

DIVISION CHIEF OF SURFACE OPERATIONS RESIGNS

Effective at NACON 2005, **Mark Simoni** stepped down as Division Chief for Surface Operations. He wrote the following comments to be published here.

After almost five years on the job, it is time for me to move aside and face some challenges closer to home. Resigning this post is one of the toughest things I have had to do as an Auxiliarist because, to me, DVC-OS is the coolest job in the Auxiliary.

I thank **COMO Bob Colby** and **DC-O Linda Nelson** for the opportunity to head up the Surface Division. I also applaud the Surface Staff for their contributions: **Lew Wargo** for his work on the QE Guide and as chair of the Surface STAN Team; **Tom Mosca** for the insight he provides with Action MDA; **Tom Egizi** for breathing new life into, and smoothing out the rough edges in, our Personal Watercraft program; **John Ruestow** for handling the special tasks that always seem to pop up; and **Dave Gould**, for providing expertise in Auxiliary use of CG owned resources.

I am grateful for the help of the DSOs-OP and the great folks at OCX-2. As every Auxiliarist knows, his or her patrol can mean the difference between life and death for a mariner in distress. We have accomplished a lot. There is still a lot to be done.

COMO Gary Taylor has a full plate in front of him as he takes over the position of DVC-OS. I have known Gary about six years and I know he will do a great job leading the Surface community. Let's all continue to pull together to keep the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary the premier volunteer lifesaving service in the whole world.

NEW CHIEF OF SURFACE OPERATIONS CLAIMS HE'S NEWEST KID ON THE BLOCK

COMO Gary Taylor writes:

I am quite excited to be relieving Mark Simoni as Division Chief for Surface Operations. Mark has done a terrific job over the past several years and I commend him for all his efforts. I have looked at his feats and I have some really big shoes to fill,

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which I will try to do.

Here is my brief self-introduction: I joined the Auxiliary in 1980 and have been quite active in the operations program in D17, having served as both the Flotilla and District Operations Officers. I am Coxswain qualified (for both privately owned Operational Facilities and Coast Guard owned/Auxiliary operated Non-Standard Boats), Personal Watercraft Operator (PWC) qualified and I am a Qualification Examiner. I have also just completed a term of office as D17 District Commodore (2003-2004).

I look forward to working with the National Operations Department staff (especially those involved in the Surface Operations Program) and the DSOs-OP. If you have issues or new ideas that you want considered at the national level, please send them to me through your DSO-OP.

UP TOP IN OPERATIONS

AWARD OF THE AUXILIARY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL TO DAVID A. ELLIOT, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Mr. Elliot is cited for exceptionally meritorious service to the Government of the United States in a position of great responsibility as Chief, Auxiliary Aviation Training Branch and Deputy Department Chief, Auxiliary Operations from June 2003 to June 2005. Exercising extraordinary vision and superb leadership Mr. Elliot guided Coast Guard Auxiliary aviation forces to meet and exceed the Commandant's mandates for operational safety and excellence. Mr. Elliot personally championed the Auxiliary Aviation Standardization Team; a first ever initiative which significantly improved Auxiliary aviation safety and proficiency. Determined to provide a professional, respected, and desired volunteer aviation capability, Mr. Elliot led a team which crafted new training syllabi for Auxiliary pilots and flight examiners. He also devised a risk assessment process for Auxiliary air crews and implemented a

comprehensive cycle of aviation program review which ensured uniform training, operational readiness, and safe mission accomplishment. His aviation and managerial prowess was instrumental when he served as the Auxiliary's executor of aviation squadron implementation which morphed Coast Guard air stations and Auxiliary aviation assets organizationally into regional operating teams. Mr. Elliot's talents extended beyond Auxiliary aviation, positively influencing Auxiliary surface operations as well. As a mentor and advisor, Mr. Elliot provided invaluable guidance in the creation of the Auxiliary Surface Standardization Team and in developing Auxiliary communications qualification guidelines. As a direct result of his inspirational pursuit of operational excellence, the Auxiliary trained and qualified over 10,700 coxswains and boat crew members, 1,200 pilots and air crewmen, and 2,900 radio operators who contributed more than 860,000 hours of operational support to Coast Guard missions. Mr. Elliot's leadership, dedication, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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AWARD OF THE AUXILIARY MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL TO ROBERT T. SHAFFER, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Mr. Shafer is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Chief, Aviation Operations Division from December 2003 to June 2005. Demonstrating superb leadership and organizational skills, Mr. Shafer was the driving force behind the most significant changes ever made to Auxiliary aviation operations policies and procedures. Due to his determination and expertise, the Auxiliary Air Standardization Team was established, a comprehensive Auxiliary Air Training Manual was developed, strict two-pilot operating rules were instituted, and a host of Auxiliary aviation syllabi were created.

