



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

March 29, 2010

Commandant (G-I)
U.S. Coast Guard
2100 Second St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20593.

Dear Commandant:

On behalf of the City and Borough of Sitka, we respectfully request the consideration of the U.S. Coast Guard to designate the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, as "A Coast Guard City". While the community of Sitka has less than 9,000 population, the men and women of the five U.S. Coast Guard units located in Sitka (Coast Guard Air Station Sitka, Coast Guard Cutter Maple, Aids to Navigation Team Sitka, Marine Safety Detachment Sitka, and Electronic Support Detachment Detail Sitka) serve the 4,710 square miles of the City and Borough of Sitka, as well as the entire Southeast Alaska Island Archipelago. Sitka is on an island, and the only access is by boat or plane, which makes the Coast Guard units absolutely invaluable to our community.

The respect, admiration, gratitude, and support of Sitka's entire population for the heroic and dedicated performance of the Sitka Coast Guard personnel is likely unparalleled anywhere else, because the Coast Guard has saved so many lives in heroic rescues and difficult missions to provide their multiple services to the region. But just as important, from the time they arrive in Sitka usually on the Alaska Marine Highway, they are welcomed by a large banner greeting arriving Coast Guard personnel and families with the words "Coast Guard: Welcome to Sitka!"

We will document specific honors, accolades, partnerships, and events supporting Sitka's Coast Guard community, but we believe the most important justification for Sitka being designated "A Coast Guard City" is that the citizens of Sitka greatly appreciate and embrace our Coast Guard family as our friends and neighbors and honor them for their great service. A July, 2009 Proclamation from Office of the Mayor, City and Borough of Sitka, states: "True to the U.S. Coast Guard motto *Semper Paratus* the brave and dedicated Guardians stationed in Sitka stand Always Ready to protect, defend, and save the citizens of Southeast Alaska as demonstrated during numerous heroic search and rescue missions, while providing stewardship of Southeast Alaska's maritime environment, including facilitating a safe and efficient marine transportation system that serves as the lifeblood of Southeast Alaska." The Sitka community is deeply indebted to the Coast Guard and is eager to cooperate with and honor the Coast Guard and their families as an integral and important part of the Sitka community, as well as the community's third largest employer.

The Coast Guard families are welcomed into the schools, scouts, sports programs, community groups, commissions and boards, parades, festivals, and other community activities as integral

Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard
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considerable involvement and volunteer services by Coast Guard staff and families. In turn, both as groups and individuals, the community does its best to care for the Coast Guard as well. The success of the community's efforts to embrace the Coast Guard personnel and their families is evidenced every day by the close personal and organizational integration among all members of the community, and an evaluation of how many Coast Guard have extended their tours of duty in Sitka and retired as permanent Sitka residents, speaks well of this bond.

The largest contingent of Coast Guard personnel arrived in Sitka in 1977 with the establishment of U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Sitka. The unit maintains 60 housing units (the original modular units barged to Sitka from Metlakatla are still in use). Its area of responsibility encompasses 169,000 square miles of Southeast Alaska from Dixon Entrance north to Central Alaska, and from the U.S./Canadian border west to the central Gulf of Alaska. The Air Station has over 120 military personnel and three HH-60J Jayhawk helicopters.

When the Air Station opens its hangar to community activities, there is always an overwhelming response. But the Aids to Navigation Team, not to be outdone, cooperates with a "haunted ship" for Halloween, and the youth of Sitka tour the Cutter Maple. The largest community outpouring for the Coast Guard comes on the fourth of July, the community's largest parade and celebration. The Coast Guard is an integral part of the festivities, including the helicopters overflying and the City's banner, "Sitka APPRECIATES the Coast Guard!" flying in front of Centennial Hall.

Attached is a narrative describing the community of Sitka's relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard units in more specific terms of outreach and support. Also attached are many newspaper clips of public service announcements of various Coast Guard promotions, rescues, and activities. The Daily Sitka Sentinel newspaper runs Coast Guard-related articles or photos at least weekly. Several letters from groups testifying to their support for the Coast Guard are also included for your information.

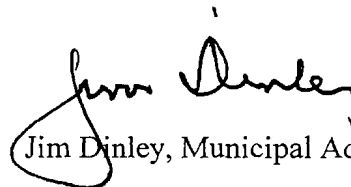
Most importance to us as Sitkans is that the Coast Guard personnel and their families are an extremely important part of the fabric of our community, of critical importance to the success of Sitka—to our economy, to our culture and way of life, and to our literal safety and survival. Sitka would be deeply honored to be designated "A Coast Guard City", to formalize the tremendous respect and gratitude we feel and show toward our Coast Guard family. We are happy to say that there is no "them and us" attitude about the Coast Guard in Sitka—all Coast Guard staff and families are fully integrated into Sitka life – in our schools, our sports, our community organizations, our commissions, our neighborhoods, our friends, our partners. Both as individuals and organizations, Sitkans try to share this warm bond with Coast Guard staff and families every day.

We would be pleased to provide any further information or assistance if any further justification of the City and Borough of Sitka's request to be designated "A Coast Guard City" is needed. Administrator Dinley's phone number is 907-747-1808 and e-mail is jimdinley@cityofsitka.com. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely



Scott McAdams, Mayor



Jim Dinley, Municipal Administrator

NARRATIVE DESCRIBING THE COMMUNITY OF SITKA, ALASKA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FIVE SITKA U.S. COAST GUARD UNITS

The importance of the United States Coast Guard to the community of Sitka, Alaska, dates back to the days of the Revenue Cutter Service over 140 years ago. The U.S. Coast Guard was originally organized as "a fleet of cutters" in 1790. This Revenue Cutter Service combined with the Life Saving Service in 1915 and became the United States Coast Guard.

The Revenue Cutter Service was already visiting Sitka in the late 1800's. The Revenue Cutter Lincoln brought a survey party to Sitka, in the summer of 1867, to investigate the potential resources of Alaska. Reports and notes from this survey were used to support The Congressional appropriation to purchase Alaska from Russia. The United States flag was officially raised over Alaska on October 18, 1867 with Sitka as the new Capital.

The transfer of ownership occurred in Sitka and is celebrated every October 18 during the Alaska Day festivities. In celebration of the Sitka Air Station's official commissioning on the eve of Alaska Day, 1977, the Coast Guard Air Station personnel, Coast Guard Cutter Maple Aids-to-Navigation team, and other Coast Guard units in Sitka are invited to participate in the Alaska Day Parade and serve as Honor Guard in the Transfer Ceremony. The Coast Guard also is involved in Rescue Swimmer Demonstration, Open House and Safety Day and other activities involving the entire community. The Coast Guard is also included in the moving Memorial Day service held at the National Cemetery with direct participation and a flyover.

The Sitka Economic Development Association provided a photo dated July 4, 1901 showing the Revenue Cutter Rush firing a salute on Independence Day, 1901, in Sitka harbor. The U.S. Coast Guard Sitka units are still featured in Sitka's most patriotic celebration (see photo of Coast Guard marching in 4th of July parade accompanying Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau letter), but these days the Coast Guard presence is supported by three Jayhawk helicopters flying overhead. The 4th of July Fire Department/U.S. Coast Guard water fight is a highlight of the festivities.

There are many ongoing examples of how the Sitka community includes the Coast Guard as an integral part of Sitka's most significant community-wide activities each year, some of which will be summarized in the attached examples section of this application to designate Sitka as "A Coast Guard City". But these partnerships run much deeper than just marching in parades. When new Coast Guard personnel and families arrive in Sitka each summer, they are warmly welcomed by the entire Sitka community. The Chamber of Commerce maintains a relocation website to assist Coast Guard and others new to Sitka, provides "Welcome to Sitka" bags with community, school, recreation, business, services, housing, and other information of interest to the families to all new Coast Guard personnel. The Municipality and Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau also contribute to this information. The Sitka School District provides orientation and assistance to all Coast Guard personnel with school-age children.

The Municipality flies its "Welcome to Sitka, Coast Guard!" banner and its "Sitka APPRECIATES the U.S. Coast Guard!" banner on U.S. Coast Guard Day and Alaska Day.

The Mayor issued a proclamation of U.S. Coast Guard Day and honored all five Coast Guard units with framed copies at a Sitka Assembly meeting. A Proclamation Honoring Rear Admiral Gene

Brooks was presented before he left Alaska. A Citation was also issued Commemorating the Commissioning of the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in Sitka on October 17, 1977. Copies of these honors are included as supporting documents. Summer is also the time to say goodbye to Coast Guard personnel and their families who are moving on to other posts. While it is often difficult to part with friends and family, as so many of Sitka's Coast Guard become, the tremendous respect and admiration Sitkans have for the Coast Guard encourages those departing to return to Sitka again on a future posting, and a considerable number of former Coast Guard personnel retire in Sitka.

The Sitka Mountain Rescue Team has a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard to provide broad-based entirely voluntary search and rescue services to the Coast Guard. SMR trains regularly with the Coast Guard and responds 24/7 to provide the mountain, K-9, and other uplandsand boat rescue services to supplement and extend the reach of the Coast Guard. There are hundreds of cooperative rescue efforts between the search and rescue team and the Coast Guard since its deployment to Sitka in 1977 which have saved many, many lives, including those of some Coast Guard personnel.

Community groups have many ongoing partnerships with the Sitka Coast Guard. Several attached letters of support discuss these relationships in detail, but a letter does not begin to demonstrate how public spirited, cooperative and caring these relationships are. Current and former Coast Guard personnel and families participate in most of Sitka's boards, commissions, and not-for-profit organizations and make great contributions as volunteers. In reciprocation, the community receives great benefits from these relationships. For example, the Sitka Mountain Rescue Team cooperate with the Coast Guard on many community service efforts: building the North Shelter in the Sitka State Park Halibut Point Recreation Area, providing water and medical kit to the Alpine Run, Sitka Sound Kayak Race safety support, and Salmon Lake and Kanga Bay cabin construction. Sitka Rotary seeks Coast Guard members and has cooperated on Goddard Hot Springs park upgrades and co-sponsored Bicycle Rodeos. The Fire and Police Departments both work directly with the Coast Guard on EMS, dive rescue, law enforcement, and other cooperative efforts.

It would be difficult to find any group, business, or individual in Sitka not touched by the Sitka Coast Guard. As a result, when the Coast Guard Spouses and Women's Association requests donations of items for its Rainy Day Bazaar Silent Auction, the business community generously donates many large items. When the Coast Guard honors its staff or takes part in rescues or other activities, the Daily Sitka Sentinel newspaper runs the photos and articles at no charge. When two different Coast Guard families in the last five years survived fires which gutted their homes, the outpouring of community support to assist the families, provide replacement possessions, and take care of them was overwhelming. When the Coast Guard units march in parades, they get a standing ovation and cheers. The schools, Scouts, sports, and other youth and adult groups are always on the lookout for new Coast Guard families to encourage to join the many activities.

There is never any doubt that the Sitka community admires, appreciates, supports, and welcomes the Coast Guard at every opportunity. Sitka has always been an unofficial Coast Guard city. Official designation of Sitka as "A Coast Guard City" would enable the City and Borough of Sitka and the community as a whole to manifest its support for the U.S. Coast Guard personnel and families at an even higher level.

Specific Examples of Sitka, Alaska, Support for the U.S. Coast Guard

Page 1

a. Support for MWR events

Various Sitka groups include the Coast Guard in Morale, Well-Being, and Recreation (MWR) events as well as co-sponsoring events:

1. The City and Borough of Sitka Parks and Recreation Division and Sitka School District Community Schools work closely with the Coast Guard to accommodate their use of Hames PE Center and Pool for Coast Guard training and recreational use. The need for the Coast Guard to have access to these facilities for training and recreation was a major argument for the City and Borough of Sitka and Community Schools taking over the facility to manage, at a cost of nearly \$.5 million per year, after it was slated to close.
2. Rotary Club co-sponsors an annual Bicycle Rodeo held at the Coast Guard Air Station Hangar to educate young riders about bicycle safety.
3. The public and local businesses heavily participate in and contribute to Coast Guard events, including Rainy Day Bazaar and the Coast Guard's 3-miles run and 2-miles walk which brought out more than 150 participants and raised money for the Red Cross relief effort in Haiti.
4. The Sitka Alpine Run and Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures Ocean Kayak Race are supported by Sitka Mountain Rescue organization, which in turn cooperates with the Coast Guard to provide water and medical supplies for various race stations on the Alpine Run and stands by if needed. Coast Guard personnel and families participate in these races as well.

b. Support for educational/scholarship programs.

1. Coast Guard families are encouraged to participate in educational program at both the grade and high schools and University of Alaska Sitka Campus, as well as to apply for various local scholarships.
2. Coast Guard families are counseled and supported by Sitka School District to facilitate entry into the school system.
3. Many Coast Guard spouses are sought after for employment as aides and substitute teachers, or volunteer in the schools or other institutions. Coast Guard personnel are also encouraged to talk with students about their careers and participate in the annual Job Fair.
4. University of Alaska Sitka Campus is just a few blocks away from Coast Guard Base Housing and provides many opportunities for college courses and educational and training seminars. Coast Guard personnel and families receive in-state tuition rates for all military and family members.

c. Availability of community support services to Coast Guard members and their families.

1. There are multiple social services available in Sitka to all Coast Guard members and their

Specific Examples of Sitka, Alaska Support for the U.S. Coast Guard, Page 2

families. These include Center for Community, Brave Heart Volunteers and Hospice Services, Sitka SAFE House, various counseling services, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, and various State services. Their doors are always open to Coast Guard staff and families.

2. Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) services are available in the event of a death or critical incident, in which all involved rescue personnel formally debrief. As appropriate, this can include the Coast Guard, Sitka Mountain Rescue, Sitka Police Department, Sitka Fire Department. In the event of a large scale disaster or loss of Coast Guard personnel, this can involve multiple meetings and efforts.
3. Sitka religious groups and churches reach out to Coast Guard especially on holidays, and there are year-round concerts, monthly local performances, many school performances, Sitka Summer Music Festival, Sitka Fine Arts Camp, October WhaleFest, and many other opportunities for entertainment, education and fellowship available to Coast Guard throughout the year.
4. Sitka Chamber of Commerce maintains a relocation page on its website and encourages Coast Guard families to use it and other relocation information from the School District, Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau, and City and Borough of Sitka to assist Coast Guard families who are new to the community to access many services and opportunities available to them. Chamber also coordinates distribution of Welcome to Sitka bags for incoming Coast Guard families, with discounts to local businesses and other community information.

d. Sponsorship of Sailor of the Quarter, Sailor of the Year, Recruiter of the Year, and other similar types of awards.

1. Since Sitka's Coast Guard personnel are primarily with the Sitka Air Station, Cutter Maple, and Aids to Navigation team, the above awards are not applicable to Sitka. However, the Daily Sitka Sentinel newspaper regularly runs photos and captions of all Coast Guard personnel actions for which public service announcements are issued, which run in the paper often, giving credit to the personnel so recognized. (See sample newspaper photos attached.)
2. The City and Borough of Sitka Mayor issues a Proclamation of U.S. Coast Guard Day and honors each of the five Coast Guard Sitka Units as Guardians of the Sea in Sitka, Alaska (see Proclamation and news story, attached.)
3. The City and Borough of Sitka Mayor issued a Proclamation honoring Rear Admiral Gene Brooks and the five Sitka units of the Coast Guard and proclaimed July 16, 2009 as REAR ADMIRAL GENE BROOKS DAY in Sitka. (See Proclamation and news story, attached.)
4. The City and Borough of Sitka Mayor issued a Citation commemorating the commissioning of the United States Coast Guard Air Station in Sitka, Alaska, on October 17, 1977. The City is eager to honor the Coast Guard whenever the opportunity presents itself.
5. Sitka Chamber of Commerce annually asks the Sitka Coast Guard Commander to be keynote speaker at the Chamber's weekly luncheons, attended by many Sitka business owners and community leaders. The Commander "is always greeted with applause and cheers."

Specific Examples of Sitka, Alaska Support for the U.S. Coast Guard, Page 3

6. Every few years, the Sitka Chamber of Commerce honors members of the Coast Guard as "Community Heroes" at its annual Chamber Banquet. This honor is rotated among groups in the community that do outstanding work to make Sitka a safe and comfortable place in which to live and work.

e. Demonstrations of sensitivity to life-altering events within the Coast Guard community ...

