



# INTREP

From the International Affairs Directorate,  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Welcome to the premiere issue of INTREP, brought to you by the International Affairs Directorate (IAD) of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. INTREP brings you news of U.S.C.G Auxiliariasts in action with their international neighbors, as well as reports from auxiliaries from around the world.

We focus on the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary in our inaugural issue, reflecting the long and valuable cooperation and success shared between the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and our fellow volunteers to the north. We also have a report from the Caribbean, where more than 20 countries are involved in international cooperation.

There are also a few columns from members of the IAD staff, as well as some calendar items on the back page. We look forward to further global coverage in our next issue, to be published in December 2003. Meanwhile, happy reading and please feel free to send any editorial ideas and other comments to us! ■



Roger Strukhoff, N-ICE  
Editor, INTREP  
Contact: roger@coverone.com

## International Communication is a Reality Now is the time to build a community.

By Wayne Spivak, Division Chief



With the advent of the Internet, our global society has been drawn closer, due to the low-cost immediacy that this new technology has brought.

The Internet now lets us change the paradigm, from the one-to-one relationship found in the increasingly lost arts of letter writing and phone conversations, to the age of one-to-many and many-to-many communications. The Internet enables improvement in delivery, as well as the timing of the delivery-its immediacy-and will become the standard mode of communications. As such, it will govern our inter-personal and inter-agency relationships.

Now is the time for those who are involved in Search and Rescue, Recreational Boating Safety, Lifesaving and Marine Safety and Environmental Protection to utilize this great resource. Now is the time to make our society of men and women, who are dedicated to the aforementioned noble causes, a closer, friendlier society.

The International Affairs Directorate of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, as is its counter-part in the United States Coast Guard, is dedicated to fostering understanding and co-operation between

Countries via their Coast Guards and Auxiliaries,

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whether they use the moniker Coast Guard or not. The Communications Division within the Directorate is charged with utilizing as many venues as possible to make this mission a reality.

To this end, we have developed multiple dynamic and static schemes to cajole and inform; invite and entice members of our society to meet and greet, discuss and educate each other.

How, you might ask have we developed these venues?

Actually, the answer is not how, but what and where. What we have developed is a web site. Where is its location at <http://www.cgauxinternational.org>.

Here you will find news, our calendar of events and other items of information. In addition, there are links to other national and regional Coast Guards and Auxiliaries. If you find that you're not listed, please drop our Webmaster an e-mail at [webmaster@cgauxinternational.org](mailto:webmaster@cgauxinternational.org).

We have also created a mailing list, used to keep members of our community informed of new events. This mailing list is a one-way only, announcement tool. We promise it will be low volume. Really!

You will also find a bulletin board, where members can share ideas. Currently, it has two topic areas (CSAR and International Relations), but as the members of our society sign on, and request other sub-areas, we'll establish them. In order to use this bulletin board, you must sign in, and reply to the e-mail which it will send.

Lastly you'll find our electronic magazine, or in the parlance of the Internet, our "e-zine". But I think you've already found the INTREP, since you are currently reading these pearls of wisdom!

We invite you to submit article ideas to the INTREP. They can be on any topic you wish, as long as its relevant to the community at-large. As also stated on the first page of this issue, send submissions or queries to our Editor at [roger@coverone.com](mailto:roger@coverone.com)

Communication is the only way to fulfill our collective missions. Communication, without it we'd never hear the cry for help. Without it, we'd still be in the primordial soup! ■

## **FIELD REPORT**

### **CSAR Conference Draws Delegates from 20+ Countries**

*By Robert Lewis, N-ICEa*



There were 22 different countries represented at the Caribbean Volunteer Maritime Search and Rescue Conference (CSAR) in Miami, FL on December 6-7, 2002. The event was hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and funded by the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM). Klaus Baumann, Division Chief of the Auxiliary's International Affairs Directorate, reports that an important objective of CSAR was to give the volunteer search-and-rescue agencies tools to support their governments' Coast Guard, police, and other SAR units.

