

Auxiliarist Becomes Cutterman

Only the 11th Auxiliarist to be awarded the Auxiliary Cutterman Insignia

Story by Kim Holland

David Gamble of Flotilla 67, Williamsburg, VA, has become the 11th Auxiliarist to be awarded the Auxiliary Cutterman Insignia.

The certificate designating him as a Cutterman was signed by Rear Admiral M.L. Austin, USCG, Fifth District Commander. The presentation was made 21 September 2016, at Sector Hampton Roads, Portsmouth, VA, by BMCM Joseph Orlando, the Officer-in-Charge of the USCGC Shearwater in the presence of the Shearwater crew. Active duty Cuttermen from nearby units and fellow Auxiliarists from Flotilla 67 joined in the special ceremony to induct David into the ranks of Cuttermen.

The Auxiliary Cutterman Insignia is intended to identify and recognize the commitment of Coast Guard Auxiliarists currently working in the cutter fleet who have regularly dedicated their efforts in support of the cutter community. This insignia distinguishes those Auxiliarists who have achieved the requisite level of qualification, knowledge, and experience, that includes both practical and proven understanding and appreciation for cutter force command, management, and operations.



USCG Aux Photo

Master Chief Joseph Orlando presenting Dave Gamble the Cutterman Certificate and pinning the Cutterman Insignia on Dave's uniform.

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The SHEARWATER crew that were present pose with Dave (center). USCG Aux Photo

patrol area is off the Mid-Atlantic coast, with occasional deployments beyond. The cutter uses state of the art technology in her computerized navigation and engine control systems, optimized crew berthing, and a small boat stern launch and recovery system. It has a galley and berthing facilities for up to 12 crew members.

David first began volunteering on the Shearwater in 2003. Just like every new crewmember, he first had to complete the personal qualification standards by learning all the ship's systems and how to respond to emergencies, such as fires and leaks. After demonstrating his knowledge, he was approved by the OIC to serve as an In-port Watchstander. He regularly stood a 24-hour watch, relieving a regular crew member.

Further, David has been underway on the Shearwater numerous times. He also has qualified as an Underway Crew Member of the Watch, relieving regular crewmembers by standing watch on the bridge, assisting with navigation, communications, lookout duty, and maintaining the ship's logs. He has deployed with the ship throughout the district, and has been privileged to serve on board as the crew executed boardings, as well as search and rescue cases.

Chief Brian Scott, the Shearwater's Engineering Petty Officer, observed that David devotes at least a day per week, which totals over one month of each year for the crew to be relieved of duty. As a special honor to recognize the contributions of the Auxiliary, the OIC has authorized the Auxiliary Ensign to be flown over the ship whenever an Auxiliarist is on duty.

David is an outstanding example of an Auxiliarist providing operational support to the U. S. Coast Guard, earning the coveted Auxiliary Cutterman Insignia; a revered accomplishment for Auxiliarists who have mastered their craft, proven their commitment to the cutter fleet, and respect for the sea.

The Auxiliary Cutterman Insignia requires a minimum of two years serving at least 52 days per year aboard a cutter, 65 feet in length or greater, and including a minimum of 24 of those days being served underway. In addition to the time commitment, one must complete the personal qualification standards for a Watchstander and for basic damage control.

The Shearwater is an 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boat based at the large Coast Guard Base at Portsmouth, VA. Its regular



Navigator Express Masthead

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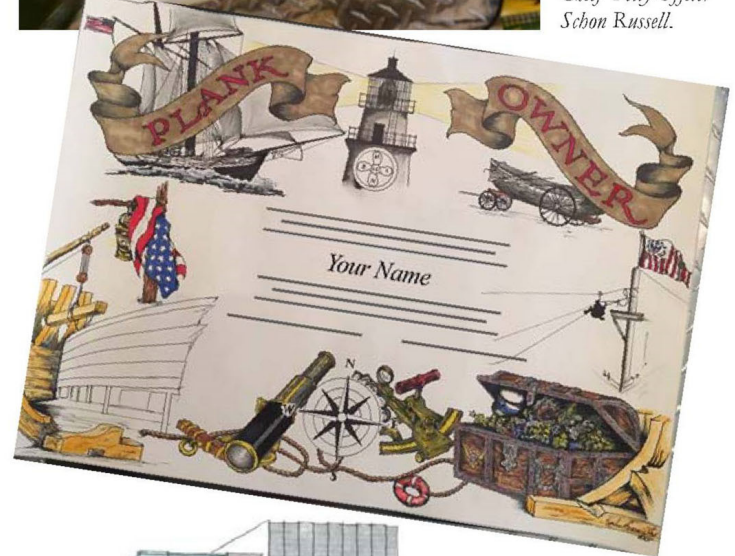
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*Artistic rendering of the
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USCG Aux Photo

USCG Auxiliary Remembers PEARL HARBOR

From left: Tom Remec (USCG Auxiliary & USMC vet), Jeff Gilmore (USCG Auxiliary & USN vet), VADM Rick Breckenridge (Deputy Commander, US Fleet Forces Command), Elwood "Woody" Hughes (WWII USMC vet who fought at Iwo Jima), and Alfred Kolodziej (USMC League).

