

# INTREP

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International Affairs Directorate  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

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## NACON 2003 Builds Relationships

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Meetings encourage friendships. Friendships encourage Community.  
Community encourages better Relationships.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary held its yearly National Conference (NACON 2003) in Music City, USA. For those of us who are now confused as to where Music City is, and why it's Music City, read the next paragraph, otherwise, go to paragraph three.

Music City is the heart of Country Music, which is located in the heartland of the South, Nashville, Tennessee. Country music stars, fans and those who want their big break flock to this City to audition and play at the Grand Ole Opry or one of the hundreds of local bars that feature music on a non-stop basis.

At NACON, the International Affairs Directorate (IAD) held a meeting where members of the International Community sat around a very large conference room and shared ideas. In attendance were representatives from not only the USCG Auxiliary, but the US Coast Guard, the Canadian Coast Guard and

*(Continued on page 4)*



A great way to build relationships....socially...

## AFRAS Builds

The Association for Rescue at Sea (AFRAS) "has been involved in some exciting work during the past 18 months," according to John B. Chomeau,

Captain, USN (ret.), who serves as association President. The first is the USCG Auxiliary's Caribbean Initiative, which was

greatly enhanced when former Captain Chomeau got (former USCG Commandant) Admiral Loy's ear at the 2001 NACON. He recommended that the USCG expand its efforts to enhance the safety of life at sea by bringing aboard volunteer rescue organizations in the Caribbean by utilizing the Auxil-

## International Ties

ary to foster their establishment and development, Captain Chomeau said. Subsequently, the Auxiliary then planned and conducted its First Caribbean Volunteer Maritime SAR Conference -- which took place last December in Miami. Based on the success of this conference,

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Inside this issue:

VISAR	2
Philippine CGA	2
Calendar	2
ISAR	3
ABSAR	3
SarScene 2003	3
From the Editor	6

### 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 was published in June and December 2003, and will be published four times in 2004.

## VISAR Patrols BVI

Virgin Islands Search and Rescue (VISAR) was founded in 1988 as a voluntary organization dedicated to saving life at sea. It is the officially recognized search and rescue service in the British Virgin Islands, where it provides 24-hour cover every day of the year in close co-operation with the Royal British Virgin Islands police, fire and ambulance services.

VISAR has a close working relationship with the United States Coast Guard and is a full member of the International Lifeboat

Federation (ILF).

VISAR has conducted more than 300 search-and-rescue missions over the years. It is experiencing increased demand for its services due to growing charter traffic in the BVI. VISAR's volunteers undergo training in seamanship and small boat-handling skills, in addition to search-and-rescue techniques and first aid, including CPR.

VISAR can be found online at

[www.visar.org](http://www.visar.org). Its address is P.O. Box 3042, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Telephone is (284) 494-4357 and e-mail is [fundraising@visar.org](mailto:fundraising@visar.org)



## Philippine Squadron Wins Award

The 106th Squadron The 106th of the Philippines Coast Guard Auxiliary District, National Capital Region - Central Luzon (CGAD NCR-CL) was named squadron of the year in October 2003 by the Philippine Coast Guard.

Captain Harold Wolf of the 106<sup>th</sup> reports that the squadron's flagship project is part of what is known as "Adopt a Coastal Barangay." The squadron adopted Baran-

gay Capipisa, located in Tanza, Cavite. The Barangay has been the recipient of a major medical/dental program, seminars on health and sanitation/waste management, livelihood projects, the installation of a telephone facility at the Barangay hall and lectures on marine environmental protec-

tion and safety of life and property at sea.

Other activities undertaken by the 106<sup>th</sup> include rebuilding a light house in the municipality of Sabang, Bataan, donating a motorized boat to the Coast Guard detachment of the same area, repairing radios and

“...named squadron of the year in October 2003 by the Philippine Coast Guard. “

## CALENDAR

### 2003

5 December  
International Volunteer Day

### 2004

23-25 January  
N-Training—St. Louis, MO

18-21 April  
International Boating & Water Safety Summit  
Panama City Beach, Florida

14-15 May  
2004 Caribbean Volunteer Maritime SAR Conference  
Miami, FL.

29 May  
37th Anniversary of The National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) of  
South Africa

23 June  
65th Anniversary of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Canadian Team Wins ISAR 2003

The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary came up winners at the 2003 International SAR Competition, and has been involved in a number of other activities over the past several months, according to Francois Vezina, National Business Manager for the CCGA.

ISAR is an annual event between Auxiliary teams from the United States and Canada, demonstrating various skills in the field of search and rescue. ISAR 2003, held September 26-27 in St. John's, Newfoundland

and Labrador, featured events designed to test the volunteers' ability to plan, communicate and prosecute a maritime search and rescue (SAR) mission.

Twelve teams representing the U.S. and Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliaries competed. Each team competed in events such as chart work, search planning, on-water rescue, and emergency dewatering pump operation. The winning team was from Newfoundland and Labrador, and was able to use its home water advantage to navigate

to victory! Detailed coverage of ISAR 2003 can be found at the USCGA's SITREP ([www.teamcoastguard.org](http://www.teamcoastguard.org)).