The CSAR conference came about after a few informal meetings in the year 2000 between members of the International Affairs Directorate and some SAR agencies and government officials from several Caribbean nations and islands. These informal meetings lead to the organized conference in Miami, during which the Auxiliary was able to bring together SAR agencies from throughout the Caribbean.

Participants were provided with a wide variety of valuable information during the two-day conference, including learning about the U.S. Coast Guard marine safety programs, meeting members of sister volunteer agencies, developing SAR strategies, and building up their own organizations. (cont. next page)

There were also opportunities to visit static displays of U.S. Coast Guard units and to watch a  
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search-and-rescue training exercise that included an HH65A "Dolphin" helicopter.

According to feedback on the conference evaluations, participants report that they overwhelmingly would like another CSAR conference to take place, preferably in 2004. (Note: This underscores the importance of filling out conference evaluations!) Items they would like to see at the next conference include an opportunity for participating agencies to give status reports and to provide concepts for future goals. The participants also stated that they would like to see the fellowship that they experienced at the CSAR conference to develop into some type of network.

For more information about the CSAR conference please refer to an article in SITREP entitled, "Caribbean Volunteer Maritime Search and Rescue Conference" dated December 18, 2002, or visit this website:

<http://teamcoastguard.org/2002/A021218/Carib.htm> ■

## ISAR 2003 Shows U.S., Canada Cooperation

*By Roger Strukhoff, N-ICE*



The ISAR 2003 competition, featuring the U.S. and Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliaries, takes place in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador over a two-day period in late September. There will be six teams each from the U.S. and Canada competing in six events: SAR planning, on-

water SAREX, SAR pump, heaving line 1 and 2, and a mystery event.

Each team will have four members, with one designated as team coxswain. For the six events listed above, each team will compete with three team members who will be chosen at random by the event organizers on Thursday, September 25.

All events will be judged by Canadian standards using two judges (CCG and USCGA) for each event. The highest scoring Canadian and U.S. team will be awarded team trophies.

As in 2002, there will also be a competition for the fourth team member, who will be chosen at random by the event organizers on Thursday, 25 September 2003. From these 12 Auxiliarists, four International Teams of three participants will be created, and will compete in five events: chartwork, marlinspike, water rescue, heaving line, and of course, the mystery event!

The points scored in these five events will be added to District/Region team scores to calculate the total points for each team. The District/Region team with the highest overall score will be awarded the International Winner trophy.

The event is to be held at the Canadian Coast Guard Base on Friday, September 26 and at the Royal Newfoundland Yacht Club (RNYC) in Conception Bay South on Saturday, September 27. The Delta St. John's Hotel & Convention Center on New Gower Street, St. John's will host auxiliarists participating in this ISAR. (For hotel reservations, call 1-800-268-1133). More information can be found at [www.ccgagcac.org/isar2003](http://www.ccgagcac.org/isar2003)

Auxiliarists may also contact François Vézina at (613) 991-5714 or [vezinaf@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:vezinaf@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) in Canada, or COMO Robert C. (Bob) Colby at (989) 686-8139 in the U.S.

### A Proud History for Both Nations

ISAR 2003 demonstrates the continued cooperation between the respective Coast Guard

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Auxiliaries of the U.S. and Canada, and additionally, a memorandum of understanding outlines the areas of cooperation between these two vital organizations. Working within the policy and guidelines of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Canadian Coast Guard, the two Auxiliaries agree to carry out joint training in search and rescue (SAR), disaster relief, environmental response, vessel examinations, public education, and other missions related to boating safety.

The two organizations coordinate on radio communication frequencies, appoint liaison officers and/or committees for direct coordination, encourage the free exchange of information, technologies and other materials to the benefit of both organizations, and provide supplemental mission support to one another.

As with U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers, the member volunteers of the CGCA save lives. Each year, the 5,000+ members of the CCGA take part in more than 25 percent of the 7,000 maritime search SAR incidents on Canadian waters, and save on average over 200 lives.

