

Interpreter NEWS



Founded 1997
Over 380 Volunteer
Interpreters
46 Foreign Languages
Over 50,000
mission hours

Updates

Since 2001 we have been issuing Interpreter Photo ID cards in a laminated format at personal expense. This has now changed to a unique, state-of-the-art solid plastic Interpreter Photo ID card with authentic DHS holograms imbedded on both sides. Special thanks to Steven Wang, our new Interpreter Support Branch Chief, for coming up with the idea and for producing this card at his own expense. We have already issued 120 of the new ID card about a month ahead of our original schedule. Interpreters leaving for deployment have first priority.

*Remember that Auxiliary Interpreters may wear a pin-on Auxiliary interpreter name tag with the Service Dress Blue and Tropical Blue uniforms during authorized interpreter missions. It shall display the full first and last name in the first row and the word **"INTERPRETER"** in the second row in place of the traditional words "U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY."*

Qualified Interpreters may purchase the name tag from the Auxiliary Materials Center (314) 962-8828

Linguistic Competency Levels

Level "A" Interpreter fluently reads, writes, speaks and understands a foreign language in addition to English.

Level "B" Interpreter speaks and understands a foreign language in addition to English, but does not necessarily fluently read or write in any language.

Interpreters are tested and rated by high proficiency Language Qualification Examiners that are members of the Interpreter Corps.



Klaus G.E. Baumann, DIR-IC
Director
USCG Auxiliary Interpreter Corps



Brigitte Baumann, DIR-IC d
Deputy Director
USCG Auxiliary Interpreter Corps

A Message from our Director

Founded in 1997, the USCG Auxiliary Interpreter Corps operated as a Division under the International Affairs Directorate until August 2009 (NACON) when it became the Interpreter Support Directorate under ANACO-IA.

Our Staff:

The Interpreter Support Directorate currently has 5 Divisions and 7 Branch positions. This will be reviewed again after the first quarter of 2010 for re-alignment possibilities. The Directorate also has a member of each district staff authorized to manage interpreter support to the CG units within each District/Region - ADSO-OP-I Assistant District Staff Officers - Interpreter Support.

Capabilities:

Over 380 highly qualified Interpreters - 46 Foreign Languages

Customers:

US Coast Guard, Navy and other US Government Agencies that request Interpreter Support via the US Coast Guard.

We maintain excellent connection with all Interpreters and have on-going training programs to increase competency. We are receiving daily communication, expressing thanks and appreciation for being proud and involved members of this very successful Interpreter Program.

While we encourage all Interpreters to report their mission hours in a timely fashion, it is very difficult to get a true picture of actual Interpreter Mission Hours performed in AUXDATA. Many find it extremely time consuming to fill-in Form 7030 for each day after returning from a long deployment.

The integrity of the Interpreter Corps is very high and we plan to keep it that way. Because of their international engagements, we consider our Interpreters as true Ambassadors of the USCG Auxiliary.

The Editor of the Interpreter NEWS is David Patrick.

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Please send your articles for the newsletter directly to me. Thank you to those interpreters who responded to my recent request for articles and news. Remember that this is your newsletter; if it happens, it should be recorded.

Your articles can be sent as e-mails or in Word format. Please include your original photographs and remember to credit the photographer.



LOGO AND BANNER CONTEST WINNERS

During the fourth quarter of 2009, a New Interpreter Banner and Logo contest was conducted. There were an overwhelming number of 36 entries. Only Interpreters were able to vote to determine the winners. The “winning entries” can be seen below.

INTERPRETER BANNER



The “winning banner” was designed by Teresa Kasper from Clearwater, Florida. Teresa is an active member of Flotilla 7-11-1, serving as their FSO-MA and qualified as Air Observer, Boat Crew, Marine Dealer Visitor and Vessel Examiner as well as a member of the Interpreter Corps!

INTERPRETER LOGO



INTERPRETER LOGO

The “winning logo” was designed by John Kane from Aurora, Illinois. John also contributed to the Glossary of Nautical Terms translated from English to Portuguese which you can find at <http://cgwebs.net/interpreter>. John recently competed in the Chicago Marathon to raise money for the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, an organization that provides aid to Coast Guard families in times of crisis. BZ John.



John Kane

CHINESE CADET VISIT



From July 21 to August 10, 2009 four cadets and two officers from the China Ministry of Public Security Marine Police Academy visited District 13, Seattle, Washington, the USCG Academy in New London, Connecticut and sailed on the Barque Eagle from Portland, Maine to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Auxiliarist Jimmin Chang was the interpreter for their visit and escorted the delegation to all events and activities. Jimmin provided interpretation when needed, for technical presentations training and for safety training on board the Eagle. What a rare opportunity his interpreter skills provided for him to experience cadet life at the Academy and swab life on board the Eagle!



Note the Chinese uniform is green



Among some of the activities during their five days in Seattle, the delegation visited District 13 HQ, Sector Seattle, the USCG Cutter Midgett, toured Kvichak Marine, where USCG medium response boats are built, toured a local brewery, watched a baseball game and experienced the Sea Fair Torchlight Parade.

During their seven days at the Academy, the delegation participated in sailing activities and “boot camp” activities which included calisthenics, strength training, an obstacle run and a summer math class. The highlight of the visit had to be their time on the Barque Eagle?



Cadets on the Main Royal Yardarm



Photos and information courtesy of Jimmin Chang

MISSION TO GHANA, WEST AFRICA



Three members of the Interpreter Corps participated in training exercises last spring on board the USS Nashville as part of the Africa Partnership Station (APS). They were Arthur von Pieschel, Archie Schmidt and Aderson de Almeida. Their duties included translating for

Portuguese speaking Ghanaian Navy officers and others from Mozambique and Cape Verde who were there to take courses in Small Engine Maintenance, Maritime Operations Planning and a Boarding Officers course.



