



## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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**WebWatch**  
**Division 8, 5NR**  
**March, 2013**

### **A. ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA GOLD AND SILVER AWARDS**

Ms. Mary E. Landry, Director of Incident Management and Response Policy

1. This ALCOAST solicits for nominees for the Association For Rescue At Sea (AFRAS) 2012 awards.
2. Background.
  - a. Formed in 1976, AFRAS is a non-profit foundation which supports services concerned with saving lives at sea. The AFRAS awards program provides the opportunity for Area and District Commanders, Commanding Officers and Officers-In-Charge to recognize deserving Coast Guard personnel for bravery in the conduct of search and rescue missions.
  - b. The AFRAS Gold and Silver Medals are the highest Search and Rescue awards presented to a Coast Guard member by a civilian organization.
    - 1) Gold Medal. Established in 1982, the Gold Medal is presented annually to a Coast Guard Enlisted man or woman for an act of extraordinary bravery during a rescue at sea.
    - 2) Silver Medal. Established in 2000, the Silver Medal (silver To denote the uniform markings of a Coast Guard Auxiliarist as opposed to the gold on Coast Guard Active Duty uniforms) is presented annually to a deserving Auxiliarist. The Auxiliarist must have pperformed a rescue involving the saving of a life or lives from either inland or coastal waters where the heroic action of the nominee was uniquely distinguished. However, consideration will be given to all rescues involving life-threatening situations.
3. Awards presentation. Both the Gold and Silver medals will be presented on 16 Oct 13 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. This ceremony is attended by members of Congress, AFRAS members, the Commandant of the COAST GUARD and other senior COAST GUARD personnel. The award recipients and family members will be invited to attend the ceremony.
4. AFRAS awards eligibility. AFRAS established Gold and Silver Medal Award criteria are listed below:



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- a. Nominees for the Gold Medal must be enlisted members on Active Duty at the time of the event. Nominees for the Silver Medal must be a Coast Guard Auxiliarist at the time of the event.
  - b. The event must involve a lifesaving rescue from sea where the heroic action of the person being nominated is uniquely distinguished. However, consideration will be given to all rescues involving life threatening situations.
  - c. The lifesaving rescue must have occurred in Calendar Year (CY) 2012.
5. 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.
  - b. Nominations shall consist of:
    - 1) A short cover letter indicating the name and pay graded (if Applicable) of the nominee, current duty station/auxiliary flotilla, And expiration of enlistment (if applicable).
    - 2) Coast Guard Award Recommendation, form CG-1650.
    - 3) One page award citation.
    - 4) 1-2 page summary of action that fully documents the event.
    - 5) Any other information pertinent to AFRAS in evaluating the Nomination.
  - c. Mail command endorsed nominations to:

Commandant (CG-SAR)  
U.S. Coast Guard  
2100 2nd Street SW, Stop 7363  
Washington, D.C., 20593-7363  
Attn: AFRAS Nomination.
  - d. All award nominations must be received by COMDT (CG-SAR) NLT 18 Apr 13.



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### **B. NATIONAL WOMENS HISTORY MONTH**

ADM Bob Papp, Commandant

1. March is National Women's History Month. This annual observance spotlights achievements and contributions of women today and throughout our Nation's history. The theme of this year's observance is Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
2. The Coast Guard relies on a diverse workforce with STEM skills to acquire, operate, maintain, and support our cutters, boats, aircraft, and Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems. According to Forbes.com, our own Coast Guard Academy is ranked among the Best Colleges for Women in STEM. Roughly one third of Academy cadets are women and seventy percent of all cadets are STEM majors.
3. In recent years, Coast Guard women, both military and civilian, have been formally recognized for their achievements in STEM career fields. RADM Sandra Stosz, LCDR Rachel Lewis, LCDR Jessica Rozzi-Ochs, LT Nichole Burgess, LTJG Sabrina Taylor, Ms. Niketa Brown, Ms. Leslie Martin-Freeman, Ms. Rashea Jackson, and Ms. Kitty Lee were all recipients of Women of Color STEM awards. CDR Lucinda Cunningham was awarded the CDR John P. Daily Award for leadership and mentorship in Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Information Technology, and was also honored as a Modern Day Technology Leader at the Black Engineer of the Year STEM Conference.
4. I encourage commands to observe this National Women's History Month with programs and activities that honor the history, superior accomplishments, and contributions American women have made and continue to make to our Service and our Nation.

### **C. STATE OF THE COAST GUARD ADDRESS/COAST GUARD SITREP 2013**

VADM J. P. Currier, Vice Commandant

1. Shipmates, tomorrow at 1000 EST the Commandant will deliver the annual State of the Coast Guard Address (SOCGA) at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. Throughout our history, when Service leaders had an important message to communicate, it would be sent out with an order to be read to all hands at muster. Today, the State of the Coast Guard Address continues that practice and is a unique opportunity for Coast Guard men, women, family and friends to hear directly from the Commandant.



