

Crews News

Flotilla 58, Portsmouth, VA

Hampton Roads Oldest Chartered Auxiliary Flotilla: Chartered 1942

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



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From the Flotilla Commander



Last month I opened "with September comes the beginning of cooler days, less humid evenings and oh yes, the peak of Hurricane Season." 1 out of 3 isn't all that bad; it still fairly hot and humid even though we are half way through October.

The past 30 days has been a busy one for Flotilla 58. Stan and crew aboard Garfield have begun their annual de-nesting of visual aids. John Wynn and myself teamed with MST1 Sheldon from Sector Hampton Roads and enjoyed a day of learning the fine art of Container Inspections (AUX-CI). Jack Painter continues to work with the Sector assisting them organize and implement Contingency Communications. Finally, I was very happy to see a good showing of Flotilla 58 Members in attendance for the Auxiliary Manual class, organized by Jack Mitchell of Flotilla 53.

Heidi Derby from Division 6 will be replacing Mike Center as Rear Commodore, Sector Hampton Roads. Mike has served the Sector well for 2 years and we thank him for his service and support. I look forward to RCO (elect) Derby taking the helm in January. The Division 5 Election was held on October 9. Our own Mike Smith was re-elected Division 5 DCP and Jack Mitchell from Flotilla 53 will be VCP.



Flotilla 58's election will be take place during the October 23rd meeting. As you may remember, I have decided not to seek re-election. If you have aspirations toward elected office, Flotilla Commander or Vice Commander are rewarding positions.

The October Flotilla meeting is going to be different. Our main item of business will of necessity, be the elections. After dispensing with the formal business, we're going to enjoy an Ice Cream Social and Flotilla fellowship. Come ready to cast your vote then join with us for some just plain fun!

Traditionally, the our Change of Watch has been held in December at Roger Browns Restaurant and Sports Bar in Old Towne, Portsmouth. During the last Staff Officers Meeting, we decided to have a more relaxed, event that was easier on your wallets. On Saturday, November 17 at 2:00PM, we are going to combine the Change of Watch with a Flotilla cook out at my home in Chesapeake. Directions from downtown Portsmouth are on Page 3 or, you can build your own customized map and instructions using [Mapquest](#).

F58 Members Participate in AUX-CI

It is no secret that thousands of overseas shipping containers pass through US Ports on an annual basis. The general public and Coast Guard would like to inspect more of these containers as they enter the Port but, there simply is not enough people available to do it.

That is where we come in. Within the TRIDENT program, there is a Container Inspector PQS, AUX-CI. The thought of inspecting overseas shipping containers might lead one to conclude it (continued on Page 3)



Help Wanted - CG HQ:

Request for Auxiliary Assistance:

The Office of Port and Facility Activities ("old" CG-3PCP / "new" CG-544) is seeking Auxiliary assistance with reviewing reports that have been called in to the National Response Center (NRC). The primary objective is to cull out certain information from the reports to help determine whether or not the calls were submitted due to the reporting source's awareness of the America's Waterway Watch (AWW) program.

Specifics follow:

1 - Who is the CGHQ program point-of-contact?

LT Brian Zekus / "old" CG-3PCP-1, "new" CG-5441 / AWW Program Manager / (202) 372-1116 / brian.s.zekus@uscg.mil

2 - Can this work be done from home (eg - can it be mailed to an Auxiliarist, and can they mail it back)?

YES, there is no real need for an individual to physically come to CGHQ. The reports can be e-mailed to an Auxiliarist, but they should know that the total report is over 2,000 pages long, so printing is neither recommended nor necessary. Results can be e-mailed back to LT Zekus

3 - Any computer data entry work required, or is it just reading reports and culling/writing/highlighting info?

Mainly reviewing and extracting information from reports. It would help to be familiar with Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) regulations, but it's not required.

