



Coast Guard Retiree Council — Northwest



RETIREE NEWSLETTER

“They Also Serve”

VOLUME IX ISSUE !

ALL HANDS MODERNIZATION

Early 2009 Milestones

Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

To the Men and Women of the United States Coast Guard:

Last summer I announced that the coming year would be a vital period for our Service’s pursuit toward a more agile, flexible and responsive organization. As we embark on a new year, I wanted to take this opportunity to personally remind you that real changes are taking place for our Service. The start of 2009 has already seen major Modernization milestones, and I am pleased to provide you the highpoints of our recent progress toward a modernized Coast Guard.

On January 15, 2009, we took a critical step toward building our mission support organization when we realigned the reporting chains for the Atlantic and Pacific Maintenance and Logistics Commands (MLCs) from the Area Commanders to the Coast Guard Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff will become the Deputy Commandant for Mission Support (DCMS) upon Congressional authorization. For details on the MLC Realignment see the “MLC Realignment” post at <http://www.uscg.mil/modernization>.

On January 16, 2009, key elements of “Version 1.0” of our new orga-

nization were approved including primary functions of the organizational design for our planned Coast Guard Operations Command (OPCOM), Coast Guard Force Readiness Command (FORCECOM), as well as the four Logistics/Service Centers that remain to be established. These



centers will be stood up in the immediate future and will bring to life the vision of a unified mission support organization to provide 24-hour customer service, one-stop technical support and assistance for all maintenance, logistics, and supply matters that go beyond the expertise of the unit. In my last Modernization update, I shared with you that we still need legislative authority to fully implement our Modernization changes and this is why we are starting with “Version 1.0.”

Just yesterday, 26 January, the Surface Forces Logistics Center (SFLC) and the Asset Product Office (APO) were established in Baltimore, Maryland. The SFLC will provide the surface fleet with depot level support services. Organized along product lines, including patrol boats, small boats, MECs, HECs/NSCs, ATON vessels, etc., the SFLC will unify support for our surface forces under a single organization just as the Aviation Logistics Center (ALC) has done for our aviation assets since its stand-up on October 30, 2008.

The APO will be responsible for enrolling new assets into the new product line support model. It will support acquisition and life cycle management, and the implementation of integrated logistical support for all legacy and newly acquired assets to ensure cross-programmatic standardization. The APO will work hand-in-hand with each of the Service/Logistics Centers to vastly improve the Coast Guard’s ability to deliver operational capability within established economic and schedule constraints.

In February 2009, the Shore Infrastructure Logistics Center (SILC) and the C4IT Service Center (C4ITSC) are scheduled to stand up. The SILC, which will be located in Norfolk, Virginia, will consolidate support provided by our Facility Design and Construction Centers, Civil Engineering Units, and MLCs. The SILC will provide all depot and intermediate level support for our shore facilities.

The C4ITSC, which will be located in Alexandria, Virginia, will consolidate electronics and IT support, including that provided by the C2CEN, TISCOM, MLC’s and Operations Systems Center (OSC) in order to provide depot level information technology support for all mission execution requirements.

On February 13, 2009, the current Personnel Service Center in Topeka, Kansas will be renamed the Coast

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Guard Pay and Personnel Center. This name change will precede the March 16, 2009 stand up of the mission support organization's Personnel Service Center (PSC) in Arlington, Virginia. The new PSC will unify, within one service center, all Coast Guard personnel and human resource support currently provided by the Personnel Command, the Pay and Personnel Center, the Recruiting Command, as well as some functions currently carried out by Headquarters, the MLCs, and ISCs, including services such as housing, MWR, CGES, educational services, health and safety, and work-life.

Although I've listed the intended locations for each of the Centers, this in no way suggests we plan on moving large numbers of people to or from these locations. To better serve Coast Guard operators world-wide, we anticipate establishment of Center detachments and/or detached duty assignments at geographic locations remote from the Centers themselves. A team has been working on the concept of enhancing our use of a geographically dispersed workforce (GDWF). For details on the GDWF concept see the "Modernizing How We Work" post at <http://www.uscg.mil/modernization>.

