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Newsletter of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 4, Des Moines, Iowa

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Auxilarists Deploy For Flooding

With floodwaters rising on the Red River the United States Coast Guard was called to help with the rescue and flood relief efforts. With this deployment three members of Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 4, with experience staffing Emergency Operations Centers (EOC)s, were called upon to assist the Coast Guard.

These Auxilarists had previous experience with weather related missions with other organizations and most recently the assistance that they provided the Coast Guard during the Iowa floods of 2008.

It came as no surprise when that experience was called upon to provide assistance to the Coast Guard during the Red River flood in Fargo/ Moorhead.

Jeff Towle was deployed to assist CDR Allen Turner at the Minnesota State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in St. Paul, Minnesota. Trevor Henderson was sent to Bismarck, North Dakota to assist LT John Ott at the North Dakota SEOC. Nick Critelli was deployed to the Clay County EOC in Moorhead, Minnesota to assist the Coast Guard's Dave Mergenthaler. Bob Smekta, our District Chief of Staff and veteran of Hurricane Katrina, was sent to assist LT Joe Smith at the Cass County EOC in Fargo, North Dakota.



Jeff Towle (left) works with USCG LCDR Allen Turner at the Minnesota State Emergency Operations Center

USCGAUX Photo Courtesy of the Nick Critelli



Trevor Henderson (left) works with USCG LT John Ott at the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Center

USCGAUX Photo Courtesy of the Trevor Henderson

These Auxilarists assisted in a variety of capacities. They performed such duties as field communications, personnel and asset tracking and preparing briefings.

Each billet provided a new learning experience. After the operation these Auxilarists came back and advised others who wish to perform similar augmentation to learn about tactical matters such as field communications and personnel logistics which are more pertinent to the local EOC as well as administrative communications and recordkeeping which become important in the strategic arena of the state EOC.

Iowa's Volunteer Lifesavers!



Admiral Thad Allen
USCG Commandant
Official CG Photo

Coast Guard Support to Civil Authorities

“In light of our current support to flood rescue operations in North Dakota we have received [queries](#) that prompted me to share some insights on the Coast Guard's roles and authorities in civil support.

The Coast Guard's [core roles](#) are to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic and security interests in any maritime region in which those interests may be at risk, including international waters and America's coasts, ports, and inland waterways.

The Coast Guard provides unique benefits to the nation because of its distinctive blend of military, humanitarian, and civilian law enforcement capabilities. Most recently, you have seen this in play as the Coast Guard has worked so closely and effectively with local and state first responders to protect the citizens of North Dakota, [accounting for 93 rescues so far](#). What the Coast Guard is able to do and what it does in support of civil authorities will always be based on our legal authorities, capabilities, and mission requirements as determined by the needs of the specific event or scenario, always based on consultation with local, state and Federal agencies.

Using the North Dakota floods as an example, the legal authority for these operations stems both from the Coast Guard's authority to conduct search and rescue and our ability provide assistance to other federal, state and local agencies when our personnel are especially qualified to do so.

[14 U.S.C. 88](#) provides, in relevant part:

In order to render aid to distressed persons, vessels, and aircraft on and under the high seas and on and under the waters over which the United States has jurisdiction and in order to render aid to persons and property imperiled by flood, the Coast Guard may: (1) perform any and all acts necessary to rescue and aid persons and protect and save property...

[14 U.S.C. 141](#) provides:

The Coast Guard, upon request, may use its personnel and facilities to assist any Federal agency, state, territory, possession, or political subdivision to perform activities for which the Coast Guard is "especially qualified." This does not extend Coast Guard law enforcement authority (i.e. the Coast Guard does not gain the LE authority of any agency to which it is rendering assistance). Assistance meeting the "especially qualified" standard would include the employment of drug dogs, specialized equipment or techniques, use of vessels or aircraft, and other unique Coast Guard capabilities, but would not authorize Coast Guard personnel to engage in law enforcement activities ashore beyond the scope of organic Coast Guard law enforcement authority.

In this case, the capabilities at play are the Coast Guard's expertise in and resources for search and rescue operations, particularly in maritime regions, including inland rivers. The mission requirements are met by continual coordination with local and state officials facilitated by representation at their county and state emergency operation centers. “

“When you take a look across the broad spectrum of Coast Guard authorities (the above being just a few of the more relevant), and then examine our capabilities, you are able to begin developing potential options for employment of Coast Guard support to civil authorities beyond our regular maritime safety and security operations. Examples include (these are neither definitive, nor all inclusive):

- Command and Control (C2) - The Coast Guard could provide both qualified personnel and deployable and mobile equipment support to provide or enhance C2 capabilities.
- Law enforcement technical support - This could include bomb and drug detection equipment, including canine teams.
- Air operations - Coast Guard aircraft could augment and assist with surveillance, transportation, airlift, and other logistic support.
- Intelligence - Coast Guard personnel, including CGIS Special Agents, could assist in intelligence collection and analysis.

