

RETIREE NEWSLETTER

"They Also Serve"

COAST GUARD RETIREE COUNCIL NORTHWEST, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

VOLUME VIII ISSUE 2

NEW RETIREE/ ANNUITANT MONTHLY STATEMENTS

Fred L Ames

All retirees should have received their new CG-5209 Retiree/Annuitant monthly statement (pay slip) for the period 1-30 April 2008.

The new retired pay system went live effective April 1 so your May 1 pay was delivered from the new Global Pay (Retired) System. Every retiree and survivor annuitant received their pay slip about May 1 with their employee ID (EMPLID) which replaces the SSN for most routine transactions.

NOTE: Retirees with Former Spouse Protection Act (FSPA) deductions will see a change in their pay and federal tax withholding which is explained in greater detail on back of their May 1 pay slip. Please examine your withholding carefully, as it may have dropped dramatically!

In essence, those with FSPA deductions will find their monthly withholding and monthly taxable income reduced by the amount of their FSPA Property Division (because FSPA Property Division is a pre-tax deduction).

Therefore, you will likely need to adjust your federal withholding tax to take this new tax process into account.

SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSET ELIMINATED!

As March came to an end so did the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Social Security Offset. As a result of Public Law 108-375, the Social Security Offset for annuitants was eliminated effective April 1, 2008. The law provided for a phased-in elimination which began October 1, 2005, and ended March 31, 2008, with the last Social Security Offset deduction.

Prior to October 2005, at age 62 the SBP annuity was reduced because the beneficiary became eligible to receive the retiree's Social Security benefits. Effective April 1, 2008, annuitants that had their annuity reduced by the Social Security Offset now have the offset removed. Annuitants that were eligible for the minimum annuity percentage of 35 percent prior to October 2005 are now entitled to the full 55 percent of the base amount. Annuitants who were receiving the Supplemental Survivor Benefit in addition to the basic benefit will also be paid at the new rate of 55 percent. The minimum annuity percentage is now 55 percent for all annuitants. For example: with a \$1,000 base amount the annuitant should see an increase in monthly annuity to \$550 (55% x \$1,000).

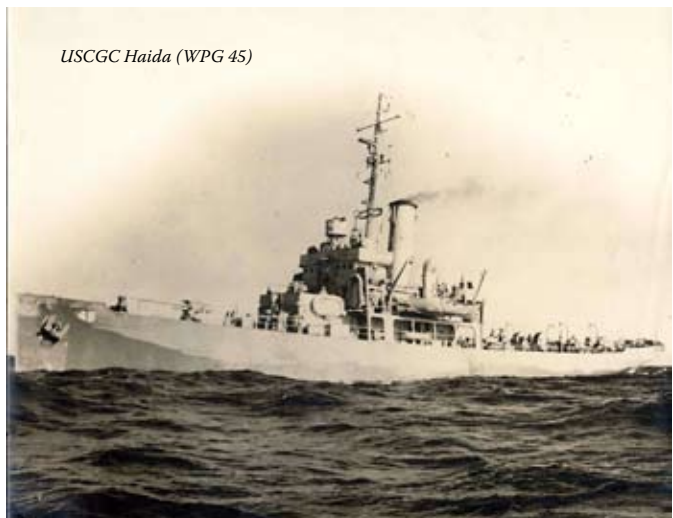
This change occurred on your May 1, 2008 payment.

EARLY COAST GUARD CUTTERS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Coast Guard cutters have served a major role in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. These ships like the 240 foot multi-mission CGC Haida WPG 45 performed its duties in the northern Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea. Commissioned on 26 October 1921 the Haida was stationed in Seattle, WA. The first duty assigned was conducting Bering Sea Patrols where she served as an acting floating court, caring for the sick natives, conducting search and rescue, checking aids to navigation, regulating fishing activities along with numerous other duties.

During one of the Haida's stays in Seattle in the early 1930's Haida and a sister ship Chelan moored at the Main Street pier. This pier is locat-

[Early Cutters continued on page 4](#)



USCGC Haida (WPG 45)

COAST GUARD OPENS NEW ROGUE STATION

By Valliant Corley, Pilot staff writer

GOLD BEACH – The U.S. Coast Guard dedicated its new Rogue River Search and Rescue building recently as it began its 2008 season at the Rogue River.