The Canadian Marine Rescue Auxiliary (CMRA) was formed and consisted of some 700 members and 300 vessels. Over the last quarter decade, CMRA evolved into the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and grew to nearly 5000 members and 1500 vessels. This year, the CCGA celebrates its Silver Jubilee and 25 years of providing exemplary search and rescue and boating safety services across Canada. ■

*Jessica Hume, CCG SAR Intern, contributed to this report.*

## **International Cooperation is Widespread**

*By Robert Lewis, N-ICEA*

The Coast Guard Auxiliary has several official agreements with other volunteer lifesaving agencies in the world, and continues to work toward new agreements. These agreements do not hap-

pen without months of work done by the people of the International Directorate of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the process goes beyond the USCG Auxiliary and another volunteer lifesaving organization writing an agreement. "These agreements started out with letters that were black and white," says Klaus Baumann, Deputy Director of the International Affairs, "but now they are gold and platinum."

Once the International Directorate and representatives from the other volunteer lifesaving services begin talking with each other, a draft proposal is written. This proposal must be approved by the respective governments. Besides gaining the approval of the Auxiliary's National Commodore, these agreements had to be sanctioned in the United States by at least the State Department, the International Affairs Department of the Coast Guard, and the Coast Guard Commandant.

Some of the agencies that the USCG Auxiliary have official agreements with are the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, Virgin Islands Search and Rescue (British), the Netherlands Antilles and the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary, to name just a few.

The first agreement that gained approval is the one the USCG Auxiliary has with the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (see related article this issue). Since then, members of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary and the USCG Auxiliary have visited each other's units and attended one another's training sessions.

One example of this camaraderie is the visit by several Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliarists to the First District Northern Region's annual conferences and training sessions. One of those visiting from Canada was Frank McLaughlin, President of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, Maritime Region. During this time USCG Auxiliarists and CCG Auxiliarists had a chance to learn from each other, strengthen bonds which exist because of a shared mission and of course, to share sea-stories with a new audience.

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We are looking for other stories about how USCG Auxiliaries and members of other volunteer lifesaving agencies work together to report on in future issues of INTREP. For those with a story to share, contact us here at the INTREP. You can contact me directly via email at rllewis@bu.edu and please put "INTREP" in the subject line. I look forward to your ideas! ■

## BASRA Charting New Course

By *Brigitte Baumann*  
Division Chief - International Affairs Support



*Klaus G.E. Baumann*



*Brigitta Baumann*

When the special telephone number rings at the Baumann residence after the regular work day, it is normally a member of the USCG Auxiliary or a telemarketer. The Caller ID indicated UNKNOWN CALLER, so on this occasion Klaus Baumann was pleasantly surprised to hear the voice of a long-time friend, Dennis Lightbourn, the newly elected Commodore of the Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association (BASRA).

After a great mutual up-date, Dennis expressed a need and desire to introduce a Boating Safely Course in the Bahamas, and that he wanted to determine which course would be most appropriate to start with. He had frequently browsed the USCG Auxiliary website and had studied the various Public Education (PE) classes being offered. Most of the courses are very long. Dennis said and he was looking for a course that could be taught in a day or two.

There are no Boating Safety Courses being offered in the Bahamas, since no one knows the rules of the road, Dennis pointed out. "Anything would be better than nothing," he said. "We have

many islands, a coastline of almost 2,000 miles, many boaters and many accidents that could be prevented with even the bare minimum of safe boating education," he continued.

Klaus called Dennis back the next day, advising him that the St. Augustine Flotilla 14-7 had a scheduled eight-hour Boating Safely Course (BSC) on a Saturday morning and that this may be a good opportunity for him to get first-hand experience. Additionally, he could attend the regularly scheduled Flotilla Staff meeting Friday evening. Two days later, Dennis confirmed his flight and hotel reservations. Meanwhile, Klaus informed all that needed to know about the impending visit of the National Commodore of BASRA.

After Friday's arrival in St. Augustine, Dennis immediately purchased a laptop computer and the necessary hardware and software, all within his authorized BASRA budget, as needed for



BASRA'S new Public Education Mission. Dinner was hosted by Robert Ping, DCP-14 and Ann Ping, VFC 14-7 at their residence, which was followed by an almost full-house Flotilla Staff meeting. "I really enjoyed dinner and the nuts-n-bolts discussions at the Flotilla level. This has given me a much better idea of the various Flotilla activities and involvement," Dennis remarked.



