



Above Board

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

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Miracle On The Hudson

On a cold January day in New York City the 155 people on board of US Airways Flight 1549 made an emergency landing in the Hudson River.

Thanks to the skill of the crew and first responders all passengers and crew were saved. Numerous sources have noted the "flawless" landing and response of this unusual incident.

Coast Guard small boats were deployed along with other state and local assets to aid in the rescue of passengers and recovery of the aircraft.



Coast Guard Vessels Help Recover US Airways Flight 1549 From The Hudson River

Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard

Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and his aircrew have repeatedly given their thanks to the first responders who got the passengers out of the water and to safety so quickly. The crew's humble attitude after the unique landing and their story is as refreshing as it is enlightening. This incident points out the need for us, as Auxiliarists, to take these lessons to heart.

The crew were well trained in their emergency procedures and Capt. Sullenberger is an expert in Cockpit Resource Management (CRM). CRM works to isolate errors, facilitate communications, and support positive decision making processes amongst the crew. The fundamentals of CRM were developed around aviation, but have been applied to various other industries and can easily be applied to Coast Guard Auxiliary operations and training.



A Coast Guard Vessel Helps With The Rescue Of Passengers Of Flight 1549

Photo Courtesy of the Associated Press

Before going out on a patrol crews can discuss responses to various emergencies they may encounter and what everyone's responses should be. Checklists shouldn't be tucked away only to be used during annual inspections, but should be followed to set the tone for regular, systematic, operations. Finally, we can learn to remain calm during emergencies and communicate our situation quickly to the coxswain and follow their instructions so that everyone can return home safely.

Iowa's Volunteer Lifesavers!

C4IT Service Center Ribbon Cutting



Admiral Thad Allen
USCG Commandant
Official CG Photo

Today, I was joined by ADM Allen and Congressman Jim Moran at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Coast Guard Command, Control Communications, Computers and Information Technology Service Center (C4IT SC) held at the Coast Guard Telecommunication and Information Systems Center (TISCOM) in Alexandria, VA. Today's event represents the third in a series of five new mission support entities to stand-up this spring that will provide centralized, bi-level support to power Coast Guard mission execution. This marks another significant step towards the functional realignment of the mission support organization.

We were joined by Mr. Mark Powell, who I assigned as the first Director of the C4IT SC. I have every confidence in his ability to lead the organization through its transition to full establishment by June 1st, 2009, and integrate our Service's enterprise applications, decision, communications, navigations systems, and IT Infrastructure into the Coast Guard Business model for Logistics transformation.

Upon full establishment, more than 3,000 people in the C4IT SC will execute an annual budget of over \$300M to provide C4IT services in support of Coast Guard missions. Managing a diverse portfolio of services and systems ranging from enterprise computers and applications, maritime and intelligence sensors, and integrated knowledge and information systems, the C4IT SC has the lead to ensure interoperability with other DHS agencies, the Department of Defense, and numerous State and Local agencies and Port Partners. They will provide "one stop shopping" for all Coast Guard technology requirements.

The C4IT SC, Surface Forces Logistics Center, Asset Project Office, Aviation Logistics Center, with the two remaining planned logistics and service centers (Shore Infrastructure Logistics Center and Personnel Service Center) will unify logistics support enterprise-wide, forming the backbone of our improved mission support organization for sustainable mission execution excellence. In the future these logistics and services centers will embody the following four guiding principles of the proven Coast Guard business model: Bi-level maintenance, Configuration Management, Single point of accountability through Product Line Managers, and Total Asset Visibility. By modernizing our business processes and organizational design, we will help to ensure the Coast Guard meets our call to be "Always Ready."

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

This Month In Pictures



Travis Daniels (left) and Ralph Tomlinson (right) are sworn in as the Flotilla Commander and Vice.
 Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Tomlinson



CWO Leavell (left) pins the AUXOP Device on Ralph Tomlinson (left) during the Change of Watch Dinner
 Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Tomlinson

The Bridge

It has been a busy month, and Flotilla 4 should be proud of what it has accomplished. The Change of Watch Dinner was flawless in its execution. The facility and meal were perfect for the occasion, and the overwhelming showing of Flotilla 4 members was spectacular. Well done Nick and Jeff, thank you for taking the lead on this project.

The pursuit of education by the members of this flotilla has been remarkable. We now have two AUXOP qualified members, Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson. Congratulations to you, and the other members that have been working towards this goal. There are a number of members close to completing this goal and I am proud of your accomplishments.

I would like to welcome Paul and Wendy Faganel to the flotilla. We are glad you joined the family and look forward to working with you.

I want to thank everyone that came to help AUX OUR BOAT this last weekend. The Lady Grace is beginning to take shape and with a few more hours of elbow grease she will be ready for the season.

Please be sure to make it to the February meeting, as there are many items on the agenda to discuss.



Photo Courtesy of Suzanne Tomlinson

General Zirkelbach Retires

On Saturday February 7, 2009 the flotilla attended the retirement ceremony for Brigadier General Mark Zirkelbach. General Zirkelbach has been our constant and greatest supporter. No matter what uniform we wore, he inspired and encouraged us to train to higher standards, keep on mission and to never forget that we are professionals. He will be greatly missed.



Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Members Earn AUXOP Qualification

The AUXOP, or Operational Auxiliarist, program is an advanced training program available only to members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. An AUXOP member has completed six advanced specialty courses and is entitled to wear the special AUXOP device on the uniform. Those courses are Seamanship, Navigation, Patrols, Communications, Weather, and Search & Rescue. The Director of Auxiliary controls the examinations for the AUXOP Specialties. All of the examinations are closed book.

For the past few months several members of Flotilla 4 have been working hard to complete all of these courses. Ralph and Suzanne Tomlinson are the first to earn this prestigious award. Congratulations to Ralph and Suzanne. Hopefully more members of our Flotilla can accomplish this as well.



AUXOP Device



Flotilla 4, Des Moines, Iowa Calendar of Upcoming Events

Travis Daniels
Flotilla Commander
fc@flotilla4.org

FEBRUARY 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

February 14-15 —Flotilla Training Weekend

Saturday: 0800—1700 hours—Boat Crew Training

Sunday: 0800—1200 hours—Boat Crew Training

Sunday: 1400—1600 hours—Business Meeting

UOD: ODU

March 6-7 — District Spring Conference

Location: Peoria, IL –Holiday Inn City Centre

UOD: Tropical Blue Long

March 6-8 — Kids Fest—Iowa State Fair Grounds

Support Corps of Engineers Booth

UOD: Tropical Blue Long

March 14-15 —Flotilla Training Weekend

Saturday: 0800—1700 hours—Boat Crew Training

Sunday: 0800—1350 hours—Required Workshops

Sunday: 1400—1600 hours—Business Meeting

UOD: ODU

March 21 —Division Training Day / Awards Ceremony

Saturday: 0900—1700 hours—Workshops

Saturday: 1800—2000 hours—Awards Ceremony

UOD: Tropical Blue

April 4 —8 Hour Team Coordination Training

Omaha, NE

UOD: ODU

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

MARCH 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				

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		

Coming Soon!
A New Look To Our
Website!

