

# Valued Service

## Flotilla Members Free Up More than 300 Active Duty Man Hours at CGAS Cape Cod, Mass.

CAPE COD-Members of Auxiliary Flotilla 11-08 D1NR just surpassed the one year milestone in their volunteer service to Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod.

A dedicated team of seven Auxilarists has been providing an extremely valuable service in the Aviation Engineering Department of Air Station Cape Cod since November 2003.

By performing administrative tasks, which require meticulous attention to detail and frequent repetition, they freed up over 300 work hours that would have otherwise been a burden on the over tasked active duty workforce.

Aircraft maintenance technicians, who also serve as flight crewmembers, are frequently task-saturated with flying duties related to search and rescue, law enforcement, and Homeland Security missions.

When they are not flying, the active duty workforce is fully employed with HU-25 and HH-60 maintenance responsibilities. The regular presence of trained volunteers to assume critically important administrative functions has had an extremely positive effect on aircraft and crew readiness postures.

Working together in cohesive teams, Auxiliary volunteers dedicate as much as 15 hours per week to administrative tasks related to aircraft maintenance.

One of the first and most successful projects this team took on was the monthly audit of the aircraft maintenance logbooks for the eight aircraft assigned to Air Station Cape Cod.

Working teams of two, these Auxiliarists compared the computer printed configuration reports of all installed components to the detailed component history reports. Ensuring that the lists of installed components matched the component history reports was an arduous task requiring great attention to detail.

An accurately performed logbook audit required that each component be cross checked for the proper serial number and part number against two computer generated reports for all major airframe and engine installations. With over 240 such components per aircraft, this monthly review normally consumes eight to ten man hours per month.

Another vital maintenance support role that the Auxiliary recently performed was a comprehensive audit of the technical publications library.

Semi-annual audits of the technical publications library are required to ensure that vital technical publications are updated with the latest revisions. Not only did the dedicated Auxiliary team complete the audit, they also performed several page changes to aircraft technical manuals that are used by technicians on a regular basis.

The Auxiliary team drew



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**Flotilla 11-08 members (from left to right) Steve Cochran, Neil Maher and Paul Nevosh, team leader, are seen doing the monthly aviation computerized maintenance (ACMS) logbook reviews for CGAS Cape Cod.** *Photo by Lt. Nelson Brandt*

“On several occasions leaving together late, Emile, Neil, and I would stop and linger around the aircraft ... no one around. We had the place all to ourselves. A common feeling we spoke about was how accepted we were by the crew. While I shared the feeling, I was amazed listening to these two men who have given so much of themselves and their lives to our country, speak about how the Air Station crews felt about us, went out of there way to talk to us, and to say how much they appreciated our efforts. We would talk about how fortunate and how honored we were to be part of such a special and dedicated effort. In those quiet moments of reflection under the strong hanger lights, we three knew we were part of Team Coast Guard, and how lucky we were to still be able to contribute.

I knew this was true in my heart, but I never thought about saying it out loud.

No paycheck could ever be greater.”

**- PAUL NEVOSH, FLOTILLA 11-08 D1NR**

“Please accept my gratitude for the outstanding support you provided this command over the past year.

By working in support of the Aviation Engineering Department, you enabled my active duty workforce to focus on projects requiring their specialized technical skill and training.

While administrative roles are still vital to the efficient operation of any organization, they are among the first to be neglected during periods of heavy workload. Your assistance to our organization assured this would not be the case here.”

**- CAPT DAVID S. BRIMBLECOM**  
Commanding Officer  
CGAS Cape Cod



**Paul Nevosh, Neil Maher and Steve Cochran stand in front of some of the aircraft at CGAS Cape Cod for which they review maintenance logbooks.**

*Photo by Lt. Nelson Brandt*

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from their diverse work experience to develop processes that increased the efficiency of each hour dedicated to administrative actions. In the classic case of working smarter to avoid the need to work harder, they created a photographic archive of all tools requiring calibration and cataloged them in an easy to use binder. This made tracking tool locations and calibration intervals much easier.

With aircraft tools and avionics test sets distributed among five different shops and two separate hangars, the Auxiliary team had a daunting task ahead of them.

Fortunately, their previous work experience lent itself well to the arduous task and they made great progress. One of their first initiatives was to catalog each tool according to its location and function in a binder complete with digital photographs which they took themselves. This greatly eased the burden of sorting through the Precision Measurement Equipment Lab (PMEL) report which lists the items that were due for calibration.

By relieving active duty members of certain administrative functions, the Auxiliary team has significantly enhanced productivity and morale. Auxiliary members committed over 400 hours in direct support of aviation maintenance activities. Representing a significant departure from the traditional uses of Auxiliary members at air stations, the innovative management practices of this Auxiliary team made it possible for active duty members to be relieved of support roles and assigned to maintenance or flight related tasks.

This was only possible because the highly talented Auxiliary team gained the skill and ability to act autonomously within the scope of their responsibilities after receiving initial training and guidance from active duty members.

The Auxiliary members also represent a degree of continuity that, as a result of frequent job rotations within the enlisted workforce, has historically resulted in frequent learning curves. Realizing the impact of their commitment, technicians on the hangar deck accept the Auxiliary members as part of the team that makes Air Station Cape Cod one of the best units in the Coast Guard. 