Canadian Auxiliaries also competed in the Quebec Regional SAR Competition in Sorel, Quebec on September 6, as well as the CCGA Maritimes Rescue Challenge in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia on September 20. The latter competition was held at the Canadian Coast Guard Base in Dartmouth where the first Canadian Auxiliary Asso-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## COMO Tucker Presents at SARSCENE 2003

USCG Auxiliary, Chief, International Affairs, Commodore Everette Tucker Jr. made a presentation at Sarscene 2003, the largest Search and Rescue Symposium in Canada. Sarscene 2003 took place in Kingston, Ontario from October 15 to 18.

COMO Tucker's presentation was about the Caribbean SAR Initiative, presented jointly with Harry Strong, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Coast Guard Aux-

iliary. The presentation outlined the challenge presented by ever-increasing numbers of visitors bringing or chartering recreational vessels in the Caribbean, a growing number of accidents, injuries and deaths, and limited SAR assets to respond in accordance with international agreements regarding the safety of commercial and civil aviation.



The plan also outlined a plan of action to address this situation, and provided a detailed report on the 2002 Caribbean Volunteer SAR Conference. The presentation can be found online at [www.ccgagcac.org/gallery/carib\\_sarscene\\_e.asp](http://www.ccgagcac.org/gallery/carib_sarscene_e.asp)

*"...at Sarscene 2003, the largest Search and Rescue Symposium in Canada"*

## ABSAR Works Caribbean Race and Regatta

Antigua Barbuda Search and Rescue (ABSAR) is currently working on a project to monitor and coordinate with dive operators, according to ABSAR Acting Director John Cornelius. "The idea is to be able to link them together in the event of a medical or other emergency," he reports. "If the pilot program goes well, we plan to expand the program to include assistance to other boaters."

Cornelius says the group has set up its operations base at a dive shop, and "we're in the process of getting personnel to monitor the radio and log dive operators departure, destination, arrival, and return."

ABSAR ([www.absar.org](http://www.absar.org)) takes an active role in providing medical and rescue services for the Antigua Race Week and Antigua Classics Regatta. The organization

reaches full steam in April and May each year for these events. The group describes itself as "a group of volunteers using borrowed boats to provide these services to the public at no cost."

Although ABSAR has a goal to expand its capabilities to make its services available year-round, it does not take the place of the

*(Continued on page 5)*

# AFRAS Builds International Ties

(Continued from page 1)

the Auxiliary has requested funding support again from US SOUTHCOM and is currently working with us, USCG, SEARCH, the Caribbean volunteer SAR organizations, and other ILF members to plan and conduct a second conference in May 2004."

In the past month, AFRAS has also made some major commitments to helping both the Icelandic Rescue Service (ICE-SAR) and the Norwegian service (NSSR) to raise funds in the United States. AFRAS will also be working closely with these groups

over the next year to help purchase new all-weather lifeboats.

AFRAS has also had close contact with the Dutch group KNRM ( [www.knrm.nl](http://www.knrm.nl) ) for many years. This group's director, Mr. Sip Wiebenga is a member of the AFRAS international advisory board. "The KNRM is one of the premier lifesaving organizations and an active member of the ILF," according to Captain Chomeau

AFRAS was formed in 1976 by a group of American professional seamen and businessmen "to address the needs of rescue



organizations around the world to raise funds, exchange information, and provide co-operation," according to the AFRAS website. It offers a one-year free trial membership for USCG Auxiliary members. Those interested in this offer should send e-mail to [ackafra@aol.com](mailto:ackafra@aol.com) and provide name, address, and Auxiliary member number to enroll.

John Chomeau can be contacted by e-mail at [jhnchomeau@aol.com](mailto:jhnchomeau@aol.com).

# NACON 2003 Builds Relationships

(Continued from page 1)

Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, as well as other organizations involved in SAR and safe boating initiatives.

## Meetings Encourage Friendships

While the particulars of the meeting will be discussed in other articles, it is because of this meeting I was able to meet and greet many of those individuals I have communicated to, using both this venue (INTREP) as well as the IAD website and e-mail. Names, became faces, and faces became conversations.

These conversations became jaunts to the local eateries, bars and clubs, where conversations ranged between discussions of boating related issues to the impending hurricane season, and its affect on one's house (our friends in the Caribbean were most concerned, as was I since I live on Long Island, NY, on the water, and also can be affected).

I finally met the larger-than-life Harry Strong, CEO of the Canadian Coast Guard

Auxiliary, and met members of my own Directorate as well. It was also a pleasure to finally meet and greet COMO Tucker, Klaus and Brigitte Baumann, and they had the pleasure of meeting your writer.

## Friendships Encourage Community

I had discussions with many members of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary, as well as Adriaan van der Hoeven of CITRO (Curaçao). Additionally, I rekindled a ten year old relationship with Tony Gardiner, the Chief Commander of the Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons. And I partied with Frank Hudson, President of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary - Pacific, Alex Hewit-Jones of VISAR and Dennis Lightbourne of BASRA.

