

# THE JETTIES



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## “THIS IS OUR TIME”

Highlights from the 2003 “State of the Coast Guard” Address by Admiral Thomas Collins, Commandant, US Coast Guard

A year ago, if we had tried to imagine how much our world of work might change in the period of just twelve months, I doubt that we could have anticipated the scope and scale of the changes that were in store for us.

Coast Guard forces have been valiantly engaged in support to the combatant commanders overseas in the Persian Gulf and in the Mediterranean. We have deployed 2 high endurance cutters, 8 patrol boats, 1 buoy tender, 4 port security units, strike team personnel, and 2 maintenance support units. We’ve activated nearly half of our selected reserves in support of Operations Neptune Shield, Liberty Shield and Iraqi Freedom . **And our Auxiliary continues to provide an awesome presence throughout our Coast Guard—truly a model American volunteer organization.**

Like a gathering storm, threats to our security at home have grown. Separately and collectively they pose dangers to our sovereignty, our economy, our environment, and our safety. All of them have a distinct maritime dimension.

This is our time... and we must rise to the challenge... America expects nothing less!

We will be ready in all our mission areas, with particular emphasis on maritime homeland security and search and rescue. We must continue to earn and keep the trust of the American people by doing the very best with what we have. The changes that the entire Coast Guard will undergo in the coming years will make us stronger, faster, and far more capable of performing our many missions, both here at home and abroad, when needed.

We have all been under a great deal of stress and strain lately. I know how hard everyone in the Coast Guard is working, whether active duty, reserve, auxiliary, or civilian. We must continue to pay close attention to the three strands of Readiness, People, and Stewardship to make sure that we have the strength and flexibility that we need for the future.

This is our time ... We have much to contribute to both the safety and security of our great nation. It’s our calling ... It’s our responsibility.

And while we have been ... and will be ... faced with transformational change, what has not changed, and what will not change, either in this time or in the future, are the things that must remain constant—our character as a maritime, multi-mission, military service, and our core values: Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. America needs a Coast Guard that will not change its ability to be always ready for anything—even the enormous changes that we have seen in the past year.

Change within Continuity...that is the key to remaining Semper Paratus! And Semper Paratus we will remain!

**UPCOMING  
FLOTILLA MEETINGS  
THUR 3 April 03 at 1930 &  
THUR 1 May 03 at 1930  
at the Plum Island Boathouse**



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL

- ↕ 1 Apr Start of Spring Public Education Courses  
BS&S and Youth Program
- ↕ 3 Apr Flotilla meeting
- ↕ 6 Apr Navigators check your chronometers  
Daylight Savings Time begins
- ↕ 11-13 Apr District Conference - Marriott Hotel  
Burlington, Mass.
- ↕ 16 Apr Passover begins
- ↕ 20 Apr Easter
- ↕ 26 Apr Vessel Examiner Training Begins

### MAY

- ↕ 1 May Flotilla meeting
- ↕ 11 May Mother's Day
- ↕ 17-23 May National Safe Boating Week
- ↕ 26 May Memorial Day observed

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

↕ 3rd Friday of the month  
District INR Board & Staff Meetings.

↕ Last Thursday of the month  
DIV 3 Board & Staff Meetings.

### JUNE

- ↕ 5 Jun Flotilla meeting
- ↕ 15 Jun Father's Day

### JULY

- ↕ 4 Jul Independence Day
- ↕ 11 Jul Flotilla meeting & family picnic  
Note change of day & time
- ↕ 26 July Coast Guard Ball (sponsored by FL 38)  
Newburyport Lodge of Elks

### MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM CGC RELIANCE REGARDING THE AQUARIUM TRIP

I would like to thank the members of mighty Flotilla 38 for putting this trip on. I know the family members that took advantage of your hospitality had a wonderful time. We have seen several e-mails to that effect. Please pass on our heart felt appreciation for what you do for us and our families on the beach. Hope to see you all soon.

**BMC Ron Batchelor, USCG**  
**Command Chief**  
**USCGC RELIANCE**

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## HOMELAND SECURITY TRANSITION

*Matt McDonald, FSO-PB*

Well, the long anticipated move is finally here; the Coast Guard has transitioned to the new Department of Homeland Security. The merger actually took place on 1 March. In this article I will try to give you a brief tour of our new federal home and to familiarize you with the new color-coded warning system for terrorism threats.

