



**Date:** November 2017

**From:** Jane D. Smith, DSO-Public Affairs

**Thru:** Dean McFarren, DCAPT- Prevention

**To:** Commodore Wally Smith

**Subject:** District Staff Officer – Public Affairs – October Activities 2017.  
November 2017 Report

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Division 1:** No Report

**Division 3:** Bob Shabert – SO-PA

**Division 4:** No Report

**Division 5:** Frank Capurro – FSO-PA,

**Division 6:** Alex Urciuoli – Flotilla 64 – SO-MS, Mike Goldberg – Flotilla 64 -FSO-PA,  
Mike Badano – Flotilla 6-10 – VCDR & FSO-PA

**Division 7:** Lana Visser-DCDR - SO-PA

**Division 8:** Lorrain Cheney – SO-PA

**Division 10:** Doug Lazo – Flotilla - 10-5 - FSO-PA

**Division 11:** Nothing to Report

**Division 12:** Virginia Luchetti - DCDR Elect

**Honor Guard:** Chester Bartilli

**District 11 Northern: Activities**

**AUXAIR:** Larry Olson – DSO-AV Nothing to Report

**DSO-PA Report:** Jane D. Smith

**DETAILS:**

**Division 1:** No Report

**DIVISION 3:**

113-03-01

Flotilla 3-1 has been doing more work on our NSWB 2018. This year, 3-1's NSBW theme is 'CG Aviation and Boating Safety'.

3-1 will be set up again this year on the Sacramento River, West Sacramento side, as we did last year, with all of the local Fire and LE. 3-1 will also have a VE Station at Broderick Ramp, water level permitting.

In addition to the 'rescue swimmer' demo from AirSta San Francisco, we will also have 'rescue swimmer' demos from CHP and Sacramento Metro Fire. The river patrol will be covered by Sacramento P.D. and Sacramento S.O. If our two PWC's and boat are ready, we will also have these facilities in the water to assist P.D. and S.O.

We are also requesting permission from FAA to allow our C-27 to drop down to 500 feet, from 1,000 feet, for this year's fly-by.



On Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 3-1 members attended the Memorial of 1705. 1705 was the C-130 from AirSta Sacramento that went down 8 year ago while conducting a SAR in Southern California. We lost all 8 crew members and the 2 Marines that collided with our C-130.

It was a very solemn memorial reminding all of us how serious the job is and how precious life is. Even with an excellent flight crew and safety record, flying the best of equipment, this type of tragic event can still happen.





113-03-03

A combined flotilla ABS class was scheduled for Nov. 4, 2017 @ Citrus Heights Community Church. Information was sent to Erni Mededovic (IT) during OCT to advertise on our flotilla website and Twitter account. Initially there were 3 signed up but two dropped out and class was cancelled on 30OCT.

I spoke with both Richard Celia and Lois Wren to improve and widen advertisement for classes going forward. Richard suggested closer follow up. Lois and I brainstormed a number of places to hang fliers including high schools, Sierra College, marinas, boat dealers, Sea Cadets, PG&E employees, etc. I will speak with Richard again and offered to Lois that I'd be developing fliers and distributing them for the next class TBA. I'll also be contacting media for public announcements re: boater cards and class. I recommended Lois aim for a class in the latter half of January, one in February, and after the March Boat Show. Lois will continue speaking with Sea Cadets of Chico who contacted her and she will ask Richard to follow up with PG&E.

#### **Division 4:**

No Report

#### **DIVISION 5:**

Flotilla 55

October 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> – Fleet Week

Fleet Week was a sight to see this year. Frank Capurro represented Flotilla 55 in the largest PA event of the year. Being a member of the Pier 35 tour crew, it was truly amazing to see how revered we were. I was honored to be part of such professionalism. We all had a lot of fun, and the PR was maybe the most important role I've had the pleasure to participate in. Thanks to all.

