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Sunday, November 30, 2008

Shipmates,

Internally, Rear Admiral Tom Ostebo has provided guest posts on the need to link our IT infrastructure improvements with logistics transformation. Our aviation community succeeded in linking IT and logistics transformation in the 1980's. While this preceded social media (as it is understood today) that transformation effectively created a social network within our aviation community but added a data rich environment that made configuration, supply, and maintenance information transparent to the entire workforce. It also linked the end user and support organization through the concept of platform management where there is a single point of accountability for each air frame.

I believe there are significant opportunities ahead to simplify and facilitate the way in which we interact with the maritime community. From information provided to the mariner to seeking comment and vetting issues associated with rulemakings, we can produce better products and do it faster.

It will require our entire organization, top to bottom, to understand the opportunity that is within our grasp and seize it.

Posted at [11/30/2008 10:15:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#)




This is a guest post from the Coast Guard's Chief Engineer, RDML Tom Ostebo:

Beginning in August 2007 we partnered with the Naval Sea Logistics Center (NAVSEALOGCEN) to conduct a complete and independent logistics readiness review for the WMSL platform. This review incorporated all aspects of

the Coast Guard logistics program, including; maintenance planning, configuration management, supply support, technical documentation and support facilities. Each system on the BERTHOLF, the first WMSL, including its shore-side support commands, was evaluated. A risk model was built based on this review to allow us to see how severe an impact on operations a gap in logistics support would cause. For example, the risk model showed that not having the special tools necessary to complete maintenance on a communications system would have a greater negative impact on operations than not having a spare part for other HM&E gear. Based on this type of modeling the Coast Guard has been able to more efficiently and effectively target resources to provide the best operational return for every dollar.

Using this risk-based analysis we continue to work with NAVSEALOGCEN to close the logistics gaps identified. This joint effort has been so effective that the Navy is now considering a similar approach for their own programs. Within the Coast Guard, I plan to use this type of review on all our future acquisition programs and will continue to complete smaller, more focused assessments, on all future ships in the WMSL-418 class.

RDML Tom Ostebo, CG-4

Posted at [11/29/2008 10:00:00 AM](#) [@comments](#) 



Guest Post: ALC and the new CG Logistics Model

This is a guest post from the Coast Guard's Chief Engineer, RDML Tom Ostebo: The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Aviation Logistics Center (ALC) in Elizabeth City, NC, on Oct 30th represents the Coast Guard's next big step toward Modernization, which has been the centerpiece of our organizational efforts for the past two years.

Proudly, the Aviation Logistics Center is the first of the five Logistics Centers brought on-line to support the field through a bi-level, Product Line Manager lead Mission Support Business Model. This will create an infrastructure that supports a single point of contact for mission support services, consistent standardized service offerings Coast Guard-wide and clear lines of accountability. This will ultimately take the significant burden of asset support off of our field operators and enable them to focus more directly on mission execution.

With the ALC as the model, the remaining four planned logistics and service centers (Surface Forces Logistics Center, Shore Infrastructure Logistics Center, C4IT Service Center, Personnel Service Center) will unify logistics support enterprise-wide to enable life-cycle management of assets from acquisition to decommission and establish a flexible, responsive Human Resource system under a single command for the first time in Coast Guard history.


The ALC has practiced, improved upon and demonstrated the value of this sound logistics model for over a decade. It boasts end-to-end asset management and enables continual process improvement, providing a learning organization with the ability and agility to make appropriate course corrections for the logistical needs of the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard Business Model has its roots in the former Aircraft Repair and Supply Center (ARSC) - now ALC. In the future all five Logistics Centers will embody the following four guiding principles of this proven business model:

- Bi-level maintenance
- Configuration control
- Single point of accountability through Product Line Managers.
- Total Asset Visibility

As ARSC transformed into the ALC they didn't change who they are. They are a group of professionals committed to their mission. As they transformed to become Aviation Logistics Center Elizabeth City, one thing remains true, and that is their vision "We keep 'em flying by providing the right stuff, at the right time, at the right place, at the right cost... everytime."

RDML Tom Ostebo, CG-4

Posted at [11/29/2008 09:30:00 AM](#) [@comments](#) 



Thursday, November 27, 2008

Shipmates,

I hope you are enjoying a safe and happy Thanksgiving. For those of you who are not home thank you for standing the watch.

Being away from home and standing the watch on a holiday is something we all accept when we become Guardians. It is never easy but it is required to accomplish our mission. Today President Bush called two of our members and I called four others to express our thanks and the thanks of the Nation for their service.

The President spoke to SN Michael Manning at LORAN Station Attu and AET3 James Nichols at Air Station Barbers Point.

AET3 Nichols distinguished himself through his selfless devotion to duty on 4 September 2008 when his brother Joshua was lost with the crew of H65C CG 6505. He worked tirelessly to prepare aircraft for the search for the remaining missing crewmember and assisted his sister-in-law in coping with this tragic event.

SN Manning is the newest member at the most remote unit in the Coast Guard. He has a degree in biology and hopes to attend OCS and become a pilot. He is from Mesa, AZ

I spoke to the following individuals:

Fireman Will Burns is stationed on SEQUOIA, in Apra Harbor, Guam. Will is from Sierra Vista, AZ and has been in the Coast Guard 9 months. He is known on SEQUOIA as a "can do, go to" member of the crew. We are both from Arizona (along with SN Manning) and my mother was born in Bisbee, AZ a short distance from Sierra Vista. Will is looking to attend A School in an aviation rating.


YN1 Yolanda Hart lives on Yakota Air Base in Japan and is stationed at Activities Far East. She is the administrative specialist for the command and supports Coast Guard personnel stationed in Korea and Singapore as well. She enjoys living on the air base and learning Japanese culture. She is from Columbus, OH. She and her husband Stephen have a son and daughter.

BM1 Adam Lewis was the USCGC ADAK's Sailor of the Quarter earlier this year. Forward deployed in the Persian Gulf, BM1 Lewis has conned ADAK during security operations around the Al-Basra and Khwar Al Amaya oil terminals and in the Khwar Abd Allah River. He has participated in over 30 high risk boardings in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom accumulating 220 days away from homeport in the last year. Adam hails from Raymond, MS. He has orders to the RAZORBILL in Gulfport, MS as Executive Petty Officer.

HS1 John Workman is the clinic supervisor for the ISC Ketchikan detachment in Juneau. He too was an enlisted person of the quarter. In addition to his regular duties, HS1 Workman has worked with local units to improve personal protective equipment (PPE) for line and weight handling equipment. He also purchased an Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitor that allows patient to drop by and quickly check their BP. In his off duty time he helps local Boy and Girl Scout groups and a homeless shelter. He is from Cincinnati, OH.