Let's begin with the agency itself. The Department of Homeland Security is now a cabinet level department. The new cabinet member is Secretary Tom Ridge who reports directly to the President. The Department of Homeland Security has 175,000 employees and represents the coming together or fusion of 22

separate and formally autonomous government departments. Other agencies which fall under the control of the new Homeland Security Department include the Customs Service, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, and the Secret Service to name but a few. It is the number one responsibility of the department to prevent further terrorist attacks to the homeland. Interestingly the creation of the Department of Homeland Security represents the biggest government overhaul since President Truman created the Department of Defense from the different branches of the nations' military.

Now let's take a few minutes to discuss the Homeland Security Advisory System the color-coded threat levels that you have heard so much about in the media. The system is designed to indicate the current threat level of another terrorist attack. The system ranges from

green, which indicates the lowest level of risk of attack, all the way to red, which is the highest level of attack risk. Each color has specific steps for officials of federal or state agencies to take. For a complete list and definitions of all the levels visit <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=29>. These colors are roughly equivalent to the force protection levels used by our armed forces.

There is one more Website I would like to mention in this article. It is <http://www.ready.gov>. This site gives you a lot of basic information that you need to prepare yourself and your family for a possible terrorist attack. For example, there is material on what should be in your emergency supply kit and how to make an emergency communication plan. I hope this short article has made the homeland security information presented by the government a little easier to understand.

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## FLOTILLA COMMANDER'S REPORT

*Ron Booth, FC*

As you know, the last flotilla meeting was held on 6 March 2003 and due to heavy icing and snow banks at the Plum Island Boathouse, it was held at Station Merrimack River. However, because of a heavy snowstorm that afternoon, we attempted to reach as many members as possible and advise them to skip the meeting if travel was difficult for them. As a result, only 12 members who lived in close proximity attended.

Everyone should have received an Operation Patriot Readiness Audit Form by now. It is crucial that you complete these forms and return them to the flotilla. The tasking comes right from the Commandant of the Coast Guard that we must "inventory" our resources: people, boats, radios, aircraft. If you have any questions about Patriot Readiness, please do not hesitate to call me.

The family morale event for CG Cutter RELIANCE was a great success. The bus picked up some 30 people at the Portsmouth shipyard and brought them to the New England Aquarium for the day. The crew at sea received much e-mail from spouses and children saying what a great time they had. The flotilla in turn received many thank-you e-mails from the captain and crew, who were very appreciative of the fact that the Auxiliary was looking after their families back on the beach. The trip was also open to Station Merrimack families, however except for infants, the only children from the station happened to be at Disney World at the time.

Thank you and a well done to everyone who helped with the winter public education courses that recently ended. Some 45 participants completed either the Boating Skills & Seamanship or Basic Coastal Navigation class. The spring public education courses begin on 1 April; BS&S and a youth boating course will be offered.

We will have a special guest at the next flotilla meeting to present a member training session. The training session will be a briefing by LTJG Paul Rooney, USCG. LTJG Rooney is from Newburyport and served as a petty officer at CGSTA Merrimack some years ago. He is currently assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Coast Guard District as Assistant Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement. Hope to see everyone there.



## TEAM COORDINATION TRAINING REQUIRED FOR CG DUTIES

This is to clarify the requirements for TCT (Team Coordination Training) versus the new Risk Management Training as it applies to Auxiliarists assuming duties on the CGC RELIANCE or at CGSTA Merrimack River. As you know, Risk Management has become an easier, shorter option to be used in place of TCT when performing Auxiliary missions. Either TCT or Risk Management is required for participating in all of the Auxiliary operational programs.

However, Risk Management does not replace TCT for Auxiliarists participating directly in Coast Guard activities as crew augmentees on Coast Guard vessels or at stations. This means to become fully qualified to fill a duty station on the RELIANCE or at Station Merrimack, TCT must be completed. Since the scheduling of TCT classes throughout the district varies, you may begin training for a CG duty assignment such as gangway petty officer of the watch or as a radio watchstander, etc. However, before the Director of Auxiliary issues your qualification letter and ribbon, you must complete TCT. Note however, that there are duties that can be assumed on the RELIANCE or at the station that do not require TCT such as food services, clerical duties, maintenance and readiness chores, assisting with public affairs, public tours, and so on.

See below a copy of a message that was posted by the National Operations Department on the National Web Site "What's New" page. Note that where the message refers to Coast Guard boat crew, that means serving as boat crew on a Coast Guard vessel, not an Auxiliary facility.