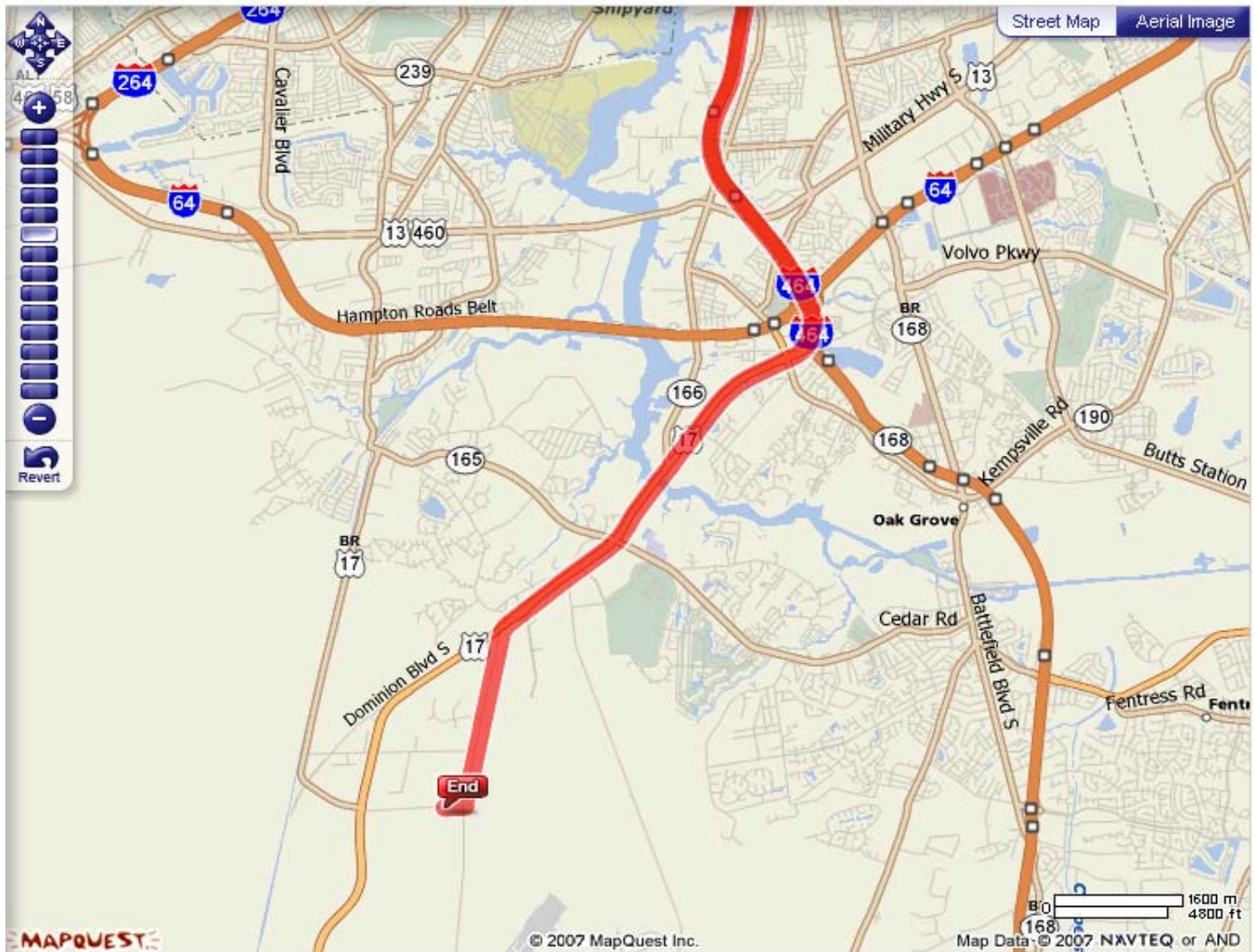
4 - What kind of time commitment is expected?

This is a one-time project...for right now. It should not take more than a week with a couple of hours a day (there are 763 reports - one or two minutes to review each, if that long).

5 - Interested Auxiliarists should contact LT Brian Zekus should for further questions and details.



Directions & Map to Chuck Rippels Home



Maneuvers

Distance

- | | | |
|--------------|---|------------|
| START | 1: Start out going EAST on HIGH ST toward CRAWFORD ST. | <0.1 miles |
| | 2: Turn RIGHT onto CRAWFORD ST. | 0.2 miles |
| | 3: CRAWFORD ST becomes CRAWFORD CONN. | 0.1 miles |
| | 4: Merge onto I-264 E / US-460 ALT E toward DOWNTOWN TUNNEL / NORFOLD. | 1.2 miles |
| | 5: Merge onto I-464 S / MARTIN LUTHER KING JR MEMORIAL HWY via EXIT 8 toward CHESAPEAKE. | 6.3 miles |
| | 6: Merge onto US-17 S. | 4.2 miles |
| | 7: Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto WEST RD. | 1.8 miles |
| | 8: Turn RIGHT onto HERRING DITCH RD. | 0.1 miles |
| END | 9: End at 2341 Herring Ditch Rd
Chesapeake, VA 23323-6419, US | |

Total Est. Time: 19 minutes **Total Est. Distance:** 14.37 miles

lead one to conclude its a boring, dirty job, that is not very interesting. John Wynn and myself decided we would find out for ourselves. A couple of e-mails back and forth to MST1 Jordan Sheldon and the arrangements were made. We would meet on the 7th floor of the Federal Building for 0830 departure with 2 other Petty Officers VIA CG vehicle to NIT.