On 7 December 1941, the Empire of Japan launched a surprise attack on the United States Naval base at Pearl Harbor, and other military facilities in Hawaii.

On that fateful Sunday morning, Japanese war planes destroyed and damaged hundreds of U.S. ships and aircraft, leaving 2,403 Americans dead, including 1,177 aboard the battleship USS Arizona. The event thrust the United States into the Second World War, and onto the global stage as a superpower. Remembrances and observations on the anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack are held in many cities across the country each year.

On 7 December 2016, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary military veterans from Division 39 in Chicago, IL joined Army, Navy, and Marine active duty and veteran groups to participate in remembrance ceremonies to mark the 75th anniversary of the attack. These Auxiliarists were invited to the Rickover Naval Academy to honor America's war dead, where over 600 naval cadets heard speeches and watched scenes from the attack.

Events, such as these, are also held to ensure the lessons of the past are carried on to future generations. As James Balcer, one of the event's organizers and himself a Vietnam veteran, says: "It's up to the older generation to carry it on from World War II ...

to bring it out and remind people the significance of [December 7, 1941]."

U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Rick Breckenridge, Deputy Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command was the event's keynote speaker and covered three distinct topics during his ad hoc speech:

Focus and Theme. Pearl Harbor endures as a symbol of American resilience and resolve, and the annual commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor fosters reflection, remembrance and understanding.

Honoring the Past. The 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor is an opportunity to honor the sacrifice and dedication of our "Greatest Generation," both civilian and military, which endured incredible sacrifices during the Second World War. The events of that day triggered American resolve, resourcefulness and an unmatched commitment to the defense of freedom.

Inspiring the Future. Understanding past events and their consequences can inspire peaceful solutions to conflict. A key focus of the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor is a brighter future in American-Japanese relations and the celebration of 71 years of peace. VADM Breckenridge tasked the audience members, mostly made up of cadets, to consider these ideas in their future careers.

Coast Guard Students Excel at DHS

Story by Colin Ellis and Alex Theodotou

The Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program (AUP) allows undergraduate students to pursue various qualifications, serve in leadership positions and establish connections with active duty service members and public servants. The program also better prepares students interested in attending Officer Candidate School after graduation. AUP serves as an effective stepping stone between college coursework and careers in the military and government service.



USCG Aux photo by PA1 Jetta Disco

Theodotou (left) and Ellis (center) speak with Secretary Johnson at a roundtable discussion with DHS interns, 11 July 2016.

A vital and element of the AUP course of study is the internship component. This summer, two AUP students secured internships with the Department of Homeland Security. Alex Theodotou is a senior at Georgetown University studying Psychology. He interned with the Office of Travel Operations and Advance for the Secretary of Homeland Security. Colin Ellis, a rising sophomore at American University in Washington, DC, studying International Relations, interned at the Office of the Military Advisor to the Secretary.

THEODOTOU: "Secretary Jeh Johnson's Advance and Travel Operations staff – the 'Advance Team' for short – is responsible for coordinating every detail of the Secretary's official travel, as well as his

engagements within the National Capital Region.

"As a summer intern with Secretary Johnson's Advance Team, I got to experience all aspects of the Travel and Advance mission. I travelled to Philadelphia for the Secretary's visit to the Democratic National Convention site. I scoped out locations on walkthroughs with the Secret Service, making note of where the Secretary would enter and which microphone he would use to address the crowd.

"This internship taught me to appreciate all the consideration and hard work on the ground that goes into planning a trip for a government executive.

"I also appreciated the importance of building courteous relationships with coworkers. My internship experience was all the more valuable because of the respect and consideration that the employees at the Department of Homeland Security showed me."



USCG Aux photo by Barry Bahler

Theodotou stands with Secretary Johnson in Philadelphia following the Secretary's visit to the Democratic National Convention site, 22 July 2016.

ELLIS: "Rear Admiral Joanna Nunan, USCG, Military Advisor to the Secretary, is the senior military officer tasked with advising the Secretary on matters pertaining to policy and operations involving the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense. The multi-agency aspect of the office meant that I was exposed to a wide range of people and professions, each offering valuable advice on opportunities after graduation.



Ellis meets with Rear Admiral Nunan, the Military Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security, 08 August 2016.

"In the Military Advisor's Office, not only did I collect and combine senior military and civilian liaison officer input on department-level policies, I actually performed editorial review of the policies themselves. As an International Relations student, it is quite a feeling to see your personal impact on policies that have multi-national reach.

"The regular interaction and personal facetime with senior leaders during the internship was unmatched. As my internship coordinator put it, it's not unusual to find yourself saying, 'Good morning Mr. Secretary.'

"The dedicated people I interacted with daily would bend over backwards to set up a tour or pass along a contact to give me an in-depth look into how our nation defends itself. My colleagues carved out time in their busy schedules to guide me in refining and adding to my resume and connected me with internship programs throughout the government for my sophomore year."

Alex Theodotou is pursuing an undergraduate research assistantship at the Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences this fall. He hopes to pursue a career in military medicine.