*"Individuals who are qualified or seek to be qualified in US Coast Guard programs (CG boat crew, operations center or communications watch standing, etc.) are still required to participate in Team Coordination Training. Team Coordination Training is also required for Qualification Examiners."*

In addition to the above requirement for TCT or Risk Management it is important for all members participating in any Auxiliary activity to be in the proper uniform. As Auxiliarists we are a part of Coast Guard Forces and are expected and required to be in the correct uniform of the day while on duty. If you don't know what the uniform of the day is, ask before you report for duty.

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# DISTRICT CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## MARRIOTT HOTEL - BURLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

### **FRIDAY 11 APR**

1900-2200 District Board & Staff Mtg  
1930-0030 Hospitality Suite - Concierge Lounge

### **SATURDAY 12 APR**

0830-1600 Materials Center Open - Vermont Room  
0900-0915 Opening Ceremony - Salon E  
0915-1130 Crewmember Water Survival- Hotel pool

0915-1600:

AUXDATA Information Access - Nantucket Room  
Uniform Information Desk - Foyer E & F  
Testing Center - Massachusetts Room  
Team Coord. Training - Connecticut Room

0915-1145:

Career Counselor Workshop - Salon A  
Public Education Workshop - Salon B  
Boston Light - Salon C  
Marine Safety/Environ. Protect. - Salon D  
Mastering PowerPoint - Salon G  
Air Ops Workshop - Salon I  
ATON Verification for BoatCrew - Salon J

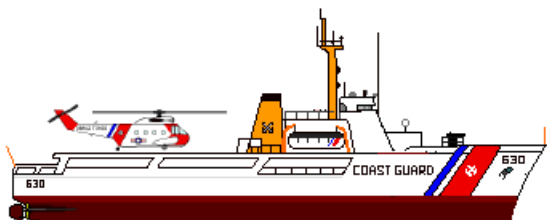
1200-1345 AWARDS LUNCHEON - Salon E & F

1400-1630:

Career Counselor Workshop - Salon A  
Instructor Training - Salon B  
Boston Light - Salon C  
Marine Safety/Environ. Protect. - Salon D  
Vessel Examination Workshop - Salon E  
Mastering PowerPoint - Salon G  
Stellwagen Marine Sanctuary/Whalewatch - Salon H  
Crewmember First Aid - Salon I  
ATON Workshop - Salon J

1830-1915 OPEN SOCIAL - Foyer E & F

1930-2330 COMMODORE'S DINNER/FUN NIGHT



### **SUNDAY 13 APRIL**

0830-1200 Materials Center Open - Vermont Room  
0915-1130 Crewmember Water Survival- Hotel pool

0915-1200:

AUXDATA Information Access - Nantucket Room  
Uniform Information Desk - Foyer E & F  
Testing Center - Massachusetts Room  
Instructor Training - Salon B  
Boston Light - Salon C  
Vessel Examination Workshop - Salon G  
Stellwagen Marine Sanctuary/Whalewatch - Salon H

0915-1600 Team Coord. Training - Connecticut Room

### **UNIFORMS OF THE DAY:**

- Workshops, Training, Luncheon - Tropical Blue Long  
- Commodore's Dinner/Fun Night - Casual Civilian  
dinner/fun night theme is "Down on the Farm" therefore  
"farm costume" optional, i.e. jeans, bib-overalls, straw hats.  
(Pitchforks & live animals not encouraged)

## **MORE EXPANSION IN DIVISION 3 OPERATIONAL AREA**

Local news media report that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun reviewing plans for a new marina on the Merrimack River. It will be called the Marina at Hatter's Point, since the building occupying the site was a hat factory many decades ago. The old factory building is supposed to be converted to luxury condominiums at some point, but the owners of the site hope to have the marina in operation by summer 2003.

There have been many marina expansions over the past decade or so, but the news media report that this is the first new marina constructed from scratch since the 1980s. The marina plan is subject to an environmental review by the Army Corps of Engineers and a public comment period. The Corps said they haven't heard from any environmental groups on the Hatter's Point project, but the go-ahead has been received from the Town of Amesbury.

Based on the town's parking-spaces-per-boat formula, marina capacity could exceed 135 boats, however that would be governed by the size of the boats. Plans indicate 15 separate dock areas, each 205 feet long plus "Jet Docks" that can float boats up to 25 feet.

So it looks like even more boats will be coming to the river to keep our vessel examiners busy, and there will be more traffic to look after while on safety patrols!