“We literally broke ground a year ago today,” said Capt. Lance O. Benton, commander of the Coast Guard Group North Bend.

“This is a great improvement over before,” Benton said. “We can keep a good eye on the ocean here.”

Master Chief Boatswain’s Mate James M. Clemens, who heads the Chetco and Rogue river operations, said the new quarters bolster the Coast Guard’s readiness.

“It’s long overdue,” Clemens said. “The history of the Coast Guard shows we have been patrolling these waters at least 40 years.”

The new building, which includes a kitchen and sleeping quarters for the four-man crews who man a 47-foot motor lifeboat, is a big improvement over former quarters.

“For years and years, we’ve been living out of a single side trailer,” Clemens said. “Last year, we were in a construction site trailer and an RV. The project had its setbacks and challenges.

“We are very eager to open and we were able to open on time,” he said.

The rescue crews, which work two days on and two off, are headed by Tim Crochet and Brandon Lavelle. They will operate out of the Rogue River mouth until sometime in October when the recreation boats are through for the season.

“We were here still working on this yesterday,” Clemens said. “The flags went up as we cut the ribbon. We’re operational now.”

FAIRCHILD AFB FACILITIES

From: Retiree Activities Office - (retiree@fairchild.af.mil)
To: Armed Forces Retirees in FAFB Administrative Region

It has been some time now since we last had any communications with the majority of the Retirees within the Fairchild AFB administrative area. The News letter that we were sending out had “fiscal problems” and we had to cease publishing it. Hopefully, we will be able to reach a large percentage of you Retirees via E-Mail.

Currently we have a number of e-mail addresses but are not confident that they are current. This email is being sent to you to accomplish at least two things, first, to find out which of our addresses are valid and possibly get some of those corrected, and secondly, to get those of you who do get this e-mail, to contact your relative, neighbors and friends who are Retired Military folks (Army Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard (to include Reservists etc.) who live in the FAFB administrative area, to send us their E-MAIL address along with their POSTAL ADDRESS. This will give the Retiree Activities Office at FAFB the ability to contact you in two ways and also tell us what part of the administrative area we are contacting.

If we can get our data base up-to-date and keep it that way, we will than be able to keep you, the individuals

Fairchild continued on page 6

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 the block for Council Members and send YNCS Ev Black, Secretary or ETCM Tim Lackey, Council member, your e-mail address.

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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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE NEW CG RETIRED GLOBAL PAY SYSTEM

1) What is an Employee ID and why do I need it? The Employee ID is the number used to identify each retiree/annuitant. You will use it instead of your social security number when requesting changes be made to your pay. Once the self service portion of the pay system is established, you will use your Employee ID number to enter the computer system and make the changes.

2) Why did my pay change a few cents with Global Pay? Your net pay decreased by a few cents as a result of an increase in your federal income tax withholding (FITW). This is due to the annualized tax table method used by the Global Pay System. FITW from your pay is deposited in your tax account with the IRS, then applied toward your annual tax liability when you file your tax return.

3) I have a FSPA deduction. Why did my FITW change so much? With the new Global Pay System your FSPA deduction will reduce your taxable gross income before the FITW is applied. This reduction in taxable gross income will decrease the FITW withheld. To make a change to the FITW, complete a new W4 and submit it to PSC (RAS).

4) On the Pay Statement, my Pay Grade and/or Rank was incorrect. Is that going to be fixed? Approximately one percent of the Pay Statements issued in April 2008 showed an incorrect Pay Grade or Rank. This was due to a data migration problem, which has now been corrected. If you receive a future Pay Statement with an incorrect Pay Grade or Rank, please notify PSC (RAS) immediately.

5) I don't receive pay from the Coast Guard. Why did I receive a Pay Statement the end of April 2008? In April 2008, a Pay Statement was sent to every retiree, annuitant, and former spouse, even those not receiving pay from the Coast Guard. We wanted to notify you that we still have you on our rolls and that your pay is being offset or waived due to receipt of VA or Social Security benefits.

6) Why is my VA amount the same as my CRDP or gross pay? There may be instances where a retiree's VA compensation (offset) can be greater than the retiree's net pay compensation or greater than retiree's pay compensation plus their CRDP/CRSC entitlement. In these situations, Global Pay does not show the whole VA compensation amount. It only shows the amount that will zero out the retiree's retired pay compensation. If we include the full amount of VA compensation in these situations, the member's net pay would have a negative number, which is an invalid condition.