Saturday morning started with an all-day Boating Safely Course with 10 students in addition to Dennis. Yes indeed, it was a long and interesting

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day, lasting until the last student passed the exam and received the certificate of successful completion and boating card. The room at the Public Library was able to seat 10 people, plus three Instructors. Dennis explained that BASRA had recently expanded their facilities in Nassau and they would be able to seat 30-35 students. The evening concluded with a nice dinner (hosted by the Baumanns) and a pleasant walk through historic St. Augustine.

Sunday morning, Dennis and Klaus summarized the event. Dennis concluded that the Boating Safety Course is the one BASRA will definitely adapt for the Bahamas because it covers all the basics and can be split up conveniently in two 4-hour classes. Some of the material would have to be modified specifically for the Bahamas, Dennis realized.

Just a few days after his return to Nassau, Dennis reported that BASRA is working on the Boating



Safely Course booklet, incorporating the boating related laws and regulations in the Bahamas. Klaus proposed to leave the U.S. rules and regulations in the Chapter and indicate: "For those planning a boat trip to the USA (Florida), here are the Rules and Regulations that you need to know." Dennis quickly responded that he likes the idea and thinks they will use it. BASRA hopes to have everything ready for teaching their first Boating Safety Course in the Bahamas by mid July 2003. As a special incentive, class graduates will not only receive a certificate and boating card, but also a free one-year BASRA membership card, Dennis noted enthusiastically.

What a novel idea...

BASRA handles many Search and Rescue (SAR) cases each year and needs more members and operational facilities, Dennis remarked. "When we have a difficult situation, we can very much rely on the great support of the US Coast Guard because they are always ready and there when we need them the most," Dennis stated.

Minutes before publishing this article, Dennis sent an e-mail message to add the following facts:

- We have decided to spread the BSC over two Saturdays so as to allow time to add the On Water Training OWT segment to the course. As ALL course participants must be BASRA members first, our blanket liability coverage should offer us protection in the event of a mishap.
- Our first course WILL start at 0900 on Saturday 19 July 2003, with part two on the following Saturday.
- We have just ordered the tables and chairs for our meeting room - we can seat 40 students comfortably, this will be our maximum class size - and our target for the first course! ■

Proud Traditions - Worthy Missions...

Here are some interesting links:

BASRA website

<http://www.basra.org/index.html>

BSC Description

[http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/public/btng\\_sf\\_y.htm](http://www.cgaux.org/cgauxweb/public/btng_sf_y.htm)

USCG Auxiliary International website

<http://www.cgauxinternational.org>

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

between BASRA and the USCG Auxiliary 7th District.

<http://www.cgauxinternational.org/ezine/mou-basral.pdf>

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## New Bulletin Board Leverages Internet

By Robert Lewis, N-ICEA

The International Directorate of the Coast Guard Auxiliary recently launched its new electronic bulletin board to increase communications capabilities concerning the mission of the directorate. This bulletin board is for use by not only of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, but also serves as a vehicle of communications for other search-and-rescue volunteers throughout the world.

The bulletin board can be accessed directly by going to <http://www.cgauxinternational.org/bbs/index.php> or by following the link on the International Directorate's website's home page at <http://www.cgauxinternational.org>. Anyone can read messages posted at the bulletin board, but you must complete a quick registration process to be able to post a message yourself.

The bulletin board site is part the directorate's efforts to use the Internet to change the way it conducts its communications. According to Wayne Spivak, Division Chief for Communications at the International Directorate, the Internet allows us to change the communications paradigm from "a one-to-one relationship, to one-to-many and many-to-many communications."

The bulletin board allows individual members of the directorate, which includes the interpreters corps, to communicate with each other and other Auxiliarists. It is also designed to increase communications among the many international volunteer search-and-rescue organizations found throughout the world.