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2. The SOCGA will not be broadcast live but will be digitally recorded and made available for download and viewing by commands and individuals on a phased release. On Friday 1 March, we will send an email with a link to the SOCGA video to all Commanders, Commanding Officers, Officers in Charge, Assistant Commandants, and Directors of Staffs who will, as operations and activities permit, show the digital video of the SOCGA at an all-hands session by 15 March. These sessions should include CG Auxiliary and Reserve personnel where feasible. Starting on 15 March, the digital SOCGA will be available at the following link for those who have been unable to participate in a unit all-hands session: <http://www.uscg.mil/seniorleadership/multimedia.asp>. Units without sufficient internet access can delay viewing until access is available or can use the text copy which will be posted at: <http://www.uscg.mil/seniorleadership/speeches.asp>.
3. As part of the SOCGA, the Commandant will announce the release of the Commandants SITREP 2013. The Commandants SITREP 2013 reports on our progress towards meeting the priorities and objectives set forth in the Commandants Direction 2011 and the way forward over the coming months and years. Following the SOCGA, the SITREP will be available at: [www.uscg.mil/seniorleadership](http://www.uscg.mil/seniorleadership).
4. To be clear, gaining an understanding of the Commandants strategic direction for the Coast Guard is very important. Accordingly, I expect leadership to ensure that the SOCGA is viewed by all hands, both military and civilian. I encourage you to discuss both the SOCGA and the SITREP on the mess deck, hangar deck, in the chiefs mess, wardroom, and among staffs and teams. The Commandant and I look forward to future unit all-hands events to answer your questions.

### **E. COAST GUARD MUTUAL ASSISTANCE (CGMA) FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

RADM D. A. Neptun, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources

1. The 2013 CGMA fundraising campaign runs 1 to 30 April 2013. The theme this year is Supporting the People, Supporting the Mission, highlighting the fact that for well over 85 years, CGMA has been there to assist the people who execute Coast Guard missions and the family members who support them. CGMA provides a ready and trustworthy way to extend a helping hand to fellow shipmates. Last year, CGMA provided over 5,900 interest-free loans and grants, totaling more than 4.27 million dollars.
2. I encourage the broadest support for this year's campaign. This year's campaign has two important goals: to raise much needed funds and remind all hands that CGMA is there to help. As a donor-supported, non-profit organization, CGMA receives no federal funds and does not solicit outside the Coast Guard community. It must rely on our own



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generosity and desire to help fellow shipmates and co-workers. Your support ensures CGMA can continue to assist members through a wide range of programs and services, and financially when needed.

3. As this year's campaign gets underway, unit key workers will be tasked to personally contact each active duty military member and civilian employee. Selected reserve members, retired military members, and members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be contacted separately through direct mail.
4. CGMA is there to help us look after our own. With your support, CGMA will remain a strong, reliable, and accessible resource for our Coast Guard families.

### E. HEALTHY WEIGHT

RADM Maura K. Dollymore, Director Health, Safety, and Work-Life

1. As winter gives way to spring and summer, thoughts turn to weigh-ins, swimsuits, and the desire for shedding a few of those excess pounds and building muscle mass. The dietary supplement (DS) industry spends millions of dollars annually marketing shame, guilt, fear, and the promise of achieving the perfect body image to boost sales. DSs are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration, so the consumption of over-the-counter DS products is fraught with risk.

The FDA has found hidden active ingredients, including prescription drugs, in weight-loss DS products that can result in harmful effects. For more information, read this FDA article: <http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm246742.htm>.

2. The Health, Safety, and Work-Life Directorate (CG-11) wants you to make the most informed decision possible before taking a DS, and strongly recommends you get the facts by reviewing the Human Performance Resource Center (HPRC) website, <http://hprc-online.org/dietary-supplements/opss>. This site provides extensive information and guidance from experts tailored for the military member. The site allows users to ask specific questions about products they are considering. This information tool is available to active duty, selected reserve (SELRES), civilian employees, and family members.

### F. RELEASE OF USCG-NOAA COOPERATIVE MARITIME STRATEGY

ADM Bob Papp, Commandant

1. This ALCOAST announces the release of the first United States Coast Guard - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Cooperative Maritime Strategy.