On January 22, 2009, unions were provided detailed information for many of these approved design plans. This information included functional realignment of positions, as well as proposed sequential steps to be taken by LANT and PAC Area management for organizational alignment, such as transitioning to numbered staffs prior to the full implementation of OPCOM and FORCECOM pending Congressional approval. We are committed to meeting our bargaining obligations prior to implementing changes in employee working conditions.

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

Electronic mail notification resumed with the November 2007 newsletter published by the CG Retiree Council—NW. If you have already signed up for this notification, it is not necessary to submit a change. To add your name, or change your prior e-mail address, use the Retiree Council—NW website: <http://www.cgretirenw.org>. To make the change "click" on **Feedback**.

As I have stressed since we began to work together to modernize our Coast Guard, the success of our Service is a direct reflection of our people. A primary goal of Modernization is to retain every person in the Coast Guard, and every effort is being made to that end to minimize the effect organizational change has on our workforce.

Over the coming weeks leadership will provide you more specific detail in regard to the Modernization milestones I've discussed, including how they may affect or potentially affect you directly.

I encourage you to continue to review the Modernization Section on CG Central, the <http://www.uscg.mil/modernization> web site and Commandant's Corner 2.0 in order to stay "smart" on the exciting future we are building for our Service.

Thank you for the dedicated commitment you give the world's best Coast Guard our Coast Guard.

Semper Paratus!



Adm. Thad Allen, Commandant of the Coast Guard, conducts a safety and security inspection in Huston, Texas. USCG Photo

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COAST GUARD RETIREE COUNCIL NORTHWEST
USCG Integrated Support Command
Worklife (Retiree Council)
1519 Alaskan Way South, Bldg. 1
Seattle, Washington 98134



BILL WOULD FREEZE TRICARE FEES FOR RETIREES

*By Rick Maze - Staff writer,
Army Times, Feb 4, 2009*

A key lawmaker has reintroduced legislation that would freeze Tricare fees for military retirees, a preemptive strike in case the Defense Department tries again to raise deductibles, copayments and enrollment fees in an effort to hold down its health care costs.

The Military Retirees' Healthcare Protection Act, introduced Tuesday, is important because of its chief sponsor — Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Texas — and because of the timing.

Edwards, an ally of President Barack Obama who had been discussed as a possible vice presidential running mate, is chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee responsible for military quality of life programs and veterans health care. Overcoming Edwards' opposition would be difficult.

Additionally, Edwards' move to drop a bill even before the Obama administration has announced its plans for military health care is a warning sign to the White House and Defense Department that it might be a mistake to assume that Tricare fee increases could be used to help cover health care costs in the 2010 defense budget.

For three consecutive years, the Defense Department has asked Congress to increase Tricare fees for retirees and to revise pharmacy copayments for active-duty families and retirees in order to reduce costs. Congress has rejected the idea every time.

Defense officials estimate fee increases would cut \$1.6 billion in defense health care costs, partly from the fees and partly from discouraging working-age retirees who have other health care options from enrolling in the military health benefits plan.

Edwards, who estimates that higher fees would apply to 3 million people, made clear that discouraging the Obama administration is part of his strategy. "I hope the new administration will not request the same premium increases as the last, but this legislation will allow us to remove any temptation," he said in a statement.

"I believe that keeping our promise of quality, affordable health care for military retirees is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do," Edwards said. "It is right because our nation has a moral obligation to keep our promises to those who have kept their promise to defend our nation. It is the smart thing to do because we cannot attract the best and brightest to fight our war on terrorism in the years ahead if they see us breaking faith with those who served in years past. To win the war on terrorism, we must keep faith with our warriors."

Rep. Walter Jones, R-NC, is an original cosponsor of the bill, which last year had more than 215 cosponsors.