On behalf of the President, Secretary Chertoff, and the Vice Commandant let me wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

ADM A

Posted at [11/27/2008 02:08:00 PM](#) [@comments](#) 



Tuesday, November 25, 2008

Out of Hemisphere Deployments

Recently, over on [information dissemination](#) the Armchair Admiral asked the Command Group of Expeditionary Strike Group 5 about the participation of the Coast Guard Cutter Boutwell in their upcoming deployment. We will certainly do our best to accommodate the Admiral's thirst for information and outstanding commentary on naval operations in the future. In the meantime, I will provide an overview of the purpose and value of our Out of Hemisphere (OOH) deployment program.

For those less familiar with our histry, "The Coast Guard, as established January 28, 1915, shall be a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times." (Title 14, Part I, Chapter 1 of the U.S. Code) The Coast Guard (including its predecessor service, The Revenue Marine) is one of the oldest forces of the U.S. government and, until the Navy Department was established in 1798, it served as the nation's only armed force afloat. The Coast Guard flag displays more than 30 battle streamers shared by our military partners. Coast Guard (and its predecessors) personnel served at home and abroad alongside our sister services in: The Quasi War with France, The War of 1812, The Mexican War, The Seminole Indian Wars, The U.S. Civil War, The Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, The Korean War, The War in Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, NATO Operations in Kosovo, UN operations in Haiti, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. A thorough description of these military actions can be found [here](#).


Currently, as just one of the ways we support U.S. strategic objectives overseas, we attempt to provide 370 cutter days per year to DoD Combatant Commanders (COCOMs) in support of naval operations, exercises, and Theater Security Cooperation (TSC). This allotment does not include deployments in the western hemisphere.

Our support to COCOMs is part of our contribution to the [cooperative maritime strategy](#) which integrates seapower with the combined elements of national power: diplomacy, information, economy and military. The cutters work for the respective COCOM to whom they are chopped. In many cases, they are attached to a naval group, such as ESG 5, but they also have the ability to operate independently. One of the strengths the Coast Guard presence brings is the ability to engage on a broad basis with the regional nations. Fact of the matter is, once you get below about the 20 largest nations, most countries of the world don't need a Navy, they need a Coast Guard. Their coast guard-like services often don't fall under their Defense department or ministry, but instead are under transportation, justice, fisheries, etc. Additionally, like our U.S. Coast Guard, they are simultaneously expected to provide both law enforcement and defense roles. These commonalities make U.S. Coast Guard contributions to TSC and the employment of soft-power to enhance regional and global security particularly effective.

International engagement is just one skill deployed cutters bring. They are also highly capable and competent operational units able to apply direct benefit to specific DOD missions. For example, in 2003, the Coast Guard Cutter's [Boutwell and Walnut](#) were very active in Maritime Interdiction Operations in the lead-up to Operation Iraqi Freedom, then were vital to the security of Iraq's offshore oil terminals and the quick restoration of operations and delivery of humanitarian aid to the port of Umm Qasr, Iraq, when combat began. In 2005, the Cutter Munro had a highly productive OOH deployment, contributing to [Tsunami relief operations](#) in SE Asia and [apprehending pirates](#) in the Gulf

of Aden. The Cutter Morgenthau deployed as part of ESG 5 to Southeast Asia and supported the regional Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise alongside the Navy and six other nations. Most recently, the Cutter Dallas completed an historic deployment that included conducting [first-of-a-kind bi-lateral law enforcement operations](#) with Cape Verde, then by delivering critical [humanitarian aid to Georgia](#).

Our cutters routinely do an exceptional job on these deployments, far exceeding the high expectations of the COCOMs they support. They bring with them their Coast Guard culture of "Semper Paratus" and demonstrate a knack for adaptability and initiative. If you don't want to take my word for it, read this outstanding letter from Admiral Fitzgerald, NAVEUR [/NAVEURDallas.pdf](#)

Posted at 11/25/2008 08:00:00 PM [@comments](#) 

 Share    

Modernization Video

Shipmates
Two weeks ago we shared an [update on our modernization initiative](#). Today we are releasing this video to help communicate to our work force and stakeholders the cause for action and the benefit of this critical effort. This video is important for two reasons. First, it communicates in a clear, concise fashion what we are trying to accomplish. Second, the message comes from our active, reserve, civilian, and auxiliary leaders. We have a great opportunity to position the Coast Guard to be responsive to "All Threats" and "All Hazards" as we move forward.
ADM A
On the CGDN, click [here](#):

Posted at 11/25/2008 04:59:00 PM [@comments](#) 

 Share    

Sunday, November 23, 2008

Closing session of the 1st Maritime Counterdrug Symposium of the Americas

Shipmates,
I departed from the Innovation Exposition closing session around noon on Thursday and headed south to Cartagena, Colombia to attend the final session of the First Annual Counterdrug Symposium of the Americas. I will be posting more this week on the significance of this event. I was there with RADM Joe Nimmich, Director Joint Interagency Task Force, South and RDML Joe Castillo. Our new Director of International Affairs, Kirsten Madison join us as well.

This meeting was a very important step forward in bringing together all of the countries in the hemisphere to combat drug trafficking.



[Closing session of the 1st Maritime Counterdrug Symposium of the Americas](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

We were proud to support our partners at Southern Command and my good friend ADM Jim Stavridis in this effort.

From 29 degrees in Virginia Beach to 80 degrees in Cartagena was a climate shift, but the degree of cordiality was priceless.

More to follow.

ADM A

Posted at 11/23/2008 07:43:00 PM 1 comments 



Friday, November 21, 2008

One Last Item on the Innovation Expo

Shipmates,
Below is a resend of our ALCOAST which announced the Innovation Award winners. The Vice Commandant and I were honored with Master Chief Bowen to recognized this years winners at the Innovation Expo.



[The parents of CDR Joel Magnusson attend the Innovation Award presentation named for their son.](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

The Joel Magnussen Award was won by Sector Ohio Valley. We were thrilled to have Joel's parents attend the ceremony. Joel worked for me in the 7th District as my budget chief and was an extraordinary officer. Each year is a chance to remember his legacy and his motto as he heroically fought cancer, "show up, work hard, ask questions, don't quit."

Here's to you Joel, we remember.

ADM A

ALCOAST 249/08
COMDTNOTE 5224

SUBJ: 2008 CAPTAIN NIELS P. THOMSEN INNOVATION AWARDS

A. COAST GUARD INNOVATION PROGRAM, COMDTINST 5224.13

1. THIS ALCOAST ANNOUNCES AND CONGRATULATES THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2008 CAPTAIN NIELS P. THOMSEN INNOVATION AWARDS.

