

THE QUEST

...for excellence through training



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING

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IN MEMORIAM



COMO Diane Williams DVC-TL

Rear Commodore Academy Held at N-Train

Guenther H. Hennig, BC-TIL National Department of Training

From 23 – 25 January, 2007, Auxiliarists from the North, the South, the East and the West once again came together for their annual National Training Conference (N-Train) held in St. Louis, MO. Of particular interest to us in the National Department of Training, was the workshop designed and developed exclusively for the Rear Commodores.

This year COMO Diane Williams DVC-TL organized the RCO Academy sessions. Ken Kendal DVC-TI, Ron Fritz BC-TLM, Guenther Hennig BC-TIL, Linda Nelson BC-ORP and Gail Fisher, DC-T assisted her. This version of the RCO Academy, essentially a C-School, was introduced in 2006. Based on the evaluations provided by the attending RCOs in 2006, three new presentations were added, including Conflict Resolution and Administrative Investigations, Ethics and Helping Your Team During Transition. Additionally, several topics were re-written and others dropped altogether thus making it possible to fit the instructional presentations into a three-day period. By adhering to a strict "time discipline" for the classes, it was not only possible to accomplish this endeavor but also to add a non-planned session on administrative tasks, (i.e. the proper completion of travel vouchers).

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"The Quest"

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AMERICA'S VOLUNTEER LIFESAVERS

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Throughout the entire session the instructors encouraged the attendees to complete their course evaluations, preferably immediately after the instructional periods. Evaluations are essential to the successful development of courses such as the RCO Academy. Only with the help of the participants who provide feedback describing their assessment of the quality of the instructions, the applicability and usefulness of the presented material and the performance evaluation of the instructors, can a high instructional and performance standard be attained and maintained.

The critiques returned to COMO Williams provided information that generally was very favorable of the course organization, course topics, the instructors and the allotted time. There was also valuable information suggesting ways to improve the course curriculum and topics.

It became obvious that the Academy, with everything that it included, created significant interest among the Senior Leadership. Past National Commodore, COMO Gene Seibert and former National Chief of Staff, COMO Carole Urgola, attended some of the sessions and made remarks offering advice and opinions that were greatly appreciated by all. All of the members of the National Executive Committee stopped by in between their meetings to meet and welcome the RCOs.

Finally, there were the social aspects. Long after classrooms sessions had concluded the RCOs, the instructors and other attending Auxiliarists could be seen enjoying and appreciating each other's opinions and company. On Wednesday evening, National Commodore COMO Steve Budar extended an invitation to the RCOs and the instructors at the RCO Academy to attend a reception in his suite that was greatly enjoyed by all. Listening to the lively conversation made it very clear that fellowship was alive and well in the Auxiliary!

Overall, it is fair to state that the RCO Academy was a success. It is also certain that the staff of the National Department of Training will continue to strive to provide high quality training opportunities to support mission readiness, leadership and continuous learning for all members.

LAST ISSUE'S OPINION POLL RESULTS

QUESTION:

“Should the AUXOP program include non-operational courses?”

YES - 80%

NO - 20%

NOT SURE - 0%

OPINION POLL READER COMMENTS

“No. Auxiliary Operational Specialist was and is the name of the program. If you start watering it down with non-operational courses it loses its prestige.”



“YES, I believe we should have some non-operational courses made available. By giving reasonable options, I believe we can breathe new life into the AUXOP program. Many get stumped by the AUXNAV course, and some of what is being taught in it is not relevant in today's navigational world.”

The editors of “The Quest” would like to take the opportunity to thank our readers for their comments and insights.



New AuxNav Course In Development

The National Department of Training is working to replace the Advanced Coastal Navigation text and introduce a new AuxNav course. Work began a couple of months ago to replace Advanced Coastal Navigation text with a new text - The Weekend Navigator by Robert J. Sweet. The Weekend Navigator text has a greater focus on electronic navigation.

We are now working to create Student Study Guides, Instructor Guides, additional information on "charting basics", charting problems and on-line and paper-based test question databanks. The new text and course should be available in the late fall of 2007.

IT Course On-Line and Paper-based Exams Availability

With the introduction of the new "Instructor Development Course" (IDC) in January 2007, a new standard was established for instructor training in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. We recognize, however, that during that course introduction, there were members involved in training on the "Instructor Training" (IT) course and they needed to complete that course. To accommodate those members, the IT exam has been available on-line and in ANSC.

At this point, new members starting instructor training should use the "Instructor Development Course" (IDC) available at <http://www.cgauxed.org/elib/idc.htm>.

The "Instructor Training" (IT) course's on-line and paper-based exams will be unavailable as of 1 May 2007. Members currently taking the IT course are advised to complete their coursework and take the exam prior to 1 May 2007 to become qualified in the program. (Source: DC-T and DC-E)

QUOTES



"If at all possible, do not discourage enthusiasm" USMC

"Be yourself. Everybody else is already taken."

Oscar Wilde

"Play your part well. Therein lies honor."



Fortune Cookie

TRAINING ARTICLES NEEDED

We are requesting your help in making "The Quest" the most interesting and informative training newsletter possible. We need plenty of feedback from our readers. We value



your comments, suggestions, compliments, and constructive criticisms. We also need input from our instructors describing their courses (LAMS, AUXLAMs, AMLOC, ASOC, etc.) and teaching experiences; course

critiques from students; and plenty of photos.

Thank you for your assistance.

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From the "Gold Side"

Intellectual Property Rights

by Dan Reid, USCG Training Manager, G-13

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Feature

MEMBER OPINION POLL

In each issue, we will be soliciting your opinions and comments on a variety of current training issues. A tabulation of your responses will be published in the following issue of "The Quest".

Disclaimer: This opinion poll is intended solely to gauge member sentiment and is for informational purposes only.

QUESTION:

"Should Robert's Rules of Order (parliamentary procedures) be a required part of elected officer training?"

YES NO NOT SURE

Email you replies and/or comments to "The Quest" at ronsmom74@aol.com.