Mr. Shafer exhibited remarkable administrative and operational ability as a major

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**AWARD OF THE
AUXILIARY
MERITORIOUS
SERVICE MEDAL
TO ROBERT T.
SHAFER**

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contributor to the most comprehensive revision to the Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual in more than a decade. He also served as lead instructor for the inaugural Coast Guard Auxiliary District Flight Safety Officer course, a key component of the aviation squadron concept which melded Coast Guard air stations and Auxiliary aviation assets into regional operating teams. Mr. Shafer was responsible for recruiting nine new members to the national aviation staff, which ensured the continuity of Auxiliary aviation development for years to come. Despite a 20 percent increase in Auxiliary flight operations during these sweeping changes to Auxiliary aviation, Mr. Shafer ensured strict safety policies were incorporated to protect Auxiliary flight crews.

Mr. Shafer's dedication and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**TIPS FOR
PLANNING FOR
THE NEXT
EMERGENCY**

As America witnesses the disaster in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, many people are asking how they can prepare their family for an emergency. Here are ten helpful tips from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to prepare for an emergency:

1. Have a plan and discuss it with your family.
2. Find out about your community's emergency plan and check its web sites for emergency planning information. If you should have to evacuate your home, make a primary and a secondary meeting place and inform all family members. Have a designated contact that is out of the danger zone and let them know where you are and your status.
3. Pack a "go" bag, containing medications, water and water purifying tablets, hand sanitizers, non-perishable food, a manual can opener, personal toiletries, zip lock bags, a flashlight with good batteries and a battery powered radio.

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4. If applicable, make a "go" bag for your animal companion as well, such as a cat carrier, pet food and mobile kitty box. Dogs should have a leash, food, water and bags for clean up, if possible.
5. Get to know your neighbors, especially your elderly or infirm and look after them.
6. If you live in an apartment or other type of multiple dwelling, designate floor captains, make an emergency evacuation plan and be sure all of the residents are aware of it. Be sure to know about anyone with special needs.
7. At the first hint that your community may need to be evacuated be sure that you have a full tank of gas, if you have a vehicle.

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**TIPS FOR
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EMERGENCY**

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8. Have candles, matches and flashlights with fresh batteries on hand. If a power outage is anticipated, stash some food in a cooler with ice.
9. Don't panic, look out for one another and remember having a plan in place and following it is the most important thing you can do.
10. For more information on emergency preparedness check the following web sites: the American Red Cross, the Center for Disease Control and FEMA.

Editor's Note. This information was released by Wayne Spivak Chief - External Communications Public Affairs Department USCG Auxiliary

**COAST GUARD
APPLAUDS AUX
AIR COMMITMENT**

The Commanding Officers of the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, AL and Air Station New Orleans (joint message) applauded the commitment and skills of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Air Wing. These two Coast Guard bases have been at the forefront of providing unparalleled air rescue in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. According to Captains B. C. Jones and D. R. Callahan,

"the Aux Air assets, as always, stepped up to the plate and provided outstanding support".

The Coast Guard Air Auxiliary has, as of 13 September, seventeen (17) air craft involved in rescue operations. The air crews have flown 56 sorties for a total of 209 hours."

Coast Guard helicopters operating over New Orleans during the first seven days saved an astonishing 6,470 lives (4,731 by hoist) during 723 sorties and 1,507 flight hours. Coast Guard Auxiliary aircraft and their crews enabled, to some extent, their Active Duty brethren, to accomplish these feats.

**YOU COULD BE
INVOLVED
IN NIIMS / ICS**

The National Interagency Incident Management System Incident Command System (NIIMS/ICS) is an on-site incident management system whose principles can be applied to all types of multi-contingency response operations and planned events. It is desirable that all Auxiliary coxswains and crew have at least basic training in the ICS system.

Further information is available at: http://www.uscg.mil/hq/ics/ics_splash/index.html.

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