It is important to understand that these operations are in addition to normal mission requirements and the Coast Guard is not staffed, equipped or appropriated to sustain these without additional support. In some cases, it may be necessary to call on our critical [Coast Guard Reserve](#) for additional capability and capacity. Attached is a table that describes who can call up Reservists, under what type and duration of recall, based on what events/declaration.

To summarize, our support to civil authorities will always be based on our legal authorities, capabilities, and the specific mission requirements as determined by consultation with other state, local and Federal partners and tailored to fit the situation at hand. Close adherence to this formula allows us to effectively and efficiently apply our broad authorities and unique capabilities for the best benefit of the American public, always consistent with Federal law and in close cooperation with local officials.”

Coast Guard Commandant Thad Allen [iCommandant Blog](#)

The Bridge

I grow prouder each month to be your Flotilla Commander. This past month many of our members were presented the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation Award, were deployed for flood relief support to North Dakota and Minnesota, and we had some great boat crew training.

Jeff Towle, Trevor Henderson, and Nick Critelli spent almost a week in Bismarck, Moorehead, and St. Paul helping to support the Coast Guard flood rescue operations. We heard many stories from them while they were up there and can't wait to get them all together during our training weekend to hear more about their unique experience.

Captain Hudson was in town this month for the change of command ceremony for the Iowa National Guard and was able to meet some of you to thank you for your efforts in 2008.

This month the Lady Grace has been accepted as a facility, and we hope that we can get underway soon.



USCGAUX Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Tomlinson

National Safe Boating Week

The 2009 National Safe Boating Week is May 16-22. Flotilla 4 will be participating in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers and will be conducting the Iowa Boating Education Course on May 18—20 at Saylorville Week.

For more information about National Safe Boating Week go to www.safeboatingcampaign.com



Photo Courtesy of the National Safe Boating Council

Flotilla 4 Earns Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation

Flotilla 4 members who took part in the Des Moines River Clean-Up Safety Patrol event were recognized with the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation with Operational Distinguishing Device. This award was approved by Captain Hudson, the Commander of Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi, "for exceptionally meritorious service on 16 August 2008 while serving on the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary 085-33 River Clean up Safety Patrol Team." During a routine safety patrol, these individuals were part of an effort to rescue three boaters in the Des Moines River whose boat had capsized. The team brought the boaters to safety and secured the capsized boat.

Members from Flotilla 4 named for the award are: Tony Crandell, Nick Critelli, Travis Daniels, Robert Ellis, John Halbrook, John Hawkinson, Trevor Henderson, Gene Kellogg, Norma Newton, Roland Newton, Ralph Tomlinson, Suzanne Tomlinson, and Jeff Towle.



Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation Ribbon

Hawkinson Completes AUX10 Course



Department of
**Information
Technology**

"I would encourage new Information Systems Officers to apply for this course as early in their careers as possible"
- John Hawkinson

Flotilla 4 member John Hawkinson attended the Coast Guard Auxiliary AUX-10 course at Coast Guard Island in Alameda, California. The course is designed to take new staff officers in the Information Systems (IS) field and give them some exposure to the mechanics of the AUXDATA and AUXINFO systems used to manage people and facilities in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. This class had every range of experience from brand new to experienced Auxiliarists who had been recently appointed to Auxiliary information systems positions. Some of these appointments ranged from being part of a flotilla job rotation, to a staff member of a DIRAUX office, to the then Department Chief-Information Technology (DC-I), now the Deputy Chief Technology Officer from the National Staff. (The DC-I was there to get oriented on how training and system operations look like to someone serving at the flotilla or division level).

Training ran from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and until noon on Sunday. The training was fairly fast-paced, as there was a lot of material to go through, learning how to enter personnel, activity and facility data into AUXDATA, how to run various queries into AUXINFO, and how to run a variety of reports. Students also received an orientation to the Patrol Order Management System (POMS). It was quite clear why the Auxiliary prefers to have its new information systems officers go through the AUX-10 course early on; there's a lot of process knowledge involved in running the different databases and reporting tools effectively.

Dining was at a Coast Guard mess hall for lunch. At night students dined off-site at seafood restaurants around Oakland on Friday and Saturday evenings.