1. The Sitka community's demonstrations of sensitivity to life-altering events within the Coast Guard community are not limited to neighbors and friends congratulating Coast Guard families for happy events and expressing sympathy on sad events. In the last three years, two Coast Guard families were burned out of their homes, and the community groups and individuals came together to provide food, shelter, possessions, clothes, and support for the families for many months, which is often remarked on by the Coast Guard community.
2. Fortunately there have not been any Coast Guard tragedies causing the death of Sitka personnel in the recent past, but there have been several heroic Coast Guard rescues and finds of both survivors and casualties of plane crashes, vessel mishaps, terrible storm events in the Gulf of Alaska (and one outside Sitka Sound which was written up in Reader's Digest), and other major missions which the community has embraced and lauded the Coast Guard for in many ongoing ways.
3. Sitka Mountain Rescue team has participated in several rescues of Coast Guard personnel in recent years: the Coast Guard person trapped on a mountain at Cold Storage Lake, a boat missing in December, 2009 near Redoubt Bay, the missing Coast Guard person declared AWOL when he did not return from Verstovia Peak and found alive, the Bear Mountain Coast Guard hunter found on Bear Mountain several years ago, and various others. In each case, the Coast Guard and SMR cooperate to locate the missing or injured personnel.
4. SMR debriefs all large cases with the flight crew and others involved in any major events to improve future missions and assist where possible. See "Coast Guard Honors Sitka Rescue Team" news article for details on the Coast Guard's honoring Sitka Mountain Rescue with a Meritorious Public Service Award in recognition of the dramatic and dangerous rescue of a Coast Guard hunter in October, 2009.

f. Sponsorship of community patriotic events that specifically include members of the Coast Guard family.

1. The Sitka Chamber of Commerce, community churches, and other community groups sponsor a very large multi-day celebration on the Fourth of July. Chamber Coordinates the 4th of July Parade, in which Coast Guard units are always included and a helicopter fly-over is the highlight of the parade. There are always cheers, salutes, and applause for the Coast Guard units as they march by. The Coast Guard/Fire Department Water Fight is watched by hundreds, with lots of children looking forward to getting wet.
2. Coast Guard personnel are honored in the Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades as well, and participate in the various National Cemetery services that are held during these events. The Coast Guard helicopter fly-over at these observances brings salutes and tears from many participants. American Legion, Chamber of Commerce, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and other groups organize these events and feature Coast Guard participation and honors.

Specific Examples of Sitka, Alaska, Support for the U.S. Coast Guard, Page 4

3. The Alaska Day Committee plans year-round for Sitka's largest week-long celebration of the transfer of Alaska from Russia to the United States which took place in Sitka on October 18, 1867. Although other military groups come to Sitka for this celebration, the Sitka Coast Guard units are integrally involved in all Alaska Day activities, including the Alaska Day Parade, Transfer Ceremony, and Alaska Day Ball. A large banner honoring the Coast Guard stating "Sitka APPRECIATES the U.S. Coast Guard!" flies outside Centennial Hall directly under the Alaska Day Festival October 11-18 banner (see photo). A highlight of Alaska Day is the Coast Guard's Rescue Swimmer demonstration (see photo and letter from Alaska Coast Guard Auxiliary), Open House at the Air Station including various community groups such as Sitka Mountain Rescue, and other events.

g. Offer military or Coast Guard "Days" within the business community, at local sporting events, and other entertainment events.

1. The Sitka Chamber of Commerce is preparing "Welcome To Sitka" bags featuring information about Sitka schools, businesses, recreational opportunities, and events, including special coupons for Coast Guard to use in local businesses, and providing "Silver Saver Discount Cards" in each bag. Approximately 60 new Coast Guard families arrive in Sitka each summer.
2. The business community makes large contributions whenever requested by the Coast Guard, for example, to the recent Rainy Day Bazaar Silent Auction. Some businesses offer Military discounts and other incentives for Coast Guard personnel. There are many other expressions of support for the Coast Guard within the community by individual groups and individuals.

h. City-Coast Guard partnerships in community-based projects including law enforcement /fire/EMS projects, civic organizational projects, food drives, home building projects, educational projects, etc.

1. The City and Borough of Sitka's Police Department has a long history of collaboration with the United States Coast Guard. The Police Department regularly works with the Coast Guard on water based incidents, supplemental law enforcement capacity on the water, Boating Safety Education Training (BEST) Program, and other responses or training efforts. This relationship has become more inter-dependent as the Sitka Police Department obtained an Emergency Response Vessel to assist with these and other water-based efforts. The Police Department also provides weapon storage in support of USCG law enforcement personnel or special units traveling to Sitka for various operations. The Police Department also provides professional law enforcement related services and training to the Coast Guard units. The Sitka Police Dispatch Center provides communications support as needed for U.S. Coast Guard missions. (See Police Department letter for more information).
2. Coast Guard personnel use the City's Shooting Range for weapons training and City-run Hames Athletic and Wellness Center for physical fitness activities and pool training.

Specific Examples of Sitka, Alaska, Support for the U.S. Coast Guard, Page 5

3. The City and Borough of Sitka Fire Department has had a long professional relationship with the U.S. Coast Guard for the past 33 years. This is a two-sided relationship that benefits the whole community. Coast Guard men and women volunteer on their off-duty time as volunteer firefighters, divers, and EMT's. In turn, the Fire Department trains both Coast Guard and other volunteers, provides fire, dive and EMS services to the Coast Guard and whole community, and assists the Coast Guard as requested on Coast Guard missions. Recently the Fire Department's Dive Team was transported by the Coast Guard to the small remote community of Gustavus to look for the driver of a vehicle that went into the ocean, for example. Sitka's volunteer EMS Team regularly transports Coast Guard medivac patients arriving in the Coast Guard helicopter from villages in the Southeast Archipelago to one of Sitka's two hospitals. (Please see photos and Fire Department letter for more information.)
 4. Sitka Rotary co-sponsors the Sitka Bicycle Rodeo with the Coast Guard annually.
 5. The Mountain Rescue Team partners with the Coast Guard on many community improvement projects, including building U.S. Forest Service recreation cabins and shelters, upgrading the City's remote Goddard Hot Springs facilities, constructing shelters and trails in State Parks, and other community service projects.
 6. Harrigan Centennial Hall partners with the Coast Guard on various events providing chairs and assistance for Coast Guard ceremonies and other efforts.
 7. The City and Borough of Sitka, Salvation Army, and other groups partner with the Coast Guard on Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Drives.
 8. Alaska Marine Safety Education Association (AMSEA) partners with the Coast Guard to provide marine safety education to both youth and adults, fishing vessel safety education for commercial fishermen, and boater safety courses for the public at large. Many Coast Guard personnel are volunteer AMSEA instructors in these courses.
 9. Volunteers from the U.S. Coast Guard, State Pioneers Home, Hames Athletic and Wellness Center, Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall, Fortress of the Bear, and SAFV Shelter work to improve trails and other community service activities as part of a "Day of Remembrance" on the eighth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Coast Guard units around the country planned volunteer activities for this day. (See news article.)
- i. Establishing monuments, memorials, commemorations, or other tangible forms of public recognition.**
1. The Fishermen's Wives group, various churches, Sitka Harbormaster, Coast Guard, and many other groups and individuals participate in annual Blessing Of The Fleet ceremony. Mariners who have died in the last year, and especially those who died at sea, are honored by the many participants, who distribute flowers and wreathes upon the waters of Sitka Sound. The Coast Guard is thanked at this ceremony for taking care of and saving the lives of so many mariners in Southeast Alaska who would otherwise be lost at sea. Even those incidents resulting in fatalities are of great comfort to the families that the Coast Guard tried to save the life and returned the body to the family. The gratitude by families and the Sitka community to the Coast Guard for these heroic efforts is unbounded.

Specific Examples of Sitka, Alaska, Support for the U.S. Coast Guard, Page 6

2. The City and Borough of Sitka Mayor issues a Proclamation of U.S. Coast Guard Day, and the Assembly presents individual copies to the five Coast Guard unit commanders at the first August Assembly meeting (see Proclamation and news article with photo).
3. The Mayor of City and Borough of Sitka issues a Citation commemorating the commissioning of the United States Coast Guard Air Station in Sitka, Alaska, on October 17, 1977 (see Citation).
4. The Mayor of City and Borough of Sitka issued a Proclamation honoring Admiral Brooks and others honoring former Commanders of the Coast Guard Air Station and Buoy Tender at their Change of Command (see Proclamation).
5. Various commemorations and tangible forms of public recognition for the members of the U.S. Coast Guard are detailed above in the Awards, Patriotic Events, and other sections of the above examples so will not be repeated here. Please see as well the many support letters, and news articles and photos detailing the commemorations and tangible forms of public recognition for the Sitka Coast Guard. If further information is needed, please contact City and Borough of Sitka for many more examples.
6. A community-wide celebration of Sitka's seafood industry and commemorating the Sitka U.S. Coast Guard and families is being planned for early August, 2010, in conjunction with U.S. Coast Guard Day. Sponsorship will include various fishermen's groups, seafood processors and others involved in the seafood industry, City and Borough of Sitka, Sitka Economic Development Association, and Sitka Chamber of Commerce.
7. City and Borough of Sitka flies a banner "Welcome U.S. Coast Guard" to welcome all Coast Guard but especially the approximately 60 U.S. Coast Guard personnel and families billeted to Sitka each year.

Proclamation

U.S. Coast Guard Day

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard is America's Maritime Guardian protecting the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests – in the nation's ports and waterways along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security, including the waters surrounding Sitka and throughout Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Sitka is fortunate to have Coast Guard Air Station Sitka, Coast Guard Cutter Maple, Aids to Navigation Team Sitka, Marine Safety Detachment Sitka, and Electronic Support Detachment Detail Sitka located in the community; and

WHEREAS, true to the U.S. Coast Guard motto *Semper Paratus* the brave and dedicated Guardians stationed in Sitka stand Always Ready to protect, defend and save the citizens of Southeast Alaska as demonstrated during numerous heroic search and rescue missions, while providing stewardship of Southeast Alaska's maritime environment, including facilitating a safe and efficient marine transportation system that serves as the lifeblood of Southeast Alaska; and

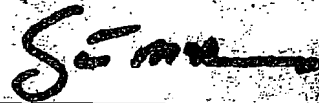
WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard is a major contributor to Sitka's economy and the Coast Guard Family forms a significant percentage of Sitka's population and is an integral part of the community; and

WHEREAS, the members of the U.S. Coast Guard participate in numerous community events such as Alaska Day, the Fourth of July parade, community fundraisers, volunteering in schools, scouts and sports programs, providing Color Guards for community events, sitting on boards of various organizations, and providing countless hours of volunteer service to make Sitka a better place to live. They embrace the community as we embrace them as our friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, on August 4, 1790, the First Congress of the United States established the Revenue Cutter Service, the predecessor of the modern U.S. Coast Guard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka would like to honor the Coast Guard on its 219th Birthday, proclaiming August 4th as *U.S. Coast Guard Day - A day of celebration and honor for the Guardian of the Sea in Sitka, Alaska*, and ask the community to recognize these fine men and women and their families. **THANK YOU, U.S. COAST GUARD!**

Signed and sealed this 28th day of July, 2009.



Scott McAdams, Mayor

ATTEST:



Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk



DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

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Sitka, Alaska

Thursday, July 30, 2009

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HONORED—Mayor Scott McAdams reads a proclamation at Tuesday's Assembly meeting proclaiming Aug. 4 as U.S. Coast Guard Day, "a celebration and honor for the Guardians of the Sea in Sitka, Alaska." Next to McAdams are, from left, Cmdr. Scott Durrer, Lt. Cmdr. Dave Gray, IT3 Aaron McCauley, BM1 Derek Borel and Capt. James Walker, Air Station comman-

der. The proclamation cites the various contributions of Air Station Sitka, Cutter Maple, Aids to Navigation Team, Marine Safety Detachment and Electronic Support Detachment Detail in Sitka. The proclamation lists the Coast Guard's work in securing the coastline and rescuing those in distress, and finding many ways to contribute to the community. (Sentinel Photo)

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City & Borough of Sitka

CITATION

*Commemorating the commissioning of the United States Coast Guard Air Station
in Sitka, Alaska, on October 17, 1977.*

WHEREAS, the first Coast Guard Air Station in Southeast Alaska was established on Annette Island, located 20 miles south of Ketchikan, in March, 1944; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, the Coast Guard Air Station was relocated from Annette Island to Sitka, with the barracks and hangar completed in Sitka in March, 1977, when the move of personnel and equipment began. Sixty family housing units were dismantled and barged to Sitka and are still in use today. On October 17, 1977, the United States Coast Guard Air Station, Sitka, was officially commissioned; and

WHEREAS, Air Station Sitka's area of responsibility encompasses 180,000 square miles of water and land from Dixon Entrance to Icy Bay, and from the Alaskan/Canadian border to the central Gulf of Alaska, including 12,000 tidal miles of rugged coasts, mountainous terrain, severe weather, remote villages, and long distances between fuel and landing sites—one of the most demanding flight environments the USCG aircraft operate in; and


WHEREAS, today, Air Station Sitka utilizes three HH-60J Jayhawk helicopters and a compliment of over 120 officers, enlisted, and civilian personnel with a payroll of more than 7 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, Air Station Sitka personnel and equipment respond 24 hours a day for national defense, search and rescue, maintaining marine aids-to-navigation, enforcing laws and treaties, and various other missions; and


WHEREAS, the Air Station averages 150 Search and Rescue (SAR) cases a year, many in storm force winds, snow, low visibility, and darkness, air ambulance missions to remote locations, and hundreds of other patrols, transport, and other assistance region-wide, in cooperation with the other Coast Guard Sitka sectors.


NOW, THEREFORE as Deputy Mayor of the City and Borough of Sitka, I do hereby recognize the professionalism, skill and unwavering devotion to duty displayed by the dedicated men and women of Air Station Sitka and commend all Sitka Coast Guard staff and their families for their contributions to the Sitka community and entire Southeast Region.

Signed and sealed this 13th day of October, 2009.


Nancy Cavanaugh, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:


Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk


SITKA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City & Borough of Sitka

Proclamation

HONORING

Rear Admiral Gene Brooks

- WHEREAS,** the Seventeenth Coast Guard District, Air Station Sitka, Coast Guard Cutter Maple, Aids to Navigation Team, Marine Safety Detachment, and Electronic Support Detachment Detail all stand ready to serve our community, our state and our nation; and
- WHEREAS,** an outstanding relationship between the City and Borough of Sitka and the Seventeenth Coast Guard District is in the mutual interest of both community and service; and
- WHEREAS,** Rear Admiral Gene Brooks went above and beyond to become a student of Alaska, a familiar face to many Sitkans, and an active participant in the civic and cultural life of the communities he served; and
- WHEREAS,** the professionalism, ingenuity, and unwavering devotion to duty displayed by the men and women of the Seventeenth Coast Guard District continue to reflect great credit upon themselves, their unit, the United States Coast Guard and the United States of America, and furthermore reflect high quality leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Rear Admiral Gene Brooks has embodied the mission to serve and safeguard the public, protect the environment and its resources, and defend the Nation's interests in the Alaskan maritime region during his tenure as Commanding Officer of the Seventeenth Coast Guard District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Scott McAdams, Mayor of the City and Borough of Sitka, do hereby proclaim July 16, 2009, in recognition of the change of command, as:

REAR ADMIRAL GENE BROOKS DAY

in Sitka, Alaska, in deep appreciation of his service to Sitka and Alaska. We wish Rear Admiral Brooks and his family the best in the years to come.

Signed and sealed this 28th day of July, 2009.


Scott McAdams, Mayor

ATTEST:


Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk



DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

A home-owned newspaper serving Sitka since 1940 • www.sitkasentinel.com

WEEKEND EDITION

Volume 70 No. 146

Sitka, Alaska

Friday, July 31, 2009

10 Pages

Page 1

Coast Guard Admiral Given Overhead Salute

By SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sentinel Staff Writer

It's been weeks of goodbyes and tributes to the outgoing commander of the Seventeenth Coast Guard District, Rear Admiral Gene Brooks.

On Tuesday two Coast Guard helicopter crews bade him a special farewell — and gave ferry passengers a thrill — as Brooks was coming into Sitka on the ferry Columbia.

Karen Macklin was on a fishing boat with her husband at the south end of Whitestone Narrows when they heard the radio conversation between the Coast Guard and the Columbia, and was ready with her camera when two helicopters made a low level pass near the Alaska Marine Highway vessel.

Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Coulter said he and his crew were flying a training mission Tuesday when they received word that Brooks was on the ferry and

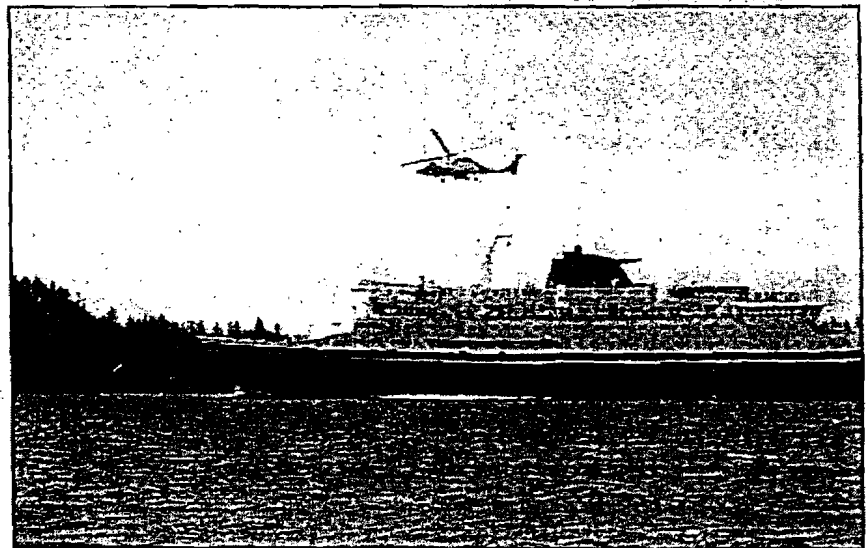
the flyby was authorized by the air station commander, Capt. David Walker.