2. THE COMMANDANTS INNOVATION COUNCIL CONSIDERED 104 OUTSTANDING NOMINATIONS THIS YEAR. AFTER INTENSE DELIBERATION, FIVE INITIATIVES WERE SELECTED TO RECEIVE INNOVATION AWARDS AND SEVEN WERE RECOGNIZED AS FINALISTS. THESE TWELVE RECIPIENTS ARE LISTED BELOW BY CATEGORY. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THESE AND MANY OTHER OUTSTANDING IDEAS AND INNOVATIONS MAY BE FOUND IN THE INNOVATION DATABASE AT [HTTP://CGWEB.MLCPAC.USCG.MIL/PAIC](http://CGWEB.MLCPAC.USCG.MIL/PAIC).

A. SCIENCE OR TECHNOLOGY: THE WINNER IS TISCOM FOR USER TRANSFER TOOL. THE FINALIST IS PACAREA(PI) FOR LEVERAGING SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY TOOLS ON INTERLINK-S.

B. OPERATIONS OR READINESS: THE WINNERS ARE USCGC NEAH BAY (WTGB 105) FOR CUSTOM DAMAGE CONTROL BAGS AND ATC MOBILE FOR MH-60T COCKPIT PROCEDURE TRAINER. THE FINALISTS ARE USCGC LIBERTY (WPB 1334) FOR AFT CAPSTAN FOR 110 WPBS AND USCGC CHEYENNE (WLR 75405) FOR WIRELESS TECH ON WLRS FOR UNDERWAY CONNECTIVITY.

C. ADMINISTRATION, TRAINING OR SUPPORT: THE WINNER IS TRACEN YORKTOWN(PTC) FOR MOBEL E-LEARNING. THE FINALISTS ARE MLCPAC(T) FOR AREA CONFIGURATION CONTROL BOARD WEB APPLICATION AND LSSU BALTIMORE FOR CREWLESS CUTTER DEPOT LEVEL MAINTENANCE.

D. CDR JOEL MAGNUSSEN INNOVATION AWARD FOR MANAGEMENT: THE WINNER IS SECTOR OHIO VALLEY FOR SECTOR OHIO VALLEY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. THE FINALISTS ARE CGRC FOR RECRUITING ACCESSION TRACKING PROGRAM AND ISC HONOLULU FOR GREEN SMALL ARMS FIRING RANGE.

3. THE INNOVATION AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD DURING THE 2008 INNOVATION EXPO SCHEDULED FOR 17-20 NOV IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. THE COMMANDANTS INNOVATION COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH ORGANIZATION RECEIVING AN INNOVATION AWARD OR IDENTIFIED AS A FINALIST.

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THIS AND OTHER INNOVATION COUNCIL ACTIVITIES CAN BE OBTAINED AT [HTTP://WWW.USCG.MIL/INNOVATION](http://WWW.USCG.MIL/INNOVATION) OR FROM MR. FRED HOOHOUSE AT 202-372-4579 OR INNOVATION(AT)

USCG.MIL.
5. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.

Posted at [11/21/2008 06:40:00 PM](#) [1@comments](#) 



Comment Moderation Recap

We are nearing the two month point for this blog. Since embarking on this voyage on Sept. 29, our readership has steadily grown. With many new readers, and new participants in social media writ large, I thought it would be a good opportunity to reiterate our comment policy. That policy is available below. It also pops up any time you go to make a comment.

One of the most compelling aspects of social media is that it provides a forum for two-way communication, a great benefit for an organization like the Coast Guard that strives to maximize organizational transparency. To date we have received 198 comments, only eight of which have not been published. Of those, five were rejected because they did not relate to the topic of the post; two were not published because they were disrespectful to specific individuals or named employees; One was not published because it discussed specific details relating to an actual civil rights complaint. On several other occasions we made exceptions to our policy by editing submitted comments so that they could still be published, rather than rejecting them out right. In those cases, it was made clear that the moderator had edited the comment and why.

As I stated in an [earlier post](#) summarizing the first week of iCommandant: Our position as a public agency requires that I maintain a certain level of decorum on this public forum, thus some moderating is necessary. My goal is to keep this moderation transparent and as limited as possible to encourage dialogue and input.

Note: An upcoming post will highlight examples of how your comments have influenced the dialogue.

iCommandant Comment Policy:

"All comments submitted are moderated and will be reviewed before posting. The Coast Guard retains the discretion to determine which comments it will post and which it will not. We expect all contributors to be respectful. We will not post comments that contain personal attacks of any kind; refer to Coast Guard or other employees by name; contain offensive terms that target specific ethnic or racial groups, or vulgar language. We will also not post comments that are spam, are clearly off topic or that promote services or products.

We will make our best effort to promptly post those comments that are consistent with the Comment Policy, but given the need to manage federal resources, moderating and posting of comments will occur only during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. Comments submitted outside of business hours will be read and posted as quickly as possible."

Posted at [11/21/2008 08:36:00 AM](#) [1@comments](#) 



Thursday, November 20, 2008

Naval Post Graduate School initiates case study of Coast Guard Innovation


Shipmates,
In addition to the traditional attendees at this year's Innovation Expo, CAPT Jeff Pottinger, USN (ret) was roaming around conducting interviews. Jeff is now Director of Cowan and Associates of Arlington, VA. CAPT Pottinger is conducting a case study for the Navy Corporate Business Course at the Darden School of Business and the Naval Post Graduate School regarding the creation and evolution of the Innovation Expo and innovation in the Coast Guard. I spoke with Jeff for over an hour and recorded most of the interview. I will be publishing portions of it over the next few weeks. It was an opportunity for me to explain how the Innovation Expo was created while I was Chief of Staff (huge credit to CAPT Geoff Abbott USCG ret for showing the way). We also talked about the evolution of my thinking over the years regarding technology and social networks. This is a good forum for that discussion and you will hear more.



[Naval Post Graduate School initiates case study of Coast Guard Innovation](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

My thanks to all who have made this Innovation Expo the best ever.

TA

Posted at [11/20/2008 08:45:00 AM](#) [0@comments](#) 



Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Dropping in on the social media work shop during the Innovation Exposition.

Shipmates,
I took some time from visiting booths on the Expo floor and stopped in on a workshop discussing social media. There was broad representation from our civilian workforce, active duty, reserve, and others. Several flag officers attended. We discussed the recent guidance issued on social media and how best to build social network competencies in the Coast Guard given some our restrictions related to security, bandwidth, and cost. I enjoyed stopping by and hope I didn't displace too much of the scheduled presentation. We need to continue these discussions.



[Admiral Allen speaks to the Bloggers Meeting during the Innovation Exposition.](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

I'm sure there will be other comments from those in attendance and I look forward to hearing what they have to say.

ADM A

Posted at 11/19/2008 06:15:00 PM [4 comments](#)



Admiral Allen & Vice Admiral Crea with the CG enlisted innovators

Shipmates
This morning Vice Admiral Crea and I, along with Master Chief Bowen and Master Chief Smith, met with a group of enlisted members who had been nominated by their CMCs and Chiefs Messes to attend the Innovation Expo. These are individuals who were selected to attend because they care about their units, they are leaders on their units, they understand the need to innovate, and they promote change that improves unit performance.