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2. The USCG and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are Americas front-line services for maritime commerce, science, security, and environmental resilience. As stewards of the oceans, the USCG and NOAA are committed to safeguarding maritime interests while preparing for the future in a coordinated and efficient manner.
3. This strategy provides the framework and intent that charts priorities for the future of the USCG-NOAA partnership. This strategy outlines joint objectives in the maritime domain over the next 10 years. It is consistent with the Presidents National Ocean Policy, and considers the long legacy of cooperation between USCG and NOAA as a foundation for the future. Structurally, it outlines three strategic priorities to guide the formal partnership:
  - a. Promote a safe and sustainable marine environment,
  - b. Enhance regional collaboration, and
  - c. Foster innovation in science, technology, and youth education.
4. Electronic versions of this strategy are located on the Deputy Commandant for Operations .mil website at <http://www.uscg.mil/ops/ProServices.asp> and the CG Portal Strategy page at <https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/strategy/SitePages/Home.aspx>. Paper copies will not be distributed.

### **G. CG-6028 FINAL ACTION MEMO RELEASE**

VADM Peter V. Neffenger, Deputy Commandant for Operations

1. On 26 February 2013, I signed the Final Action Memo (FAM) regarding the CG-6028 mishap. The FAM is available in the Coast Guards FOIA Library, in the following link: [http://www.uscg.mil/foia/FOIA\(underscore\)Library.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/foia/FOIA(underscore)Library.asp).
2. On 3 March 2010, two Coast Guard MH-60T helicopters, CG-6028 and CG-6040, departed Salt Lake City, Utah, to continue a cross-country ferry flight that started at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Washington the previous day. The aircraft were returning to Air Station Elizabeth City, North Carolina, after completing a five-week deployment to the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. At approximately 0901 (local time), while in formation flight, CG-6028 crashed in mountainous terrain in the Silver Meadows area of Wasatch National Forest, approximately 55 miles from Salt Lake City, after both aircraft encountered deteriorating weather and low cloud ceilings.





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Four of the five air crew aboard CG-6028 sustained injuries in the crash. Three had serious injuries that required extensive recovery periods. A survey deemed CG-6028 unserviceable.

3. This mishap is a reminder that all missions performed in the Coast Guard carry risk that, if not properly managed, can lead to potentially devastating consequences. Thankfully, no lives were lost in this mishap. However, three of our shipmates sustained serious injuries and the Coast Guard lost a recently upgraded helicopter.
4. The findings of fact demonstrated that there were several opportunities to break the chain of events that led to this mishap before it occurred. The highly experienced pilot and co-pilot demonstrated lapses in judgment and airmanship by failing to properly plan for or adapt to challenging and dynamic environmental conditions. Had any one of the pilots or co-pilots in CG-6028 and CG-6040 voiced their opinions and/or employed proven crew resource management techniques, this mishap may well have been avoided. We must continually reassess risk during operations and take appropriate, timely and decisive action as conditions and circumstances change.

### **H. WELCOME TO THE WATER ON NATIONAL MARINA DAY**

Kelly Kaylor Association of Marina Industries

Welcome to the Water on National Marina Day 2013—Saturday, June 8—will be the first nationwide boating event dedicated to helping industry stakeholders expand their customer base as the industry collaborates to grow boating through participation across the U.S.

Events will be held at on-water locales around the U.S. on Saturday, June 8, 2013. All recreational boating businesses are encouraged to take part as event organizers offer opportunities for industry partners to get involved. Every event will be different based on the local market, boating opportunities and industry partners. Suggested activities include: on-water hands-on training; open houses; showcase of boats and related marine products; free demo rides with sales follow-up; and, safety demonstrations.

National Marina Day was launched in 2001 by the Association of Marina Industries (AMI) to promote the marina industry and encourage marinas to introduce their local markets to the boating lifestyle. The event merged efforts with Discover Boating last year to broaden the event to promote the entire recreational boating industry under the banner of the industry-wide 'Welcome to the Water' national campaign. In 2012, 250 marinas participated in 30 states.



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“Welcome to the Water on National Marina Day is truly a celebration of the boating community from coast to coast,” said Wendy Larimer, AMI's legislative coordinator. “Momentum is building and to make these local events a success, support, enthusiasm and grassroots efforts by the recreational boating industry are needed to bring each event to life around the country.”

AMI has expanded its 2013 event efforts to include partnerships with marine industry organizations and stakeholders, including the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA); National Safe Boating Council; Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF); BoatU.S.; American Sailing Association (ASA); US Sailing; US Powerboating; Freedom Boat Club; ValvTect; Marinas International; and, Ocean Conservancy. All with the shared goal to provide a unified message across the range of local events, broaden the reach of these grassroots efforts and provide visitors with the opportunity for hands-on boating experience.

"Our goal is to bring together marine-related businesses to achieve a shared goal—to grow participation in boating—and, at the same time, provide the opportunity for each business to achieve its own objectives," said Carl Blackwell, Discover Boating president. “Whether you’re a dealer, marina, manufacturer, distributor or service provider, we need your help to welcome more people to boating through this nationwide boating event.”