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## GOINGS ON WITH THE FLOTILLA 38 CGC RELIANCE MISSION *Charlie Grossimon, VFC*

The USCGC RELIANCE has been away from homeport since late January. Needless to say, the crew is glad to be home.

RELIANCE left her berth at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on 23 January and set a course for Little Creek, Virginia. For exercises known as TACT. While in Little Creek, the crew was put through the paces on everything from gun crew to fire fighting evolutions. The boat and crew performed well. It was reported that the 25mm gun crew scored a 95 %.

At the completion of TACT, RELIANCE was to head southward to the Gulf of Mexico, eventually making a call on New Orleans for Mardi Gras. TACT exercises were cut short and RELIANCE re-deployed closer to home to perform some homeland security tasks.

I was originally scheduled to join RELIANCE and get underway from Galveston, Texas to New Orleans. Of course, the change in tasking nixed this plan. Then, I was rescheduled to ride with them a couple weeks later. However, another change in their departure plan created a conflict with family commitments (my parent's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary) and I was forced to take a rain check.

I managed to catch up with RELIANCE for a weekend while the cutter was berthed at U.S. Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island, on 8 March. Since it was a great opportunity for the crew to take some time off, most of the crew was taking liberty. I did have a good chance, however, to see RELIANCE in a different location than the usual Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. I spent the weekend on board and went home.

One very special event took place back home while the ship was on this last patrol. This was the trip to the New England Aquarium for the families of the crew, sponsored by our flotilla. On 1 March we filled up a bus at the gates of the shipyard and took a group of spouses and children of the RELIANCE crew to Boston. Once there, they were treated to the aquatic sights and sounds of the New England Aquarium for the day. A couple of the crewmembers that weren't on the last patrol also joined us, Jason Moore and Larry Degan.

Flotilla members Ron Booth, Frank Keslof, Christina Cate, Jason Esposito, Charlie Grossimon, Mary Holmes and Jim Cate helped out that day. Very special thanks go out to Jim Cate, who was able to secure the free use of the bus and who donated his services as the driver. While in Boston, the group thoroughly enjoyed the Aquarium and some even found time to step across the street to shop and have lunch in neighboring Fanueil Hall Marketplace. To make the day even more perfect, the weather was beautiful, as it was one of the first spring-like days of the year.

The bus ride, in both directions, was filled with excitement as the youngsters and adults on the tour had a great time. Every one of the families thanked us for providing them with this morale tour. Afterwards, thanks to family e-mail, word spread to the crew underway aboard RELIANCE as to what a success the event was. Many have expressed a hope that it would turn into an annual event.

Over and over I've been told, by various crewmembers, how fortunate they feel to have an association with people like those in Flotilla 38. Actually, the feeling goes both ways, I know that many flotilla members, whether they were on the trip or not, feel really good about our flotilla taking care of Coast Guard families.



Somewhere off the Atlantic seaboard, a CGC RELIANCE gun crew (minus Charlie Grossimon, who was going to row the target boat) finishes target practice. (Left to right) GM1 Dunn, FS2 Willard, SN Harvey

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## **LATE BREAKING NEWS!**

### **VESSEL EXAMINER TRAINING**

The Division 3 Staff Officer-Vessel Examinations has announced that he will be conducting a training session for Auxiliarists who wish to become vessel examiners and conduct CMEs (courtesy marine examinations). This is a great mission area, you will work on a personal basis with the boating public and you will be on your way to becoming an expert on boats and boating equipment.

Dick Muir, SO-VE 3, has adopted the strategy, “learn-by-doing” and has come up with a great way to get into this mission area. He will hold an initial training session at CG Station Merrimack River on Saturday 26 April 2003 at 1300. This session will be to review the manual and learn the administrative aspects of the job. From that point onward it will be on-the-job training. Vessel examiner trainees will then work with him 0800-1200 on Saturdays at Cashman Park , the City of Newburyport Public Boat Ramp.



Dick Muir, SO-VE 3 conducts a courtesy marine examination at Cashman Park, summer 2002

Dick is at Cashman Park Saturday mornings throughout the summer with other qualified Division 3 vessel examiners. Trainees will work with Dick and the VE Staff at their own pace until they are ready for the exam. The exam can be taken on-line, or if necessary, Dick will ask the member training officer to order hard copy exams.

If you are interested, contact Dick Muir at: [stingraynh@aol.com](mailto:stingraynh@aol.com).

Candidates should also ask their flotilla materials officer to provide them with the manual COMDTINST M16796.8

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