FROM NAUS UNIFORM SERVICES JOURNAL

TRICARE Coverage for Medicare Eligible Beneficiaries Under Age 65

The TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) recently published a news release reminding Medicare eligible beneficiaries under age 65 that they must enroll in Medicare Part B to keep their TRICARE benefits.

Medicare Part B is medical insurance. It helps cover outpatient and physician services as well as some physical and occupational therapies and home health care. The basic Medicare Part B monthly premium is currently \$96.40 and will remain the same for 2009. Individual premiums could be higher, based on income.

Once Medicare coverage is effective, it becomes the primary insurance, while TRICARE becomes the secondary. Beneficiaries who take appropriate steps to maintain their TRICARE eligibility will often have no out-of-pocket expenses for health care services covered by Medicare and TRICARE.

Generally, beneficiaries who receive social security disability benefits begin receiving Medicare benefits after two years and they may choose between options such as TRICARE Prime or TRICARE for Life. Most will need to have Medicare Part B, although there are some exceptions.

Beneficiaries must take into consideration several factors before making a decision when it comes to Medicare and TRICARE including: if they are disabled due to injuries while serving on activity duty; if they have other health insurance; or if they are enrolled in the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan

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or TRICARE Reserve Select. Other factors may also apply, but help is available to understand the complexities of this benefit. Detailed information on how Medicare and TRICARE work together for eligible beneficiaries under 65 is available through the TRICARE website. Other resources include: Medicare 10800-633-4227; Social Security 1-800-772-1213; or by calling Wisconsin Physicians Services (TRICARE for Life) at 1-866-773-0404.

Retiree Hearing Aid Purchase Program

As many of our readers know, TRICARE does not cover hearing aids for retirees or their family members. However, some military treatment facilities support the Retiree At Cost Hearing Aid Purchase Program (RACHAPP) for service members in need of hearing aids. This program allows retired service members to purchase hearing aids at government cost. You can learn more about the program and view a list of participating facilities on the Internet at <http://militaryaudiology.org/site/aids/>.

MEMORIES OF A STC FROM HIS DAYS AT SEA

I remember one Bravo in Gallatin when the DCC was strapped down to the roof of the 01 deck behind the bridge with a pneumatic drill to try to stop the cracks as they developed. He took blue water. That was the same trip I was sharing a stateroom with the MKCM, a great friend to this day. He came back to the room after a mid watch with a big canvas bag full of tools. I asked him what that was all about and he replied:

“This is all for you and me, buddy. When this pig capsizes we’re going to work our way to lower sound, since you have the keys, and between us we’ll be able to cut our way out through the fiberglass sonar dome! I’ll be damned if I’m going down with the Po-seidon!”



USCGC Gallatin on Patrol by George Schoenberger



VA PROVIDE PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE SURVIVING SPOUSES

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced immediate actions to quickly identify and pay surviving spouses who are eligible to receive the deceased veteran’s VA compensation or pension benefit for the month of the veteran’s death.

This benefit is only payable to surviving spouses of veterans who were receiving VA compensation or pension benefits at the time of their death.

Because VA does not always know if a veteran is survived by a spouse, some surviving spouses have not received the month-of-death benefit to which they are entitled.

If you are a surviving spouse of a veteran who was receiving VA benefits at the time of death and believe you may be eligible for the month-of-death benefit, please go to www.va.gov and provide the information requested. VA will determine your eligibility.

When you reach the web page to ask your question, please select:

“Question” for the Type of Inquiry.
“Survivors Month of Death Benefit” for your Topic.
On the second page of the web form, please make sure to include:

- Your full name, address and contact preference (e-mail, phone number, or US Mail), And, the veteran’s
- o First and last name,
 - o Social Security Number or VA claim number,
 - o Veteran’s date of birth,
 - o Branch of service,
 - o Service number, if you have it, and,
 - o Service dates, if possible.

VA has also established a special Survivors’ Call Center for spouses who believe they may be entitled to this retroactive month-of-death benefit.