Coulter said Brooks was brought to the bridge for the event, and dozens of M/V Columbia passengers watched from the deck.

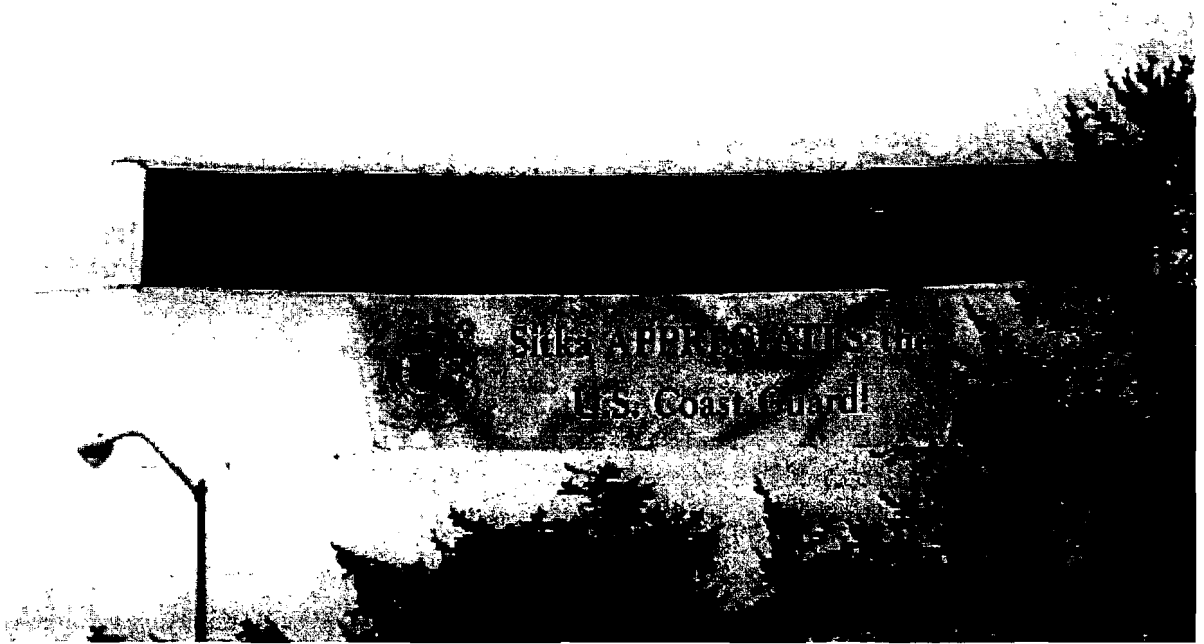
"We just did a ceremonial flyby for our former leader," Coulter said. "There was an announcement for ferry passengers — they packed the port deck."

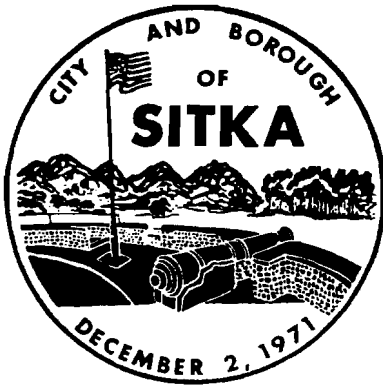
After lunch at the Sitka air station Brooks resumed his ferry trip to Bellingham, en route to his next duty station, Portsmouth, Va.

At Tuesday's Assembly meeting a proclamation was read making July 16 Rear Admiral Gene Brooks Day. July 16 was the day of the change of command ceremony in Juneau, where Rear Adm. Christopher C. Colvin was welcomed as the new district commander.



Coast Guard salutes Adm. Gene Brooks. (Karen Macklin photo)





City and Borough of Sitka

FIRE DEPARTMENT

209 LAKE ST. · SITKA, ALASKA · 99835

907-747-3233

March 31st, 2010

Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard (CG-092)
2100 Second Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20593

RE: Sitka Alaska, A Coast Guard City

Dear Commandant:

On behalf of the Sitka Fire Department, I am honored to write a letter of support for the recognition of Sitka, Alaska as National Coast Guard Status City.

For the past 33 years, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Sitka Fire Department have had a thriving professional relationship serving the citizens of Sitka. The Sitka Fire Department is a small department that responds to 1,300 calls a year with no mutual aid. This would not be possible without the dedicated service of the men and women of the Coast Guard who volunteer their off duty time for the citizens of Sitka as volunteer firefighters, divers and EMT's.

The dedication of the Coast Guard volunteers is priceless. From the volunteer firefighter who responds in the middle of the night to a structure fire, the volunteer EMT who responds on days off to a heart attack patient, to the volunteer diver searching for a lost crewmember, these are just examples of the many reasons the citizens of Sitka hold both the Fire Department and the Coast Guard in the highest respects.

The relationship between the Fire Department and the Coast Guard extends well beyond the professional responses to the citizens of Sitka, it has become more of a family tradition. Every 4th of July, the Coast Guard and Fire Department participate in a friendly water fight. (It is noted that the Coast Guard has won the past 4 years!). This fun event is anticipated and enjoyed by all the members of the community. Each transfer season is with both sorrow and joy as we welcome the new members and say goodbye to old friends as we wish them smooth seas and safe passage in their continued endeavors with their Coast Guard careers.

The enthusiasm, warmth and friendliness, the professional attitude as well as their dedication to excellence has had a profound impact on all the members of the Sitka Fire Department over the years. The Sitka Fire Department members hold the men and women of the Coast Guard who volunteer their off duty time in the highest traditions of the fire service and truly believe that Sitka Alaska, has always been a "Coast Guard City".

On behalf of all the men and women of the Sitka Fire Department,

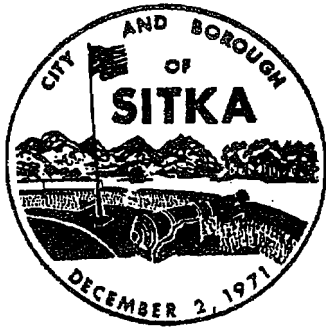
Dave Miller, Fire Chief
Sitka Fire Department



Fire Department EMS personnel assist Coast Guard helicopter crew with a medivac patient. – 1/5/2010



Fire Chief Dave Miller congratulates ANT – Coast Guard member Chief Phil Dequaine for winning the July 4, 2009 water flight, as Coast Guard Commanding Officer Dave Walker looks on.



City and Borough of Sitka

POLICE DEPARTMENT

304 Lake Street, Room 102 • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Sheldon Schmitt
Chief of Police

Business 747-3245
Fax 747-1075

March 30, 2010

Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard (CG-092)
2100 Second Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20593

RE: Sitka, Alaska -A Coast Guard City

Dear Sir,

This letter is to support the effort for Sitka to be recognized as a Coast Guard City

The Sitka Police Department has a long history of collaboration with the United States Coast Guard (USCG). We have common ground in our respective missions and often work together. We have a good working relationship with the USCG and have done many mutual operations in the past.

This relationship has become more inter-dependant as the Sitka Police Department obtained an Emergency Responses Vessel (ERV) in an effort to respond to water based incidents, as well as provide a supplemental law enforcement capacity on the water, in addition to the Coast Guard.

We have had many joint missions, such as our assistance and participation in the BEST (Boating Safety Education Training) program. Essentially we provided transport with the ERV to the BEST team to do random Vessel Safety Checks. The Sitka Police Department involvement with the USCG in this endeavor was to simply help increase awareness and safety on the water, and hopefully decrease the possibility of accidents, injury or worse, on the water around Sitka.

The Sitka Police Department routinely provides weapon storage in support of USCG law enforcement personnel or special units that travel to Sitka for various operations. We also provide professional law enforcement related services or training to the USCG base in Sitka and its personnel. The Sitka Police Dispatch Center provides communication support as needed for USCG missions.

The Sitka Police Department recognizes the enormous asset the USCG base is to the community of Sitka and this region, and we are proud to support them in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Chief Sheldon Schmitt
Sitka Police Department



SITKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

329 Harbor Drive, Suite 212 • Sitka, Alaska 99835 • (907) 747-2660 • fax (907) 747-7688 • www.sitka.net

March 30, 2010

Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard (CG-092)
2100 Second Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20593

RE: Sitka, Alaska – A Coast Guard City

The Sitka Economic Development Association (SEDA) supports recognition of Sitka, Alaska as a Coast Guard City and wishes to take this opportunity to express its appreciation for the many years of service the USCG has provided our community.

Being assigned to a post in Alaska can be challenging for a Coast Guard family. SEDA publishes the Sitka Community Profile and maintains a website www.sitka.net with information to assist Coast Guard personnel and others who are relocating to the community.

SEDA recognizes the important role that the US Coast Guard plays in our local economy. Sitka is a maritime community with an economy that relies heavily on shipping and the resources of the sea. The U.S. Coast Guard provides the support services necessary to these marine activities and is currently our third largest employer. However, the value of the Coast Guard to Sitka goes beyond economics, influencing the very character of the town.

The importance of the United States Coast Guard to the community of Sitka, Alaska dates back to the days of the Revenue Cutter Service over 140 years ago. The revenue cutter Lincoln brought a survey party to Sitka, in the summer of 1867, to investigate the potential resources of Alaska. Reports and notes from this survey were used to support congressional appropriation of money to purchase Alaska. The United States flag was officially raised over Alaska on October 18, 1867 in Sitka. One hundred and ten years later, the Sitka Air Station was officially commissioned on the eve of Alaska Day, October 17, 1977. In celebration of the Air Station's move to Sitka, each year, Air Station personnel and the crew of the USCG Cutter Maple are invited to participate in the Alaska Day Parade, receiving great applause and cheers from members of the community in appreciation for their service.

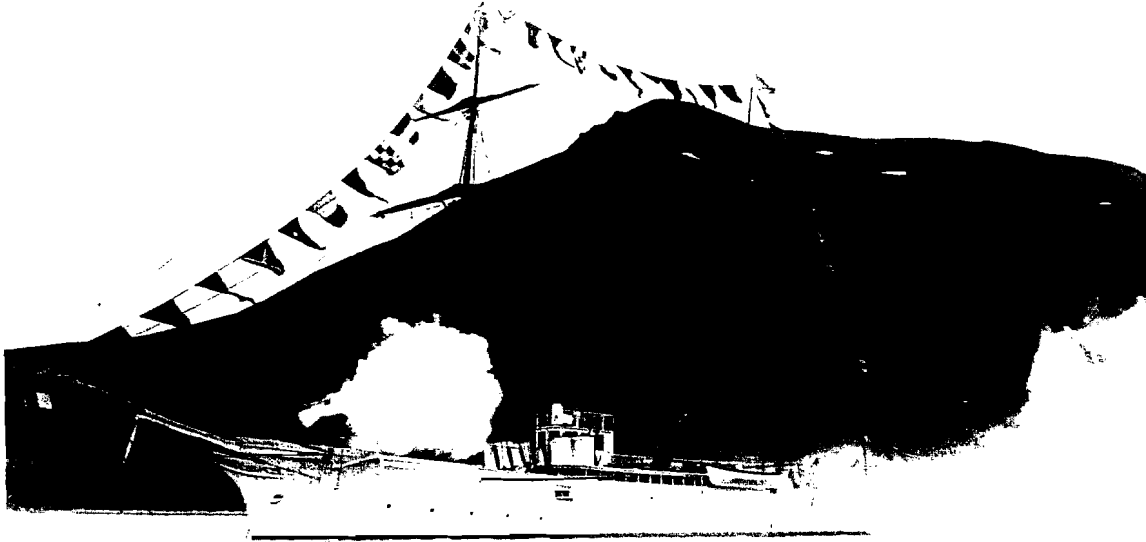
Alaska Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and the 4th of July are major events where the participation of the U.S. Coast Guard is a highlight of the day. However, it is the everyday, personal connections with local USCG personnel that are most valued. Coast Guard staff and their families are actively involved throughout the community as volunteers and members of many organizations. They are our friends and neighbors and are encouraged to view Sitka as their home and not just another duty station.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of Sitka's application for designation as a Coast Guard City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garry A. White", written in a cursive style.

Garry A. White, Executive Director



Rush - Sitka 7-4-1901

The Revenue Cutter Rush fires a salute on Independence Day, 1901 – Sitka, Alaska



Photo: by Dave Dapcevic, Sitka, Alaska – July 4, 2009

The U.S. Coast Guard helicopter fly-over during Sitka's 4th of July parade always brings a huge cheer from the appreciative crowd.

September 29, 2009

Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard (CG-092)
2100 Second Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20593

RE: Sitka, Alaska – A Coast Guard City

Dear Commandant:

On behalf of the Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau Board, I am pleased to write a letter of support for the recognition of Sitka, Alaska, as National Coast Guard Status.

The Coast Guard has long been an integral part of Sitka since the relocation of the Air Station in 1977. Valued not only for their important governmental duties, assignments and rescues, but also as part of our community structure! Over the years, countless Coast Guard men and women have donated their time to assist and participate in many community events. Sitka's Memorial Day ceremony, Fourth of July parade, Alaska Day Commemoration and Veteran's Day celebration are just a few events that bring attention to the Coast Guard from proud local citizens and visitors from around the world who are in town during these festivities. The Coast Guard personnel's involvement in Sitka's activities help our community to reflect our well-known "home town" spirit and forge many business and personal relationships!

The Visitors Bureau has been contacted repeatedly over the years by Coast Guard's extended family members arranging visits to Sitka. We have provided vacation guides and information on activities, places to stay, history and tours to Coast Guard and these visiting families. We also receive phone calls and emails from family members needing information to assist in relocation to their Sitka assignment. It is common for many Coast Guard families to return to Sitka to visit friends and colleagues long after they have left the area or retired from service and even relocate here permanently after their assignment ends.

From the top chain of command, to the lowest ranking staff person, the Coast Guard leadership encourages all Coast Guard staff to engage in the community as if it was their home, not merely a duty station. Coast Guard personnel and family members regularly join in our community fundraising efforts and civic service to help local struggling families and organizations continue their mission efforts. The Coast Guard Wives Club has been a resource utilized in the past by our organization which depends heavily on volunteers to assist visitors during summer. Volunteers are invaluable to aid Sitka's many non-profit organizations to exist and hard working Coast Guard staff volunteer regularly.

The Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau Board proudly support this important National Coast Guard Status designation to one of Sitka's special assets, The U.S. Coast Guard!

