



U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

**United States  
Coast Guard  
Auxiliary**



## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Article and photos by Barbara Burchfield  
Public Affairs Specialist



**Chief John Palmer, U. S. Coast Guard Station Charleston, gives final instructions to Auxiliary vessels preparing for on-water exercises at Flotilla Island in a joint training exercise with four Coast Guard Auxiliary units from South Carolina and Georgia.**

## **Coast Guard holds Joint Training Exercises**

USCG Station Charleston conducted classroom and on-water training at Flotilla Island, Lake Murray, SC on August 29-31, 2014 for four inland lake flotillas in South Carolina and Georgia.

During the holiday weekend, Coast Guard instructors Boatswains Mate Chief (BMC) Robert Wheat, BMC John Palmer, and Machinery Technician Petty Officer (MK1) Sean Florane directed and instructed the classroom and on-water program. BMC Wheat also serves as the Executive Petty Officer (XPO) and BMC Palmer is the Auxiliary Liaison Officer (AUXLO) at U. S. Coast Guard Station Charleston.

Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray hosted the training event for twenty Auxiliary members from four units in Division 2 Georgia and Division 12 South Carolina. Five Auxiliary boats, called operational facilities, supported the on-water training program. The boats are vessels owned by Auxiliary members that are inspected and certified by U.S. Coast Guard for use in training, regatta and community safety zones, search and rescue, maritime observation missions, and other duties as requested by the Coast Guard.

Members participating in the training were Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray Barbara Burchfield, Festus Burchfield, Roger Deaton, Russ Jernigan, Steve Pstrak, Ken Ushelbec, and Lucy Wingard; Flotilla 12-1 Lake Marion members Willie Hanton, William Hayes, Joe Livingston, Perry Moses, Larry Odom, John

Owen and Bob Young; Flotilla 25 Lake Hartwell members Donald Hyde, Bruce Lindsey, Edward Skelly and David Tedrow; Flotilla 21 Augusta members Dennis Brown and Jim McMennamin.

This was a mini-version of a Crew and Coxswain Training Academy held in Charleston in 2011 over a three month period on weekends; both training events were prepared and managed by Festus Burchfield, Flotilla Commander. The classroom and on-water training course was designed to teach qualification tasks required for Auxiliary boat crew member certification. The aggressive three day training event complements the individual unit training programs with the notable presence of Coast Guard active duty instructors in a joint training environment. Coast Guard guidance included valuable instruction for technique, safety, standardization of policy and application, and best practices in the boat crew program.

Boat crew members are required to achieve personal qualification tasks (PQS) such as first aid and survival, use and management of safety equipment, fire emergencies, knots and line handling, inspections and checklists, navigation, operations policies, man overboard and towing, anchoring, boat handling and helmsman, communications and other requirements.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a component of the U.S. Coast Guard in the Department of Homeland Security with the primary task of promoting recreational boating safety. Auxiliary members are citizen volunteers who are trained and may qualify in a number of non-military missions, including the boat crew and air programs. Members may be certified in support of the Coast Guard in positions such as interpreters, public affairs officers, video corps, web site management, instructors, pollution inspectors, radio communications, and a host of other opportunities. Visit [www.uscgaux-lakemurray.com](http://www.uscgaux-lakemurray.com) for more information.



**From left: David Tedrow, Flotilla 25 Lake Hartwell; Dennis Brown, Flotilla 21 Augusta; and Joe Livingston, Flotilla 12-1 Lake Marion, prepare for anchoring exercises as part of the boat crew training program at Flotilla Island.**