Communications are already a large factor in the mission of the directorate to develop and maintain liaisons with international volunteer search-and-rescue and recreational boating safety organizations. Developing a way for Auxiliarists and members of other organizations worldwide to communicate ideas about boating safety,

public educations, search and rescue, and marine safety is not only a timely idea, but an idea that is very important, as the number of recreational boaters increase every year worldwide.

As the use of the bulletin board increases and changes, it will shift and add discussion forums as needed. At present there are forums in areas such as the Caribbean Search and Rescue (CSAR) conference, general communications, and a place to organize swapping items such as patches and hats.

## Report From The N-I, AUX IAD

8 April 2003

FROM: DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TO: NACO

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL LIFEBOAT FEDERATION CONFERENCE



*COMO Everette  
Tucker, N-I*

1. I along with RADM Olsen (G-OC), CAPT Goward (G-OCS), CAPT Sawyer (G-OPR), and Mr. Gene Hammel (G-CI) attended the ILF Conference in Capetown, South Africa, 16-21 March 2003. The National Sea Rescue Institute of South Africa a superb job in arranging and carrying out the conference as conference hosts.

2. Over 100 delegates attended this year's conference, representing 42 organizations and countries from all continents (except Antarctica). Admiral Mitropoulos, Assistant Secretary-General of IMO, gave the keynote address. Presentations by delegates centered on the themes of coordinating SAR, scope of operations, pushing the boundaries, new boats, regional updates, technology, water safety education

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and training, and understanding casualty needs.

3. The vision of the ILF is to be recognized as the foremost international authority on lifeboat SAR, buttressed by their 2001 - 2005 plan to:

- Provide lifeboats to emerging organizations
- Expand their scope (i.e., Caribbean pilot project)
- Provide support (assistance teams)
- Develop ILF structure (forums, work-groups, etc.)
- Provide information (web-site and newsletter), and
- Improve training standards

Their vision now recognizes education and awareness as key requirements.

4. Since its inception in 1924, the ILF has been sponsored by the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI). A major portion of the plenary discussions during this conference, however, were concentrated on RNLI's desire to make the ILF a "stand alone" organization, responsible for its own funding (and fund raising), objectives, strategies, constitution and election of officers. RNLI has pledged their continued financial support of the ILF (approximately \$300K/year) through 2007, when the next quadrennial conference is scheduled to take place in Goteburg, Sweden.

5. After much discussion and debate, and as part of the ILFs first step toward independence, an agreement was reached on how an election would be conducted to nominate and elect delegates as an executive council member during a transitional four-year interim. To synopsise a laborious task, it was determined that each organization could nominate one; and from those nominations, 14 individuals would be elected to serve; and from that 14, one member would be selected to serve as chair. 23 nominations were received, and the following 14 delegates were elected to serve:

Rolf Westerstrom, Sweden, Swedish Sea Rescue Society - Chairman

Donato Caires, Madeira, SANAS Madeira

Sip Wiebenga, Netherlands, KNRM

Brook Archbold, New Zealand, Royal New Zealand Coast Guard Federation

Morten Almaas, Norway, Norwegian Society for Sea Rescue

Ian Weinburg, South Africa, National Sea Rescue Institute

Tim De Wet, Uganda, National Lake Rescue Institute

Hamish McDonald, UK, Maritime Rescue Institute

Dennis Georgeoglou, Uruguay, ADES

Gabe Kinney, USA, AFRAS

Dean Lee, USA, USCG

Everette Tucker, USA, USCGAUX

Alexandra Hewitt-Jones, British Virgin Islands, VISAR

Ian Ventham, International delegate, ILF

While the functions of this position will mainly be accomplished via electronic communications, it will require one meeting each year in the UK or The Netherlands.

The first meeting will be held in the UK during September. The Executive Council has a "full plate" of things to accomplish: prepare a constitution & by-laws, draft a strategic business plan, develop and institute measures to fund the operation and initiatives of the ILF, institute ways to obtain new members, establish special interest areas of "expertise", etc.