7) Why is my net pay amount more on my pay slip than what is deposited in my financial institution? The net pay amount is the accumulative total of your actual net pay and any savings allotments you have going out. If you have a savings allotment, on the Pay Statement, to the right of YOUR NET PAY, you will see two lines: one shows the amount deposited into your savings account; the other shows the amount deposited to your primary bank account (or mailed to you if you are not on direct deposit).

Also See: How to Read the New Retiree/Annuitant Pay Slip - <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/ras/gp/PayslipField-Descriptions.pdf>

8) What is Held Pay? Held pay results when we lose contact with our customer. Pay in Held Status is your disposable income, including Voluntary Support Allotments!

The process begins with a retiree or annuitant keeping us abreast of her/his current mailing address. When PSC (RAS) receives three items of returned mail, a returned 1099R, non receipt of a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or a Report of Existence (ROE), the retiree or annuitant is placed in a held pay status. Held pay is to protect you and your pay from malicious activity.

Held pay is only released when the retiree, annuitant, or valid fiduciary contacts PSC (RAS) with current information regarding address and or status of the retiree or annuitant.

Please keep in mind to update your address, direct deposit information and State tax withholding as you prepare to move.

STATE TAX REMINDER: As a reminder when moving from one state to another and updating your home mailing address, don't forget to change your state tax withholdings. The retiree must request a change for state tax as an address change does not automatically change or stop the state information that the tax is being paid to.

ISC SEATTLE

CUSTOMER SERVICE BRANCH

ISC Seattle has established a new "HOTLINE" telephone number **206-217-6700** to assist in answering questions about identification cards, automobile decals and general information. The person at this number is also capable to transfer your call to another Branch.

Normal staffing will be from 0830-1600 Monday through Friday. Should operational conditions exist and your call is not answered, please leave a message with your name and telephone number. Message calls should be answered in 24 hours (or less).

You may still call **206-217-6510** for identification card, automobile decal and general information. This number has an option for you to press "0" and leave a voice message at **6700**.



Early Cutters continued from page 1



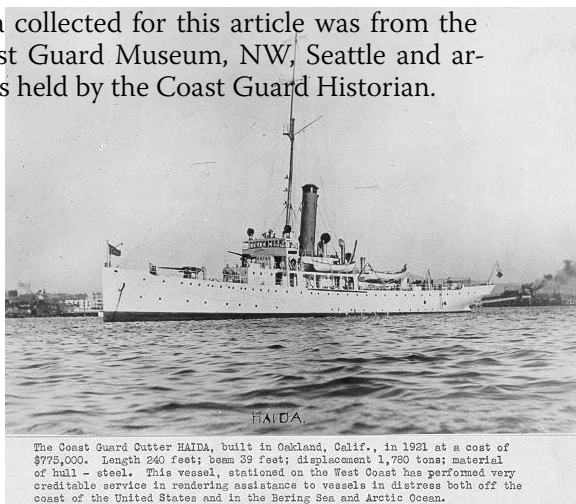
ed between the Coleman ferry dock and the Coast Guard's facility at Pier 36. The photograph was taken with Haida facing towards the shore and what was known as "Hooverville" a waterfront shack town of the Depression-era. One of the less known stories of the Haida's stay during this era was the feeding of the children of "Hooverville" from her galley.

With the outbreak of World War II the Haida continued her duties in the North Pacific and Bering Sea. Added to this was convoy escort from the Puget Sound to places in Alaska, such as Cold Bay, Dutch Harbor, Atka and Attu Islands. Her wartime appearance is depicted in the 1945 photograph taken in the Bering Sea. Note the armament and the changes in the hull and superstructure appearance.

The Haida was decommissioned on 13 February 1947, sold and evidently scrapped in 1951.

Notes & Sources:

Data collected for this article was from the Coast Guard Museum, NW, Seattle and articles held by the Coast Guard Historian.



For: Fellow Retired Coasties From: Captain Al Grantham and Captain Ray Copin



THE 2ND ANNUAL CG BALL WILL BE HELD 13 SEPTEMBER AT THE BELLEVUE WESTIN HOTEL

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR

COAST GUARD BALL

If you attended the CG Ball last September in Bellevue coordinated by the Lake Washington Navy League Council, you know what a great evening it was. If you were not able to attend, we hope you have already heard something about the planning for the 2008 Ball scheduled for 13 September. After this year, the intention is to have a Ball every other year.

