COAST GUARD CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2017 EDITION

A quarterly newsletter for retired senior leaders from the U.S. Coast Guard providing a focused sampling of current events and service initiatives. The product can be repurposed for a wider audience as necessary. The product is collated and championed by CG-0923.

INTRODUCTION:
CCG - Hurricane Impacts to Future Coast Guard Readiness

This summer your Coast Guard demonstrated, once again, that we are the World's Best Coast Guard. Over a five week period, hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and Nate impacted over 2,540 miles of shoreline of the United States and its territories. I am sure that many of you watched on television as Coast Guard women and men in helicopters, boats, cutters, vehicles and on foot rescued over 11,300 people and over 1,500 pets.

During this period, Coast Guard assets resolved over 1,269 aids to navigation discrepancies, handled 290 pollution cases, located and assessed more than 3,623 grounded vessels, with more than 1,585 removed to date. Across the recent disaster response operations, more than 3,000 Coast Guard women and men, and 200 assets or platforms deployed from places as far away as Alaska, Hawaii and Maine.

Within hours after each storm's passage, Coast Guard Damage and Recovery Assessment Teams were on-scene determining the status of ports and waterways, leveraging electronic aids to navigation to facilitate the rapid reopening of the maritime transportation system and energy sectors vital to recovery, and assessing impacts to Coast Guard facilities and capabilities.

Yet, the sun never sets on the U.S. Coast Guard. While rescues in the hurricane affected areas were in progress, Coast Guard personnel seized 50,000 pounds of cocaine and heroin worth over $650 million, conducted a major SAR exercise with Arctic Nations in Iceland, participated in the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum, and provided security for the United Nations General Assembly and various Presidential engagements.

While I am sure that you share my pride, this response has a cost on our people and on our assets. Direct operational expenses, along with damage to Coast Guard facilities, IT, and aids to navigation, were costly and are being addressed in a $424M supplemental funding request just recently submitted by the Office of Management and Budget.

Our most important asset, our people, faced significant hardship. Over 700 Coast Guard service members and their dependents suffered either catastrophic property loss or were displaced due to hurricane damage.

To that end, I have appeared before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to testify on our readiness challenges and to bear witness to the impacts that responding to four major hurricanes has on our future readiness and to our people. We will remain the world's premier, multi-mission maritime service but relief is needed. To fulfill the Coast Guard's motto Semper Paratus we need the resources to rebuild, reequip and reload to meet threats, now and in the future.

Semper Paratus
Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, *Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard*

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Budget (CG-82)

Current and Future Status

Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 funding is provided through a Continuing Resolution (CR) until 8 December, 2017. While the House has passed a final Homeland Security bill, the Senate's Homeland Security bill has not been presented by the Homeland Security Subcommittee as of this writing. A Senate bill is anticipated ahead of the 8 December, 2017 CR expiration. In addition to addressing normal FY 2018 funding, Congress is expected to consider a third hurricane supplemental request from the White House. Coast Guard infrastructure and operational readiness needs were submitted through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to the Administration in October 2017 to inform the White House's ultimate submission to Congress.

FY 2019 is around the corner. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) "passback" was delivered to the Coast Guard the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. December will be a busy time for CG-82 as the office works toward final settlement with OMB, followed by formulation of the FY 2019 President's Budget submission, which is due to Congress on 5 February, 2018.

Finally, FY 2020 programming work will be in full swing shortly as well.

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The Vice Commandant released his annual Planning and Programming Guidance in November to kickoff the FY 2020 budget build. This document provides programs with overarching guidance to inform FY 2020 funding requests, which are due to CG-82 by the middle of December. These funding requests will be evaluated by the collective resource management enterprise in January and February, then consolidated for leadership decisions in March for submission to DHS in April 2018.

- ***https://www.uscg.mil/budget***

Human Capital Strategy (HCS) Update (CG-1)

Ahoy, Coasties! Initiatives under the Human Capital Strategy (HCS) have gained a lot of attention as of late. The Blended Retirement System's (BRS) Continuation Pay multiples were just released and are a hot topic! The truth of the matter is that all members who opt-in to the BRS or enter the service after 01 January 2018, upon reaching 12 years of service, are eligible to receive continuation pay as a retirement benefit. This benefit allows members to receive a sum equal to a certain amount of base pay in exchange for four more years of service in their component (active duty or reserve).

