety course

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4. Safety Begins With You

Adults between the ages of 40 and 49 account for the highest rate of boating fatalities. You set the tone for safety for the entire crew and her passengers. Get that life-jacket on.

5. Know The Rules of Navigation

Can you imagine giving the keys to the family car to one of your children – and they have never opened the book of driving regulations, much less taken a course (see #3 above) You can get them online at the US Coast Guard's Navigation Center (<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/>)

6. Keep a Good Look-Out, While Driving Safely

You are required by law to always [maintain a look-out](#). You are also required to use all available means to do so. Have radar? Turn it on, Skipper. Speed is a another matter because, like driving a car, speed should always be reduced if visibility and/or weather demands it.

7. Know The Weather

Clearly, if you've ever left the dock under beautiful skies and then came home under heavy weather, you know how important is to know – before you go – what to expect during the course of your journey. Particularly for skippers of open boats, this can be all the difference, even between life and death. More on weather here: [Small Craft Advisory – That Means You!](#)

8. Have Your Boat Meet Federal Standards

Can there be any an easier way to ensure that your boat meets USCG requirements than getting a **FREE vessel safety check**? This is not a regulatory event – if the boat is missing some requirement, the examiner is very likely to give you his or her cell phone number and then advise you to, “fix this and then give me a call – I'll come right down, complete the safety check and affix the safety sticker to your windshield.” (Go to <http://safetyseal.net/GetVSC/>, put in your zip code and a vessel examiner will contact you directly.)



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9. Use a Carbon Monoxide Detector

If you have an enclosed cabin, equip it with a Carbon Monoxide detector. Nothing else will protect you from the odorless, tasteless gas that can kill you and yours. (see Atlantic Maritime, [Flu Symptoms But No Sniffles? Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Is a Killer.](#))

10. File a Float Plan

The US Coast Guard recommends that you always tell a friend or family member where you plan to go and when you'll be back. Make it a habit before leaving on any boat trip. More about float plans: [Float Plans – Nothing but Upside.](#)

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux@aol.com or go direct to the D1SR Human Resources department, who are in charge of new members matters, at [DSO-HR](#) and we will help you “get in this thing...”

B. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS - RESULTS OF THE SECOND U.S. COAST GUARD AND U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ANNUAL STAFF TALKS

Mr. Dana Goward, Director, Marine Transportation Systems Management

1. Well developed partnerships continue to be critical to enhancing our capability, effectiveness, and credibility in the maritime domain. To that end, the Commandant and the U.S. Army Chief of Engineers signed a joint memorandum that highlights the efforts we have made working together over the past year and calls for further efforts.
2. The memorandum and additional information regarding the staffs talks are posted on our portal place at <https://cgportal.uscg.mil/lotus/myquickr/army-corps-of-engineers--coast-guard-staff-talks> and reads as follows:
 - a. "The United States Coast Guard (USCG) And United States Army Corps Of Engineers (USACE) recently held our second annual staff talks to capitalize on the momentum we have gained through close collaboration on several important steps.
 - b. "Working together we have made outstanding progress over the past year to better coordinate our overlapping missions: specifically in the areas of

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navigation safety and disaster response. Our joint response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill demonstrated the power of a strong partnership between our organizations, but it also highlighted areas where more work is needed.