Some issues that were raised included: challenges in the OS rating related to differences in command center and communications equipment, the differences in East and West Coast telephone systems as they relate to IT training, the effect of multiple passwords and the cost of obtaining new passwords, the need to understand the status of obligations at the unit level in relation to actual expenditures, C130 supply support, and the effectiveness of computer based General Military Training.



[Admiral Allen & Vice Admiral Crea with the CG enlisted innovators](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

We were proud to be with these great Guardians.

ADM A

Posted at 11/19/2008 10:32:00 AM [2 comments](#)



Guest Post -- VADM Dave Pekoske on IDPs

As Admiral Allen reported yesterday, we all enjoyed the keynote presentation on leadership by CAPT [Mike Abrashoff](#) at the opening of our [Innovation Expo](#) in Virginia Beach. CAPT Abrashoff talked about the positive effect on crew motivation, morale and performance when leaders took advantage of the opportunity to get to know their people on an individual basis in order to obtain their input on what was going on at the unit and to help them with their individual and professional development.

Our [Individual Development Plans \(IDP's\)](#) provide one very good opportunity to do that in the Coast Guard. I can tell you from personal experience that it works. As an Area Commander, I sit down with each member of my personal staff, members of the overall Area staff and members of Area units on a regular basis. These are men and women of all pay grades and from all components. I learn a lot that helps me to do my job. Even better, I hope I have been able to provide some perspective that helps them make more informed personal and career choices. It makes a big difference in individual performance that results in better unit performance and a higher performing Coast Guard.

Flag Officers complete IDP's, too. The Commandant strongly promotes continuous learning. Working on my IDP and getting feedback from the Commandant and Vice Commandant has really helped me. We walk the talk.

I encourage you to keep working on your IDP and keep it current as your development progresses. Seek out the advice of leaders in your chain of command and leaders that you know and respect. And as a leader, don't miss the opportunity to get to know the outstanding men and women who work with you. Show a personal interest in their development. Have that discussion with them on their IDP. It's rewarding and it produces results!

VADM Dave Pekoske
COMPACAREA

Posted at [11/19/2008 07:07:00 AM](#) [1](#) comment 



Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Discussing Transition at the Senior Leadership Executive Conference

Shipmates,
We had a good day number two at the SLEC. The Innovation Expo opened this morning and the Flag and SES corps were there.

We started the event by recognizing the career achievements and incredible support to the Coast Guard by Virginia Beach Mayor Meyera Oberndorf. Mayor Oberndorf is legend in Virginia politics. She was elected to public office in 1976. She became the Mayor in 1988 and served five consecutive terms until 2008 when she lost the recent election. She is the longest serving mayor in Virginia Beach history. In 2007 Virginia Beach was recognized as one of the top ten technically advanced cities in the United States. We were pleased to recognize the mayor with the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award. We also note that Mayor Oberndorf is the spouse of Roger Orberndorf (CAPT, USCGR ret).



[Discussing Transition at the Senior Leadership Executive Conference](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

The Keynote Speaker was retired Navy Captain Mike Abrashoff, author of "ITS YOUR SHIP." Mike provided insight as to how we can empower those around us to innovate and create excellence as he did on the USS BENFOLD. Mike is an articulate advocate for the power of cooperation, collaboration, and communication in organizations to improve performance. He energized everyone.

Following the Innovation Expo opening we returned to our SELC sessions and discussed the Presidential transition and changes in the Congress resulting from the election. The day ended with reports from VADM Papp and VADM Pekoske on field operational issues. Included were maintenance issues on our high and medium endurance cutters, our response to the recent hurricanes, multinational operations in the Pacific, the loss of CG Helo 6505, and the recent surge operations in the Arctic.

At the same time our senior leaders were participating in Innovation Expo activities including a panel on Coast Guard Modernization.

A very productive and valuable conference thus far.

ADM A

Posted at [11/18/2008 08:17:00 PM](#) [1](#) comment 



Bio -- CWO Etienne, Coast Guard WWII Veteran

Posted by the moderator on behalf of Admiral Allen:

The below is the service biography of CWO Joe Etienne, Coast Guard WW II Veteran. CWO Etienne was introduced on [iCommandant](#) after participating in the Massing of the Colors Ceremony with the Commandant. Look for a future update with audio copies from historical interviews with CWO Etienne.

Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Etienne USCG (Retired)
Biography

Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Etienne, a veteran of World War II, enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1932 at the age of 18. CWO Etienne's first operational assignment was aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Champlain homeported in Stapleton, New York.

During World War II CWO Etienne served as a boatswain aboard the USS Hunter Liggett, a 535-foot attack transport

vessel. Etienne was in charge of loading and unloading personnel and equipment during the initial landing on Guadalcanal. Initial landing on Guadalcanal was the first American amphibious operation since 1898.

CWO Etienne served in seven Coast Guard Cutters and commanded the Cutters Tamarack and Ojibwa. His assignments ashore included Surfman at Lifeboat Station Wilmette Harbor; Assistant Operations Officer at the District office in Chicago, Illinois; Assistant Operations Officer and Search and Rescue Controller at the Ninth District Office in Cleveland, Ohio; and Group Commander at Group Charlevoix, Michigan.

CWO Etienne's awards include the Navy Commendation Medal, World War Victory Medal, American Defense Medal and Feet Clasp, American Campaign Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Asiatic Pacific Medal and the National Defense Medal.

CWO Etienne, a native of Charlevoix, Michigan, is married to the former Kay Stambaugh and they have five children.

Posted at [11/18/2008 09:38:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Monday, November 17, 2008

Discussions over coffee at the Senior Leadership Executive Conference

Shipmates,

We just ended our first day at the SELC. The discussions focused on:

1. Social Media: We discussed the recent guidance provided to the field, the importance of building organizational competency, and the value of social networks in communicating to our stakeholders and Coast Guard personnel.

2. Diversity: We discussed the various action items that have been generated and discussed in fora such as affinity groups and the Diversity Advisory Council. RADM Gene Brooks (D17) made important comments about the advance coordination that was conducted with the Native population in Point Barrow prior to the recent Arctic Deployments. I have taped a short video regarding diversity that will be played throughout the Innovation Expo. In it I focus on the importance of command climate in the retention and career success of a diverse workforce. We will post it on You Tube this week.

3. RDML Keith Taylor provided a status report on our appropriations. The Coast Guard did an outstanding job closing out the books on FY08 and clearing outstanding obligations (undelivered orders). We are finalizing the distribution of the FY09 funding. The FY2010 request is being developed.

4. RADM Baumgartner provided a status on authorization issues. We continue to work with the congress on a variety of issues related to Marine Safety, Acquisition, Environmental Protection, and CG Modernization.