Initially, the Coast Guard has chosen to offer 2.5 months of base pay for active duty enlisted and officers and 0.5 months of base pay to reservists aligning with the rest of the armed services' multiples.

You Old Salts might be interested to know that members will be notified of their eligibility by PPC well in advance of their 12-year mark in service. Members who did not choose to opt-in to BRS and stay in the Legacy retirement system are not eligible for continuation pay. Members must opt-in to BRS prior to their 12-year mark in order to be eligible for continuation pay.

Don't just listen to the landlubbers though! Check it out for yourself on the Coast Guard's BRS website. This website has links to infographics, training websites (JKO), and all CG communications regarding the BRS.

You Sea Dogs might be fascinated to know the Enlisted Employee Review System (EERS) has been revamped! This out-of-date system, which no longer effectively supports the myriad of human resources decisions for the active duty and reserve enlisted workforce, is ready to walk the plank! This revamp was initiated by the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard and his fellow Master Chiefs and has the goal of improving the evaluation system to be a more effective expectations management tool (member), performance management tool (supervisor), and talent management tool (organization).

Lastly, we wanted to discuss potential changes to your healthcare should you be feeling under the weather. Don't worry;

PURPOSE: To include brief updates on CGCYBER within the FY2018/Q2 edition of the Coast Guard Connection Newsletter.

CGCYBER UPDATES:
Cyber Operational Capabilities

COAST GUARD CYBER COMMAND (CGCYBER):

Established CGCYBER as an operational command under the operational control of the Commandant and of the Commander, U.S. Cyber Command through Commander, Joint Forces Headquarters Department of Defense (DoD) Information Network. This decision provides CGCYBER with authority, responsibility, and accountability to direct the operation and defense of all Coast Guard cyberspace. A separate Flag officer will serve as COMCGCYBER to lead the Coast Guard in the cyberspace domain.

NETWORK OPERATIONS AND SECURITY CENTER (NOSC):

The Coast Guard NOSC, a divisional component of CGCYBER Operations, attained Initial Operational Capability (IOC) with the combining of organizational elements of the former CGCYBER Cyber Security Operations Center, Telecommunications and Information Systems Command (TISCOM) Enterprise Services Operations Division, and C4ITSC Centralized Services Desk. This unification is strengthening the Coast Guard's ability to enable defense of and operations in Cyberspace. An element of the NOSC includes the Cyber Security Services Provider (CSSP) service to ensure the security of the cyberspace domain by securing and defending Coast Guard networks in accordance with DoD policies and standard operating procedures.

CYBER PROTECTION TEAM (CPT):

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Appropriations Act created 64 civilian, enlisted and officer billets to more fully mature the cyberspace capabilities of the Cyber Protection Team (CPT). As a deployable specialized forces team under CGCYBER, the CPT is organized, trained, equipped, and assessed to joint standards of the Department of Defense Cyber Mission Force. The CPT will defend cyberspace by maneuvering inside our networks and radio frequency spectrum against adversaries and threats by employing the proven Prevention-Response operating concept.

you'll still be able to weather the storm but be on the lookout! There are changes to TRICARE abrewing on the horizon! Retired service members and their families using a premium-based plan may pay an enrollment fee depending on what group and plan they are in. They may also have new deductibles, copays and cost-shares. Regardless of what plan retired members are in, they will be protected by the catastrophic cap! Phew! We will learn more as this unfolds. What used to be TriCare "North" and "South" regions will now be merged into a new TriCare "East". Don't find your name on the binnacle list! Stay alert and do your research by subscribing to the CG's official All Hands blog and the Paratus Report.

Until next time, fair winds and following seas!