Surviving spouses are encouraged to contact the Survivors’ Call Center at the toll-free telephone number, 1-800-749-8387. Call center agents will assist surviving spouses in providing VA with the information needed to determine their eligibility.

The Call Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm central standard time.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY

Ev Black

A few little notes of information:

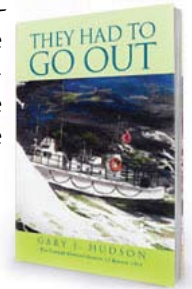
1. CAPT Al Grantham, USCG (ret) of the CG Retiree Council NW was seated as a member of the ISC Seattle Patient Advisory Committee (PAC). He will act as the liaison between the Retiree Council and the active duty medical staff.
2. The medical clinic started seeing Retirees on a space-available basis beginning 1 December 2008 for Acute and or Urgent Care. The telephone number to contact is: 206-217-6432.
3. Additional information for retirees concerning availability of medical treatment at Port Angeles, WA. Astoria, OR. North Bend, OR. And Sector Portland, OR. clinics should be available by the Summer Newsletter.
4. Retirees and annuitants who need to replace or renew their identification cards are required to provide two (2) pieces of photo identification (ID card, if still in your possession), valid state driver's license or Passport.
5. The Retired Affairs Office (RAO) staffed by retiree's in 2008 processed sixty one (61) applicants for VA disability claims. This total included retirees and active duty personnel nearing retirement or separation from the service. Twenty five (25) address changes were received and our mailing was updated.
6. To round of the year one hundred and four (104) general questions, i.e., VA disability, TriCare, and TriCare(dental) to name a few were answered.
7. Upon the return of PSU 313 from GITMO in June 2008 the RAO staff traveled to Tacoma, WA. providing an "out-briefing."
8. Last but not the least, the Coast Guard Retiree Council – NW meeting dates for 2009/2010 is April 4, 2009, July 11, 2009, October 17, 2009 and January 9, 2010. The meetings are open to all retirees, spouses and annuitants. Meetings are "called to order" at 10:30 a.m. in the Coho Room located in the BEQ Building (galley). The normal length of a meeting is one hour thirty minutes (1:30)

If visiting or in Seattle stop by and see the Council in session. You may also want to stop at the USCG Exchange to see if something meets your fancy.

A DISASTER AT SEA

New Book recounts the January 12, 1961 tragedy involving the Coast Guard's lifeboat Triumph

It was a day that will long be remembered. A gripping account of the dangers wrought by the high seas – whether to the hardy folk who make their living off the bounty of the ocean, or to the brave men of the Coast Guard – Gary J. Hudson vividly brings to life an unforgettable day when *They Had to Go Out: The Triumph-Mermaid Tragedy*.



Written with a Coast Guard insider's perspective, *They Had to Go Out* is a detailed re-telling of the events of January 12, 1961 that led to the disaster at sea involving the thirty-eight-foot fishing boat *Mermaid* and the Coast Guard's fifty-two-foot motor lifeboat *Triumph*. It shows the unfortunate confluence of factors: the inexorable forces of nature, design flaws of the boats – and human error.

Meticulously researched and full of details to satisfy aficionados of sea-going vessels, this is a book that saves for posterity that remarkable day when the courage and determination of men – especially of the Coast Guard – were tested to the limit. It serves as a reminder how *They Had to Go Out* – but that sometimes they may not come back.

About the Author

Gary J. Hudson retired as a chief boatswains mate in 1979 from the U.S. Coast Guard after twenty years of service. Ten of those years, he served at coastal lifeboat stations in the Pacific Northwest. There were two tours at station Point Adams, Hammond, Oregon, and two tours at station Cape Disappointment, Ilwaco, Washington. Both of these stations are located near the entrance to the Columbia River.

In 1961, Hudson served as a seaman at Point Adams and was transferred to a light station a few days before the 12 January 1961 Triumph-Mermaid tragedy. In future tours at Point Adams and Cape Disappointment, he served as a qualified heavy weather coxswain and surfman.



