



WAVES

Watercraft and Vessel Safety

The Newsletter from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Department of Boating

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From the Deputy

Jesse Harrup, DC-Bd

GRANTS

It's that time of year where we traditionally look forward to the holidays and oftentimes to look back at our accomplishments during the year soon to end. The National Boating Department (B.) is no different, and collectively wishes everyone happy holidays and a great new year. As we look back at some of the departmental accomplishments, there has been much that we believe has benefited the Auxiliary membership in this year of 2000.

We have strengthened our management team with the additions of new personnel in our offices of:

- Division Chief-Boating State [Liaison] (DVC-BS),
- Division Chief-Boating NASBLA/News (DVC-BN),
- Branch Chiefs-Boating State [Liaison] Atlantic (West), and Pacific, (BC-BSI and BC-BSP), and
- Branch Chief-Boating Liaison Industry (BC-BLI).

Additionally, we are actively recruiting for stronger managers in our offices of:

- Division Chief-Boating Liaison (DVC-BL), and
- Branch Chief-Boating NASBLA/News Grants (BC-BNG).

We believe the hard personnel decisions we've made will ultimately produce a stronger department to serve our customers, the largest in number of which are you, our members, nationwide through our many divisional and branch initiatives and programs.

At the 2000 International Boating & Water Safety Summit (IBWSS), the B. Department acquainted many new potential non-Auxiliary organizations in our Vessel Safety Check (VSC) program. This was accomplished through a break-out session presentation and the after session comments were all positive from the 50+ attendees. Additionally, the B. Dept. has been notified in November 2000 that two (2) USCGAUX presentation applications have been accepted for the 2001 IBWSS meeting in April. Such recognition and acceptance is a veritable advertisement for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to international and many other national boating organizations, as well as an opportunity to contribute to recreational boating safety worldwide through our presentation messages. It is further indicative of the safety message quality with which the

IBWSS has come to expect from USCGAUX member's participation.

Attendance by B. Dept. senior officers at the 2000 NASBLA Conference allowed for very favorable face-to-face discussions and dialogue between the USCG, USCGAUX, and the 50+ various State Boating Law Administrators (BLAs). These discussions have the impact of creating an even larger teamwork of recreational boating safety professionals through closer working relationships between the BLAs and the Auxiliary, particularly through our State Liaison Division.

Our Grassroots Grant program (more on that in future issues of WAVES) was even larger this year than last, (meaning the third consecutive year of increased applications to BoatUS) as well as the initiation of the BoatUS Clean Water Grant program with the Auxiliary.

Our boating partners program was expanded this year to contact dozens of outside boating organizations to determine if partnering with their organizations could expand the USCGAUX boating safety program and message.

There are many more programs the B. Dept. was involved with in year 2000 that further showed the banner of recreational boating safety to more organizations than ever before, but space precludes my only outlining some of the major ones above. We hope that our nationwide efforts this past year to support the Auxiliary membership, right down to the Flotilla level, has been of assistance to you and we look forward to more progress in 2001. Until next issue, "keep 'er 'tween the buoys".

State Boating Law Administrators

Ed Huntsman, DVC-BS

Report on the International Workshop For Emergency Response (IWER-2000)

One of several programs designed to support the Partnership for Peace Program (PIP), the workshop was conducted Monday through Friday, November 13 to 17 at the Papago Military Reservation located in Phoenix, Arizona. This facility is the location of the Headquarters of the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, as well as the Arizona National Guard and Air National Guard. The PIP is a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) initiative, which, through the combined efforts of partner states is designed to enhance both the political and military cooperation throughout Europe. Participation in the program reinforces regional security, increases stability and promotes strengthened relationships

between the cooperative states. NATO launched the Partnership for Peace programs in 1994.

The State Partnership Program (SPP) was established in 1993 to align American states with newly independent states located throughout Europe and Asia. The SPP encourages the development of economic, political and military affiliations between partnering states. Program efforts focus on the exchange of information, ideas and technology to improve military support to civilian authorities as they respond to natural disasters.

Both governmental and non-governmental agencies at all levels and other first responders participated in the workshop that focused on improving the response to urban and rural flooding and other water or flooding related catastrophic emergencies.

Several central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan and Uzbekistan, and members of the SPP joined Army, Navy, Air Force, National Guard and Air National Guard personnel for the exercise. The Coast Guard Auxiliary participated as an observer, as did emergency response personnel from a several other nations in central Europe and Asia. Also participating were members of the US Armed Forces representing various commands, Louisiana, Montana and other U.S. states. Several Federal Agencies including the Department of State, National Weather Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Geological Survey, The Bureau of Reclamation and the Civil Air Patrol also participated with demonstrations or as observers.

The event was opened with welcomes from a variety of senior diplomatic, elected and military officials.

The weeklong workshop provided the opportunity to observe emergency operations centers at the municipal, county and state levels working in conjunction with operations centers at the Salt River Project and the Central Arizona Project. Field demonstrations featuring high-incline mountain rescue, car-top retrieval and in-water rescues, medical air evacuation, dike building and emergency housing capabilities were conducted both on and off-site of the Papago Military Reservation.

The goal(s) of the workshop were:

- Exchange principles of flood disaster response and techniques for responding to flood disasters
- Afford participants the opportunity to review and apply techniques learned
- Teach and apply advanced techniques for use of Emergency Information Software (EIS) and Net-based Emergency Management Software for use by emergency team personnel to help manage disaster situations

- Learn how U.S. emergency response units utilize the news media to keep the public informed in disaster situations
- Demonstrate the integration of the National Guard into the response plan and demonstrate military support for civil authorities
- Demonstrate the Incident Command System (ICS) and how the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) supports the on scene ICS commander

The workshop also promoted international engagement of the participants by providing a forum to exchange ideas, concepts, methods, practices, techniques and standards for addressing a natural disaster. Various computer modeling, planning and decision-making processes, emergency service field response and interaction to military support response to civil authorities were also effectively demonstrated. Many new friendships were also established between the participants.

Additionally, one of highlights during the week was the signing of a mutual aid compact and letter of agreement for ongoing exchanges involving training, seminars, and other areas of mutual support between FEMA on behalf of the United States and Kazakhstan.

BOATING PROFESSIONALS

Bill Griswold, BC-BLN

It's not too early to begin planning for the fifth annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit, which will be held in Nashville, TN, next April 8-11. It will be held at the Opryland Hotel, a magnificent facility, next to the Grand Old Opry House. This gives all those in the middle south easy access to the Summit. More information can be found on the National Safe Boating Council's web site at: www.safeboatingcouncil.org

Last year in Las Vegas, 500 boating professionals gathered and participated in one of the best networking sessions ever held. If you are interested in boating education, public affairs, member training, or want to meet boating pros from dozens of organizations and agencies, Nashville is the place for you. There is even a scholarship program to help you attend; check the web site for an application. The Summit is being sponsored by the National Water Safety Congress, which is celebrating its 50th birthday, and the National Safe Boating Council funded in part by a grant administered by the U. S. Coast Guard under the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund. I highly recommend that any Auxiliarist who can attend should.

There is a wealth of information available, the presentations are directed to the boating teacher or professional, and you will come away with a new appreciation for the larger view of recreational boating in America and in foreign countries. Try it, you'll like it

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