Colin Ellis is pursuing further coursework and internships in the Intelligence and Analysis field. He is expected to graduate in 2019.

Undergraduate students interested in exploring careers in military or government service through the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary University Programs should visit cgauxedu.us.

BEHIND THE SCENES PHOTOS



NEW CASTLE, DE - Auxiliary aviators in District 5NR spend a beautiful fall weekend to take the AUX Crew Resource MGT/ORM (AUX-17) class to ensure proficiency and safety in flight.

USCG Aux photo by Joseph Giannattasio

Historic Naval Vessel Joins the **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**

Story by
Gary C. Chapman



Photo courtesy of
The Monmouth Journal

Flotilla 2-3 welcome the newest member of its fleet, "The U.S. Naval War College Command Cutter" to the Atlantic Highlands Marina in May.

In June 2016, Flotilla 014-02-03 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary welcomed the newest member of its fleet, "The U.S. Naval War College Command Cutter," to duty. This beautifully restored ship is the pride of Flotilla 2-3's fleet of vessels and is certified as an operational facility ready to conduct missions on New Jersey's Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Waterways.

In the fall of 2015, the "Naval War College," also known as "The Admiral's Barge," was retired by the U.S. Navy. It was due to be scrapped for parts and was put up for open scrap auction. Joseph Ruffini, the Flotilla Vice Commander of 2-3, learned of the War College's possible untimely fate. With little confidence that he would even win, Joseph placed a bid on the Admiral's barge. To his surprise, he won the bid and saved this historic cutter from suffering the pains of the axe and torch.

The Naval War College was designed and built by Ed Monk in February 1957 at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and followed the plans of a standard 50-foot Area Command Cutter. While three vessels were built and put in service, the Naval War College is the only remaining ship of its design. The cutter weighs in at 20 tons, is 50 feet long with a beam of 13.5 feet. It can muster up to 610 horsepower from its twin 5.9BT Turbo Diesel Inline Cummins Engines and Northern Lights Genset that produces a top cruising speed of 12.5 knots with a draft of 4.5 feet.

In its more than half a century of service, the War College has welcomed more than 20 Naval War College presidents to its decks. It was frequently seen entertaining the likes of King Constantine of Greece, and Secretaries of State Dean Rusk and Henry Kissinger. It has ferried Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy, as well as various U.S. and international Secretaries of Defense, Navy Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chiefs of Naval Operations and fleet commanders.

Upon taking command of the vessel and bringing it home to New Jersey, Joseph and his crew began to make plans for restoring the War College back to its original glory. Extensive hours were spent rebuilding, sanding, varnishing and rewiring electrical circuits to meet U.S. Coast Guard Standards. However, eventually the payoff was in sight and the Naval War College would soon be weighing anchor again for open waters.

Today the Naval War College is berthed in Oceanport Landing, New Jersey, and when embarking for another Auxiliary mission, it often commands a second look as it is seen leaving port. Visitors are always encouraged to stop by and visit with crew and step aboard to appreciate the splendor of this amazing vessel.



USCG Aux photo by Joseph Giannattasio

CAPE MAY, NJ - District 5NR Auxiliaries actively supported the Commissioning Ceremony for the USCGC ROLLIN FRITCH, a rare and unique opportunity for members. Auxiliaries facilitated in passing out programs, escorting and assisting guests, and food services. A very public and important event, the commissioning ceremony completes the cycle from christening and launching to full status as a cutter in the United States Coast Guard.



USCG Aux photo by Joseph Giannattasio

AUXILIARY SCUTTLEBUTT

'scut-tle-butt: A drinking fountain in the Coast Guard is called scuttlebutt. A scuttlebutt in old days was a cask that had openings in the side, fitted with a spigot. Sailors used to congregate at the scuttlebutt or cask of water, to gossip or report on day's activities.*

On this page you will find all the important events and critical information to keep you up-to-date on the current happenings in the Auxiliary.

** from the USCG Glossary*

MANDATED TRAINING 2016 AND BEYOND

Mandated Training must be completed by 01 Jan 2017 (and earlier in order to qualify for certain activities and events). Visit the Mandated Training website at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=auxmt> then click on the "AUXMT FAQ" for 2016 information.

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HELP WANTED: EDITOR for 2017 NAVIGATOR

The Division of Publications of the Public Affairs Directorate is seeking an editor for the 2017 edition of the Navigator. The Navigator is a national print magazine that publishes stories of interest to a broad readership of Auxiliary members, military and government personnel, including members of Congress on an annual basis. The Navigator is an important tool in presenting the role of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary in promoting recreational boating safety and supporting the missions of the Coast Guard to the public. The Editor serves as a Branch Chief in the Division of Publications. The Editor is supported directly by one Branch Assistant editor and indirectly by the Division of Publications staff.

Applicants should have prior experience in public affairs and in the editorial process. Strong organizational skills and attention to detail are critical to success in this role. Interested applicants should send a letter of interest and a resume including their Auxiliary and professional experience to Richard Mihalcik, Director of the Public Affairs Directorate at rmjkmihalcik@sbcglobal.net.

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