- c. "This years meeting continued this effort by focusing on a host of topics designed to exploit our respective strengths. For example, we are exploring avenues to better harmonize management of and investment in the Marine Transportation System (MTS) for navigation safety, ensuring that the MTS is accounted for in the Presidents new National Ocean Policy and resulting Coastal And Marine Spatial Planning decisions. Furthermore, we are taking steps to encourage strengthened relationships between our organizations during disaster response and recovery, including spills of national significance. Finally we want to ensure we can leverage all the data available to both agencies: to wit, we are exploring processes for the seamless exchange of information. These initiatives are the first steps to find ways to work smarter, providing better service to the American public.
 - d. "As always, success starts with people. USACE Division and District Commanders and USCG District and Sector Commanders should continue to actively partner with their interagency colleagues to provide holistic solutions that leverage all available authorities and expertise within their respective areas of responsibility. We intend to hold these talks annually. You should continue to document best practices, as well as areas of concern, and forward those issues through your chain of command. "
3. In order to accomplish vision expressed by the Commandant and Chief of Engineers, eight specific action items were agreed to. Those tasks will be communicated separately to the unit/office with primary responsibility. In addition, I encourage operational commanders at all levels to extend invitations to USACE counterparts to participate in local, regional, and national-level planning bodies, exercises, meetings and conferences. This includes, but is not limited to, Harbor Safety Committees, Area Maritime Security Committees, Port Readiness Committees, Regional Response Teams, and All Hazard Exercises.
 4. The next staff talks between our two organizations are tentatively scheduled for spring 2012. Please be alert for and forward both examples of successful joint efforts with the army corps and issues requiring senior leader consideration or support.



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C. MANDATED ANNUAL COAST GUARD INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY (ISS) USER AWARENESS

RDML R. E. Day, Assistant Commandant for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Technology

1. The CG ISS user awareness course is an annual mandated training requirement to be completed between 1 Aug 10 and 30 Jun 11. All USCG standard workstation (SWS) users (Active, Reserve, Contractor, and Civilian - including Non-Appropriated Funds Employees, and Auxiliary) with active user accounts must complete the course. Individuals who do not have an active SWS user account are exempt.
2. All SWS users are strongly encouraged to complete the course as soon as possible in order to minimize burden on host servers toward the completion deadline.
3. The CG ISS user awareness course meets standards for personnel security awareness as promulgated by executive mandate. The web-based course guides users through information systems security as it relates to proper network access (including Common Access Card (CAC)), email, Social Engineering, Internet, Intranet, And System use.
4. All Active Duty, Reserve, and Civilian personnel shall complete Information Systems Security (ISS) training through the Learning Management System (LMS).
 - a. From a SWS, personnel can access the LMS through CGPORTAL (<https://cgportal.uscg.mil>). ISS training can be located by selecting the Mandated Training (MT) catalog and then selecting the MT A catalog.
 - b. The training can be accessed through CGPORTAL from home. This requires the use of a CAC card and a CAC reader. For assistance with CAC cards or CAC readers, please contact your local ESU. For information on accessing CGPORTAL from home, contact OSC Martinsburg.
 - c. Upon successful completion of the course, the LMS will transfer your completion information to TMT/CGBI. This process takes 48 to 72 hours. Completion certificates are not provided.
5. A CD-based version of the course is available for users or units unable to complete the course via methods in paragraph 4 above. This method of course delivery requires manual entry into TMT or notification of COTR.
6. Users who have already successfully completed their ISS user awareness between 1 Aug 10 and the date of this message are not required to complete the course

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- again until after 1 Aug 11. The DHS and DOD annual ISS course may be substituted for this course, but it is the user's responsibility to provide proof of completion to their training officer who will update TMT (military personnel and government employees) or to their COTR.
7. The ISSO is the key point of contact for any questions pertaining to ISS user awareness. Other questions related to training methods, including questions relating to the e-learning tools, should be addressed to your training officer.
 8. Details pertaining to the ISS User Awareness Course, FISMA scorecards, and other IA topics can be found on the CGPORTAL CG IA collaboration page.