## Division 6:

Flotilla 64

### Coast Guard Pier Litter Patrol: This Fall, Keith Simmons Keeps on Keeping our USCG Pier the Envy of Monterey Bay

**In Keith's own words:** "I completed two trips to the Monterey US Coast Guard Pier and picked up litter, ever vigilant in relation to America's Waterway Watch (AWW). In general, while walking on the pier I sometimes have brief conversations with tourists, including pointing out features and answering questions. Thus, serendipitously in addition to environmental benefits, my ongoing litter control effort is a positive public relations/affairs activity. Also, I often have the opportunity to say hello and chat with Active Duty personnel, which also contributes to Auxiliary's maintaining good rapport with the Gold Side. Between City of Monterey staff, one Bay Net volunteer, and my Station Monterey CO approved Auxiliary effort, the USCG Pier is surely the most consistently litter-free pier in America – something in which CG Active Duty and Auxiliary can take pride."



Keith Simmons picks up litter every month to assure the CG Pier is litter-free

## Division 6 – October 28<sup>th</sup> - Santa Cruz Haunted Harbor Event

Each year our Division helps out with the Harbor with our staff of Auxiliary, as a presents there for this event. Numbers help with the amount of children with their parents running from candy station to station. It is a fun and safe event at the Harbor.

The individuals who participated were as follows: Tamera Badano, Jerry Edelen, Mike Goldberg, Dave Jardin, Craig Johnson, Gwen Hammer (Division 12), Wally and Jane Smith, Tracy Schultz, Dave Wormington and Karen Yoder.



**Craig Johnson with Mallory Sheehan (Costumed)**  
**(daughter of our Auxiliarist, Sean Sheehan)**

## **DIVISION 7:**

Division 7 had several PA safety fairs we attended the end of September and in October. A HUGE thanks to Flotilla 07-06 Ogden for all their hard work in getting ready for these events and making sure they were covered. The agencies involved in sponsoring these events all contacted the Division asking for the Auxiliary's participation. The invitations from these agencies were due to the hard work and dedication Carl Henning, Ann Zocchi, and Tony Zocchi have done in previous safety fairs to make sure the Auxiliary presented an outstanding booth and the interaction with the public.

### **September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Flotilla 76 participated in the Layton City Kids Safety Fair at the Layton City Fire Department in Utah. Tony Zocchi & Pandora Panda (aka Ann Zocchi) participated in this Kids Safety Fair and had over 3,000 kids attend the 3-hour event. We focused on the use of and Importance of life jackets and the importance of properly wearing a life jacket.



### October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Division 7 participated in a Kids Safety Fair at the Sunset City Office sponsored by the Sunset City Fire Department. This was Sunset City's first time hosting this event. Auxiliaries Carl Henning, Tony Zocchi, Ann Zocchi (aka Pandora Panda) from Flotilla 07-06 and Rex Miner from Flotilla 07-08 supported the three-hour safety fair. We had approximately 400 kids plus parents attend this first-time event for the city. We focused on life jackets safety and photo opportunities for kids with Pandora Panda - Pandora was a big hit with the kids!



### October 10th 2017

Division 7, Flotilla 07-06, participated in West Point City's Kids Safety Fair at the West Point Fire Department. During this three-hour event we had approximately 800 kids, plus parents, come through. We promoted life jacket safety and had photo opportunities for all the kids with Pandora Panda. Auxiliaries Carl Henning, Tony Zocchi, Ann Zocchi (Pandora Panda) and Anthony King supported the Safety Fair. (no photos available)

### October 11th 2017

Division 7, Flotilla 07-06, participated at the 80 Kids Safety Fair at the Clearfield Fire Department in Utah. This event was three hours long. We encountered around 800 kids at this event and their parents and siblings. Once again, we supported the event with demonstration of life jackets and photo opportunities with Pandora Panda. Pandora Panda has been a great hit at all the Safety Fair events this year. Auxiliaries participating in this Safety Fair were Carl Henning, Tony Zocchi, and Ann Zocchi as Pandora Panda.



## October 16th 2017

Division 7, Flotilla 07-06 supported the South Weber Fire Department's Kids Safety Fair. We had approximately 400 kids attended the three hour event with parents and siblings - we even had Boy Scout troops show up as well. We conducted demonstrations on inflatable life jackets and the proper wearing and identification of life jackets also had photo opportunities with Pandora Panda. Auxiliarists participating in this Safety Fair were Carl Henning, Anthony King, Tony Zocchi, and Ann Zocchi as Pandora Panda.



## DIVISION 8:

Lorrain Cheney arrived home in Fort Bragg from my 3 month trip to Ireland and a short 4 day stopover in Iceland.