DISNEY, ARMY RESORT MAKE VACATIONS MORE AFFORDABLE FOR TROOPS

By William Bradner

Special to American Forces Press Service

A Disney vacation just got more affordable.

With the "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" offer, active and retired U.S. military personnel, including active members of the United States Coast Guard and activated members of the National Guard or Reserves, can enjoy complimentary, multi-day admission into Disney's U.S. theme parks, and additional special ticket offers for family members and friends.

"For so many of the men and women who serve in our U.S. military, time together with their families is cause enough for celebration," said Jay Rasulo, chairman of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. "We are grateful for their service and hope 'Disney's Armed Forces Salute' will allow our troops to create wonderful, magical memories with their family and friends."

Shades of Green, a resort hotel on Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla., is open exclusively to servicemembers, retirees, defense civilians, and their families. It is a safe haven for military families whether they're reintegrating after an overseas deployment, having one last "family fling" before mom or dad deploys, or simply getting away for a weekend.

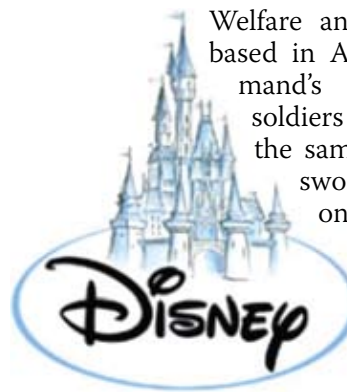
"If I suddenly break down and cry in a Holiday Inn, everyone's going to be looking at me funny," one guest recently explained. "Here, if it suddenly dawns on me he's leaving in a week and I start to cry, I've got 10 people asking how they can help and offering support."

The resort manager, Brian Japak, is a retired soldier, and his son has survived two roadside-bomb attacks while serving in Iraq.

"I have great empathy for the families that we serve here," he said.

Japak said the staff makes every effort to ensure the guests are pampered Disney style -- with just a touch of "home" through the tax-free Army and Air Force Exchange Service shoppette and a Mickey Mouse statue decked out in red, white and blue. Security at the hotel complies with standard base force protection regulations, ensuring the soldiers and families can sleep soundly and not worry about their personal safety.

Shades of Green is an Armed Forces Recreation Center hotel run by the Army's Family and Morale,



Welfare and Recreation Command based in Alexandria, Va. The command's mission is to provide soldiers and their families with the same quality of life they are sworn to protect. Rates are set on a sliding scale, based on rank, and with no shareholders to answer to or profits to be made, the rates are kept remarkably low.

At the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, from Jan. 4 to Dec. 23, each active or retired member of the U.S. military may obtain one free five-day "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" ticket with "Park Hopper" and water park options. The ticket is valid for five days of admission into the four Walt Disney World theme parks, plus a total of five visits to a choice of a Disney water park, DisneyQuest Indoor Interactive Theme Park or certain other attractions.

During this offer period, active or retired U.S. military personnel also may make a one-time purchase up to five "Disney's Armed Forces Salute Companion" tickets -- good for five days -- for \$99 each, plus tax, for family members or friends. Although this ticket for family members and friends does not include either the Park Hopper or Water Park Fun & More options, it can be upgraded to add either such option, or both, for an additional \$25, plus tax, per option. All tickets and options are nontransferable and must be used by Dec. 23.

A similar offer is in place at Walt Disney Land in California. More information is available at installation ITT/ITR offices.

AFRCs offer four other world-class destinations for families, including Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany; Dragon Hill Lodge in Seoul, South Korea; the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu, and the Cape Henry Inn and Beach Club at Fort Storey, Va.

(William Bradner works at the Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command's public affairs office.)





SEATTLE MARINERS ARMED FORCES APPRECIATION NIGHT

Art Graddy, PACNORWEST MWR Director

ISC Seattle MWR welcomes you to the 7th annual Seattle Mariners Armed Forces Appreciation Night.

When: Tuesday, April 18th, 2008 at 1910 hours.

Where: Safeco Field.

Who: Seattle Mariners vs. Detroit Tigers.