5. After lunch, former Vice Commandant and current Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Tom Barrett spoke to us. His insights into our many shared interests with DOT were valuable.

6. RADM Blore provided a status on current acquisitions. Our Blueprint for Acquisition Reform continues to serve us well as we have transitioned to a new acquisition organization (as discussed in previous posts).

7. The day ended with a discussion of the Maritime Security Risk Assessment Model (MSRAM). MSRAM is a tool that our Sector Commanders use to assess the risk in ports. It is an evolution of the Port Security Risk Assessment Tool (PSRAT) that we developed in Atlantic Area immediately after 9/11.



[Discussions over coffee at the Senior Leadership Executive Conference](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

More to follow

ADM A

Posted at [11/17/2008 05:05:00 PM](#) [3 comments](#) 



CG Special Command Aides trying their own chow at the SELC Welcome Reception

Shipmates

We kicked off the Senior Executive Leadership Conference last night with a Welcome Reception. Our talented Special Command Aides showcased their skills. I apologize the photo is a little blurred. Those tasting their own work are FSC David Casteel, FS Chara Tolbert, FS1 Tim Paul, FS1 Devon Jenrette, and FS2 Ben Murray. They were led by FSC Brian Marshall.

Thanks folks.

ADM A

Posted at 11/17/2008 10:18:00 AM 0 comments



CG Special Command Aides trying their own chow at the SELC Welcome Reception
Originally uploaded by uscgscg

Shipmates,
This morning we begin the Senior Executive Leadership Conference in Virginia Beach, VA and we will be meeting concurrently with the Innovation Expo. I will be passing updates throughout the week. I look forward to seeing many of you here and recognizing the achievements of our innovators.

ADM A

Posted at 11/17/2008 07:09:00 AM 1 comments



Friday, November 14, 2008

Response Times

Anonymous @ 3:16 Nov. 13 said: I read about this on military.com and other online news sources (respected daily newspapers, not the "social media" mentioned in [VADM Crea's post](#)) over a week ago and found it curious as to how it wasn't mentioned on neither this blog or any other CG website. This posting does clarify the impression the reporting in the media created. In this time of the 24 hour news cycle a faster response might have been warranted.

Your comment is exactly right. As I stated in my ["Way Ahead"](#) message, "Unfortunately, it is impossible to ensure that information passed via the social media is complete and accurate, thus, the reader has to assume responsibility for judging the validity of the information." Simultaneously, the social media environment, and the information within it, is becoming increasingly influential. Thus, we need to be aware of what is being said on Coast Guard related topics and, when appropriate, contribute to the dialogue.

As part of our social media initiative we have released two interim policy ALCOASTS ([458/08](#) & [548/08](#)). These give clear guidance on how members of Team Coast Guard can influence the information environment in both official and unofficial capacities. Consistent with our long-standing [public affairs philosophy](#), "If you do it or are responsible for it, you can talk about it."

You emphasize an important point, which is the time factor. In this case, the story was mischaracterized on a single media outlet and spread from there. The changing information environment is flattening our entire society. The Coast Guard cannot expect to continue operating strictly in the hierarchical, top-down fashion, but must also adapt to be more horizontal and collaborative or face organizational obsolescence. This is a significant cultural change for us, but I am confident that our outstanding people possess the knowledge and judgment to be able to more efficiently monitor and evaluate the information environment they operate in and effectively and deliberately engage in the dialogue to further Coast Guard strategic objectives and benefit mission execution and support. This has to be done with appropriate consideration of information release guidelines that are designed to protect the Coast Guard and its members from any harms associated with unauthorized release of protected or non-public information, but it has to be done.

We are all learning as we go, and there will be bumps in the road along the way, but to stop or turn around is not an option.

Posted at 11/14/2008 09:08:00 PM 6 comments



Thursday, November 13, 2008

CWO Joe Etienne, WWII Veteran

Shipmates.
If you have never met him, let me introduce you to CWO USCG (retired) Joseph Etienne. Joe is an icon who served in both the South Pacific and Atlantic Campaigns in WWII. He rose to the rank of LT and then reverted CWO

after the war. In addition to his service in WWII he commanded numerous cutters and shore commands on the Great Lakes prior to his retirement. Joe was in the same Guadalcanal campaign where Douglas Munro gave his life saving Marines trapped on a beach after an amphibious landing. He and my Dad share something in common, they both served on Coast Guard manned Army transport ships in the Pacific. He went on serve to in the Atlantic Campaign as well. Joe, we honor you and it was great to be with you on Tuesday.

ADM A



[CWO Joe Etienne, WWII Veteran](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Posted at [11/13/2008 09:14:00 PM](#) [2@comments](#)



CCG at Board of Trustees meeting (USCGA)

Shipmates,
I attend a lot of meetings, travel to many cities, and give many speeches. Today I spent some quality time with the the Coast Guard Academy Board of Trustees. We spent over an hour talking about the how we can integrate what the Academy is, what the Academy does, and what the Academy can do for the Coast Guard as we modernize the Service. Time well spent.

ADM A



[CCG at Board of Trustees meeting \(USCGA\)](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Posted at [11/13/2008 09:04:00 PM](#) [0@comments](#)



CCG narrating an audio recording of the forthcoming CG Band CD "Gardens of Stone" at USCGA.

Shipmates,
OK surpress your laughter. Believe it or not, this photo by my aide, LCDR Jo Cousins, was taken while I was in the recording booth at the Coast Guard Academy (Leamy Hall). The Coast Guard Band is recording a new CD and asked me to narrate one of their musical selections. I was honored to do it, but I'm not quitting my "day job." BZ to CDr Ken Megan and the Coast Guard Band.

ADM A



[CCG narrating an audio recording of the forthcoming CG Band CD "Gardens of Stone" at USCGA.](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Posted at [11/13/2008 08:59:00 PM](#) [1@comments](#)



All Hands Update on Acquisition Reform

Shipmates,

Below is an All Hands E Mail that the Vice Commandant (and Component Acquisition Executive) just sent each of our members. I applaud VADM Crea's initiative to be absolutely clear regarding the changes in our acquisition program that we in the Coast Guard have sought as part of our Blueprint for Acquisition Reform. We will continue to improve our processes in our effort to provide the capability possible to our men and women.

Thank you VADM Crea.

To the men and women of the Coast Guard -

A few weeks ago, DHS, with the Coast Guard's full knowledge and support, resumed its authority as the acquisition decision authority for Deepwater projects. We welcome this decision as a formalization of how we actually have been operating this past year, and it brings Deepwater into the fold of the normal acquisition process. This restores the checks and balance we desire, and provides full transparency to our acquisition process.

The re-establishment of DHS as the acquisition decision authority for Deepwater projects has been widely misinterpreted as a disciplinary measure with negative ramifications for the Coast Guard. In fact, the language simply memorializes a best practice that the Coast Guard voluntarily implemented ten months ago based on our lessons-learned from early Deepwater management mistakes, a topic which has been the subject of extensive Congressional testimony.