We are members of the Council and the planning committee and want to encourage you to support the event by either attending if you can or by helping to sponsor the Ball with a donation to help fund expenses not covered by the sliding dinner scale for junior active duty personnel. For example, the cost for an E-6 or below is only \$25, but the actual cost per person is several times that amount. Corporate sponsorships also help to underwrite the dinner should you have such contacts.

There is a sliding scale for sponsorships as well. The Charter Member Level of \$5,000 or more brings several recognition and seating benefits. The Plankowner Level of \$1,000 or more includes recognitions and seating perks also. Any donation of \$100 or more will help. All contributions are used exclusively to facilitate Coast Guard member participation in the event. The Council is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Registration for the Ball is available on line at:

<http://lakewashnlus.org/CGBall08/CG-Ball-Reg1.php> or

Questions to: info@lakewashnlus.org

Either of us will be happy to receive any comments, questions or suggestions you may have. Thanks for your consideration.

Al Grantham (425) 641-8577 algrantham@comcast.net
Ray Copin (425) 641-6869 rjcopin@aol.com

(Just click on the above link or e mail addresses to make contact)

TRICARE RETIREE DENTAL PROGRAM – NEW CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENT

Delta Dental of California has announced that the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) of the Department of Defense awarded the company a new five-year contract to continue to administer the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP).



The TRDP, authorized by Congress as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1997, offers comprehensive dental benefits as a voluntary option to the nation's 5 million-plus Uniformed Services retirees and their family members. The new contract becomes effective on October 1, 2008. With a current enrollment of nearly 1,050,000 covered lives, the TRDP is already the nation's largest voluntary, all-enrollee-paid dental program available to this group.

The enhanced TRDP will feature some additional benefits beginning October 1, including certain implant services at 50 percent of allowable charges, an increase in the orthodontic lifetime maximum from \$1,200 to \$1,500, and 80 percent coverage for certain posterior composite restorations. Additionally, the enhanced TRDP will be extended to new overseas locations once the new contract is effective.

The TRDP will continue as a national, combined fee-for-service/preferred provider program that offers enrollees access to any licensed dentist in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Canada. While enrollees may seek care from any licensed dentist in the service area, optimal benefits will be available to those enrolled retirees and their family members who choose a participating network dentist. Different options for locating a dentist and obtaining covered services will be available to those enrolled in the enhanced TRDP overseas.

The program still carries a \$50-per-person, per-year deductible, with a family cap of \$150, and an annual maximum of \$1,200 per person against which preventive and diagnostic services are not counted. Coverage for these services, as well as for basic restorative services, periodontic services, endodontic services, oral surgery and dental emergencies, is available on the effective date of coverage.

Coverage for crowns, bridges, full and partial dentures, certain implant services, and orthodontics, payable at 50 percent, will be available after only 12 months of continuous enrollment.

Eligible retirees and their family members can find answers to their questions about the current program as well as enroll using Delta's dedicated TRDP web site at www.trdp.org or by calling the toll-free number at (888) 838-8737. Details about the new TRDP contract will be forthcoming as the effective date draws nearer.

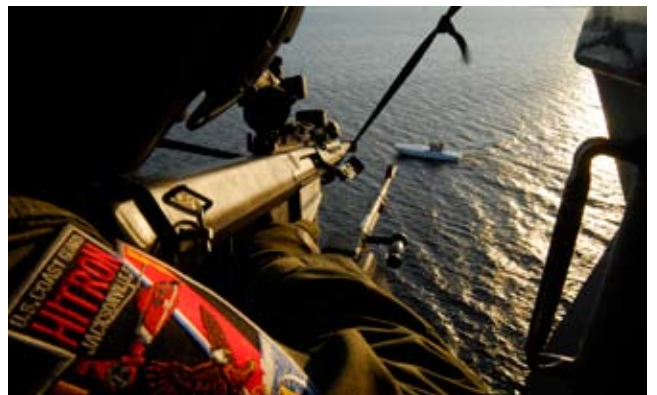
3 NEW COAST GUARD COPTERS AT PORT ANGELES

PORT ANGELES, Wash. -- Three new Coast Guard helicopters that arrived this month at Port Angeles will carry guns to carry out their role for the Department of Homeland Security.