Prices:

View Reserved Seats reduced to \$11.00 (regular price \$20).

Field Seats reduced to \$26.00 (regular price \$40)

Terrance Club Seats reduced to \$31.00 (regular price \$47).

Discounted tickets are available for all active duty military, reserves, retirees, auxiliarists, civilian employees, and family members of those categories. Authorized patrons may also buy tickets for their friends and guests. Fans in attendance will receive a special commemorative military coin courtesy of the Mariners & Boeing at the conclusion of the game. (limit 20,000). You may purchase your tickets at the Pier 36 MWR office located in the fitness center from 0730 - 1530 hours, Monday - Friday. The last day to purchase tickets will be Thursday, 9 Apr 09. You will pre-pay your tickets and the MWR staff will go to the stadium and purchase the tickets on 13 Apr 09 and contact the payees to pick-up their tickets. For information you can contact 206-217-6129/6359/6357.

You may also purchase your tickets on-line; you can access the link below to get instructions on purchasing those tickets: <http://seattle.mariners.mlb.com/sea/ticketing/military.jsp>

Pre-Game Ceremonial Activities.

- Plaque presentation to the Service Branch commanding officers,
- 1st pitch with the various military services Enlisted Persons of the Year,
- Five members of each service branch will line up on the 1st and 3rd base line,
- Joint service Color Guard,
- Service bands playing music at the gates,
- military info tables along the stadium's concourses,
- 20,000 coin giveaways after the game as the

fans leave,

- Marines drill team,
- Coast Guard member US flag display,
- Navy and Air Force members to sing the National Anthem,
- aircraft flyovers and - silent auction on the stadium's concourses to support the USO.

ALCOAST 076/09

COMDTNOTE 5211

SAFEGUARDING SENSITIVE PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION (SPII)

A. Privacy act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a

B. Privacy incident response, notification, and reporting Procedures for personally identifiable information (PII), COMDTINST 5260.5 (Series)

1. Per ref a, Protecting the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and SPII of all Coast Guard employees, contractors and the public, by reducing the risk of a serious data breach, remains a top priority of Coast Guard leadership. Ref b provides detailed guidance regarding reporting incidents and handling breaches.

2. This ALCOAST provides a link to the recently published Department of Homeland Security (DHS) handbook for safeguarding SPII. Go to [Http://www.Dhs.Gov/xinfo/share/publications/editorial_0514.Shtm](http://www.Dhs.Gov/xinfo/share/publications/editorial_0514.Shtm) or [Http://www.Dhs.Gov/xlibrary/assets/privacy/privacy_Guide_spII_handbook.Pdf](http://www.Dhs.Gov/xlibrary/assets/privacy/privacy_Guide_spII_handbook.Pdf) (retype url in lower case) to view a copy. This DHS guidebook is an excellent reference resource for all personnel entrusted with using, protecting and disposing of both pii and spii. I encourage all Commanding Officers and unit training officers to consider this as a topic of discussion at a future all hands or training evolution.

3. Additional guidance will be forthcoming in a future Coast Guard directive.

4. COMDT (CG-611) pocs are Mr. Dave Roberts, 202-475-3521 or email david.j.roberts@uscg.mil and Mr. Albert Craig at 202-475-3528 or email albert.l.craig@uscg.mil

5. Released by RDML D.T. Glenn, Assistant Commandant for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information technology.