D. SOLICITATION FOR THE 2011 HONORED SEAFARER AWARDS

RDML C.B. Thomas, Director of Response Policy

1. The United Seamen's Service (USS) is seeking nominations for the 2011 Honored Seafarer Awards which commend the heroism of American Seafarers who have risked their lives to save others. The awards also recognize the outstanding seamanship of officers and crews of vessels participating in rescue operations and will be presented on 28 October 2011 during the Admiral of The Ocean Sea (AOTOS) dinner in New York.
2. The AOTOS award recognizes that the western hemisphere owes its discovery to great seafarers and to the seafarers who transported the colonists, the privateers who helped win its freedom, and the people and ships that opened the world trade for our commerce. With 78 percent of the world made up of bodies of water, this event is a continuing affirmation that this country will maintain its historic destiny with the great oceans, the ships that fly its flag, and the seafarers of all nations who serve in freedom.
3. The USS requests recommendations for candidates deserving of either the Mariners Plaque, given to the officers and crews of vessels, or the Mariners Rosette, awarded to individual seafarers. Nominations should be drawn from events that took place during August 2010 through July 2011.
4. Administration
 - a. Subordinate units should submit nominations through the chain of command. District awards boards should review all nominations to ensure compliance with the above criteria.

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- b. Nominations should consist of:
 - 1) A short cover letter indicating the nominee's name, paygrade (if applicable), current duty station/auxiliary flotilla, and expiration of enlistment date (if applicable).
 - 2) One page award citation.
 - 3) 1-2 page summary of action that fully documents event.
 - 4) Any other information pertinent to the awards evaluation.

- c. Mail Command endorsed nominations to:
 - Commandant (CG-534), U.S. Coast Guard
 - 2100 2nd Street SW, Stop 7363,
 - Washington, DC 20593-7363
 - Attn: AOTOS nominations.

- d. All award nominations must be received by COMDT (CG-534) NLT 21Jul11. Only nominations for the period August 2010 through July 2011 will be considered for these awards.

E. SOLICITATION FOR THE 2011 COAST GUARD FOUNDATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

Mr. Curtis B. Odom, Director of Personnel Management

- 1. This message solicits individual, crew, or unit nominations to receive the Coast Guard Foundation Award for Heroism at the 31st Annual Salute to The Coast Guard in New York City, NY on 13 October 2011. The Coast Guard Foundation sponsors the event to generate support and to increase public understanding of the Coast Guard. A selection will be made from the nominations received.

- 2. Criteria and Eligibility Requirements:
 - a. The period of consideration is 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011.
 - b. All Coast Guard Units/Staff Elements and Personnel (Regular, Reserve, Auxiliary, And Civilian) are eligible for nomination.
 - c. Nominations may be made on behalf of an individual, crew, or unit while in a duty status, and for individuals who have performed heroic or lifesaving acts while on or off duty (nominees may have already been recognized through normal medals and awards process).



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3. Submission Procedure:

- a. The next senior person in each nominee's chain of command should submit nominations via the applicable office having administrative control over the recommended individual or unit.
- b. The nomination should be submitted in a memo format. The details of the action should not exceed two pages, and if visual video coverage (i.e., media) is available, please provide a copy. Recommendations are to be forwarded through the chain of command, consolidated at the Areas, DCMS and DCO for their respective units, and forwarded to Commandant (CG-1221) Medals and Awards NLT 8 July 2011. Nominations received after 8 July 2011 will not be considered.
- c. HQ offices not within DCMS or DCO chain of command should forward nominations directly to Commandant (CG-1221) Medals and Awards. Electronic submissions are encouraged and follow up hard copies of nominations are not required unless video coverage is only available via DVD. Please provide a link for video coverage available on the web. Personnel shall contact their Unit Awards Administrators for all award related questions. Areas and District Administrators may contact the Coast Guard Medals and Awards Staff.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS VIDEO

Mr. Jeffery G. Orner, Deputy Assistant Commandant for Engineering and Logistics

1. I am pleased to announce the release of a new environmental awareness video, titled "***Duty, Pride and Accountability - Understanding Your Mission-Related Environmental Responsibilities***". The video was developed in cooperation with Sector Hampton Roads, BSU Portsmouth, TRACEN Yorktown, CGC *Forward*, CGC *James Rankin*, and AIRSTA Atlantic City to highlight every Coast Guard member's responsibility to serve as a role model in environmental stewardship. The video is focused on our institutional duty to pay more concerted attention to compliance with environmental requirements of all types and includes a personal message from our Commandant. Several success stories are highlighted to illustrate the point. The video is hosted on CGVI at <http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php>. From the CGVI homepage, search on the keywords environmental video or from the homepage Select Coast Guard Highlight Videos, then click on the video labeled "***Duty, Pride and Accountability-Coast Guard Environmental Video***".