After crews are trained, the copters will be equipped with a .50-caliber laser-sighted rifle and a machine gun.

One of the pilots, Lt. Greg Torgersen, says the new MH-65C copters also have more-powerful engines and a communications system that will allow the crew to talk with police and fire department rescuers.

The copters, which cost \$7 million each, replace three Coast Guard Dolphin copters that are being flown by cargo plane to a Coast Guard station in Hawaii.



U.S. Coast Guard

7th Annual

Greater Spokane Inland Empire Area

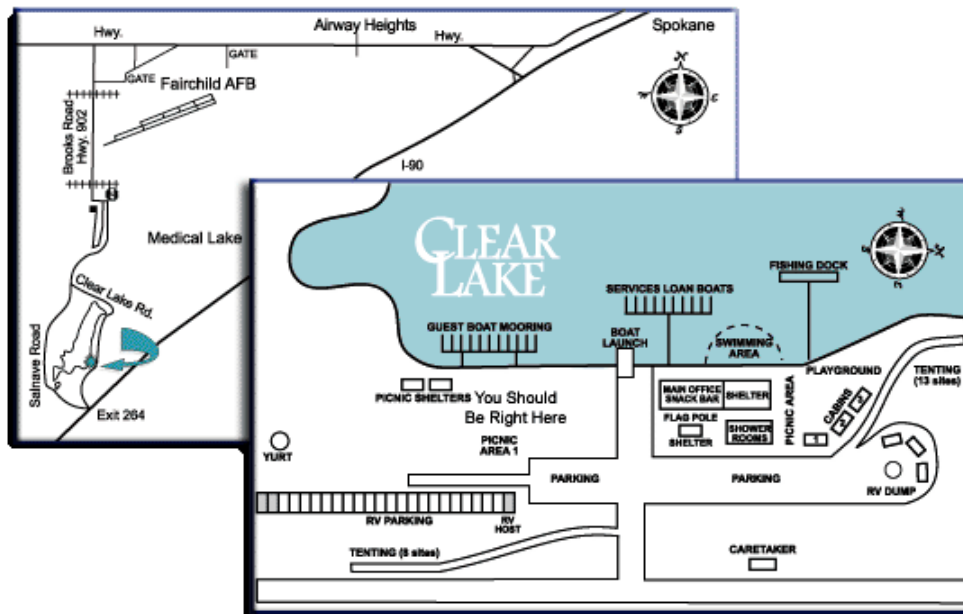
Clear Lake Picnic

DATE: Saturday, August 2 TIME: 0900 to 1800

ACTIVE RETIRED RESERVE USCG AUXILIARY EX-COASTIES

Another year to have fun under the sun. Come with a friend and meet old and new friends. We ask you bring a side dish for the group and beverages for yourself and guests. For more information contact Del Clark (509) 534-4698

e-mail oldsaltclark@hotmail.com



We will be at Clear Lake Picnic Area 1, see you there.

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we are here to serve, more current on benefits , etc. The Retiree Activities Office will do exactly this as long as we have Volunteers to do the job. In the past we have been able to find those Volunteers to do the job. Currently we have been losing some of our "Old Timers" and we could use some "new Blood".

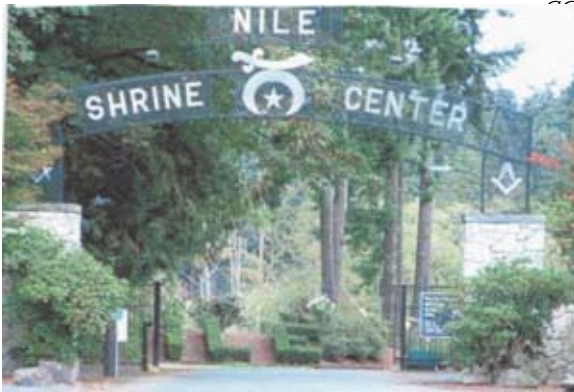
If you live near, in or in the vicinity of Fairchild Air Force Base and could spare four (4) hours or so a month we could sure use your help. If you might be interested, please give us a telephone call at (509) 247-5359 or e-mail us at retiree@fairchild.af.mil. The office is open Tuesday through Friday between 1000 hours and 1400 hours. Thanking you in advance for your help in this matter.