On behalf of the Sitka Convention & Visitors Bureau Board,

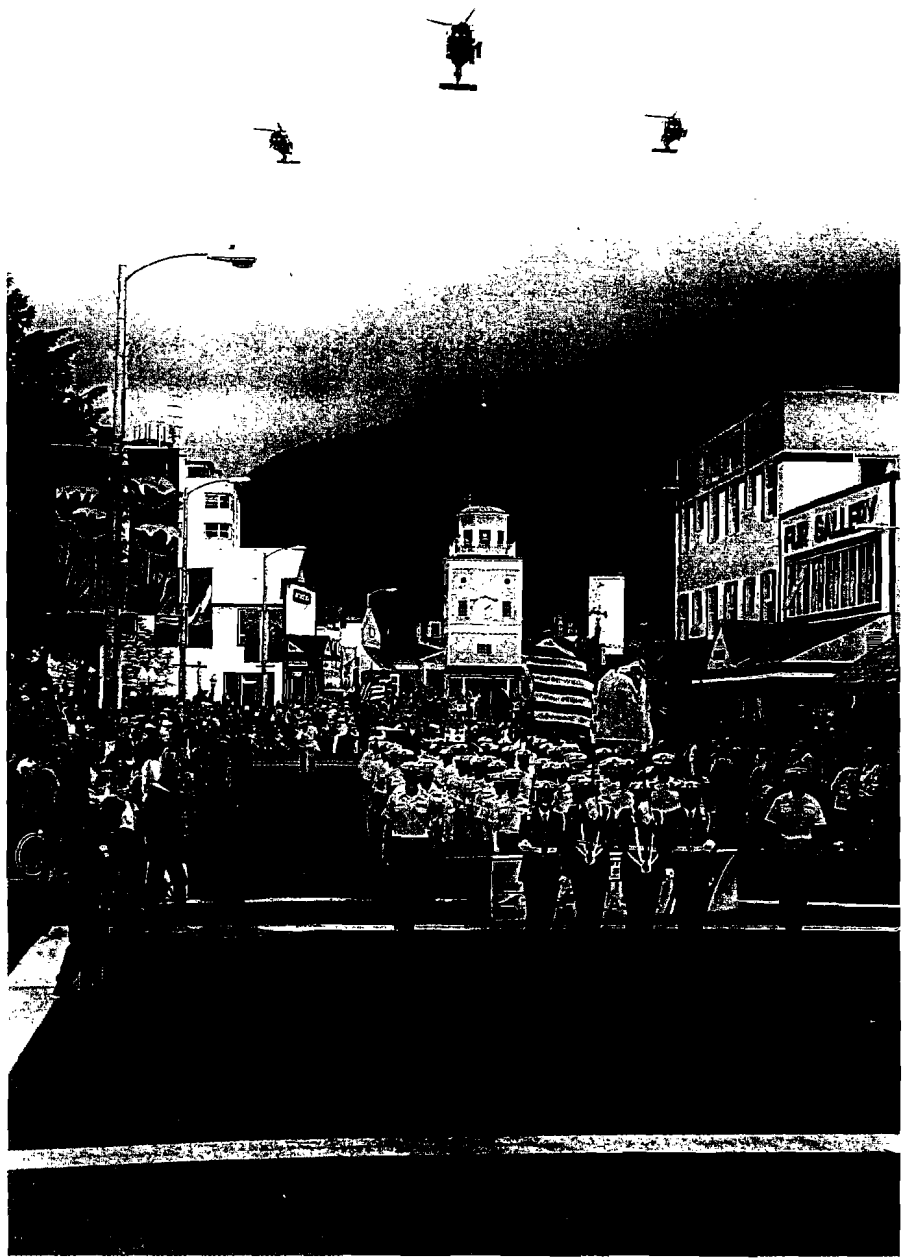


Sandy Lorrigan
Executive Director
Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau



SITKA
CONVENTION AND
VISITORS BUREAU

P.O. Box 1226
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Ph:(907)747-5940
Fax:(907)747-3739
scvb@sitka.org
www.sitka.org





THE GREATER SITKA
chamber
OF COMMERCE

329 Harbor Drive, Suite 212
Mail: P.O. Box 638 • Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-8604 • Fax (907) 747-7413

Commandant (G-1)
United States Coast Guard
2100 Second St. SW
Washington DC 20593

March 30, 2010

Re: Sitka's 'Coast Guard City' application

Dear Commandant,

On behalf of the board of directors of the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to support the City of Sitka's application for 'Coast Guard City' status. We are told by members of the Sitka Coast Guard contingent that this is one of the places in which Coast Guard members and their families feel welcome and appreciated. I would like to outline the ways in which the Chamber of Commerce reaches out to the Coast Guard community and helps to make them feel welcome.

- The Coast Guard Air Station has long been a member of the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce, at no cost to the command. They in turn, invite us to their Open House before the Alaska Day Ball.
- The Coast Guard Commander has been invited to present at our weekly Chamber Luncheons annually, and is always warmly received with great appreciation.
- Every few years, members of the Coast Guard are honored as 'Community Heros' at our Annual Chamber Banquet. This is an honor that is rotated among groups in the community that do outstanding work to make Sitka a safe and comfortable place in which to live and work.
- The Chamber coordinates the 4th of July parade. The Coast Guard Air Station and the Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team are always invited to join that parade, as well as the parade on Alaska Day, October 18. The Coast Guard Honor Guard at the front of the parade and the helicopter fly-over are always greeted with applause and cheers.
- The Sitka Chamber maintains a Relocation page on our website, <http://sitkacoc.com/relocation.html> that is often used by incoming personnel to familiarize themselves with Sitka before their move.
- Sitka's business owners are very generous contributors to Coast Guard fundraising events, such as the recent Rainy Day Bazaar and Silent Auction. Some businesses offer Military discounts. We'd like to increase participation in this type of offering - maybe by making it more visible to the public.

In the works to make our relationship with the Coast Guard even more welcoming:

- The Sitka Chamber is working with the City of Sitka to help the Coast Guard Spouses and Women's Association upgrade their 'Welcome to Sitka' bags. The City has offered to pay for the bags, which will have an imprinted 'Welcome to Sitka' message from the City of Sitka, the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce and the Spouses Association. The Chamber will contribute business and community information and one of our Silver Saver Discount Cards (\$10 value) to each bag, and will support the Spouses Association in soliciting items from local businesses to be included.

The Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce strongly supports this application for Coast Guard City status. Sitkans are proud and happy to have our own local Coast Guard base providing for our safety and security.

Sincerely,

Sheila Finkenbinder, Executive Director, for the board of directors

Marlene Campbell

From: Sitka Chamber of Commerce [sheila@sitkacoc.ccsend.com] on behalf of Sitka Chamber of Commerce [chamber@ptialaska.net]
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2009 4:10 PM
To: campbell@cityofsitka.com
Subject: Sitka Chamber News



THE GREATER SITKA
chamber
 OF COMMERCE

Weekly Happenings

July 27, 2009

**Silver Saver
Cards**

Shee Atika Totem Square Inn is offering 10% off their rack rate. Keep that in mind when friends or relatives are coming.

Thanks Dave.

**Chamber Board
Meetings**

The next Chamber board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at 8am.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Upcoming Events

Street Fair / Sidewalk Sale, August 15, downtown.

Season's End Celebration & Running of the Boots, Saturday, September 26, downtown.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more

Weekly Luncheons

July 29, 2009 - Captain David Walker, Commander of Coast Guard Air Station Sitka. David Walker has served in the military for 27 years, having enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1982, while he was in college, working as a helicopter flight mechanic. Following graduation, he received a 2nd Lieutenant's commission in the United States Army and attended the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Parachutist School and Aviation Flight Training.

Having served in several jobs and locations with the Army, David applied for and received a Direct Commission as a Coast Guard Aviator. Over the past 20 years, he has worked his way up to his current position as commanding officer of Coast Guard Air Station Sitka. David Walker was promoted to the rank of Captain on July 1, 2009. We are happy to have Captain Walker and his wife Bonnie and son David Jr. here with us in Sitka.

We will also be honoring Sergeant Ed Green, who is retiring after 20 years with the Sitka Police Department.

August 5, 2009 - Heyward Donnigan, Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield.

August 12, 2009 - TBA

August 19, 2009 - Sitka Whale Fest

Ideas for speakers are always welcome. Email Sheila or call 747-8604 with ideas for topics you'd like to hear about.

Tourism Round Table - Thursday

Please join the Chamber for a discussion on the declining revenues from the tourism industry, and what we can do as a community to turn things around.

Thursday, July 30, at 4:30pm



Sitka Rotary Club
Box 6185
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Established 1943

27 September 2005

Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard (CG-092)
2100 Second Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20593

Subject: Sitka Rotary Club and the U.S. Coast Guard

Commandant,

The Sitka Rotary Club is pleased to provide our support for designation of the community of Sitka as a Coast Guard City.

During my thirty-plus year tenure as a Sitka Rotarian, I have witnessed an ever increasing bond between the Sitka Rotary Club and the crew and officers of Air Station Sitka and the buoy tender Maple and it's predecessor vessels. Since the arrival of the Air Station in Sitka it has become a tradition that the CO or ExO be a member of Rotary. Commander Kevin Sareault, recently departed from Air Station Sitka to a new posting, was an excellent Sitka Rotarian and we are sure that he will continue to serve his new community as a Rotarian.

A number of times since Air Station Sitka opened they have supported the Rotary Club and the City and Borough of Sitka by delivering repair materials to the City and Borough's Goddard Hot Springs park south of town. Every year for more than a decade the Rotary Club and Air Station Sitka have co-sponsored a Bicycle Rodeo, held in the Air Station hanger, to educate young riders about bicycle safety. The Rotary Club feels very strongly that the US Coast Guard is an integral part of life in Sitka, and we welcome any opportunity to strengthen that bond.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Jones". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel Jones, President 2009-2010 Rotary year

District 17 ALASKA



**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



March 26, 2010

Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard
2100 Second Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20593

Dear Commandant,

Because of the widespread community support of our local Coast Guard base, and the enthusiastic and positive feelings toward the active duty personnel and their families, it is my privilege to write to you to tell you about some of the interaction that takes place.

I am a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and volunteer my time, as do all of the members of the local flotilla, to assist the Coast Guard. What we do encompasses several areas. We conduct vessel safety inspections to inform boat owners of the required equipment they need to pass inspection. We use this as an educational, helpful experience for the boat owners, and because it is so non-threatening we are invited aboard and welcomed by the grateful owners. We also teach many boating safety classes to the general public, as well as to active members of the Coast Guard so they can take out the moral boat. For the younger folks we have a large remote control boat named Coastie that young children adore. Coastie teaches them to wear life jackets and about safe water practices. Last winter the auxiliary donated 50 life jackets to the Rotary Club's "Kids Don't Float" program. This is an example of how organizations in Sitka work together to help the Coast Guard.

In addition to the educational activities we do, we directly assist the local base. During the annual Alaska Day festivities our involvement was responsible for the active duty soldiers being able to take their smaller boat in the parade as a float and join the community in sharing and eating a huge cake. This was possible because the auxiliary assisted in the water rescue demonstration put on by the Coast Guard by picking up the rescue swimmer and taking him in our boat to the site where the helicopter picked him up. It was quite a sensational demonstration for the townspeople to see. Everybody is so proud that the Coast Guard is here, and to see the giant helicopter rescue a swimmer right next to the bridge, in plain sight, was a thrill for the town. Another project our flotilla commander, Ted Allio, is in the process of coordinating, is to facilitate some relief watch for the auxiliary to take on the USCG Maple, especially during holidays, so the active duty personnel can be home with their families.

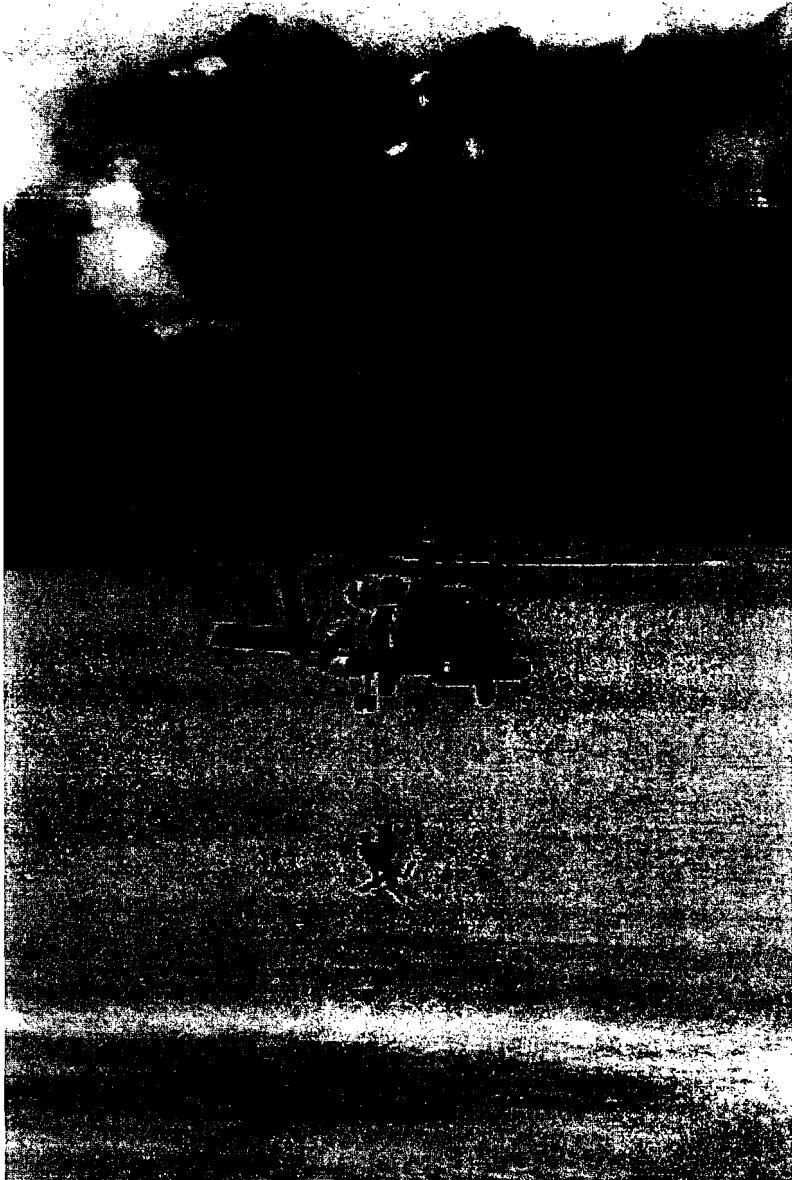
I hope this will help you understand how important the Coast Guard is to our town, and how enthusiastically we support them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Lemler".

Paula Lemler

Vice Commander, Sitka Flotilla



USCG Rescue Demonstration



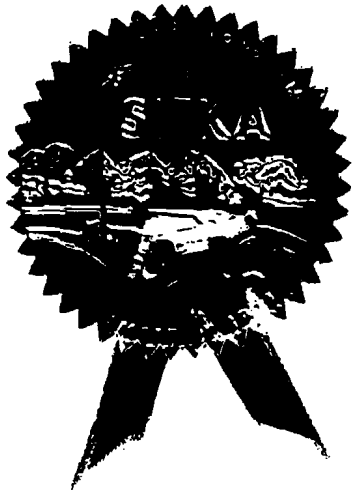
CERTIFICATE
OF
APPRECIATION

The City and Borough of Sitka
hereby recognizes, and expresses their sincere gratitude, to the

U. S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FLOTILLA

on the 50th anniversary of their service to the citizens of Sitka.

Presented this 9th day of October, 2007.



Marko Dapceвич
Mayor

Colleen Pellett, MMC
Municipal Clerk





Sitka Mountain Rescue

330 Harbor Drive
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-3225

March 30, 2010

Commandant U.S. Coast Guard (G-1)
2100 Second St. SW
Washington D.C. 20593

RE: Sitka, Alaska Coast Guard City designation

Dear Commandant:

On behalf of Sitka Mountain Rescue (SMR), I offer this letter of support for Sitka, Alaska to be recognized and designated as a Coast Guard City.

The Coast Guard has long been respected and valued in Sitka. In my 25 years with SMR, I've experienced the unique and strong working relationship with the Coast Guard Air Station Sitka. As a partner in the rescue community, the Coast Guard has been both a recipient and contributor of resources and efforts expended to ensure the success of search and rescue missions through out Southeast Alaska. SMR offers a fully accredited Mountain Rescue Team to the Coast Guard to aid in searching for and rescuing survivors. As well, the Coast Guard Air Station Sitka provides top notch air crews and resources to assist with land based SAR missions. This partnership and mutual respect provides the best of both worlds for the benefit of those in need. Annually, the Coast Guard and SMR cooperate on an average of 20 missions. Additionally, cooperative field training and other preventative education events such as safety fairs are supported by both agencies each year.

Air Station Sitka and SMR maintain a Memorandum of Agreement that outlines the roles and responsibilities concerning deployment of SMR personnel on Coast Guard Aircraft. This MOA provides for effective training that enhances the proficiency and safety for the aircrews and SMR personnel alike. Many lives have been saved, including those of several Coast Guard personnel, as a direct result of the cooperation between the agencies. At a moment's notice SMR has provided necessary life saving equipment and personnel to Air Station Sitka. As an example, several years ago a CG helicopter made an emergency landing in a remote location in SE Alaska. SMR gladly provided tents and sleeping bags as well as other survival gear for the crew at a moment's notice.

SMR provides volunteer opportunities to the men and women of the Coast Guard in Sitka. Over the years countless Coast Guard personnel have been valued members of SMR. As such they have gained access to additional training opportunities, local knowledge, team benefits and been a valued part of our extended family. Coast Guard personnel bring an exceptional commitment and dedication to their host communities and as such are well respected by all.

I've had the honor to work side by side with Coast Guard personnel on many community projects as well as responding to search and rescue missions. Many of my most respected friends and neighbors are Coast Guard personnel. It is with great honor that SMR has the opportunity to support Sitka as a designated Coast Guard city.