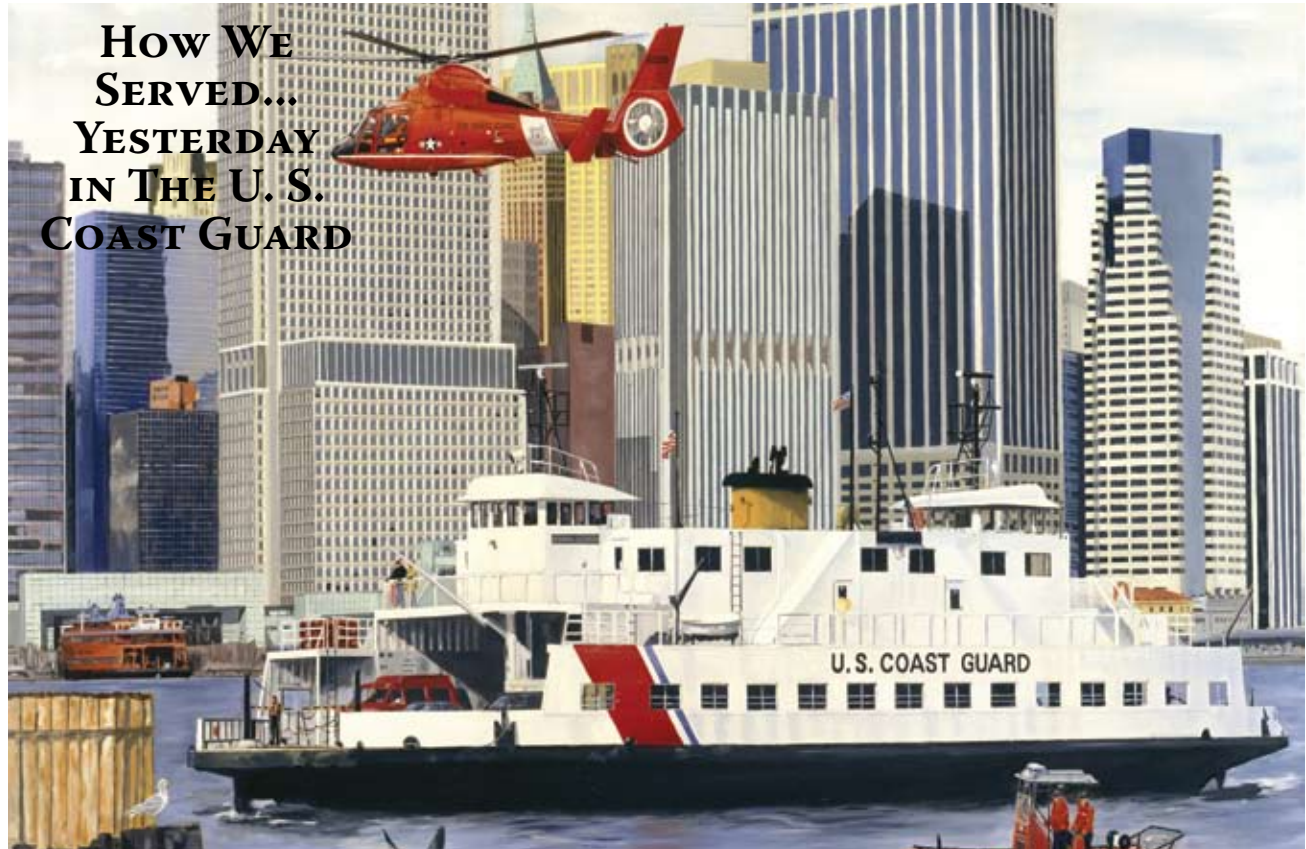
http://www.dhs.gov/xinfo/share/publications/editorial_0511.shtm

Coast Guard Retiree Council Northwest Newsletter

c/o COMMANDING OFFICER
USCG Integrated Support Command
Attn: Work Life (Retiree Council)
1519 Alaskan Way South, Bldg. 1
Seattle, Washington 98134



PRSR STD
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PERMIT NO. G-157



**HOW WE
SERVED...
YESTERDAY
IN THE U. S.
COAST GUARD**

Last CG Ferry to Governors Island by Peter de Weerd. For those who attend schools there or served a tour on the Island, GOVIS holds special memories. In 1996, The Coast Guard formally closed Governors Island. Originally the 172 acre island was an Army fort beginning in 1783, however they left the base in the early 1960s and the Coast Guard took it over on 3 June 1966 as a way to consolidate its operations in the New York Area. At the height of Coast Guard involvement on the island over 4,600 people lived and worked there.