6. The USCG and USCGAUX attendees made the following presentations:

Caribbean Volunteer Maritime SAR Conference

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and Caribbean Initiative. I presented a 20-minute overview of this initiative, the Miami Conference, our plans for a 2004 Conference, and the results achieved thus far. This topic was favorably received and, in fact, was hailed as the example of how a "mature organization" working in conjunction with the ILF and its members could greatly enhance SAR capabilities in a geographical area. Several countries asked to receive "observer" invitations to attend the next conference. Along with this, RADM Olsen presented Meritorious Team Commendations to Alex Hewitt-Jones, VISAR, and Gerry Keeling, ILF, for their support of the Miami Conference. Mr. Curd Everstz, CITRO, also received this award from the U.S. Consul-General in Curacao.

I also chaired a one-hour breakout session that addressed the considerations in developing an education and awareness program in boating safety. Following the session, I made a 30-minute briefing at the general session on the considerations we developed and then led a 20-minute Q&A on the topic. I was very pleased to see the interest and support from the attendees on "Preventive SAR."

Captain Steve Sawyer (G-OPR) provided briefings at two sessions on the topic "Ideal SAR Management and Communications - The IMO model," which, in essence, provided the audience with a framework for SAR and how it works in a mature organization such as the United States Coast Guard; to include SAR system components, stages and external influences. This presentation was combined with a brief provided by Ms. Alex Hewitt-Jones (representing the British Virgin Islands Search and Rescue (VISAR) organization) on "What Happens in Practice?" - or, in other words, how the rest of the world (notably 2nd and 3rd world countries) prosecutes SAR. With Captain Sawyer providing the "perfect" world version of SAR, Ms. Hewitt-Jones spoke to the view of how the SAR system works in emerging organizations and countries where lifesaving organizations are in their infancy.

Captain Dana Goward (G-OCS) gave several short presentations on "Faster is Not Always Better" discussing the advantages and disadvantages of speed in boat operations. This presentation was based upon his article that is appearing in the April 2003 issue of "Proceedings" magazine. The presentations were well received as the leaders of many lifeboat organizations find they frequently must encounter crews and sponsors who believe that boats should be built to as fast as possible.

7. The ILF conference is an ideal international forum to discuss ideas, procedures and policies in an open forum, and to ensure that the Coast Guard's SAR and Small Boat programs have the opportunity to engage their counterparts and to help set the standard for emerging lifesaving organizations. Additionally, it presents the Auxiliary with a means to communicate with the other volunteer and government organizations that are active in preventive SAR and an ability to learn from their experiences. The creation of an Education & Awareness Special Interest Group should greatly enhance our future growth and success in this area. ■

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# INTREP

Division Chief  
Communications

**Wayne Spivak, N-IC**

Editor

Branch Chief

**Roger Strukhoff, N-ICE**

Assistant Editor

Assistant Branch Chief

**Robert Lewis, N-ICEa**

Webmaster

Branch Chief

**David Kelishian, N-ICW**

AUX IAD

Director

**COMO Everette Tucker, N-I**

Deputy Director

**Klaus G. E. Baumann, N-Id**



## CONTACT US!

INTREP is looking for a few good articles. You, our readers, will serve as a primary resource for interesting stories about international auxiliary events and mutual cooperation. So please send your ideas to [roger@coverone.com](mailto:roger@coverone.com)

The next issue of INTREP appears in December, and we want to start working on stories for that issue as soon as possible. So, send your ideas today!

## CALENDAR

### June 23

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
64th Anniversary

### August 9

Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary  
Silver Jubilee Anniversary

### August 27-31

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
National Conference (NACON)  
Gaylord Opryland Hotel  
Nashville, Tennessee

### September 23-24

Australian Maritime Safety Authority  
Marine Safety 2003: The Science of Safety  
Sydney, Australia

### September 26-27

4th annual ISAR  
St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

### December 5

International Volunteer Day

## MISSION

INTREP is the international report of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, developed and administered by the Auxiliary's International Affairs Directorate. INTREP covers activities of international volunteers and organizations in areas such as search and rescue, disaster relief, environmental response, vessel examinations, public education, and other missions relating to recreational boating safety. INTREP will be published in June and December 2003, and four times in 2004. ■