John Hawkinson is now a graduate of the AUX-10 course, and is now in the "practicum" portion of his training. He is still reviewing Flotilla 4 forms and forwarding the approved ones to the Division 33 IS Officer for data entry as before, but he is also keying in the information into an AUXDATA Training Database. This "dual data entry" will continue for awhile (potentially up to 60 days), while the Division IS officer reviews Hawkinson's work and provides needed feedback and "course corrections", before he is approved to officially key records into the "live" production database.

"The AUX-10 course was a very worthwhile experience," said Hawkinson, "one that I would encourage new Information Systems officers to apply for this course as early in their careers as possible."



John Hawkinson (center) is figuring out one of the data entry assignments, entering in a simulated Boat Crew mission. Course Director McBain (standing) is making the rounds to see if we're "getting it".
(USCGAUX photo / Photo by Harry McBain, ADSO-PAP, Div 11N)



John Hawkinson is learning how to run a training report for a flotilla in AUXINFO.
(USCGAUX photo / Photo by Harry McBain, ADSO-PAP, Div 11N)

Post Flood: A Few Lessons Learned

Trevor Henderson was kind enough to pass along a few suggestions for other Auxilarists who deploy to augment the Coast Guard for flood relief in the future.

1. Pack for 3 days longer than you have been told you will be gone.
2. Find the exact location of where you are to report. Those deploying you may not know the exact address so it is up to you to ensure you know where to go.
3. Call your contact as soon as you have been given their information to find out where they are staying and any special instructions before you finish packing.
4. Study up on Microsoft Office, you will thank yourself when you are asked to convert between file versions, jazz up a PowerPoint presentation that is going before the Captain, or develop an asset tracking spreadsheet.
5. Make sure you have a contact at home that is fully briefed on where you are going and has all your contact information of where you will be.
6. Learn all you can about the capabilities of the resources the Coast Guard uses in any situation you may be called upon to help. Learn about the DART teams and their equipment, know about the airboats and how many crew they have so you know how many people they can move, and know about the helicopters and their capabilities.



Petty Officers 3rd Class Jeremy Sergey, front, Dan Fraley, right, and Danny McDorman stand in front of an 18-foot Special Purpose Craft-Air, a fan propelled vessel designed to be able to operate in a minimum of six inches of water. The three crewmembers from Coast Guard Station Sault Ste Marie, Mich., have been a part of the multi-agency response to the rising floodwaters in Fargo, North Dakota.

(U.S. Coast Guard photo/PA3 Annie R. Berlin)



Nick Critelli working at the Moorehead EOC

Photo Courtesy of Nick Critelli



FARGO, North Dakota – Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Wheeler, a U.S. Coast Guard rescue swimmer, radios to the Coast Guard HH-6575 “Dolphin” helicopter during a search and rescue case here March 26, 2009. A Coast Guard air boat passes behind him.

(U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Blackwell)



FARGO, North Dakota - In this photo by the U.S. Coast Guard, Petty Officer 3rd Class Peter Mavin, a machinery technician from Small Boat Station St. Clair Shores, Michigan, works on an airboat at Cass County Highway Department.

(U.S. Coast Guard photo/Petty Officer 2nd Class Bill Colclough)



Flotilla 4, Des Moines, Iowa Calendar of Upcoming Events

Travis Daniels
Flotilla Commander
fc@flotilla4.org

APRIL 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April 18-19 —Flotilla Training Weekend

Saturday: 0800—1700 hours—Boat Crew Training

Sunday: 0800—1350 hours—Boat Crew Training

Sunday: 1400—1600 hours—Business Meeting

UOD: ODU

May 16-17 —Flotilla Training Weekend

Saturday: 0800—1700 hours—Boat Crew Training

Sunday: 0800—1350 hours—Boat Crew Training

Sunday: 1400—1600 hours—Business Meeting

UOD: ODU

May 16-22 —National Safe Boating Week

Various Events

May 18-20 —Iowa Boating Education Course

Saylorville Lake—1900-2100 hrs

UOD: ODU

June 13-14 —Flotilla Training Weekend

Saturday: 0800—1700 hours—Operations

Sunday: 0800—1200 hours—Operations

Sunday: 1400—1600 hours—Business Meeting

UOD: ODU

June 20 —Water Safety Night at the Iowa Cubs

Activities are TBD

UOD: ODU

September 25-26 —8WR FALCON

Branson, Missouri

<http://users.mo-net.com/district8wr/members/index.htm#Fall>

UOD: Tropical Blue Long

National Safe Boating
Week Is May 16-22!