On Friday, RADM Gary Blore, the Assistant Commandant for Acquisition (CG-9), clarified for his entire directorate several misrepresentations made in traditional and social media outlets concerning the Department of Homeland Security's rescission of its delegation of authority to the Coast Guard for acquisition of Deepwater projects. As the Coast Guard's Acquisition Executive, I want to confirm RADM Blore's message and to emphasize two points for all of our personnel.

Since April 17, 2007, when the Commandant articulated his [vision](#) for Acquisition reform, RADM Blore and his entire team have made remarkable progress to improve our acquisition programs across the board. Both the Department and the Coast Guard have complete faith in the new Acquisition program. We have turned the corner from our early mistakes and we are confident that our acquisitions are on track and are being conducted in the best interest of the American public and the Coast Guard. Just this past week there were several examples of how our Acquisition Directorate ensures that the Coast Guard has the right resources to sustain excellent mission execution. These examples include: underway operational [tests](#) and evaluation aboard the National Security Cutter; the opening of a second production [facility](#) for the superbly designed and capable RB-M; an integrated FRC acquisition team [site visit](#) to an impressive parent craft equivalent for the Sentinel-Class; and the acceptance of our sixth [HC-144](#). These recent milestones show how our reformed acquisition program is better preparing the Coast Guard for All Hazards - All Threats.

As the Commandant stated in his "Way Ahead" message, "Unfortunately, it is impossible to ensure that information passed via the social media is complete and accurate, thus, the reader has to assume responsibility for judging the validity of the information." We can each mitigate that effect by being aware of what information is being communicated on issues related to our duties within the Coast Guard. Where opportunities present themselves to educate, inform, and in some cases correct the public record, I encourage you to do that in a deliberate and professional fashion in accordance with Coast Guard policies. Be an e-Guardian.

Semper Paratus!
Vice Admiral Vivien S. Crea
Vice Commandant and Component Acquisition Executive

Posted at [11/13/2008 12:29:00 PM](#) [2 comments](#) 



Coast Guard Modernization Update

Last week I received some questions on iCommandant regarding the status of our modernization effort. The answers to the specific questions are below this post.

I thought this would be a good opportunity to provide an update on our modernization program.

As I informed the Coast Guard workforce by e-mail a few weeks ago, significant progress is underway in our efforts to modernize the Coast Guard. In early October, official review of the environmental impacts of our modernization efforts was completed, and the review concluded that our modernization plans will not have any negative impacts on our working environments.

With the Environmental Assessment complete, I'm pleased to announce that we reached a major modernization milestone on October 30th with the stand up of our first of five planned logistics/service centers; the [Aviation Logistics Center](#) in Elizabeth City, NC. This center will unify support under a single organization for our aviation forces. Over the next month, you will hear more detail about plans for standup of our other Logistics/Service Centers; including the Personnel Service Center, Surface Forces Logistics Center, Shore Infrastructure Logistics Center, and the C4IT Service Center.

Additionally, we have begun initial billet reprogramming to reflect the portions of our modernization planning efforts that have been approved. We are building out our new organization in functional segments, not unlike the process for software development. For that reason we are calling this first segment of reprogramming "Version 1.0" of our new organization. Key functions of the Version 1.0 organizational design includes the Coast Guard Operations Command (CG OPCOM), the Coast Guard Force Readiness Command (CG FORCECOM), as well as the five Logistics/Service Centers mentioned above. Our implementation is beginning with version 1.0 because we need legislative authority to

fully realize our overall envisioned plans for modernization.

To that end, as I have previously mentioned, I am encouraged by the level of external support we have received for our modernization efforts. Both the House and the Senate endorsed the Legislative Change Proposal which would authorize our full modernization plans. Although this legislative change was not passed before Congress recessed, we are working closely with our oversight committees to facilitate passage of this legislation by the 111th Congress as quickly as possible..

In the meantime, we will continue to move forward to advance as much as we can within the bounds of our legal authority to enhance our organizational effectiveness, better support our workforce, and protect the safety and security of our Nation.

Finally, in regard to our workforce, I want to reemphasize that the Coast Guard's reputation and success lies in the exceptional professionalism and dedication of our combined military and civilian professionals. With this in mind I want to again point out that modernization planning is being carried out with every effort to minimize impacts on our workforce.

I again encourage the entire Coast Guard to continue to review the "Modernization Section" on CG Central and look for future updates here in order to stay up to date on the positive changes underway for our Service.

Thank you for your hard work and commitment to our Coast Guard. Semper Paratus!

Response to Modernization Q's received via iCommandant

Q: What affect do you think the new administration will have on your modernization efforts? Is there any chance that a new administration would shut down all or part of your efforts to date?


A: We cannot fully anticipate the questions or concerns that the new Administration may have regarding Coast Guard Modernization. As mentioned in my original post, we have assembled a robust internal Transition Team to work with President-elect Obama's staff and our own Department's staff to bring the new Administration up-to-speed on the Coast Guard, the value it brings to the nation as an organization and its future needs, including support for modernization. I am confident that the new Administration and Congress will both recognize the improved mission execution and support that modernization will bring to the Coast Guard and its critical roles and missions.

Q: When will or has Congress already been notified of your plans for modernization?

A: Since my hearing before Congress for confirmation as Commandant, I have been sharing our Modernization goals with legislators, as well as our cause for action. Our Congressional oversight committees have been briefed on our Modernization plans, and Headquarters staffs provide Congressional notifications for each upcoming change to Coast Guard commands, both in the field and here in Washington DC. Congressional support and legislative action is both desired and required to see Modernization through to completion; our new, more agile organization can only be fully realized by appropriately amending Title 14 of the United States Code. However, I believe modernization is so important to our future performance that we need to move forward with those changes that we can.

Q: When will or have the Unions been notified and how will Impact and Implementation Bargaining, or "I&I" be coordinated with so many unions around the country?

A: Ongoing communication with our unions has been a vital part of the success of our modernization efforts to date. I recognize the tremendous coordination that will be required to accomplish our bargaining responsibilities and I will continue to commit the necessary resources to achieve this important goal.

Posted at 11/13/2008 08:51:00 AM [2@comments](#) 



Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Massing of the Colors, Brevard Community College, FL, 11 Nov 2008

Shipmates,
On Veterans Day I traveled to Brevard Community College in Cocoa, FL to speak at the Massing of the Colors. This is a tradition that dates back to 1922 when the Society of the Massing of the Colors was formed to commemorate the Armistice that ended World War I. Armistice Day was made an official holiday in 1926 and was renamed Veterans Day in 1954. The Brevard Country event is organized by the Space Coast-Indian River Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars. The included local military units, armed forces support organizations, local JROTC units, and civic organizations. The Coast Guard was the honored Service this year and the Coast Guard Auxiliary was recognized as well. We extend our thanks to the many individuals who worked so hard to organize and execute this event. It was terrific.