I contacted Micháel O'Toole -- Sector Manager, West & North West at Irish Coast Guard, Dublin, Ireland before starting out for my journey to Ireland. He made arrangements for me to meet with the (OIC) Officer in Charge of the Dingle Coast Guard Unit, Frank Heidtke OIC. Frank Heidtke has been involved with the IRCG Unit in Dingle for the past 30 years. He is highly respected and considered not only the OIC but the backbone of the Unit.

On the evening of 12 October 2017, I had the opportunity to tour the Irish Coast Guard Stationhouse in Dingle, Ireland with OIC Frank Heidtke. Not only was I taken on a tour of the Stationhouse but as luck had it there was a night navigation practice exercise scheduled for the unit. I was invited to watch as they prepared and initiated the exercise. The following is a little information about Irish Coast Guard units.

### Coast Guard Units

Irish Coast Guard Units are crewed by 950 male and female volunteers.

Coast Guard Units and their Stationhouses (sometimes known locally as 'The Rocket House' from using the old Breeches Buoy rescue rockets) are positioned at strategic locations around Ireland and possess initial action fast response equipment with adequate geographical range. This kit includes radio communications systems, cliff rescue gear, rescue, patrol, transport and search boats, response vehicles, line throwing apparatus, first aid equipment, personal protective equipment, uniforms, portable generators and lights and day and night search gear.

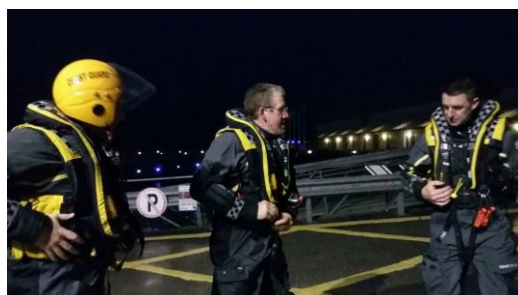
All Units are operated entirely by local crews (live within 10 minutes of the Stationhouse) who give freely of their valuable time and effort to the Coast Guard, local community and 'those in peril on the sea, cliffs and coasts of Ireland'. Training is provided for the volunteers, who are on-call, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. A building program to upgrade the Units' station houses is on-going.

The Irish Coast Guard is a civilian agency, members are not part of the Defense Forces and thus are forbidden from carrying any type of weapons and have no security or defense duties in respect of national police or defense. Not all Irish Coast Guard members have enforcement powers – only some officers under warrant.

Coast Guard personnel include full-time paid employees, and unpaid volunteers. Outside of administration staff there's less than 60 full time employees in the Irish Coast Guard.



**OIC Frank Heidtke standing in doorway**



**Irish Coast Guard backing there boat down the ramp**



**Left to right Cathail Laide, Patrick Sheehy, Seamus Murphy getting ready for exercise.**





Launching into the Dingle Harbor

## **DIVISION 10:**

Subject: Monthly Report - October 2017 (Doug Lazo, FSO-PA)

On October 12, 2017 & October 26, 2017, Commander Doug Lazo, FC from Flotilla 10-5 Fresno, attended the 98th Fresno Veterans Day Parade meeting. Over 200 representatives from various military and civilian organizations were present for the briefing. The parade committee has requested all participants to be vigilant as to potential anti-military protesters. Being the largest Veterans Day Parade west of the Mississippi we are a potential target. The parade committee has clearly instructed that all participants if engaged in protest to immediately let the Fresno Police Department handle the situation. Everyone is looking forward that this will be a positive showing. The U.S. Army is the Honoree for this 98th Veterans Day Parade.

## **DIVISION 11: Nothing to Report**

## **DIVISION 12:**

On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, Flotilla 12-91 and the USCG Auxiliary Honor Guard were privileged to participate in the 2017 American Legion Post 237 Tri-Valley Veterans' Day Parade. The Honor Guard marched in front of the Auxiliary float that included a truck pulling one of Flotilla 12-91's operational facilities, Sweetwater, with patrol signboards and appropriate ensigns displayed. The parade route was well attended by patriotic tri-valley residents.

We were thrilled to be included with more than 100 other organizations. Some of the other participants included color guards from each military branch, the Alameda Sheriff's Mounted Posse, VFW posts, California Gold Star Families, Blue Star Moms and Sentinels of Freedom, and the Caledonian Club of San Francisco's Prince Charles Pipe Band.