I made new friends and acquaintances, who I now can send e-mail with a renewed sense of who we both are. We are a community of individuals, some paid, most others not, who share the desire to increase the knowledge and safety of recreational boating.

## Community Encourages Better Relationships

In the coming months, the Communication Division of the International Affairs Directorate, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary would like to focus on encouraging better relationships between individuals and organizations. To this end, we'd like to take this opportunity to focus your attention, yet again to our Bulletin Board located at <http://www.cgauxinternational/bbs/index.php>

If you feel we need a new category (i.e., CSAR, International Relations or forum (Regional Conferences, For Sale), please let us know. Our Webmaster, Ken Sommers, N-ICW has been busy as every, updating our website at <http://www.cgauxinternational.org/> and specifically links to all the Newsletters of our community. If you have a Newsletter, and would like for it to be listed, please send Ken an e-mail at [webmaster@cgauxinternational.org](mailto:webmaster@cgauxinternational.org).

From all of us in the Communications Division, that's Ken, Roger Strukhoff, Editor of INTREP, Robert Lewis, Assistant Editor, and yours truly, we'd like to wish you a happy holiday season.

## Canadian Team Wins ISAR 2003

ciation was created 25 years ago.

Mr. Vezina also reports that a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to the Auxiliary by the Canadian Safe Boating Council, presented "in grateful recognition of the Auxiliary's commitment to volunteerism and support of boating safety, search and rescue, and the mission of the Canadian Safe Boating Council," according to the certificate.



## Philippine Squadron Wins Award

(Continued from page 2)

restoring telephone lines at the Subic Bay detachment, conducted training to the Municipality of Sabang, Bataan on Marine Pollution, First Aid, and participated in the MARPOLEX 03, a three-day exercise held at Subic Bay jointly with the Japan and Malaysia Coast Guards.

The squadron has also donated medical

## COMO Tucker Presents at SARSCENE 2003

(Continued from page 3)

Sarscene was co-hosted by the Ontario Provincial Police. Delegates had a chance to visit over 70 different presentations, see 50 exhibitors, visit outdoor displays and demonstrations and share ideas with others about search and rescue.

Sessions were audio taped, and Auxiliaries interested in them can order tapes by contacting Bob Black at [contape@cyberus.ca](mailto:contape@cyberus.ca), or by telephone at (613) 824-2583.

## ABSAR Works Caribbean Race and Regatta

(Continued from page 3)

Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard. Rather, this organization cooperates to provide additional surface assets, air search support, and medical expertise.

Jonathan Cornelius and ABSAR can be contacted via e-mail at [absar@candw.ag](mailto:absar@candw.ag). The Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard is located at Deep Water Harbour, St. John's, Antigua, telephone (268) 462-3206, or on VHF Channel 16.

supplies to the Lamitan Hospital on Basilan Island, and was involved in the search and rescue of Loag Air crash in Manila Bay, the search and rescue operations of another passenger vessel in distress, and assisted the Philippine Coast Guard with Training in the area of Communications to Sr. Officers and newly station commanders.

"Several of our members attended a twoday training on search and rescue with the Air

Operations Wing as well as a one-day seminar on Basic Bomb Awareness Training," Captain Wolf reports. He also reports that he was joined by Capt. Ed Lott of the Hawaii flotilla on a Harbor Patrol of Honolulu during New Year's celebrations. Captain Harold Wolf can be reached by e-mail at [wolf@pcga106.com](mailto:wolf@pcga106.com).



ISAR 2003 Winners

## CALENDAR

(Continued from page 2)

1 July  
5th Anniversary of Iceland's ICE-SAR

2 - 4 September  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary National Conference,  
Costa Mesa, California

11 - 15 September  
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

4-7 November  
International Search and Rescue (ISAR) Competition  
Portsmouth, Virginia

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**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 March, and we want to start working on stories for that issue as soon as possible. So, send your ideas today!



## From the Editor

Roger Strukhoff, N-ICE  
Editor, INTREP

Welcome to the second issue of INTREP, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's international newsletter, published under the auspices of the Auxiliary's International Affairs Directorate.

This issue features a report from the recent NACON as well as reports from various auxiliary and other volunteer organizations from around the world. Recreational boating safety is a mission-critical issue, not only in the United States, but also in Canada, the Caribbean, in fact, in all regions of the world. This issue of INTREP provides some information on how our fellow volunteers around the world are doing their part to make their local waters safer.

But the effort must, of course, be unceasing. You'll notice while reading this issue that we've provided various ways to contact the leaders involved in these global marine safety efforts, and we encourage you to contact these people should you be venturing their way. Through mutual, global, volunteer cooperation, members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and like-minded organizations can continue to provide invaluable public services that would otherwise simply not happen.

We also encourage our readers to submit story ideas to us! We plan to publish INTREP four times in 2004, and we are in *semper paratus* mode to receive calendar items, story ideas, mission and meeting reports, and other information that furthers our mission of providing international re-

porting on Auxiliary and related activity. Send your ideas to me at [roger@coverone.com](mailto:roger@coverone.com)

Enjoy this issue, and we look forward to serving you again in 2004!