LOCAL INFORMATION

MPF CUSTOMER SERVICE/DEERS (ID CARDS ETC.)

For additional information contact Sgt. Whetton at (509) 247-3612 or 247-558. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

CG DAY PICNIC IN SEATTLE.



CG Day picnic for 2008 being held at the Nile Temple on Ballinger Way, Seattle.

Where: Nile Shrine Golf Course and Country Club, at their picnic area behind the Pro Shop.

When: 8 Aug 08, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Entertainment: DJ/Emcee, kids clown inflatable, sumo wrestling outfits, inactive picnic games (volleyball, tug-o-war, hula-hoop contest, gunny sack races, horseshoes, face painter). Catered menu.

Cost: If purchased during June and July:

CG active duty, reservists, retired, civilian employees, auxiliary and dependents of those categories ages 13 - 21 - \$4.00.

CG dependent youth (ages 6 - 12) - \$2.00.

All others categories (Guests) - Ages 13 years and up - \$7.00,

Youth guests, ages 6 - 12 - \$3.00.

If purchased during month of August:

CG active duty, reservists, retired, civilian employees, auxiliary and dependents of those categories ages 13 - 21 - \$6.00.

CG dependent youth (ages 6 - 12) - \$3.00.

All others categories (Guests) - Ages 13 years and up - \$9.00. Youth guests, ages 6 - 12 - \$4.00.

Children ages newborn - 5 years - free.

Respectfully,

Art Graddy
U.S. Coast Guard
PACNORWEST MWR Director
Tel. 206.217.6357
FAX - 206.217.6356
Email - james.a.graddy@uscg.mil

COAST GUARD TO BUILD \$76M N.O. FACILITY



A new \$76 million complex is planned for the U.S. Coast Guard's Integrated Support Command center in eastern New Orleans. (Rendering courtesy U.S. Coast Guard)

Broadmoor/Boh Bros. Construction Co. of Metairie will rebuild the U.S. Coast Guard's Integrated Support Command center in New Orleans under a \$76-million contract. Hurricane Katrina destroyed the ISC NOLA facility. Broadmoor/Boh will design and build the project on 26 acres at the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility in eastern New Orleans.

The facilities will include a new administrative and berthing building with about 81,000 square feet; a combination industrial and shipping receiving building totaling about 49,000 square feet with an additional 7,200 square feet of covered storage; and all associated utilities, roadways, security and parking areas to house ISC NOLA functions and tenant commands.

Waterfront facilities consist of a pier, a wharf and a floodwall gate through which vessels and buoys will be transported to the industrial building. Construction is expected to begin this summer and is scheduled for completion in late 2010.

OPERATION LIFE RING

Operation Life Ring is a fund established by the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association to provide emergency relief funds to volunteer members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary as well as other Coast Guard family members when their personal lives are impacted by catastrophic events such as hurricanes, floods, fires, etc. The fund was initially established during the devastation many suffered during Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita in 2005. To ensure continued support should other disasters occur impacting these dedicated volunteers who donate their time and personal expenses to assist the U.S. Coast Guard in their vital missions of homeland security and safety missions.

All donations to Operation Life Ring are tax deductible as a donation to a 501(C) 3 Not-for-Profit organization and are used solely for emergency relief support. For more information about Operation Life Ring, contact the Fund Administrators at information @ OperationLifeRing.org.

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

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U. S. COAST GUARD
PERMIT NO. G-157



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



Cutter Hudson Rescues Torpedo Boat Winslow by Dean Ellis

In 1898, when America declared war on Spain, the Revenue Cutter Service - a precursor agency of the modern Coast Guard - was placed under the Navy Department. The cutter Hudson, a tug that had during peacetime been stationed in New York Harbor, was one of eight vessels charged with helping blockade Cuban harbors. During a reconnaissance mission near Cardenas, Cuba, Hudson and two Navy vessels came under heavy fire. A torpedo boat, Winslow took the heaviest shelling and requested help from Hudson. Unfavorable winds made getting a towline to Winslow difficult, and 30 minutes passed before cutter successfully passed a line between the two vessels, with shells all the while striking the torpedo boat and passing overhead and near Hudson. Just before the towline was secured and Winslow was pulled to safety, a bursting shell killed an officer and three men on board the Navy warship. For their distinguished service, all of Hudson's officers and crew were awarded medals from Congress.