CAPTAIN "HELL ROARIN'" MIKE HEALY

Captain Michael A. Healy received his commission as third lieutenant from President Abraham Lincoln in March 1865, just a month prior to Lincoln's assassination. He was the first African-American officer to serve in a U.S. sea service. In 1877, he became the first African American to command a United States ship. In 1885, he became commanding officer of the Bear, considered the most famous Revenue Cutter Service and Coast Guard cutter.
William Thiesen, Atlantic Area Historian

INSET PHOTO: THE COLORFUL CAPTAIN "HELL ROARIN'" MIKE HEALY, FAMED SKIPPER OF THE BEAR. (COAST GUARD COLLECTION) MAIN PHOTO: PHOTOGRAPH OF COAST GUARD ICEBREAKER HEALY (WAGB-20). (U.S. COAST GUARD COLLECTION)

Acquisitions (CG-9)

THE COAST GUARD accepted the final tower in the Rescue 21 system 10 Oct., 2017, completing a more than 20-year program to improve search and rescue communication throughout the United States ***(http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/R21_103117).*** The system is now operational along the coasts of the contiguous United States; Hawaii; Puerto Rico; Guam; the U.S. Virgin Islands; the Northern Marianas Islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota; in parts of Alaska; and in much of the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio rivers and their major tributaries.

THE HC-27J ASSET PROJECT OFFICE (APO) in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, took custody of the Coast Guard's 14th and final C-27J, CGNR 2705, Spartan medium range surveillance aircraft Oct. 19 (***http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/C27J_102017/***). This completes activities to regenerate the once-mothballed C-27J from long-term storage and paves the way for further missionization of the aircraft with Minotaur mission system architecture (***http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/C27J_092917***).

THE COAST GUARD INNOVATION PROGRAM is ensuring that lessons learned during the responses to hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria are shared throughout the service ***(http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/10/innovation-program-seeks-hurricane-lessons-learned-from-coast-guard-responders).*** The Innovation Program is using the CG_Ideas@Work crowdsourcing platform (***https://cg-ideasatwork.ideascale.com/***) to gather suggestions from Coast Guard personnel for ways to improve disaster response and immediately directing these ideas to the appropriate program so that potential solutions reach Coast Guard leaders quickly. Submitted ideas are also considered for future Coast Guard research, development, test and evaluation projects.

THE U.S. NAVY, in collaboration with the Coast Guard under an integrated program office, released a draft request for proposal (RFP) 19 October for detail design and construction of a heavy polar icebreaker (***http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/icebreaker_101917***). The draft RFP covers one heavy polar icebreaker, with options for two additional heavy polar icebreakers. Responses are due 11 December and will support release of the RFP early next year.

THE COAST GUARD commissioned the 24th Fast Response Cutter (FRC), Oliver Berry, at its homeport in Honolulu 31 October (***http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/FRC-110117***). The cutter is the first FRC stationed in Hawaii and in the Coast Guard's Fourteenth District, which covers more than 12 million square miles of land and sea in the Western and Central Pacific, including units in the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and American Samoa and activities in Saipan, Singapore and Japan.