Howitzers and helicopters from Camp Parks were on display. There were also numerous military and high school bands playing patriotic music.



**Marty Crowningshield on his boat in the parade**



**Flags of our Honor Guard**



Rick Scheuemann tiding up flags

## DISTRICT 11 NORTHERN DISTRICT ACTIVITIES:

### Honor Guard:

**5 November 2017** –The Honor Guard marched in the Tri-Valley Veterans Day parade. We had 5 flag bearers and a lead & trail sentries. Participating for the first time since Hawaii was Kathy Boyle. She has been down with serious medical issue, but not only did she march, she finished. Also marching were Captain Tracy Schultz, Steve Bustin, Georgie & Rick Scheuerman, Karen Yoder, and Chester Bartallini.



**October 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### Sonoma/ Napa Fire Response & Recovery Team

The Sonoma/Napa Fires, a composite of 12 individual fires, started the evening of Sunday, October 8 at around 2230 and spread very quickly due to the high winds and very dry conditions. The areas affected by the fires included primarily Coast Guard Auxiliary Members from Division 5 and Division 8 (Sonoma, Napa, Solano, and Lake Counties).

District 11 NR initiated a well check call out thru Everbridge on October 9, for Divisions, 5, 3, and 8. In addition Division 5 initiated a member status check and the Division Commander Randy McCormick asked Michael Brown to keep track of all affected members. Robert Vanderhyde also emailed on the status of the local repeater as one of the fires was approaching that location.

From Monday through Friday Oct 13 during the first week of the fire, numerous calls and visits were made to both the State and Sonoma & Napa County Office of Emergency Services offering the services of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. By Friday, October 13, the American Red Cross and Sonoma Co EOS did request for the services of the Coast Guard Auxiliary which were forwarded to Commander Lynn. However due to Coast Guard policy, the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard can only officially respond to requests of assistance from another Federal Agency. (Auxiliary and Coast Guard personnel can respond as civilians to volunteer their services to other state agencies or organizations).

On Saturday Oct 14 , Commander Lynn received a request from FEMA through Coast Guard District to have Coast Guard Auxiliary and Coast Guard personnel assist in setting up Local Assistance Centers (LAC), and staff these centers with both IA (Information Assistance or Data entry) and logistics positions. A call out was emailed out on Saturday, October 14, requesting for US Coast Guard Auxiliary Volunteers. Twenty eight Auxiliary Personnel responded by both email and phone. At that point, I was tasked to be the POC for the Sonoma/Napa fire response team. There was to be a short training at USCG TRACEN Petaluma on Sunday, October 15 on the FEMA duties and data entry process.

Sunday, October 15, Eleven Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel attended the FEMA Introductory Training at USCG TRACEN Petaluma. Sunday Evening, 28 Auxiliary personnel had responded to the call out and were directed to the POC, Wil Sumner and they were contacted for availability. From that information a schedule was forwarded to 8 USCG AUX personnel that were able to respond and assist at the Santa Rosa and Napa LAC locations. The local FEMA director, Steve Gates requested that the majority of the CG and CG AUX personnel go to the NAPA location on Monday morning for set up and staffing.



Monday, October 16, the USCG and USCG Aux set up the Napa LAC2. The FEMA supervisor assigned 4 computer stations to the Coast Guard Aux personnel. The Aux members assisted fire survivors with the initial emergency assistance application. Two Aux members were assigned to the entrance of the LAC and direct the fire survivors to stations set up within the LAC. Another Aux member Jim Blackburn, was assigned to assist in the parking lot.