Sincerely,

Don Kluting
Director, Sitka Mountain Rescue

DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

A home-owned newspaper serving Sitka since 1940 • www.sitkasentinel.com

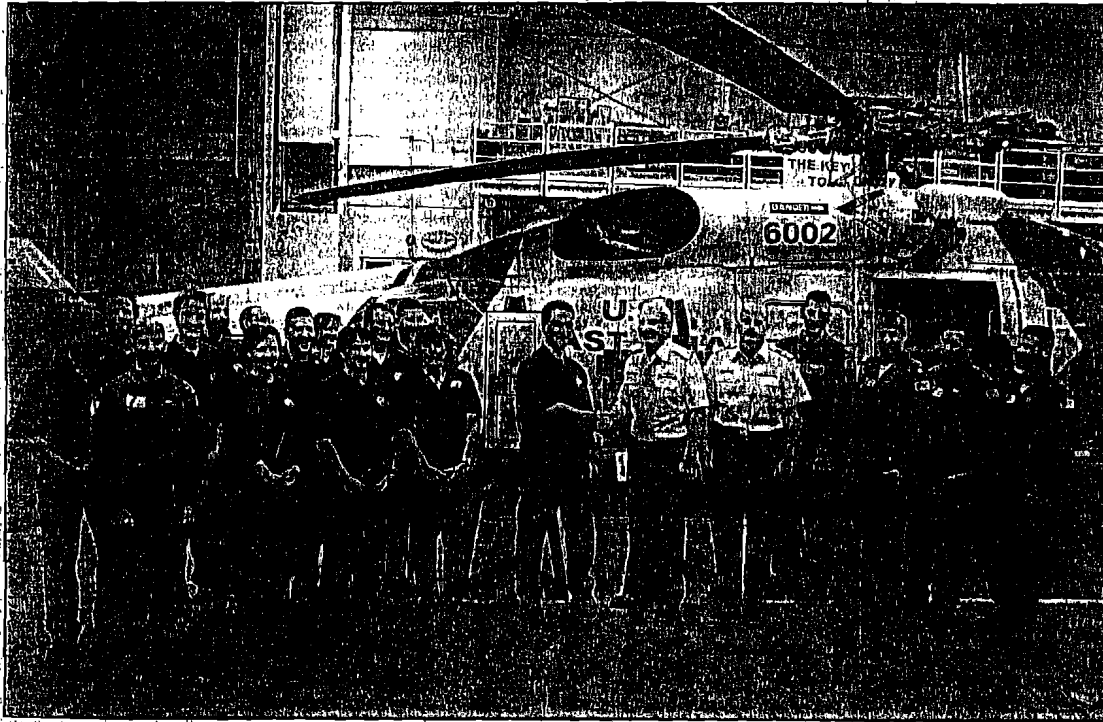
50 Cents

Volume 71 No. 18

Sitka, Alaska

Thursday, January 28, 2010

6 Pages



Sitka Mountain Rescue Director Don Kluting shakes hands with Rear Adm. Christopher Colvin, commander of U.S. Coast Guard District 17, after the admiral presented the rescue team a Meritorious Public Service Award Wednesday at Air Station Sitka. SMR team members

worked with Coast Guard air crew, pictured at right, to save the life of an injured hunter Oct. 15. Pictured at left are members of the SMR. Standing next to Adm. Colvin is Capt. David Walker, Air Station Sitka commanding officer. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Coast Guard Honors Sitka Rescue Team

By SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sentinel Staff Writer

The Sitka Mountain Rescue team was honored with the Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Award Wednesday, in recognition of the dramatic rescue of a hunter last October.

SMR Director Don Kluting accepted the award on behalf of the team in a ceremony at Coast Guard Air Station Sitka. Rear Adm. Christopher C. Colvin, commander of the 17th Coast Guard District, came to Sitka to present the award.

"It's a wonderful, wonderful honor," Kluting said today. "Unbelievable. It's much appreciated by the Sitka Mountain rescue crew. It's not expected — it's not why we do the missions, but it's a great honor."

An Air Station Sitka helicopter delivered three members of the Sitka Mountain Rescue team to a point about 50 yards below the hunter's position.

"At great personal risk and without the benefit of technical mountaineering is the second-highest honor given by the Coast Guard to civilians.

The nomination for the award recognizes the work of the Sitka team on a joint mission with the Coast Guard Oct. 15 and 16 to rescue an injured hunter from a steep hillside 10 miles north of Sitka.

SMR and the Coast Guard received the call from the victim's hunting partner, who reported his friend had fallen down a steep slope above Katlian Bay and was stuck on an unstable mountainside.

worked the steep and unstable mountainside in the dark to reach the injured hunter," the award citation said. After one of the SMR team members reached the victim, the hunter started to slide down the hill. The rescuer was able to arrest the slide, about 10 feet from an 800-foot dropoff, Kluting recounted.

For the next two hours one of the rescuers anchored the victim on the slope until other rescuers arrived.

A helicopter hoist from that position was not attempted for fear that the rotorwash might blow the injured man and the rescuer down the slope, the Coast Guard said.

While some members of the SMR team stabilized the hunter, and treated him for injuries and hypothermia, the helicopter went back to Sitka to pick up the SMR technical team.

and unstable terrain, the technical team overcame complete darkness and severely cold temperatures to stabilize the field team and injured hunter on the cliff face," the Coast Guard said. "Over the next eight hours, the SMR team treated the injured hunter and his now hypothermic hunting partner and conducted a nighttime 1,000-foot, near-vertical descent over harsh and unforgiving terrain."

After the group reached the bottom, a Coast Guard helicopter evacuated the victim and his friend.

"Sitka Mountain Rescue's courageous and selfless actions during this daring rescue undoubtedly saved the lives of both hunters," the citation said. "The actions of the members of Sitka Mountain Rescue are heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Coast Guard."

Obama Urges Dems To Fight for Agenda

By CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama voiced determination Thursday to change the tone of Washington politics and urged Republicans to get "off the sidelines" and help fix health care and other problems.

Stopping on his way out of a town hall meeting in Tampa, Fla., Obama hammered again on his State of the Union message — insisting that voters and politicians needed to "start thinking of each other as Americans first."

Obama and Vice President Joe Biden were in Florida to announce \$8 billion in federal grants for high-speed rail projects nationwide — part of his push to combine spending on infrastructure with job creation.

Obama also used his first State of the Union speech Wednesday to push nervous Democrats to forge ahead on health care, despite voters' worries and opposition from newly strengthened Republicans.

On Thursday, he turned emphatically toward Republicans and implored cooperation.

"Our political dialogue in this country has always been messy and noisy," Obama told the crowd at the University of Tampa.

"We're all Americans. We all should anticipate that the other person, even if they disagree with us, has the best of intentions. We don't have to call them names. We don't have to demonize them."

Hanging over the Obama agenda and wobbly support among Democrats were fears fueled by events such as last week's stunning GOP victory in the Massachusetts Senate race.

That setback may have cost Democrats their filibuster-proof Senate majority, Obama said, but "we

still have the largest majority in decades, and the people expect us to solve some problems, not run for the hills."

He accepted partial blame for the deep troubles facing his health care push, but he implored lawmakers to finish the task rather than yield to public opposition.

"The longer it was debated, the more skeptical people became," Obama told the joint session of Congress and a nationwide TV audience. But health care problems will continue for millions, he said, and "I will not walk away from these Americans, and neither should the people in this chamber."

House and Senate Democratic leaders are scrambling to see if they can salvage the ambitious health care package, which Republicans almost universally oppose. Obama offered no new strategies for overcoming the steep parliamentary and political hurdles they face.

The president devoted most of his speech to job-creation proposals, such as eliminating capital gains taxes on small business investment and extending tax breaks for businesses to invest in new plants and equipment. But those proposals also face uncertainty in Congress, where Senate Democrats say they may need a selective, piecemeal approach to win enough votes.

Obama said Republicans share a responsibility for governing, and he proposed meeting with their House and Senate leaders monthly. But his olive branch seemed brittle at times.

Without naming George W. Bush, he pointedly noted that the previous administration left him a big deficit and a deeply troubled economy. For good measure, Obama said the United States killed more al-Qaida terrorists in 2009 than in 2008.

Continued on Page 6

Summer Music Festival Offers Winter Classics

By SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sentinel Staff Writer

After playing a marathon of six Tanev string quartets in two weekends a few months ago, cellist Armen Ksajikian and violinist Paul Rosenthal say they are far from tiring of the Russian composer.

"I'm glad we never had Tanev-



U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Seventeenth Coast Guard District

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Juneau, AK 99802-5517
Staff Symbol: d
Phone: 907-463-2025
Fax: 907-463-2256
Email: Kelly.K.Hansen@uscg.mil

1650
27 January 2010

MEMORANDUM

From: 
C. C. Colvin, RADM
CGDSEVENTEEN (d)

Reply to LT Hansen
Attn of:

To: Sitka Mountain Rescue

Subj: MERITORIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Ref: (a) Medals and Awards Manual, COMDTINST M1650.25

1. The following Sitka Mountain Rescue Personnel are awarded the Meritorious Public Service Award for their actions during the rescue of an injured hunter from Alpine Lake on 15-16 October 2009:

Alpine Lake Team

Don Kluting
Gerald Gangle
Greg Raschick
Gregory Wong
Eric Matthes
Tyler Orbison
Zach Hileman

Command Post/Radio Relay Personnel

Karen Kluting
Mike Motti
Matt Hunter
Quinn Sharkey
Chris Tadlock
Jennifer Brevik
Troy Brevik
Brett Banks
Carrie Hisaoka
Chris Anglin
Dave Patt
Dave Nuetzel
Paul Norwod
Tiffany Roles

#

Meritorious Public Service Award

to

SITKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE

The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard takes great pleasure in presenting the Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Award to SITKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE for exceptional services rendered to the Coast Guard, the State of Alaska, and the City of Sitka, on 15-16 October 2009. In the late evening of 15 October 2009, Coast Guard Sector Juneau received a report of an injured hunter in the vicinity of Alpine Lake, located 10 miles north of Sitka, Alaska. Already alerted to the case, a SITKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE field team was preparing for a daunting nighttime boat insertion and overland trek to the injured hunter. The Coast Guard District Seventeen Command Center directed the launch of an Air Station Sitka MH-60J helicopter to support SITKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE in rescuing the injured hunter. Once on scene, the hunter was located on a precarious cliff face at an elevation of 2800 feet, representing a vastly more challenging rescue than expected. A three-member SITKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE field team was hoisted down onto hardscrabble terrain on a 50 to 60 degree slope, 50 yards down-slope from the hunter's tenuous position. At great personal risk and without the benefit of technical mountaineering equipment, the three member team worked the steep and unstable mountainside in the dark to reach the injured hunter. As one team member reached the victim, they both started to slide down the cliff face, stopping just short of an 800-foot dropoff. For two hours, this member was the sole anchor preventing the hunter from falling to his death. Quickly recognizing that the MH-60J helicopter's tremendous rotorwash would blow the rescue team and victim off the cliff, the SITKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE team leader requested the expertise of SITKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE's technical rescue team. While the MH-60J helicopter returned to Air Station Sitka to pick up the SITKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE technical team, the field team stabilized the hunter, treating him for his injuries and hypothermia. The MH-60J helicopter returned to scene and inserted the four member technical rescue team. Navigating over extreme slopes and unstable terrain, the technical team overcame complete darkness and severely cold temperatures to stabilize the field team and injured hunter on the cliff face. Over the next eight hours, the SITKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE team treated the injured hunter and his now hypothermic hunting partner and conducted a nighttime 1000 foot near-vertical descent over harsh and unforgiving terrain. Upon reaching the valley floor, the team attended to both hunters until first light, when they were evacuated by MH-60J helicopter. SITKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE's courageous and selfless actions during this daring rescue undoubtedly saved the lives of both hunters. The actions of the members of SITKA MOUNTAIN RESCUE are heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

Public Service Commendation

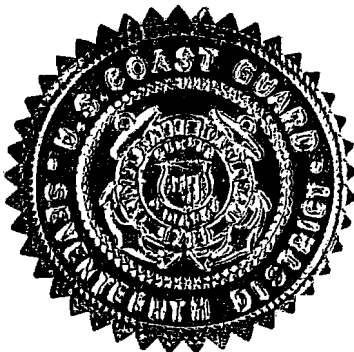
to

Sitka Fire Department

“For outstanding response and assistance in the recovery of 14 disoriented and chilled hikers on the Baranof Warm Spring’s trail on 15 July 1999. The Sitka Fire Department’s Mountain Rescue Team, which included Don Kluting, Joshua Stevens and Mike Motti, was transported by a Coast Guard helicopter and placed on the ice field adjacent to Baranof Lake Glacier on the evening of 15 July 1999 to assist and recover the hikers from a four day hike in the mountains. Discovering the group near exhaustion and running low on food, water, and fuel, the Mountain Rescue Team checked each member's medical condition and attended them throughout the night. The following morning, your team's preparation ensured an exceptionally safe and orderly Coast Guard helicopter evacuation of all personnel.

This outstanding response and initiative continues to promote the successful partnership between the Sitka Fire Department and the Coast Guard. It is undoubtedly comforting for the community of Sitka to know that a working partnership of volunteers and the Coast Guard formulated an unbeatable combination. The United States Coast Guard commends the Mountain Rescue Team’s valiant and highly professional efforts to ensure the safe return of all 14 people.

The pride, professionalism and devotion to duty displayed by the Mountain Rescue Team are in keeping with the highest traditions of humanitarian service and are heartily appreciated by the United States Coast Guard.”

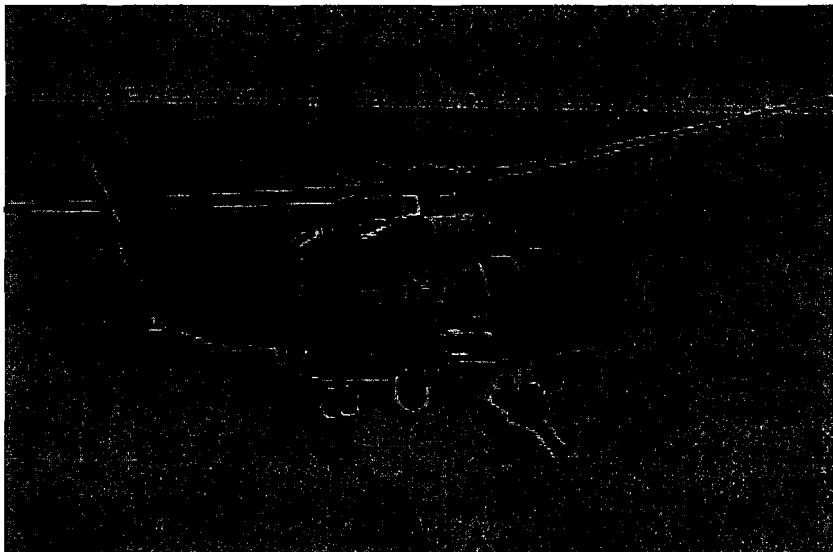




Hoist Training June 6th 2009 at Air Station Sitka.



August 22, 2009 Hoist training at Air Station Sitka.





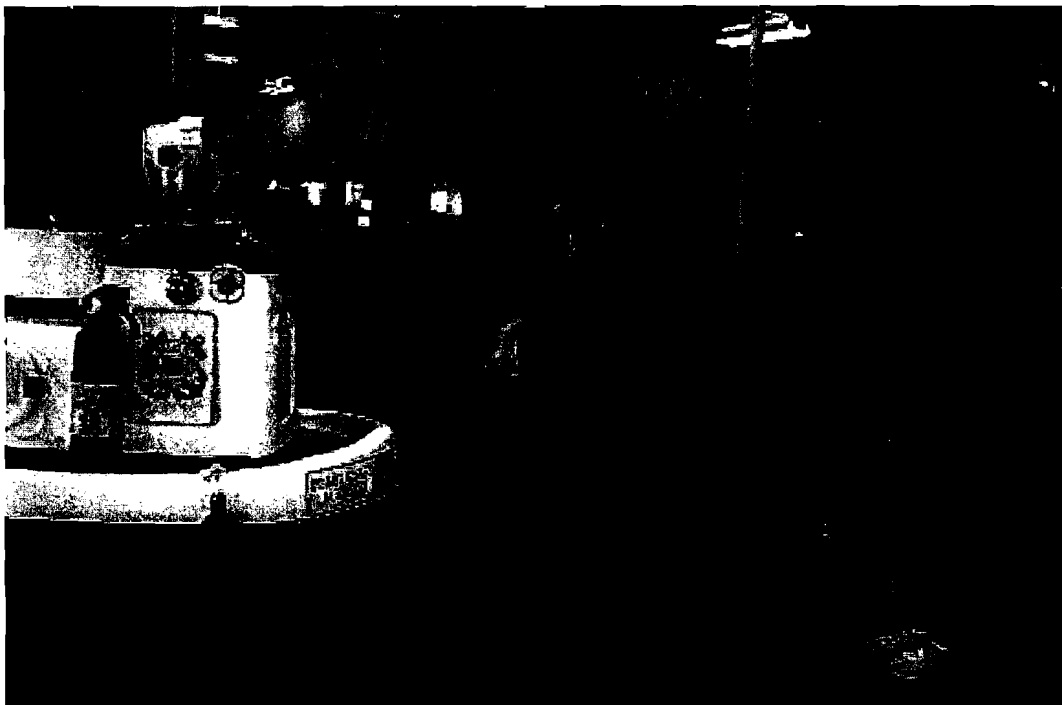
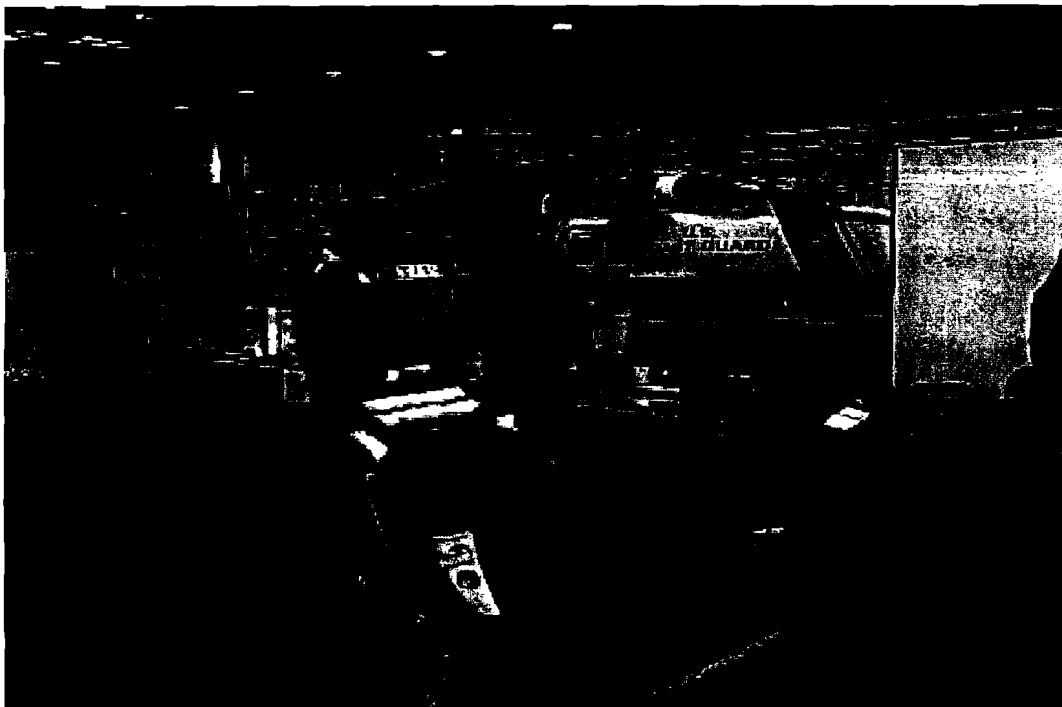
August 22, 2009 Hoist training at Air Station Sitka.