[Massing of the Colors, Brevard Community College, FL, 11 Nov 2008](#)

Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

I also had the honor to meet and talk with CWO Joseph Etienne, USCG (Ret) an incredible WWII vet. See a later post for more on Joe.

ADM A

Posted at [11/12/2008 10:05:00 AM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Tuesday, November 11, 2008


Veterans Day Memorial



Guest Post by Vice Admiral Vivien S. Crea, Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard

This morning I had the distinct honor of attending the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. In the afternoon I spoke at our Coast Guard Wreath Laying Ceremony at Coast Guard Hill. Deputy Secretary Schneider attended on behalf of the Secretary of Homeland Security. Both events are proud traditions and tributes to the service and sacrifice that our brave veterans have made for the Coast Guard and our nation. The Coast Guard monument is a striking pyramid design. A bronze gull with wings uplifted is poised below the Semper Paratus engraving to symbolize the Coast Guard's vigilance. A portion of the remarks I delivered, entitled "Why We Serve," is available here.

[/Why%20we%20serve.pdf](#)

Posted at [11/11/2008 09:57:00 AM](#) [2 comments](#) 



Monday, November 10, 2008

Flag Assignments

I am pleased to introduce to you my leadership team for 2009. This talented group of individuals possesses a wealth of knowledge and skill that will be invaluable as we continue to modernize the Coast Guard into a more nimble, agile and change-centric organization prepared to meet All Hazards and All Threats in the 21st Century.

[/2009%20Flag%20Assignments.pdf](#)

Posted at [11/10/2008 02:57:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Sunday, November 9, 2008

Celebrating USCG Flags Across America at Arlington Cemetery, 8 Nov 2008.



The Coast Guard Family at the Tampa Memorial on Coast Guard Hill in Arlington Cemetery celebrating USCG Flags Across America. 8 Nov 2008

Shipmates,
Yesterday Pam and I and our grandsons spent the morning at Arlington Cemetary participating in U.S. Coast Guard Flags Across America (FAA). Sponsored by the local DC Chief Petty Officers Association under the leadership of Master Chief Mark Allen and CWO3 Ed Kruska, FAA is a program to teach Coast Guard and U.S. history and celebrate our heroes. The event takes place the Saturday before Veterans Day and includes oral histories of our leaders and heroes and the evolution of our flags. It begins on Coast Guard Hill at the TAMPA Memorial, moves to the USS SERPENS Memorial, and then ends with all the participants placing Coast Guard and American Flags on the graves of Coast Guard Veterans. There are more photos on our Flickr site. We were also joined by DOT Deputy Secretary VADM Tom Barrett and his wife Sheila who gave an oral history of the Alaska state flag. VADM Barrett is a former D17 Commander. Photos were taken with my phone.

Gorgeous day, great event. BZ to the CPOA.

ADM A

Posted at 11/09/2008 11:58:00 AM @comments

Share

Friday, November 7, 2008

Commandant Visit to the RB-M Production Facility in Greenbay, WI

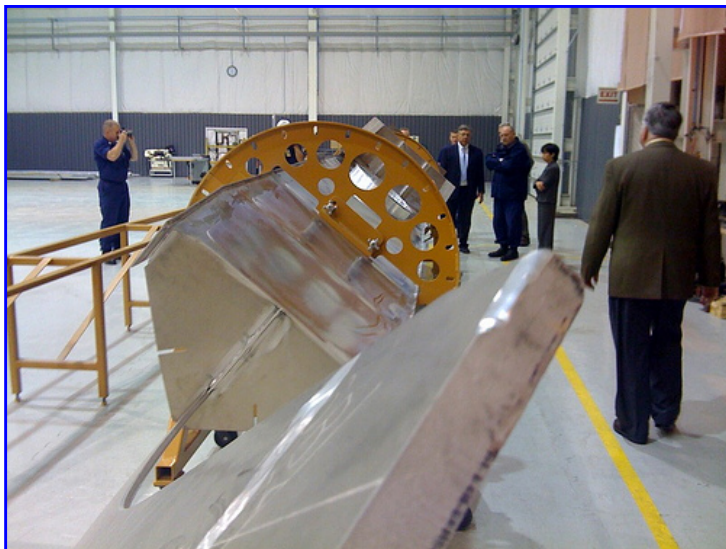
Shipmates,

On Thursday (6 Nov) I was in Greenbay, WI for the [ribbon cutting](#) on the new ACE Marine facility. ACE (Aluminum Center of Excellence) Marine is the Marinette facility that is the second production line for the [RB-M](#). The first boat is already under construction and I was able to view the production "jigs." The RB-M is constructed is three major sections. The hull, the main deck, and deck house. There are three jigs used at ACE Marine. One is used to build the keel section. The second jig is used to construct the hull (and the keel is attached). The construction begins with the hull inverted and it is rolled over when finished. The third jig is used to construct the main deck and then it is fitted on to the hull. The final step involves attaching the deck. It was an exciting day. I was joined by Congressman Steven Kagen, Mayor of Green Bay Jim Schmitt, VP of Marinette Marine Richard McCreary and President of Manitowoc Marine Group Robert Herre.

I had two other exciting things happen in Green Bay. I got to meet WWII Coast Guard vet Horace Lucas who supports our people on the Great Lakes and he gave me a football autographed by the Green Bay Packers. I also got to have lunch at Krolls across from Lambeau Field and had my picture taken there.

ADM A

Click on the photo to see more:



Posted at 11/07/2008 08:25:00 AM [1 comment](#) [Share](#)



Thursday, November 6, 2008

Coast Guard Foundation's 15th Annual Salute to the Seventh CG District

Shipmates,

Last night (5 Nov) I attended the [Coast Guard Foundation](#) 15th Annual Salute to the Seventh Coast Guard District. The dinner co-chairs were Congressman C.W. Bill Young and former U.S. Ambassador to Italy and Australia, Mel Sembler. The dinner was held in St Petersburg, FL and honored Coast Guard crews involved in two dramatic operations.

The Team Coordination Award went to the District Seven Hurricane Noel Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief Team. Hurricane Noel devastated portions of the Dominican Republic in November 2007. Coast Guard forces operated in country for 8 days. They flew 43 aircraft sorties, saved 37 lives, assisted 23, 145 people, delivered over 50,000 food rations, nearly 75,000 rations of water, and over 15 tons of relief supplies. Recognized at the dinner were CDR Bob Warren (Sector San Juan), CDR Juan Lopez (AS Borinquen), AMT2 Mike Thompson (AS Borinquen), AET2 Jason Stanberry (AS Miami), LT Marcus Wong (AS Clearwater), AET1 Stephen Dudley (AS Clearwater), and LCDR Fred Griffin (assigned to the U.S. Embassy).