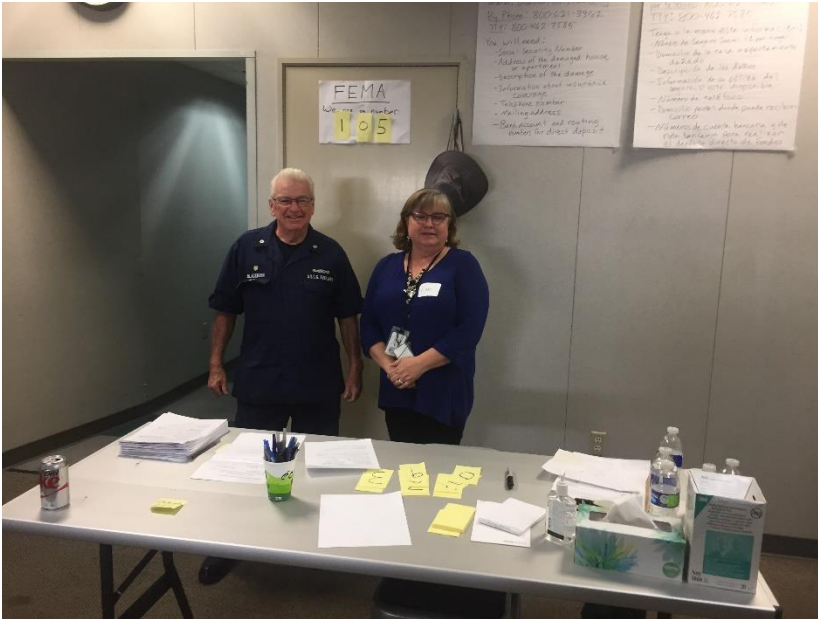
The Santa Rosa LAC1, had been set up on Friday and was staffed with a combination of County & State OES personnel and FEMA personnel. This location was fully staffed with Data Entry personnel by Sunday, so the Aux personnel were tasked with operations within the warehouse, and with assisting receiving/information center.

On Monday evening, during a conference call with the local FEMA director, Steve Gates, Wil Sumner and LCDR Greg Reilly, we were informed that a new LAC was to be set up in Sonoma the next day (Tuesday) and Auxiliary personnel were needed for both the set up and operations for this new location as the FEMA staff would be limited until the end of the week. LTCD Reilly was to go to Lake County to set up an LAC on Tuesday morning. Then on Tuesday afternoon, go to Sonoma to assist the CG Auxiliary in completing the Sonoma LAC3. FEMA originally requested that all Auxiliary personnel were to go to the Sonoma LAC3 location, but I stated that two of the original Auxiliary Team, Brown and Gillgren, were needed at the Napa location and assigned an additional Auxiliary person join them in the afternoon as that was the busiest time of the day for processing applications as most survivors were off work.

Tuesday October 17, Eleven USCG AUX members were available and scheduled to the three ALC's. Six Auxiliary members (Mitchell, Vandebloom, Saber, plus the USCG team) were assigned to set up the Sonoma LAC at the Hanna Boys Center. After the initial set up of the LAC, the Coast Guard Auxiliary were assigned to do the initial processing of the fire survivors, crowd control, document control, staff check in and other administrative /security duties.



Two Auxiliary members (Marshall & Blackburn) were stationed at the Santa Rosa LAC and three Auxiliary members (Brown, Gillgren, & Berkov) were stationed at the Napa LAC2.



The USCG team was then deployed to Lake County Tuesday evening to set up a LAC4. No Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel were requested to assist at this location as there were fewer fire victims.

During the operations, Commodore Wally Smith and his spouse, Auxiliarist Jane Smith, visited both the Napa and Sonoma LAC locations, taking photos and meeting both the local FEMA and OES managers. They were also introduced to the USCG Sonoma/Napa Fire Response Team leader, LCDR Greg Reilly who had just returned from Lake County. It became apparent by day two, that having bi-lingual or Spanish / English speaking members was becoming very important in our support of the FEMA mission. Many of the fire survivors were low income Hispanic persons and had limited English speaking ability.

Wednesday October 18, the USCG Auxiliary had eleven members located at the three FEMA LAC's in Sonoma, Santa Rosa and Napa. By Wednesday the work pattern was pretty well established and the numbers of fire survivors applying for FEMA and other assistance stabilized as the FEMA locations were well known. The number of applicants peaked during the afternoons as many were off work, so for the Napa and Sonoma LAC, more USCG Auxiliary personnel were needed in the afternoons to handle the additional applicants. By Wednesday, the Santa Rosa LAC1 was processing roughly 600 applicants per day, Napa LAC2 was processing 350-400, and Sonoma LAC 3 was processing 200-230 per day. Also the local businesses and wineries started dropping by to request for assistance. The Sonoma LAC3 had the State Insurance Commissioner plus a bay area TV station conduct a news interview with both the Commissioner and the Local FEMA Director. The Auxiliary's role changed to security at this point as we were told not to allow any cameras filming in the processing room. This was a privacy issue as personal information was on every computer screen in the room.