According to von Pieschel “the food (on board) was plentiful, varied and rather good” but voice communication back home was difficult due to time differences and restricted access to telephones. “On the other hand access to PC’s and e-mail worked fine.”

The courses were presented by “an impressive and efficient” team of USCG instructors. At the end of their 18 day tour of duty, the interpreters were warmly congratulated on their performance by Captain Thebaud, Commander APS.

Photos and information courtesy Arthur von Pieschel



NEWS & NOTES



- According to the USCG Auxiliary Interpreter Corps Program Guidelines, as approved in March 2009, the District Commodore (DCO) may now appoint an Interpreter Coordinator as an Assistant District Staff Officer (ADSO-OP-I) under the operations program to effectively promote awareness of the interpreter program, its resources, and recruitment of Auxiliary interpreters in the region. Please keep your officers informed of these appointments. We are aware of appointments in Districts 1NR, 1SR, 5SR, 7, 9WR and 13.
- Coast Guard Auxiliary Interpreters John Kane, Archie Schmidt, Arthur von Pieschel and Eduardo Vitorino recently collaborated to produce the glossary of nautical terms translated from English to Portuguese. The results of their work can be accessed on our website, www.cgwebs.net/interpreter. We have now completed translations in Chinese, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.
- In July-August 2009 - Provided Interpreter Support for Chinese Security Marine Police-Cadet delegation visit to USCG Academy. *More details on page 4.*
- In August 2009 - Provided Interpreter Support for North Pacific Forum, Port Angeles, WA. That was attended by Coast Guard delegations from 6 foreign countries, Canada, China, Japan, Korea and Russia. *More details on page 7.*
- Providing translation support for new USCG Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System (AMVER) manual in possible 14-16 foreign languages. This is a huge project being coordinated with the USCG AMVER Maritime Relations Office in NYC.
- We now require all Interpreters to submit current portrait photos in uniform with red background for the new Interpreter Photo ID Card, as well as for the Interpreter Profile record in the Interpreter database. Our Interpreters applaud and support this initiative of higher professional representation.
- We have developed and implemented a Interpreter Competency Certificate issuing procedure with all District Directors. Most of our Interpreters have received their Certificate of Competency along with the Auxiliary Operations Program Ribbon and Medal over the past 3 months.
- Interpreter Renel Noel of North Miami Beach FL, a member of Flotilla 10, Div 6, has spent many hours recently in support of the relief efforts in Haiti. Renel's home town of Port-de-Paix is on the north coast of Haiti across the bay from Port-au-Prince. He says that "not being sent to Haiti was better for me because I accomplished a lot more." He assisted fellow Auxiliarists with translation needs at the District offices in Miami, spent long hours establishing phone and text contact with associates on the island and translating for returnees from Haiti in preparing their reports. Renel is also heavily committed to humanitarian efforts to assist an orphanage center called the House of Hope, sending more than 17 pallets of medical supplies, donations that have been made by his associates and fellow Auxiliarists in Division 6. Bravo Zulu Renel.

NORTH PACIFIC COAST GUARD FORUM



Interpreter support was once again provided for the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum held at Port Angeles, WA in August 2009. Coast guard organizations from Japan, Korea, Russia, China, Canada and the United States gathered to hold multi-mission exercises. Participating vessels included the Canadian Provo Wallis and Siyay, the Japanese vessel Yashima, the Russian vessel Vorovsky and the USCG Cutters Midgett and Henry Blake. Exercises included foreign vessel inspections, search and rescue operations, and aids to navigation operations.



Canadian Coast Guard vessels



USCGC Midgett



*USCGC Midgett Wardroom
Jimmin Chang, Interpreter, at far
end of table explains to the Chinese
delegation how to make a burrito*



Japanese Coast Guard vessel Yashima



Japanese helicopter hoists 'Oscar'

APS MISSION TO GHANA



As part of the Africa Partnership Station (APS,) USCG Auxiliary Interpreter Roland Zwicky completed a five week deployment last August on the US Navy Ship SWIFT HSV-2 from Cadiz to Dakar and Sekondi/Takoradi, Ghana. The purpose of his mission was to translate for students from Cameroon, Togo, Gabon, and Benin during classes in Small Boat Operations. The material covered included Small Boat Coxswain & Navigation, Survival Equipment, Boat Construction, Knots and Hitches, and Boat Handling, including hands-on training aboard 11m Willard Patrol Boats (rigid inflatables). The area of operations during his mission was between Dakar, Senegal and Sekondi, Ghana and approximately 90 nm out.

Here are some excerpts from his After Action Report:

“The Swift is a catamaran whose motion is quite different than that of a conventional monohull. She rides much more like a dinghy and reacts much quicker to waves. We routinely did 28 to 29 knots when underway. Depending on the state of the sea, the ship's motion can be quite jerky. I was continually amazed how smooth the seas were compared to what I am used to in Hawaii. The worst we saw was maybe a three foot swell with two to three foot waves”.



US Navy Ship SWIFT HSV-2



“From my personal perspective, this was another great assignment. I had a blast, learned some new stuff, and made lots of new friends I greatly value the opportunity to be able to serve in this capacity and to help in establishing new international relationships. It was an honor and a privilege to work with the professionals of the U.S. Navy as well as the professionals of the partner nations – it's an experience that will stay with me for many years to come.”

Photos and information courtesy Roland Zwicky