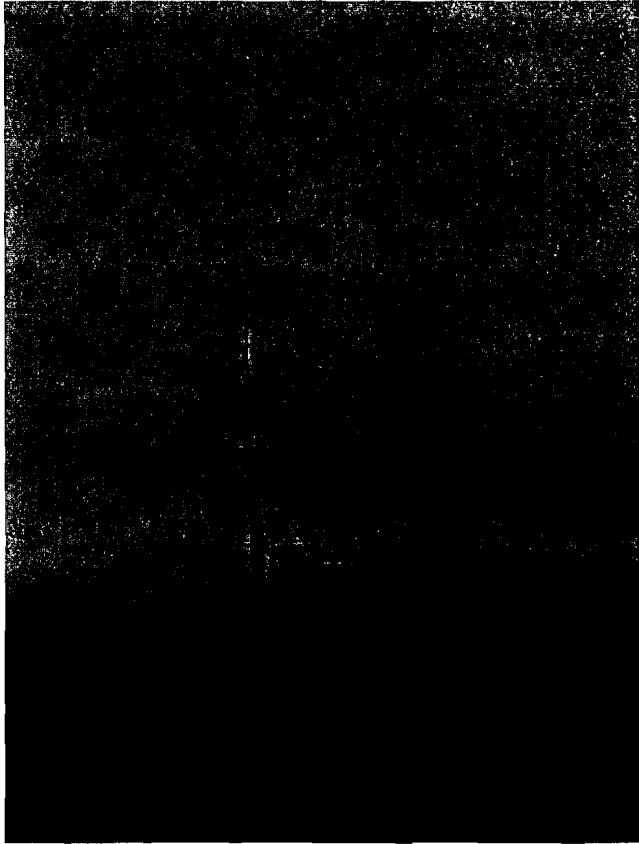
Training with Air Station Sitka and SMR on 2/17/07 on Harbor Mountain.



Training with Air Station Sitka and SMR on 2/17/07 on Harbor Mountain.

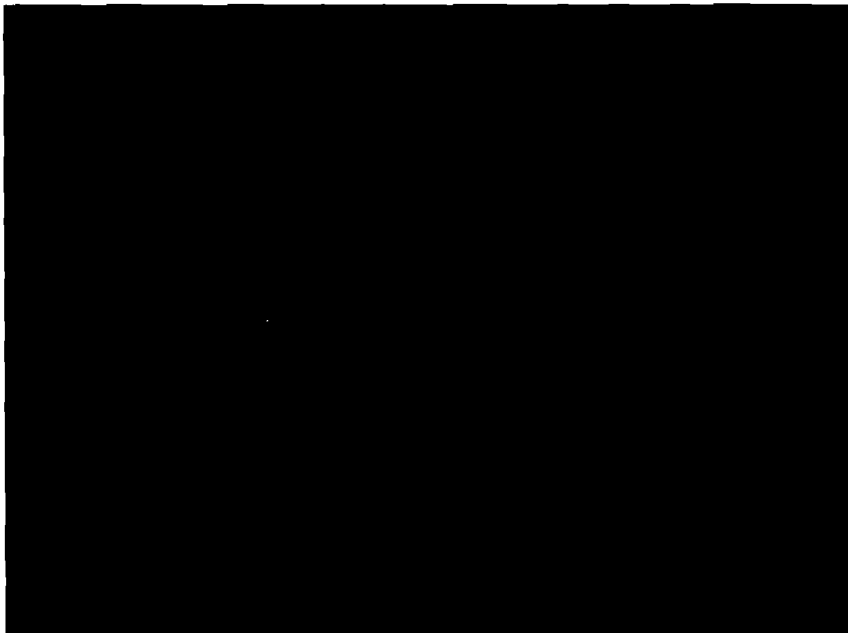
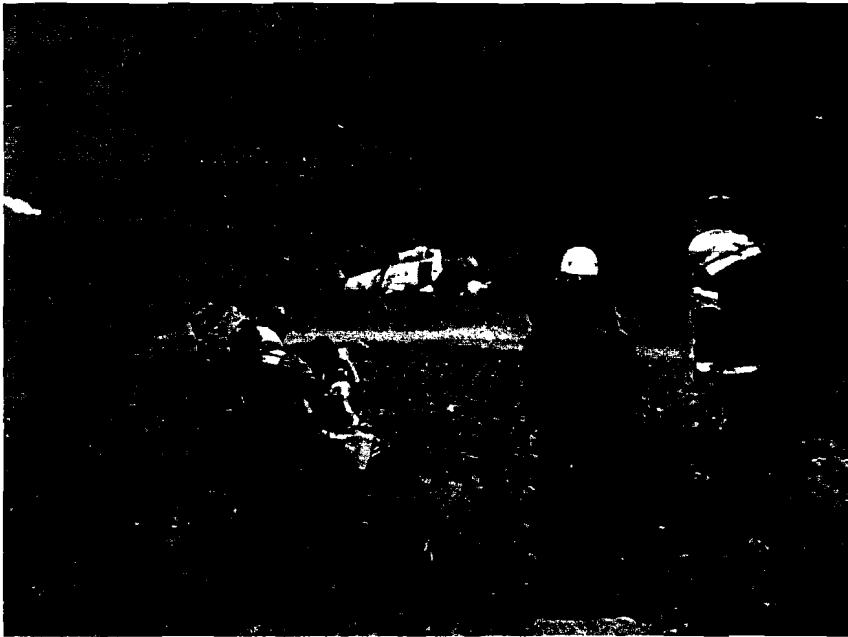


Safety Fair at Air Station Sitka. Annual event during the Alaska Day Celebration.



One of the many support missions SMR has conducted for the CG. SMR escorted this vessel back to Sitka after it hit the rocks in Dorothy Narrows. SMR members provided needed cover for the vessel and allowed the CG helicopter to return to base.

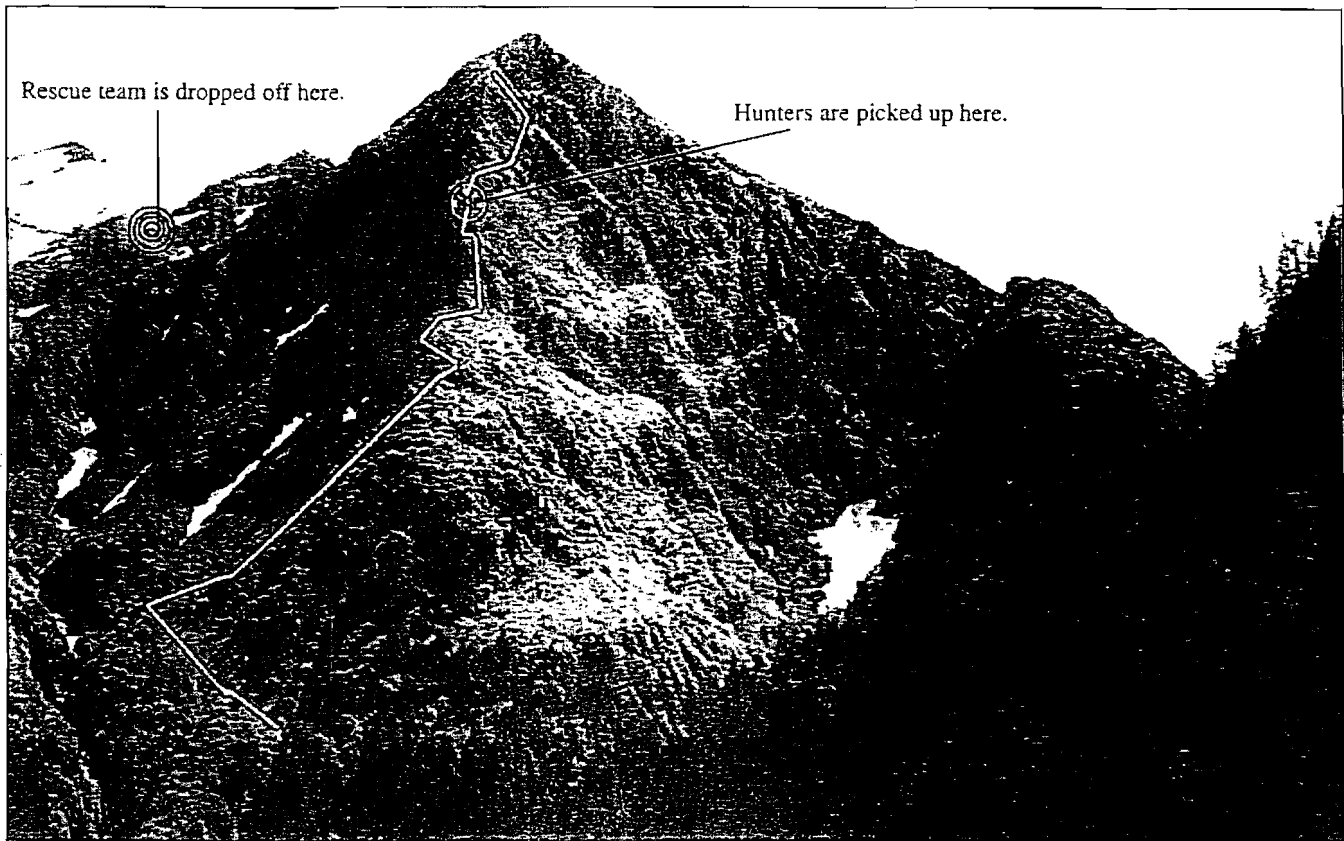
Mission was on July 24, 2009.



SMR and USCG responded to Cold Storage Lake on the night of 10/16/09. SMR provided a technical mountain rescue resource that was needed to accomplish the mission. The USCG provided transport for SMR's teams. Due to the cooperative effort the mission was very successful.



July 16, 2009 - During the water delivery for the Alpine Adventure Race. CG personnel run the race and the USCG Air Station Sitka and SMR cooperate to transport the water and medical supplies to the different station on Gavan Hill / Harbor Mountain. This takes place each July. These photos were taken at the time of the water / medical equipment delivery.



This photo, taken by Sitka Volunteer Fire Department Search and Rescue team member Gerald Gangle, shows the route rescuers took on Bear Mountain to reach two hunters Friday. The rescue team was

dropped off on a snow field by a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter and hiked up the back side of the mountain to begin rappelling to the stranded hunters. (Photo provided to the Sentinel)

Hazardous Rescue Puts Team to the Test

By BEN MURRAY
Sentinel Staff Writer

The rescuers in last weekend's mission to aid two hunters stranded near the top of Bear Mountain say they brought more than a couple of grateful people down from the mountainside.

At a debriefing meeting Monday, the Sitka Volunteer Fire Department Search and Rescue team members agreed they gained valuable experience and some tips for their next rescue, Don Kluting, captain of the volunteer rescue squad, told the Sentinel today.

"We've got some folks that got some really good experience," he said. The nighttime rappel down a sheer mountainside of crumbling rock to rescue hunters Iain Thompson, 27, and Ian Kott, 28, gave the team something that training scenarios just can't provide, Kluting said.

"To throw up bitter realism for everyone involved is a good thing," he said.

The four-person rescue team was dropped off by helicopter near the summit of Bear Mountain Friday night and spent some eight hours working their way down to the hunters, not reaching them until about 3:30 a.m.

The group then descended the rest of the mountain over the next 12 hours on an arduous route requiring more rappelling down the mountain's steep face. The hunters called on a cell phone for help after they had climbed to a point on the mountain where they couldn't go up or down. They were unharmed and able to assist themselves in the descent after the rescuers arrived with ropes and climbing equipment.

Kluting said one of the highlights

of the rescue was the quality of the teamwork among members of the rescue party.

"All the communication all the way around was very, very good," he said. Working with the four rescuers on the mountain were members of the Coast Guard in the helicopter and spotter Gerald Gangle, who helped direct the climbers by radio from his position on Blue Lake Road.

From about one and a half miles away he used an old military aiming scope to pick out a good route for the rescuers to take down the mountain. And after darkness fell he was able to keep sending them advice about the terrain by watching them with a night-vision scope.

"We realized that was of a higher value than we previously thought it would be," Gangle said.

Also at Monday night's debriefing,

the team even discussed the possibility of sending spotters to effective locations by helicopter in future rescues, Gangle said.

"This mission we had the ability to have a spotter to assist with route finding," Kluting said. "That worked very well."

Other highlights from the rescue included the effort by ground crew to hike water up to the dehydrated rescuers near the end of the 24-hour trek, and the good attitude of the crew on the mountain, Kluting said.

"Everything was very positive," he said.

Gangle said that search and rescue is always on the lookout for new volunteers, and hopes the recent event will spur interested locals to join the team.

hunters Stuck On Bear Mt. Rescued

MURRAY
Staff Writer

The effort lasting nearly a week and Saturday, the Fire Department rescue team got two hunters off a ridge on Bear

Mountains. The sheer flanks of the mountain in two days. A four-person rescue team reached the hunters at about 11:30 a.m. more than eight miles off a ridge on Bear

left or right," Thompson said.

The two had reached a small, rounded outcrop the size of a desk, straddled it for stability and assessed their situation — they were stranded 3,081 feet above the valley floor on a steep slope of crumbling rock, without any climbing gear or safety ropes.

"There were significant hazards had they tried to go up or down from that position," said Kluting, who agreed that they made the right decision to stay put and call for help.

"Had they slipped and fallen, they would've gone for 1,500 feet or more," he said.

Thompson said that to attempt a descent without climbing gear would've resulted in disaster, as a slip would have taken them "all the way down. Straight down to the bottom."

"We looked down and said, 'this is unbelievable; I can't believe we just came up that,'" he said.

At around 5 p.m. the pair used the cell phone to call the emergency number of the U.S. Coast Guard in Juneau. The call was relayed to Sitka Search and Rescue and Coast Guard

Continued on Page 8

Above them, the rescue team traversed the hillside and then dropped directly above the hunters in the final stage of the descent. Kluting said he was relieved to see that the two men were in good condition.

"It was a fabulous feeling to get to their location and see that they were unhurt," he said.

The rescuers gave Kott and Thompson water, warm clothes and a couple of candy bars before fitting them into harnesses and helmets and securing them to the rope system.

As dawn approached, the group set out for the hard part — the descent to safety.

Fortunately, said Kluting, both Kott and Thompson had had some mountain climbing experience and were able to help themselves a great deal on the rope descent.

"I learned how to rappel in one day (during the rescue). Crash course," Thompson said.

There was no suitable place for a helicopter to land, so the group had to continue down on foot after the rappel. But even when they thought they were home free, they came upon more steep rock faces that forced them to set up ropes and rappel again, Kluting said.

Finally, some 24 hours after the initial call, the group reached Herrin Cove Saturday afternoon.

Kluting said the rescue was a complete success and gave credit to workers from both agencies. He was especially proud of his "technical" team and his companions on the mountain, for a safe rescue that tried their limits of endurance.

