



“Get Me in This Thing...” - Joining the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

■ by VINCENT T. PICA, II

Division Captain, Division 18 (ISR) - United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



In the days that followed September 11, 2001, those words kept running through my head... What could I do that would be something more concrete than writing a check to the Red Cross? While many Americans turned to volunteerism in order to put their hearts, hands and minds at work, I was faced with two realities - at nearly 48, I wasn't exactly what the Army Recruiter at Times Square in New York had as #1 on his list of potential (or wanted) candidates and, secondly, it was apparent that the terrorists were seriously dedicated to wiping out as many Americans as possible. The unthinkable - suddenly - became thinkable. "Terrorists are coming here to kill my wife and kids" kept running through my mind... With both a Presidential election now in "Wide Open Throttle" and September 11th just ahead, I thought this might strike a chord.

Do Something You Love

I suppose I could have fallen into a mental "Maginot

Line" at that point - board up the windows, form caches of water, medicines and food and just keep peering over the ramparts - and hope they never came...

A friend in the U.S. Military advised me to "Do something you love... many school-age children wanted to be fire fighters or police officers when they were kids... go volunteer to help them..." So, I thought about it - beyond family, nation and our God above, what do I love..? The sea spread out before my mind's eye...

So, I turned to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, an integral part of the United States Coast Guard Forces. I submit that it is among the most effective ways to "get in this thing..." If you live, work or "summer" "Out East" on Long Island, please read on.

Over 200 years ago, Richard "Light Horse" Harry Lee, one of George Washington's commanders and ironically the father of Robert E. Lee, coined the immortal say-

ing about George Washington himself - "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." The key about an Auxiliarist is that they are neither for war nor for peace but are all about being for America. The Auxiliary is a creature of the Congress itself.

Congress established the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in 1939 to assist the Coast Guard in promoting boating safety. It boasts more than 30,000 members from all walks of life who receive special training so that they may be a functional part of Coast Guard Forces.

Today the Auxiliary plays a larger role with greater responsibilities than at any other time in history. Auxiliarists are at the helm of Marine safety and security patrols, serving as foreign language interpreters, educating the public on recreational boating safety, and supporting many other vital operational and administrative missions. Last year, they saved 257 lives, assisted

10,485 others, volunteered over 440,000 hours in support of Coast Guard operations and more than 69,000 hours educating the recreational boating public.

The Auxiliary, like any large organization, *has* an organization - there is a national level, a district level and, ultimately, the flotilla level. The flotilla is where the rubber meets the road or, better put, where the hull meets the waves.

All members join the Auxiliary by joining a local flotilla and that is where the real work gets done - everything from Crew Augmentation on USCG sea-going vessels to helping out in the mess hall at a duty station. And, there couldn't be a better time to join as USCG Auxiliary Division 18 (essentially, eastern Long Island) is in the midst of a concerted recruitment campaign!

Do you need a boat to join? Absolutely not! We'll train you to become a certified crewmember. However,

if you have one and want to get it certified as an "Operational Facility" you one day could find yourself leading a patrol as coxswain on the deck of your own vessel with a crew under your responsibility.


Do you need to know how to swim to join? Again, no! There are many jobs within the USCG Auxiliary that are wholly land-based - public education, public affairs, radio watch standing at a USCG Coast Guard station or helping out as a mechanic at the motor pool. You don't even have to like the water... you just have to want "get in this thing" and do something for your natio.

It has been said that this will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.

Be brave. Get in this thing. Email me at JoinUSCGAUX2008@aol.com or go direct to MaryJo Cruickshank, who is in charge of new members' matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."

Moriches Inlet - September 2008

Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise Sunset	Moon Time Visible	% Moon
Wed 3	Low 3:36 AM High 10:02 AM		0.1 3.3	6:20 AM 7:19 PM	Rise 10:26 AM Set 8:50 PM	10
Thu 4	Low 4:10 AM High 10:46 AM		0.2 3.2	6:21 AM 7:18 PM	Rise 11:31 AM Set 9:18 PM	17
Fri 5	Low 4:45 AM High 11:31 AM		0.5 3.1	6:22 AM 7:16 PM	Rise 12:35 PM Set 9:51 PM	25
Sat 6	Low 5:23 AM High 12:18 PM		0.7 3.0	6:23 AM 7:15 PM	Rise 1:36 PM Set 10:31 PM	34
Sun 7	High 12:42 AM Low 6:13 AM		2.4 0.8	6:24 AM 7:13 PM	Rise 2:33 PM Set 11:17 PM	43
Mon 8	High 1:35 AM Low 7:24 AM		2.4 1.0	6:25 AM 7:11 PM	Rise 3:24 PM	53
Tue 9	High 2:32 AM Low 8:36 AM		2.4 0.9	6:26 AM 7:10 PM	Set 12:11 AM Rise 4:08 PM	62
Wed 10	High 3:32 AM Low 9:35 AM		2.4 0.8	6:27 AM 7:08 PM	Set 1:10 AM Rise 4:46 PM	71
Thu 11	High 4:29 AM Low 10:26 AM		2.5 0.6	6:28 AM 7:06 PM	Set 2:14 AM Rise 5:17 PM	79
Fri 12	High 5:19 AM Low 11:13 AM		2.7 0.5	6:29 AM 7:04 PM	Set 3:20 AM Rise 5:45 PM	87
Sat 13	High 6:02 AM Low 12:01 PM		3.0 0.3	6:30 AM 7:03 PM	Set 4:27 AM Rise 6:09 PM	93
Sun 14	Low 12:28 AM High 6:42 AM		0.1 3.2	6:31 AM 7:01 PM	Set 5:35 AM Rise 6:33 PM	97
Mon 15	Low 1:08 AM High 7:19 AM		0.1 3.4	6:32 AM 6:59 PM	Set 6:44 AM Rise 6:56 PM	99



Caring for the people of Long Island's East End . . .

"You were a tremendous help to my family. May God bless you all." - Riverhead

"Your care was so affectionate and personal that our beloved father felt as if it was us ministering to him." - Moriches

. . . pain and symptom control in a familiar and loving environment at home . . . individualized plan of care and comfort under direction of the primary physician, with short term hospitalization when needed . . . bereavement care for families.

Please call us - 631-288-8400

East End Hospice
A New York State Certified Hospice • East End Hospice, Box 1048, Westhampton Beach, NY 11978 • www.eeh.org
Certified by Blue Cross, Medicare/Medicaid and private insurance accepted. No one will be denied care because of inability to pay. • East End Hospice does not discriminate on any basis in admission to its programs or activities.