The Superior Performance of Duty Award went to Sector Key West and CGC JOSHUA APPLEBY for their coordinated operations on 8 February 2008 that resulted in the location and apprehension of two go boats attempting to smuggle migrants from Cuba. JOSHUA APPLEBY demonstrated the true multi-mission nature of our Aids to Navigation fleet acting as a command and control and migrant holding platform. Special Purpose Craft CG 33115 from Key West responded and intercepted both go fast boats that involved a distance of over 200 miles. Recognized at the dinner were BOSN2 Justin Vandenheuvel (CO JOSHUA APPLEBY), BM2 Jason Burke (JOSHUA APPLEBY), BM1 Evan Sanborn (Sector Key West), MK3 Carlos Camacho (Sector Key West), and BM3 Christopher VonRautenkranz (Sector Key West).

My comments are attached. [/CCG%20Remarks%20D7%20CGFD.pdf](#)

We thank the Coast Guard Foundation and especially its hard working and very dedicated Chairman, Ross Reeder.

Posted at 11/06/2008 12:23:00 PM [0 comments](#) [Share](#)



Appreciation for the USO


Shipmates,

I am traveling the last three days of this week. I will be posting several updates. Just prior to departing on Wednesday (5 Nov) I was able to catch part of the CG Headquarters Prayer Breakfast. It was a terrific event organized by our CGHQ Chaplain McKay and a large number of volunteers. I was particularly happy to introduce the guest speaker, Elaine Rogers of the [USO-Metro DC](#). Elaine has been a tireless worker for the USO and the support she has provided

to the Coast Guard and other armed forces has been extraordinary. She has been instrumental in coordinating the visits of celebrities, entertainers, athletes, and senior officials to both Bethesda and Walter Reed medical centers to visit our wounded warriors. I visit both hospitals and it is hard to describe the courage and dedication of our young service members. The USO also sponsors two very large dinners each year. One honors members from each service. The other is a salute to military chefs that draws a huge crowd.

We thank the USO for all they do for us and we thank Elaine Rogers for her leadership and dedication to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

ADM A


Posted at [11/06/2008 12:08:00 PM](#) [0 comments](#) 



Suicide Prevention -- A Guardian's Duty

One of the ways that we can be Guardians for one another as members of the Coast Guard family is to take the issue of suicide awareness and prevention seriously, and personally. I received the attached document ([/Suicide%20Prevention.doc](#)) and presentation ([/FragilityDataWLNov2008.pdf](#)) from our suicide prevention program. While it is unrealistic to expect that we can prevent every suicide attempt by a member of our family, we are duty bound to try. The first step is to embrace the Guardian Ethos. Then treat your shipmates with the same level of commitment that you display towards protecting, saving and defending the American public. I encourage each individual member and each command to take this duty to heart and [equip yourself](#) with the knowledge and resources to be ready to help prevent a suicide.

Emergency suicide crisis services may be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week via the Employee Assistance Program toll free number (800) 222-0364.

Posted at [11/06/2008 11:55:00 AM](#) [2 comments](#) 



Tuesday, November 4, 2008


NSC conducting underway operational test and evaluation

Shipmates,
This photo is of the first National Security Cutter, BERTHOLF, conducting aircraft interface tests as part of the operational test and evaluation that is underway. We are excited at the capabilities that the NSC will bring to our fleet. Other photos are posted on Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/uscgpress/>.

ADM A



[NSC conducting underway operational test and evaluation](#)
Originally uploaded by [uscgpress](#)

Posted at [11/04/2008 05:08:00 PM](#) [1 comments](#) 



Monday, November 3, 2008

Social Media Experiment with CG Mag

I am conducting a bit of an experiment here on my own.



The attached is a feature piece on our changing philosophy as it relates to social media. This story will be published in the forthcoming version of Coast Guard Magazine. I thought I would reward those of you who are already engaged in this new information environment with an advance copy. [/10-13-BLOG%5B1%5D.pdf](#)

As part of our overall social media initiative, we will be looking at the production process for a publication like Coast Guard Magazine. While print editions still have their place and value, I believe there is a balance that can be found to allow more frequent/timely publication of relevant and interesting content. This would also allow immediate distribution of information to our Reservists and Auxiliarists as we have discussed in earlier post and comments.

What do you think?

Posted at 11/03/2008 01:49:00 PM [10 comments](#)



Sunday, November 2, 2008

FRC Sentinel-Class parent craft visit

RADM Justice (CG-7) just led an integrated acquisition team representing our acquisition (CG-9), requirements (CG-7) and engineering (CG-4) directorates to visit one of the FRC Sentinel-Class design's parent craft operated by the Jamaican Defense Force. He sent the following feedback and photos:



RADM Justice Sends:

These [pictures](#) are of a slightly smaller version of the US Coast Guard's soon to be built Fast Response Cutter. The Jamaican Defense Force operates three of these 2-4 year old Damen designed patrol craft out of Kingston Jamaica. A recent visit and ride found these very capable cutters to have impressive sea keeping, habitability, and small boat handling. They are used for various LE, security and safety missions, patrolling sometimes hundreds of miles from shore. The US Coast Guard version will be about 14 feet longer and nearly 90 tons heavier, and add significant capability to our fleet!

We first announced the new FRC [here](#).

Posted at [11/02/2008 01:24:00 PM](#) [1 comment](#)



Managing transition to a new Administration

Shipmates,

This is the first of what will probably become a series of updates on our management of the transition to a new Administration.

In June 2008, Rear Admiral John Acton was assigned for one year of duty as the Director of the Presidential Transition Team for both DHS and the Coast Guard. In that role, he is driving the myriad of activities necessary to achieve the transition's two main goals: 1) to maximize DHS's readiness to respond to a national incident, whether natural or man-made; and 2) to ensure continuity of operations during the transition period. To efficiently and effectively achieve these goals, RADM Acton leads an extensive team from across DHS components and other federal partners. They have focused on four major areas: developing internal processes to facilitate the onboarding of incoming political appointees; preparing confirmation and briefing materials; developing (and executing) a robust training and exercise plan; and pursuing an aggressive strategic communications and outreach plan.

To hear a little directly from Rear Admiral Acton you can listen to his [leadership forum](#) at American University's Institute for Public Policy Implementation.

Rear Admiral Acton is not a rookie in this assignment. When I was offered the opportunity as the Atlantic Area Commander to assign Coast Guard personnel to the team that was standing up the new Northern Command I asked then Captain John Acton to lead our involvement. As the senior reserve officer in Atlantic Area he was also assigned to the Joint Field Office in Baton Rouge during the Hurricane Katrina response.

ADM A

Posted at [11/02/2008 09:00:00 AM](#) [2 comments](#)



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