"The attitudes of the team were just fabulous," he said.

He was also impressed with Thompson and Kott for how well they worked with the rescuers.

Kluting said he was amazed that they had managed to reach the precarious perch where they got stranded without the aid of ropes or climbing gear.

"Those guys must be mountain goats," he said.

Thompson said he was confident Kott had made the right decision to call for help when they realized the danger of their situation, and expressed thanks to the rescuers.

"Without their skill and professionalism, it might have been a different outcome," he said.

hunters . . .

Continued from Page 1

Search and rescue workers Garry White, Dan Hubbard and a Coast Guard helicopter were airlifted to a snow-covered mountain. Lowered to the hunters by basket, they then moved toward the summit to launch the rescue effort.

The hunters they had to descend a 1,000-foot multi-pitch rapping surface of the mountain.

"It was slow but it was better than rappelling than it was to just be sitting there in the dark," she said.

By the light of their headlamps and night vision equipment lower on the mountain, the team continued their slow and arduous descent. They had told Thompson and Kott they would reach them in about an hour, but their descent took much longer, Thompson said.

The team had to repeatedly rappel sections of the mountain face, reset their ropes, and then attack the next section, Kluting said.

It took the rescuers nearly nine hours to descend the 900 feet to the stranded hunters, he said.

"We were able to take our time, to do it real safe," he said.

While they waited and shivered in the cold, Thompson and Kott, both members of the Coast Guard, sang songs and told jokes and stories to keep themselves awake, afraid that if they fell asleep, they would roll off their narrow perch.

Thompson said the two were never seriously worried for their lives putting their trust in the skills of the workers.

Hunter Safe After Night-Long Rescue

By SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sentinel Staff Writer

After an all-night effort by a Sitka search and rescue team and the U.S. Coast Guard, an injured hunter was rescued early today from the narrow ledge where he lay after a 70-foot fall down a steep slope above Crawfish Inlet.

Doug Anderson, 43, of Springfield, Ill., was on a guided hunting trip when the accident occurred 22 miles southeast of Sitka, said Search and Rescue Captain Don Kluting, of the Sitka Volunteer Fire Department.

"He was in a tight spot, a 3-by-3-foot ledge, with an 800-foot dropoff," he said. Anderson had slid feet first down the mountain before striking a rock that arrested his fall. His knee was dislocated by the impact, but the rock probably stopped him from falling to the bottom, Kluting said.

"In a way it was fortunate," he said.

Anderson was reported in good condition at Sitka Community Hospital this afternoon.

Anderson was hunting with Sitka guide Kurt Whitehead, and the two were about 1,500 feet up the north side of Crawfish Inlet at about 5 p.m. Tuesday when Anderson, who was carrying a goat, fell down the mountainside.

The two had planned to meet another guide, Jim Boyce, and his client in the inlet for the boat trip back to Sitka.

Kluting said Whitehead climbed down to the ledge and found Anderson's injuries were not life-threatening, but would require him to be carried to safety.

The guides conferred by radio and decided to call the Coast Guard for help. Kluting said search and rescue volunteers also heard the call for help on their scanners.

Soon afterward Coast Guard Air Station Sitka launched a helicopter with Kluting and another search and rescue volunteer, Gerald Gangle, aboard.

After looking over the rescue area, the two volunteers agreed with the Coast Guard crew that it would be too dangerous to attempt a hoist from the cliffside ledge.

"Where he fell was probably the worst spot he could fall in," said Lt. Mark Vislay, the helicopter pilot.

The helicopter went back to Sitka to pick up rescue gear and four more members of the Sitka Volunteer Fire Department search and rescue team: Tamar Young, Mike Motti, Greg Raschick and Gregory Wong.

The helicopter returned to Crawfish

Inlet and landed the rescuers atop the cliff to organize the recovery effort.

"We used textbook techniques," said Kluting, noting that he and Gangle were already familiar with the area. "Everything went very smoothly."

Around 11:30 p.m. the team lowered Kluting and Gangle down the cliff to the ledge. After Anderson was stabilized in the lightweight litter, the team started the arduous task of raising Anderson to a level spot from which he could be taken aboard the helicopter.

Gangle climbed up first, followed by Whitehead on the rope system. Kluting accompanied Anderson on the litter as they were pulled up by the crew on top.

Using an elaborate pulley system and 2,400 feet of rope, the crew hauled six feet of rope for each foot of height that the 220-pound Anderson and 210-pound Kluting were raised, Kluting said.

"It was a tight ravine, with sheer rock and brush," he said of the location. "It was near vertical, there were a lot of obstacles, overhangs."

The group tried to avoid bumps that may might cause further pain to Anderson.

"He was OK," Kluting said. "We were very careful about that."

By 5 a.m. today, everyone had made it to the open area at the 2,100-foot level of the mountain.

"It took all night," Kluting said. "At times there was 700 pounds of load on the haul line."

While the group waited for the helicopter to arrive, Whitehead expressed his interest in retrieving the mountain goat that Anderson had bagged.

Kluting said to avoid further mishap, the rescuers lowered Whitehead down on their ropes, and hauled him back up with the goat.

Whitehead packed the goat down the mountain on foot, using a safe route, to meet Boyce on his boat, Gunsmoke, Kluting said.

"We watched him head down the ridge," Kluting said. "He'll make it to his rendezvous, no problem."

The Air Station Sitka helicopter picked up Anderson and the rescue party and returned to Sitka this morning.

Anderson, who was recovering at SCH this afternoon, was not available for comment by press time.

Also aboard the helicopter for the rescue were aircraft commander Shawn Tripp, flight mechanic Brian Littlefield, and rescue swimmer Mike Thomas



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(907) 747-7509 ph
info@sitkawild.org
www.sitkawild.org

*"Working to protect the
natural environment
of the Tongass,
and Sitka's quality
of life – Since 1967"*

December 5th, 2009

Dear Representative Young:

On a recent visit to your office, I noticed that you had a Coast Guard flag outside your office. Thank you for recognizing the important role that the Coast Guard plays for us in Alaska. I wanted to highlight some further benefits that we receive in Alaska from the Coast Guard beyond their traditional work to aid vessels in distress and maintain navigational aids.

In Sitka, Coast Guard staff are working diligently to look at overall site sustainability and renewable energy options. We have been working closely with a multitude of stakeholders who have come together to work on a Japonski Island heating project in Sitka that would use innovative technology like heat pumps and hyper-efficient biomass-to-heat boilers. This project is helping to bring together staff from across State and Federal Agencies, entrepreneurs, and local stakeholders to find local energy solutions that further our goals of social, economic, and environmental sustainability. We are especially interested in some of the biomass-to-thermal energy initiatives because they can offer us opportunities to undertake land management projects on the Tongass that reduce oil use, restore critical wildlife habitat, and provide opportunities for local economic development.

We would like to call your attention to the fact that the Coast Guard staff who is taking the initiative on this project is doing much of the work above-and-beyond his job description. We applaud his leadership in recognizing an opportunity and taking a leadership role in bringing entities together and putting in the time to make it happen.

However, in spite of his successes so far, if this initiative is to be ultimately successful, the Coast Guard will need more staffing resources to accomplish all of its responsibilities. These staffing resources will surely bring needed expertise to coastal communities in Alaska. As these Coast Guard staff work on base sustainability and energy issues, they will help to bring needed innovation in energy technology to our communities and will create niches for private business to meet needs on the bases. Those private businesses will then be able to offer their services to others in our coastal communities. We have already seen the evidence of this with the wind power generation being planned for Coast Guard facilities in Juneau, the energy efficiency and weatherization efforts in Sitka, and the planning for biomass heating in various Alaskan bases.

There is a definite precedent for these energy and sustainability investments and innovation on Army bases across the country. In Alaska, the Coast Guard has already stepped up to show how they can initiate innovative sustainability and energy projects. We hope that you can continue to recognize their importance and help make sure that they have all the staff and other resources they need to work towards their goals.

Thank you for your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

Andrew Thoms
Executive Director



US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 2008-500-000

DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

A home-owned newspaper serving Sitka since 1940 • www.sitkasentinel.com

50 Cents

Volume 70 No. 175

Sitka, Alaska

Friday, September 11, 2009



911 Service

Katrina Cantera, from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Sitka, pushes a load of gravel down a trail at the Alaska Raptor Center this morning as she and others from the air station repaired trails. Volunteers from the air station also worked at the Pioneers Home, Hames Athletic and

Wellness Center, ANB Hall, Fortress of the Bear and the SAFV Shelter as part of a "Day of Remembrance" on the eighth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Coast Guard units around the country planned volunteer activities for today. (Sentinel Photo)

Americans With Rem Acts of Vo

By VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Philip Hayes was 67 and had been retired from the Fire Department more than 20 years on the morning when he rushed to the burning World Trade Center. His family says he rescued children from a day care and then headed to the south tower, where he died.

His son, Philip Hayes Jr., was among the mourners who read aloud the names of the lost Friday on the eighth anniversary of 911 — a day when the nation, in rituals of grief and simple acts of volunteerism, rekindled the spirit of service embodied by his father.

"Every one of them is loved, and every one of them is missed," the younger Hayes said. "Every one of them is a hero."

Hours after the attack and for weeks afterward, volunteers responded to New York City's needs, sending emergency workers to help with the recovery, cards to victims' families, and boxes of supplies.

President Barack Obama, observing his first Sept. 11 as president, declared it a day of service. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg recalled acts of post-911 selflessness as links "in a continuous chain that stopped us from falling into cynicism and despair."

Eight years later, Americans

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Volume 71 No. 15

Sitka, Alaska

Monday, January 25, 2010



Haiti Benefit

Walkers and runners make their way along Harbor Drive on Japanese Island Saturday morning during the U.S. Coast Guard's 3-mile run and 2-mile walk. More than 150 people turned out for the event,

which raised money for the Red Cross relief effort in Haiti. Monetary donations to the Red Cross can still be dropped off at the Coast Guard base until Jan. 31. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

New Shelter For Haitians

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The collapse of much of Haiti's capital has a large part of the nation struggling just to find a place to sleep.

As many as 1 million people — one person in nine across the entire country — need to find new shelter, the United Nations estimates, and there are too few tents, let alone safe buildings, to put them in.

That leaves about 700,000 other people living on the streets around Port-au-Prince under whatever they can salvage. In the case of Jean Anthony's family, that's a blue plastic tarpaulin for a ceiling and a faded pink sheet with a floral print border for two walls.

"I'm not sure what you'd call it, but it's much more than terrible," said Anthony, the 60-year-old owner of a collapsed restaurant. Thousands of people were camped around him Monday across from the collapsed National Palace, amid piles of trash and the stench of human waste.

"We live like dogs," said Espiegle Amilcar, an unemployed 34-year-old who has been staying under a sheet of plastic nearby.

Disturbances erupted near the camp later in the day when Uruguayan U.N. peacekeepers fired pepper spray to try to disperse thousands of people jostling for food aid.

Some people ran, but undeterred young men in the crowd surged for-

Sitka Coast Guard Flies Flags for Shipmates

By SHANNON HAUGLAND
Sentinel Staff Writer

Last September, four U.S. Coast Guard members were killed when their helicopter crashed during a training mission in Hawaii.

To honor their fallen "shipmates," each Coast Guard air station throughout the country took turns flying five memorial flags. One of the flags — or ensigns — represents Air Station Point Barbers, where the men were stationed, and the four others represent each of the fallen men.

Late last month, it was Sitka's turn to honor Capt. Thomas Nelson, Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Wischmeier, Aviation Survival Technician First Class David Skimin and Aviation Maintenance Technician Second Class Joshua Nichols.

The five memorial ensigns were raised at sites throughout town, including on the USCG Cutter Maple on Castle Hill, alongside Volta the eagle at the Alaska Raptor Center, and atop Bear Mountain and Mt. Verstovia.

All members of the U.S. Coast Guard in Sitka attended a formal ceremony on July 1 honoring the men.

"It's not a common occurrence to lose someone in the line of duty," said Cmdr. Kevin Sareault, the executive officer of Air Station Sitka. "It was the first aviation accident with loss of life in over 10 years. It hit us hard."

He noted that all of the four men killed in the crash of the MH-65C helicopter were known to at least one member of the air station in Sitka. Sareault said he was acquainted with two of them and felt their loss.

"It's such a small service," he said. "These were people we knew. They were friends, they were shipmates."

The idea for sending the flags above all air stations throughout the country came from the Atlantic City, N.J., air station.



Coast Guard Air Station Sitka personnel honor and remember the crew members of the Hawaii-based 6505 aircraft, which crashed in September killing all aboard, by displaying the five memorial Coast Guard Ensigns on Mt. Verstovia recently. (Photo provided by U.S. Coast Guard, Bill Greer)

"People wanted to do something," Sareault said. "Everyone was asking, 'What can we do?'"

The ensigns' journey started last fall. Sitka was second to last on the list of 22 units the flags toured, followed by Air Station Kodiak.

Four of the flags will be given to the families of the men, along with a photo album documenting all the places the

flags flew.

The fifth ensign will remain at Barbers Point as part of a permanent memorial.

Members of the Coast Guard public works department here added their own touch by building a holding case, constructed in the carpentry shop using wood from a fallen cedar tree in the Tongass National Forest. The case held all five flags.

"That was unbeknownst to me," Sareault said. "I thought it was really, really cool."

But, he added, it is not surprising that members of the Coast Guard would have made the effort for a fellow member of what he referred to as "the Coast Guard family."

"These were not just names, they're shipmates," he said.

Coast Guard Keeps SE Waterways Safe

By PA3 Walter Shinn
U.S. Coast Guard District 17
Special to the Sentinel

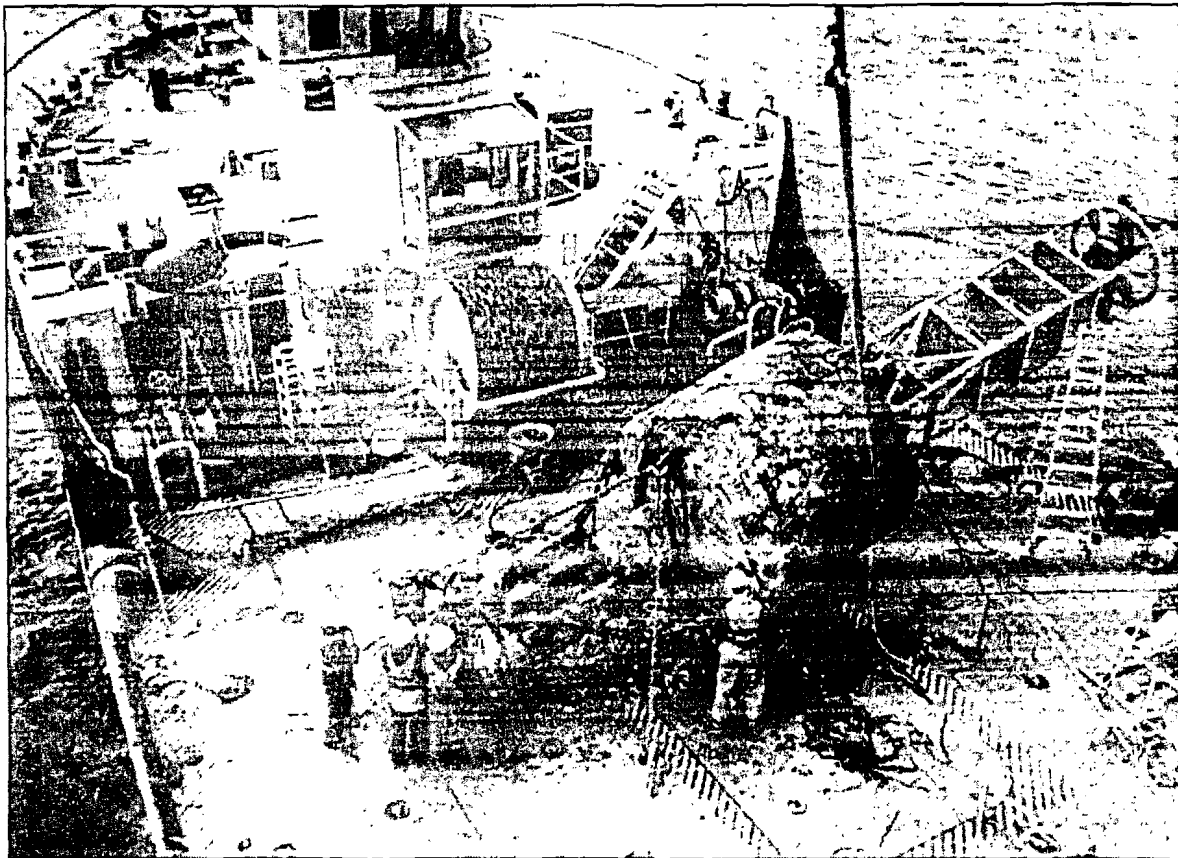
Breathtaking mountainous terrain, rugged landscapes and abundant wildlife attract hundreds of thousands of tourists to Alaska annually who travel on cruise ships and charter vessels through Glacier Bay and the Inside Passage. Additionally, more than 10,000 fishermen navigate through the waterways of the Alexander Archipelago every year.