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2. Units are encouraged to provide wide dissemination of this video and show it to as many members as possible. The video is ideally suited to be incorporated into unit environmental training programs and should be shown to newly reporting members.
3. The Commandants Sustainability, Environmental, and Energy Policy is available on the portal at www.uscg.mil/seniorleadership/policy.asp.
4. I urge all hands to review the video at the earliest possible opportunity. Thank you for your efforts to uphold and improve CG Environmental Sustainability Goals.

G. DONT LET YOUR GUARD DOWN - NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCILS SAFETY MONTH JUNE 2011

RADM Mark J. Tedesco, Director of Health, Safety and Work-Life

1. Each June, the National Safety Council encourages organizations to get involved and participate in National Safety Month. Each week carries a theme that brings attention to critical safety issues. This year's themes include preventing overexertion, teen driving safety, preventing slips, trips and falls and on the road, off the phone. The Coast Guard has seen its fair share of mishaps associated with each of these areas both on and off-duty. The following information highlights each safety theme:
 - a. Week 1: June 5-11, 2011. Overexertion is a major cause of the inflammation of joints and ligaments that results from excessive physical effort. Overexertion injuries, mainly sprains and strains, to the back or spine comprise about 40 percent of both on and off-the-job injuries. Some tips to help prevent overexertion: know your limits. Do not be afraid to slow your pace or take a break if your body needs one. Stretch and/or warm up before heavy lifting or strenuous activity. Lighten your load with a helper, and take the strain off with half the load. Avoid bending, reaching and twisting when lifting. Lift with your legs bent and objects close to your body.
 - b. Week 2: June 12-18, 2011. Teen driving safety has become a nationwide focus to providing a foundation in future safe driving habits. Many states have enacted laws such as graduated licensing, restricting the number of passengers in the vehicle and the use of electronic devices while driving in an effort to reduce teen motor vehicle fatalities. Why is this important to Coast Guard members? Young Coast Guard members grew up during a time when it was acceptable to use a cell phone to talk or text while driving. Driving habits that were acceptable then are no longer acceptable, and extend into all aspects

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of work and off-duty life. Understanding the younger culture and what they perceive as safe driving habits will assist leadership in providing meaningful safety education that will, in turn, assist members in making better decisions. Leadership's role in educating our young members is vital in preventing senseless mishaps.

- c. Week 3: June 19-25, 2011. Slips, trips, and falls are second only to automobile accidents in causing personal injury.
 - 1) Slips occur when there is too little friction between someone's feet and the walking surface. To prevent slips, avoid walking in areas which pose slipping hazards if at all possible. Always promptly clean up spills of slippery substances. Better yet, prevent the spills in the first place.
 - 2) Trips occur when a person's foot contacts an object and they are thrown off balance. Prevention of trips is simple but requires diligence. Keep objects that could cause someone to trip out of the way. Improve housekeeping, repair uneven flooring and install proper lighting if required.
 - 3) Falls can often lead to serious injury. Do not risk serious injury by taking shortcuts. If you are working on a ladder, scaffold, or other elevated platform, make sure you know the requirements for using them safely. Always use fall protection equipment when it is required.
 - d. Week 4: June 26-30, 2011. On the road, off the phone is a national campaign to educate the driving public of the hazards associated with using mobile phones while driving. Each year, cell phones are a factor in 1.3 million crashes, hundreds of thousands of injuries, and thousands of deaths. Members should practice risk management principles when driving. Turn your phone off or simply do not answer your phone when driving. Additionally, do not send text messages. Pay attention to the most important task - driving. Arriving at your destination safely is more important than a text message or phone call.
2. The information provided above is intended to start members thinking about safety but by no means does this ALCOAST provide all information available. More information on this year's safety theme can be found on the national safety councils website at:
http://www.nsc.org/nsc_events/nat_safe_month/pages/home.aspx