There is some study involved however, MST1 felt we would be better able to absorb the material after some practical experience. "armed" with required Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) consisting of safety shoes (ODU boots), coveralls, hard had, safety glasses, leather gloves and a high visibility vest, we arrived at NIT to begin the process.

Today, we would concentrate on containers loaded with 2 types of of containers. Those which were loaded with HAZMAT (Hazardous Materials) and some selected at random VIA a CG Process.

The first lesson was safety. Working within a busy port facility can be dangerous and safety precautions must be adhered to. There are tractor-trailers, large fork-lifts and other handling equipment constantly moving about to pick up or drop off containers. As we inspected a container or group of containers, the CG vehicle was always positioned between the inspection team and the truck traffic lanes.



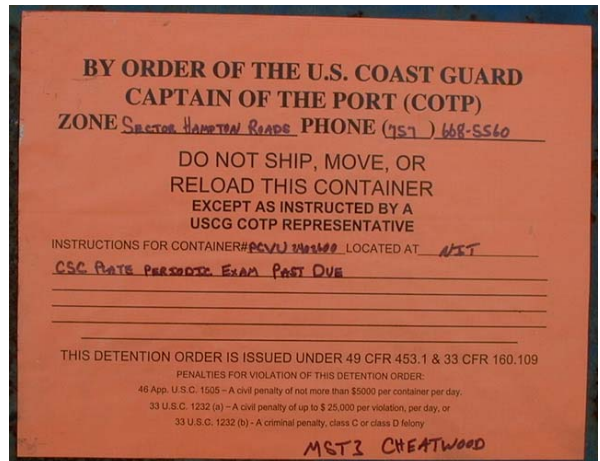
Container Inspectors also look for damage which might compromise its integrity at sea. The exterior of each container is examined for defects such as broken welds, bent/torn steel frames, broken floor supports.



The inside of a shipping container needs to be inspected; the actual contents are compared with the shipping manifest. One does not simply cut the customs seal on a container and open the doors. The door needed to have a special strap attached so if cargo was leaning against it, the door would not violently open when the rear latches were released, the door could burst open, injuring anyone standing behind it. In the picture to the upper right, you can see the potential for injury when a 100# sack of dried fish fell between a stacked to the roof load and the cargo door of a container being opened. The safety strap was in place, the doors held and no one was injured. Once opened, the interior of the container is allowed to air out for 15 minutes before the inspector enters.



A bent frame and broken welds to the hardpoint earns this container a "hold" order:



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
FLOTILLA 054-05-08

FC: R. Charles Rippel
2341 Herring Ditch Road
Chesapeake, VA 23323-6419
(757) 615-7234
E-Mail: Chuck.rippel@cox.net

VFC: Stan Miley
4410 West Point Drive
Portsmouth, VA 23703-4024
Phone: 757-638-5297
Email: stanmiley@cox.net

Station Portsmouth Liaison Petty Officers:
MK2 William Taylor
Fireman Alan Reitz

CAMSLANT Chesapeake Liaison Officer:
CWO Vern Tuss

We're on the Web !

<http://www.boatsafehamptonroads.org/>

Calendar

October 23, 2007

Flotilla 58 Meeting
1930
Portside, ISC Portsmouth, VA

November 17, 2007

Flotilla 58 Fellowship and Change of Watch
Saturday, November 17, 2007
1900 till ?

Location: Home of Chuck and Beth Rippel
2341 Herring Ditch Road
Chesapeake, VA 23323-6419
Phone numbers: 485-1992 - 615-7234

There are also inspection certification plates which need to be checked. Below, Auxiliarist John Wynn has scrambled onto this tank container to check the test dates:



The work is a challenge and actually quite interesting. While its not that difficult and you'll go home tired but with the satisfaction of contributing to an important, ongoing task which needs to be done by Team Coast Guard.

Want to help? Contact the [FC](#), [SO-MS Butch Kubisiak](#) or [MST1 Jordan Sheldon](#): 668-5566

Interestingly, the tank container just out of sight in the right of this picture was filled with Jack Daniels, Tennessee Whiskey.



This one's good to go! Once a container successfully passes inspection, a USCG Customs seal is installed