Welcome to the Water on National Marina Day is produced by the Association of Marina Industries, and Discover Boating. For more information and to register to participate, visit [www.NationalMarinaDay.org](http://www.NationalMarinaDay.org).

### **I. FIVE THINGS TO CHECK DURING YOUR FIRST RUN OF THE YEAR**

Kevin Falvey, Boating Magazine

Make these five checks during your first run this spring. Real problems aren't always blatantly visible.

#### *Low Speed*

Check the idle speed, both in neutral and in gear. Rough, high or low idling might soon develop into stalling or chipped gears, which could compromise your safety were the engine to shut down while approaching a dock.

#### *High Speed*

Healthy engines should turn up to their maximum-rated rpm range. Spring, when the air is cool and before the boat is laden with the weight of crew and clutter, is the best time to check wide-open throttle rpm. Cool air is denser, providing better combustion, and less weight equals more rpm, so it's OK if your springtime wide-open throttle reading is a tad high — it





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will drop as temperature and the weight of gear and crew increase. If the motor isn't hitting the marks, you may have a drive train, fuel delivery or ignition problem waiting to leave you stranded.

### *Steering*

If you lose steering approaching a jetty or during a crossing situation, the results could be fatal. Turn the wheel lock-to-lock in the slip. Do you get the same number of turns you've always had? (Write it down!) Perform the same test under way, feeling for mushiness, flat spots and resistance. The fix could be as simple as greasing a cable or adding fluid. Then again, a mechanical breakdown might be imminent. Investigate.

### *Penetrations*

Caulking and fasteners don't last forever. Once the boat is in the water, make a thorough inspection of all through-hulls, engine and drive train bolts, exhaust runs, drive seals, swim ladders, platforms and more. If you find a leak, you may have to haul the boat to fix it. Generally, this is the preferred alternative to becoming a scared man with a bucket 12 miles from the beach.

### *Everything Else*

There are those who would argue that marine electronics, the generator, the air-conditioner, the wash-down system and more are not critical systems. I might agree. But I would counter that we depend upon these things and expect them to work without giving them much thought. Consider how long it would take water from a broken livewell fitting to fill the bilge or how much time your escape plan would require in an electrical fire caused by too much resistance. Energize every accessory to see what's what.

Vigorous maintenance is integral to good seamanship.

## **J. USCG RELEASES 2011 NATIONAL RECREATIONAL BOATING SURVEY**

The U.S. Coast Guard has recently released the completed 2011 National Recreational Boating Survey (NRBS.) This is the first in a series of reports that will convey the results of and describe tools to be produced from the newly designed and implemented NRBS. The report focuses on overall boating participation, boat ownership, the types of boats used, and the amount of time that boats are used for different regions of the country during 2011. The estimated numbers produced by NRBS are already being used to assess the effectiveness of efforts to reduce boating accidents. The NRBS also produced national, regional, and state estimates of boating participation and provided insight into boating's economic impact and assessed important safety measures.



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### **K. MARINE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS NATIONWIDE GEAR UP FOR 2013 OPERATION DRY WATER**

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

Recreational boating fatalities in 2011 year jumped to their highest levels since 1998 and boating under the influence (BUI) was the leading contributing factor, according to the U.S. Coast Guard's report, 2011 Recreational Boating Statistics. Marine law enforcement officers nationwide are preparing for Operation Dry Water (ODW), an annual campaign focused on enforcement of BUI laws and educating all boaters about the risks of operating a boat under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Operation Dry Water 2013 will be held June 28-30, just prior to the Fourth of July. Those caught operating a vessel under the influence will find their voyage terminated and their vessel impounded. Penalties may also include arrest, fines, loss of boating privileges, even loss of driving privileges in some states.

Despite the fact that it is against federal law and most state laws for a person with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher to operate a recreational vessel, BUI continues to be a major problem in the U.S. and accounts for a disproportional number of on the water deaths. Alcohol was a contributing factor in just 6 percent of boating accidents overall, but figured in 16 percent of boating fatalities.

Operation Dry Water, a multi-agency, education and enforcement initiative launched by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) in 2009 in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard, puts thousands of local, state and federal marine law enforcement officers on the water just before the Fourth of July to give BUI enforcement high visibility before a holiday known for drinking and boating – and deadly accidents.

"We want boaters to know the risks of drinking and boating," says John Fetterman, law enforcement director for NASBLA and national spokesperson for Operation Dry Water. "These are needless deaths in a recreational activity that is safe and enjoyable when people stay alert and follow the rules."

Officers from all 56 U.S. states, trusts and territories are expected to participate in Operation Dry Water 2013, educating the public and being on the lookout for boat operators whose blood alcohol concentration exceeds the national limit of .08. For more information on this annual event, visit <http://operationdrywater.org>.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories. The organization offers a variety of resources, including training, model acts, education standards and publications.