One additional mission that was taken on by the Auxiliary was emergency procedures and first Aid. In Napa, Wednesday, an off-duty paramedic (working for one of the many LAC agencies) and Mike Brown responded to a call to assist a female with breathing troubles in another part of the building. An off-duty nurse joined in the assist. The female calmed down after about 15 minutes and decided against further treatment or transport to a hospital. That was the only medical issue that arose during our mission at LAC2 Napa. In Sonoma, the fire was still present in the surrounding hills, so the FEMA supervisor requested that the Auxiliary prepare an emergency evacuation plan (we were the only personnel with local knowledge of the area). We prepared an emergency evacuation plan that included both a route on local roads, plus an emergency plan for First Aid and CPR for any fire victims or response workers.

Thursday, October 19, the USCG Auxiliary had 12 members stationed at the three FEMA LAC's providing a variety of missions, from Data entry, IT and translations in Napa, Initial processing, site management and document control in Sonoma, and logistics in Santa Rosa.

Friday, October 20, the USCG Auxiliary had 11 members stationed at the three FEMA LAC's. The weekend Auxiliary personnel schedule was completed which would rotate in other Auxiliary Members that could only provide their services on weekends, and give the other members some time off. Wil Sumner was notified at 10:00 by Commander Lynn and Commodore Smith that the services of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary would not be needed at end of business on Friday evening as FEMA was now fully staffed. All USCG Aux members that were working that day were personally notified to stand down plus given their "Payday" and gratitude for their



volunteer services, Those Auxiliary members assigned to deploy over the weekend were notified to Stand Down by email or phone, and thanked for volunteering for their services.



#### Event Debrief:

All Auxiliarists who responded to the LAC's did an exceptional job, acting always in a professional and courteous manner with fellow LAC staffers as well as the public. The chain of leadership and management was properly utilized. No problem big or small arose that we couldn't solve. The excellence of our crew was magnified by their positive interactions everyday with the endless sorrow, stress, and language barriers that the evacuees and survivors brought with them to the center. They provided comfort and a sympathetic ear to all victims they encountered, as the FEMA LAC unit was the first POC for these people in dealing with bureaucracy involved with the aftermath of the fires. One outstanding example was that of Jerry Gillgren in overcoming near-constant technical problems regarding crashing websites and dealing with all manner of IT issues. His Spanish-speaking ability (as was the same abilities of several other Auxiliarists) also was immensely useful every day in this disaster. Another outstanding example was when Glen Marshall, at the Santa Rosa LAC, after being notified of the short supplies at the other FEMA, LAC's, took our orders of paper, masks, gloves, sanitizer, water, forms, etc., and used the local FEMA manager's truck to deliver these items to the Sonoma and Napa LAC's. (Not an easy task as many roads were still closed due to the fires).

When the FEMA leadership at each LAC was informed that the USCG Auxiliary were to stand down on Friday evening, they expressed great disappointment that we were leaving. That same response was echoed by the rest of the FEMA team and County officials as well, and was coupled with expressions of gratitude for our service. Fellow Auxiliarists had a similar sentiment of disappointment in having to stand down, in that we wanted to stay on and keep contributing to the cause. A hearty "Bravo Zulu" to our team for their dedication and hard work in stepping up to enhance the spirit of "Devotion to Duty."

Prepared by Wil Sumner, Michael Brown, and Carrie Vanderboom.

**November 3<sup>rd</sup> - Australian Visitor** - Sector San Francisco, CGC Pike, and Station San Francisco with Coast Guard Auxiliaries, Como Vic Connell, Como Wally Smith and DSO-PA Jane Smith had the pleasure of hosting Deputy Commissioner Dean Storey of Marine Rescue New South Wales with the support of Captain Nelson and Lieutenant Wu. Our Australian guest enjoyed a day of exchanging best practices and strengthening international partnerships.



**Como Smith, Commissioner Storey,  
DSO-PA Smith, Como Connell**



**Commanding Officer, Commissioner Storey, and Chief  
On the 87' Cutter Pike at YBI**



**Commissioner Dean Story at the helm of the 45' RMB  
With the guidance of Master Chief Via**

Respectfully reported,  
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