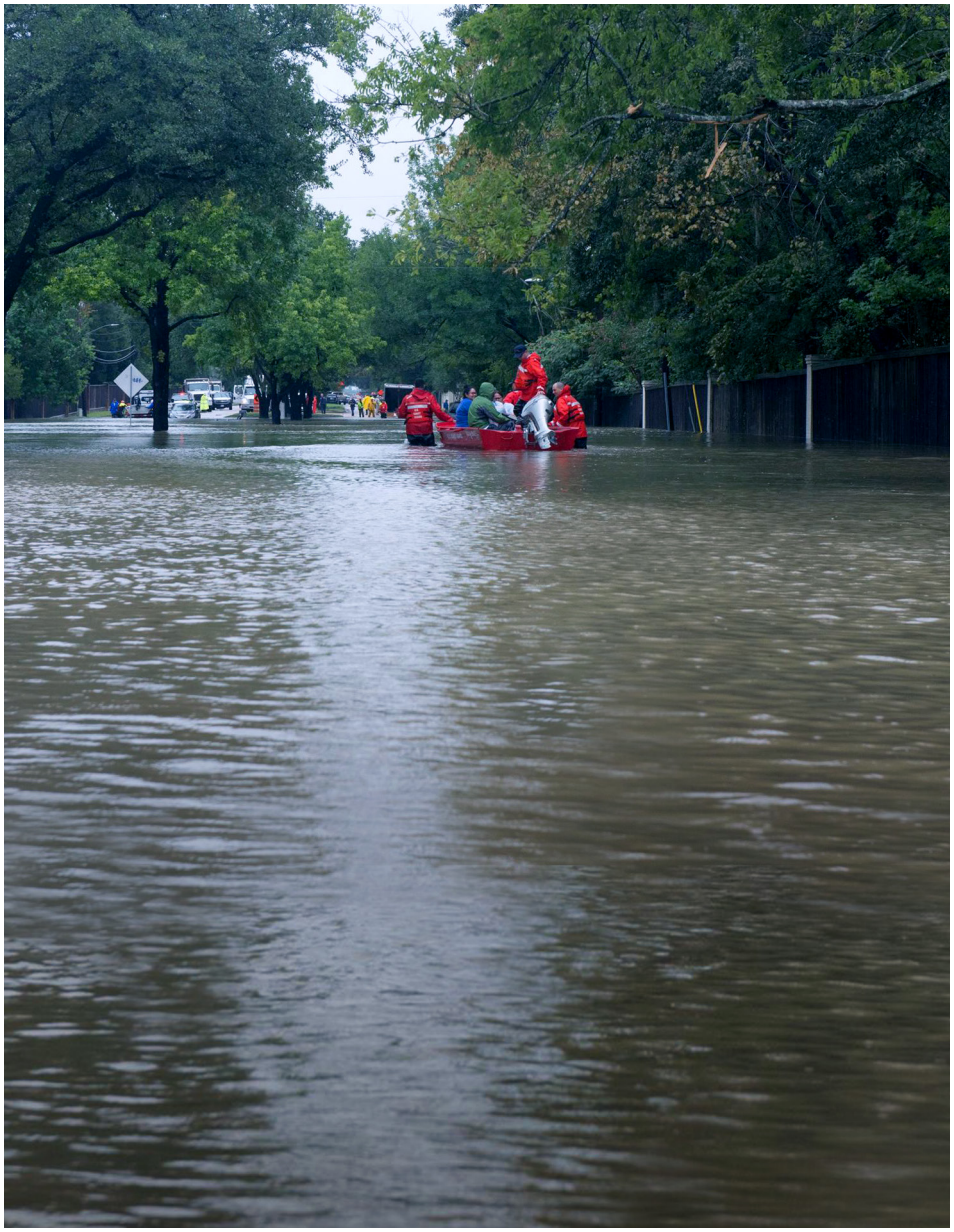
A RECENT CG-731 request for proposal used the results of a Coast Guard Research and Development Center study to inform requirements for personal protective helmets for Coast Guard boat crews (***http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/09/research-development-testing-and-evaluation-boat-crew-helmets***). The Coast Guard intends to purchase up to 15,200 helmets to provide protection across a range of challenging operational conditions.

THE COAST GUARD'S SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (sUAS) for National Security Cutter (NSC) Program reached a milestone 20 October when it received approval to move on to the next phase of the acquisition program (***http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/UAS_102317***). The service's approval allows the program to proceed with its planned release of a request for proposal (RFP) and contract award for sUAS for NSC capability. This milestone follows a successful operational deployment of sUAS capabilities on board the National Security Cutter Stratton over the summer (***http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom sUAS_092017***).

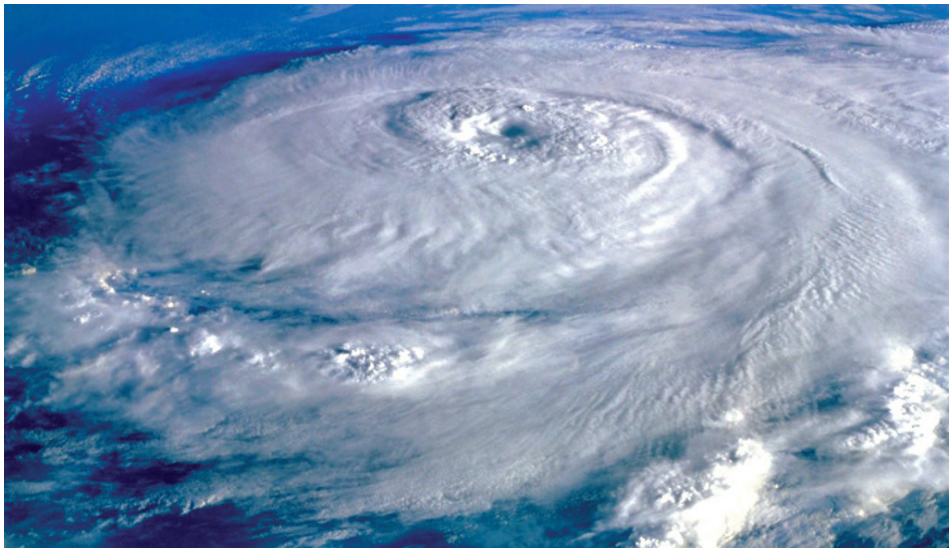
THE COAST GUARD accepted the first HC-130J to be retrofitted with the Minotaur Mission Suite 6 November under a production contract with L3 Technologies Inc. (***http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions- CG-9/Newsroom/minotaur_110717/***)