While the archipelago provides some protection from the Gulf of Alaska's vicious weather, much of the area experiences strong semi-diurnal tides which can create extreme 30-foot differences between high and low tide, so careful navigation is necessary in many places to prevent collisions with underwater obstructions or running aground.

Mariners navigating the waterways of Southeast Alaska rely on a nationally and internationally recognized system of aids to navigation made up of buoys, channel markers and lighthouses maintained by the Coast Guard. These navigational markers are expected to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

To meet this expectation they are routinely maintained by personnel from Aids to Navigation Team Sitka and the Coast Guard Cutters Maple, Elderberry and the Anthony Petit as well as other buoy tenders stationed in Alaska. In total, there are 832 aids throughout Southeast Alaska that are designed to guide mariners to safety and away from hazardous areas that are maintained by 80 Guardians from these four units.

Aids to Navigation throughout the waterways of Southeast Alaska provide mariners on vessels of all sizes with the same type of information drivers get from street signs, stop signals, road barriers, detours and traffic lights. These aids are comprised of lighted structures, beacons, day markers, range lights, sound signals and floating buoys. Each aid is designed to help mariners navigate while determining a specific



U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team Sitka works on the Sugarloaf buoy recently. The U.S. Coast Guard maintains 832 aids throughout Southeast Alaska. (Photo provided)

scaling a cliff like sure-footed mountain goats preparing to examine a remote channel marker.

The markers can become damaged in storms. Those near the water's surface are often damaged by floating debris or by the wake of vessels and need fresh color and retro-reflective tape.

Most of the aids ANTSitka services are light houses and shore structures that mark rocks and entrances to harbors and channels. Without the work ANTSitka conducts in Southeast Alaska mariners would have a much more treacherous time navigating along

the rugged coasts especially in severe weather conditions and dense fog.

The maintenance personnel often have to be hoisted down to the aid via a MH-60 Jayhawk rescue helicopter from Air Station Sitka. Often the guardians working on the aid are left for hours on the side of a cliff, the beach on a remote island or on a small rock with no shelter. If the helicopter that delivered them to the site is diverted for a search and rescue case they may be left with the aid overnight or until another helicopter can pick them up. For this reason they routinely pack

and provisions.

The guardians of the Maple, Elderberry, Anthony Petit and ANTSitka not only keep the waterways running but are also trained to conduct all of the Coast Guard's missions. These crews are able to deploy oil containment booms to protect the environment, conduct law enforcement patrols and perform search and rescue missions. Conducting these missions fulfills the three broad roles of maritime safety, security and stewardship that represent the Coast Guard as America's maritime

see next page for rest of first column

sinker and the buoy. Maintenance is done to clear any marine growth, inspect different parts of the light, verify the chain has not become too degraded to function and to ensure the batteries or solar panels are functioning correctly.

Crews work hard to scrape marine growth from the sides of the buoys as some buoys measure as much as 35-feet long and nine-feet wide. One lucky guardian, frequently the most junior of the buoy deck crew, is called upon to "shoot the tube" a three foot shaft in the center of some buoys to scrape the ocean's bounty from inside before it is returned to its station.

What makes working in Southeast Alaska different compared to the lower 48?

"Bitter cold, hurricane force winds, limited daylight during winter, eight-plus knot currents, 20-plus foot tidal ranges, and a shoreline that always consists of rock and boulders," answered Chief Warrant Officer Mark Helmers, of the 17th Coast Guard district response management.

Last summer a buoy in the Mendenhall Bar, near Juneau broke loose and was retrieved a quarter of a mile from its location by the local Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla. The buoy that broke free is a key navigational aid that helps mark the 80-yard channel that has a depth of three to five feet at low tide. Without this buoy in place, navigating through the channel would be very difficult for mariners to distinguish which side of the red buoy to pass during low tide.

In order to return the buoy, Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeremy Allgeyer, from the Elderberry and Petty Officer 3rd Class Sean Slycord, of the 17th Coast Guard District waterways branch in Juneau, mucked through the wetlands rolling the 120-pound buoy 600 yards and carrying 50 pounds of electronic equipment through a strong current in waist-high water while searching for the chain to re-attach the bolt to put the buoy in its final resting spot. After finding nothing but muddy holes for about 30 minutes, they finally stumbled on the chain.

A computer needed to receive data transmitted from satellites to determine the exact position of the buoy. In order for this to be completed Allgeyer was required to stand in the approximate location of the buoy. Doing this, however, required great skill and coordination. While Slycord held the buoy to keep it from rotating, Allgeyer typed in position coordinates with one hand and held the antenna with the other.

At the same time crewmembers from any of the three cutters are lifting a buoy to conduct maintenance while personnel from ANT Sitka could be

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12 Pages

Coast Guard Rescues Matter of Practices

By CRAIG GIAMMONA
Sentinel Staff Writer

The work was tedious, but that was the point.

Members of the Coast Guard's aid to navigation team set out in a 41-foot utility boat Thursday to help some of their colleagues from the Sitka Air Station practice rescue hoists, part of their twice weekly training regimen.

For close to three hours, the MH-60 Jayhawk sent a stainless steel rescue basket careening on a cable down to the boat, where petty officers Ivan Hess and Alan Dumville reeled it in with the help of a grounding wand.

After they placed the basket in the boat's well deck, the thumbs-up signal was given to the helicopter hovering just above the boat.

Then the flight crew pulled the basket back up, and it all started again.

The boat moved at trolling speed behind Galankin Island on a fairly calm and dry day in Sitka.

"It's amazing how hard it is when there's not even any bad weather," Capt. Melissa Bert said, as she watched the training.

The search and rescue training occurs every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the year, but the trip this week was significant because Bert, who early this month became the top-ranked officer in the Coast Guard's Juneau (Southeast) sector, was on hand to observe, along with a Sentinel reporter.

Bert is based in Juneau, and answers to Admiral Arthur Brooks, commander of the Coast Guard's 17th District, which includes the entire state.

Bert was in Sitka to check out the Coast Guard operations here and also meet some of the state and federal officials who regularly collaborate with the USCG.

Helmets and goggles were required for everybody on the boat deck during the hoisting exercises, and the reasons quickly became apparent. For one, the helicopter generates winds of hurricane force, and a storm of sea spray that goes

along with that.

Then there's the rescue basket, a swinging projectile packing a charge of static electricity. The boat crew uses a grounding wand to neutralize the charge.

A crew member explained the static is strong enough to knock a man out, and that rescue swimmers have sometimes felt the shock.

Watching from the cabin, an observer found it hard to imagine a rescue mission during one of the fierce storms that pound Sitka each winter. But the crew members said that was the point of the training, which they admitted was tedious: practice makes perfect.

Bert was joined in Sitka, and on the boat, by Senior Chief Charles Franklin, her right-hand man.

Franklin said he was assigned to Bert and serves as a conduit between her and the ranks of the enlisted men under her command.

Franklin and Bert are both new to Alaska.

Bert said she has been stationed up and down the East Coast, including in Miami, and so far has been impressed by the support average Alaskans show for the Coast Guard.

She said relations were not so positive in Miami, where the Coast Guard is primarily involved in drug and immigration cases.

Derrick Borel, a petty officer first class and the acting officer in charge of the aid to navigation team, skippered the boat Thursday, while Hess and Dumville handled the hoists from the boat.

The aid to navigation team, a 13-member squad that works out of an office at the air station, typically maintains channel markers and navigational aids that weigh less than 500 pounds.

The mammoth buoys are left to the USCG cutter Maple.

The aid to navigation team is also trained to participate in search and rescue missions, and twice each week works with crews from the air station.

Borel, who has been here a year, said

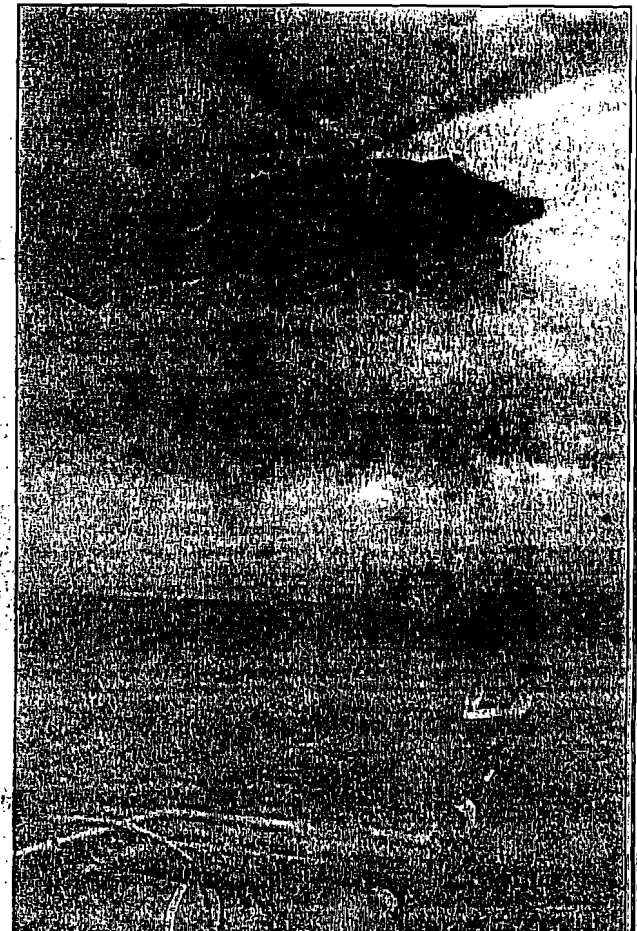


Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Walter Shinn.
Petty Officer Ivan Hess signals the Coast Guard crew of the MH-60 rescue helicopter during training exercises Thursday morning in Sitka Sound.

Practices . . .

Continued from page 1
that so far he has been on four SAR cases in the 41-foot utility boat.

Throughout the trip, he patiently explained to his civilian visitor the military jargon being flown around.

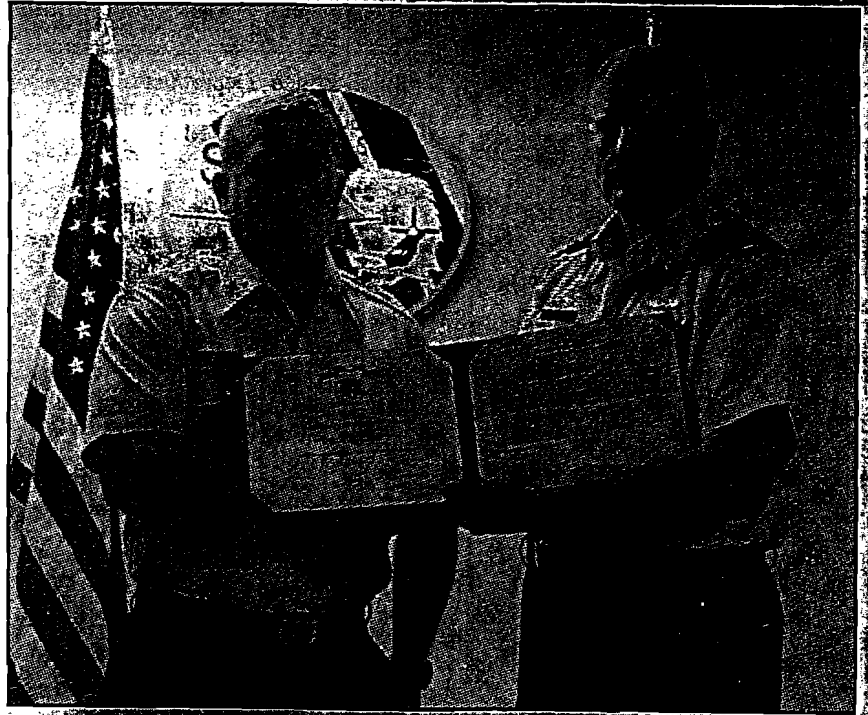
He also worked the radio. At one point, a charter boat called the Coast Guard to report that a diabetic client's blood sugar was dropping. It turned out he had gone out without his insulin, which was in his luggage and had not arrived in time.

Borel relayed the message to the Coast Guard command center in Juneau, which then monitored the charter boat's progress.

By the time it reached the harbor, the man's luggage had arrived and the owner of the lodge where he was staying was waiting at the dock.

There would be no rescue mission, but the training continued.

Continued on Page 8



AWARDED - Petty Officer First Class Christian Salinas, left, is congratulated by unit commanding officer, Capt. Dave Walker, after receiving a Coast Guard Achievement Medal. (Photo provided by U.S. Coast Guard)



PROMOTED - Petty Officer Greg Beckman was promoted to Operations Specialist Second Class at Air Station Sitka. Air station commanding officer, Capt. Dave Walker, right, and Jackie Beckman pinned on his new rank at a unit ceremony. (Photo provided by U.S. Coast Guard)

Thurs. Sept. 24, 2009



GOOD CONDUCT - Petty Officer Second Class Brett Banks, left, is congratulated by unit commanding officer, Capt. Dave Walker, after receiving a Coast Guard Good Conduct Award recently at an Air Station Sitka ceremony. (Photo provided by U.S. Coast Guard)

Daily Sitka Sentinel, Sitka, Alaska, Monday, September 28, 2009, Page 3



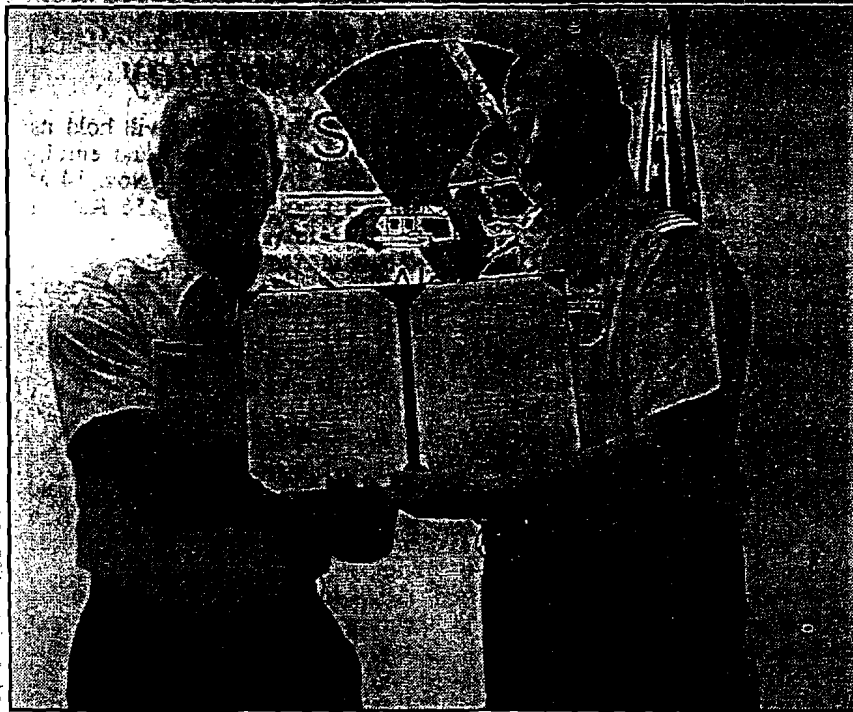
AWARD - Petty Officers Phillip Altman, left, and Gary Przybysz, center, are congratulated by unit commanding officer, Capt. Dave Walker, after receiving a Sikorsky Aircraft Maintenance Award recently. (Photo provided by U.S. Coast Guard)



FLIGHT MECHANIC - Petty Officer Third Class Rebekah Haba is congratulated by unit Commanding Officer, Captain Dave Walker, after receiving her designation as a Flight Mechanic at a ceremony at Air Station Sitka recently. (Photo by OS2 Beckman)



AWARDED - Petty Officer Third Class Travis Peck, left, is congratulated by unit commanding officer, Capt. Dave Walker, after receiving a Coast Guard Good Conduct Award recently at Air Station Sitka. (Photo by OS3 Beckman, U.S.C.G.)



GOOD CONDUCT - Command Master Chief Mark Gaetano, left, is presented a Good Conduct Award from the air station commanding officer, Capt. Dave Walker, in an all-hands ceremony held recently at Air Station Sitka. This is AETCM Gaetano's eighth Good Conduct Award. (Photo provided by U.S.C.G.)



AWARDED - Petty Officer Third Class Krystyna Locke, left, is congratulated by unit commanding officer, Capt. Dave Walker, after receiving a Coast Guard Good Conduct Award recently at Air Station Sitka. (Photo provided by U.S. Coast Guard)

7/29/09 Sentinel



Coast Guard Air Station Sitka Executive Officer Comdr. Kevin Sarcant presents a Good Samaritan Certificate of Appreciation to Captain Boris Ityevkov and crew of the cruise ship Spirit of Oceanus recently. The certificate was awarded for the crews' swift response to a vessel in distress in Lynn Canal, where they safely recovered all three persons from a hard aground pleasure craft. (Photo provided)