Public Affairs CG-0922

The Coast Guard's entire Public Affairs workforce mobilized over the last four months in response to the unprecedented landfall of three major category hurricanes on United States' shores in rapid succession. Many of our Public Affairs specialists are still responding in the aftermath as recovery efforts are ongoing in Puerto Rico. To see the imagery and video captured by our Public Affairs force of Coast Guard responders in Hurricane's Harvey, Irma, and Maria, please see the following links:



- ***http://www.news.uscg.mil/News-by-Region/Headquarters/Hurricane-Harvey/***
- ***http://www.news.uscg.mil/News-by-Region/Headquarters/Hurricane-Irma/***
- ***http://www.news.uscg.mil/News-by-Region/Headquarters/Hurricane-Maria/***



Legislative (CG-0921)

Fiscal Year 2018 Homeland Security Appropriations

Congress failed to pass by the September 30 deadline any appropriations for Fiscal Year 2018, but passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) providing federal funding at Fiscal Year 2017 levels until 8 December. Because Congress has failed to make progress on appropriations, congressional leaders are expected to pass another short-term CR providing funding to late December to allow more time to reach an agreement on raising fiscal 2018 spending caps and passing Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations.

HOUSE ACTION: In September, the House passed the Fiscal 2018 Omnibus Appropriations bill (HR 3354), which included the Homeland Security appropriation. The bill would provide $10.4 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard, including $7.2 billion for operating expenses and $1.3 billion for modernization and recapitalization of vessels, aircraft, and facilities.

SENATE ACTION: The Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC) on 21 November released its mark of the Homeland Security fiscal 2018 spending bill that includes $9.338 billion of discretionary funding for the Coast Guard. This bill has not been marked at the subcommittee or committee level, so it is uncertain how it will fare at conference negotiations against the House's fully passed Omnibus bill. The SAC mark would provide $7.189 billion for Operating Expenses incl. $3 million for continuation pay pursuant to the blended retirement system; and $1.798 billion for Acquisition, Construction and Improvements incl. $19 million to support a polar icebreaker acquisition, as well as funding for construction of NSC#10, long lead time materials for NSC#11, construction of OPC#1, long lead time materials for OPC#2, and funding to accelerate recapitalization of the Inland River Tender fleet. On 21 November, SAC also released its mark of the Defense fiscal 18 spending bill which includes $150 million in the Navy budget for a polar icebreaker. Senate leadership has not determined when the full chamber will vote on the above appropriations bills.

In summary, at this point, final FY 2018 funding levels are still being considered.

Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017 / Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017

As noted in the last CG Connection, the House version of the Coast Guard Authorization Act (CGAA) was incorporated into the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act (DHSAA), which the House passed on July 20. The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee reported out its version of the CGAA on 5 June, but it is not clear when the full Senate will consider it, given the chamber's heavy workload. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has not yet introduced a DHS authorization bill.

National Defense Authorization Act of 2017

House and Senate Conferees reached a bipartisan agreement on a $700 billion National Defense Authorization Act (HR 2810) that was approved by the House on 14 November and the Senate on 16 November, and will be sent to the President for signature. The bill would authorize the use of DoD/USN funds to acquire one heavy polar icebreaker to be operated by the Coast Guard.

Supplemental Appropriations

On 17 November, the White House sent a third supplemental appropriations request to Congress asking for $44 billion in disaster aid for Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina and U.S islands ravaged by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The request includes $112.1 million for Coast Guard Operating Expenses to pay for CG personnel hurricane response costs not covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; as well as $312.5 million for Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements to repair facilities directly damaged by the hurricanes.

The legislative process is dynamic and the information above will likely change before the bills discussed are enacted.