

***“DTRAIN and SART 2025 united Auxiliary members through powerful hybrid training, strengthening mission readiness, leadership, and camaraderie across District 13.”***

Commodore Klaas Nijhuis

**DTRAIN Spring 2025: A Hybrid Success Advancing Mission, Unity, and Leadership**

DTRAIN Spring 2025 marked a milestone in collaborative training, uniting personnel from District 13 and District 17 for the first time in a dynamic hybrid format.

This mission-critical training evolution offered a blend of high-impact in-person instruction and virtual participation, reinforcing the Auxiliary’s commitment to operational readiness, leadership development, and unit cohesion. With several courses presented by District 17, attendees engaged in a diverse range of operational training sessions, hands-on workshops, and specialized instruction tailored to enhance technical skills and mission execution. Real-time engagement with senior leadership through virtual platforms fostered mentorship, professional growth, and meaningful discussion, while breakout groups and Q&A sessions encouraged collaboration and active learning.

Impressively, the course lineup was swiftly adapted within a 10-day window to reflect recent Department of Homeland Security policy changes, showcasing the team’s flexibility and focus.

Beyond training, DTRAIN Spring 2025 strengthened bonds among Auxiliary members through virtual networking, interactive forums, and in-person dialogues. Participants left the event energized and mission-focused, embodying a shared dedication to supporting Coast Guard operations. Those who attended played a vital role in this success, and for those who missed out—Fall 2025 promises another powerful opportunity to lead, grow, and contribute to the mission.



DTRAIN CA Staff’s After-Action Review

DTRAIN Paddlecraft Sports class

DTRAIN Virtual Class discussion

Pictured in left photo: left to right: Miyasha St. Hillaire, Robert Megel, Richard Pinches, Max Schneider, Carel VerLinden and Mark Monson. Pictured in center photo: John Rose and David Monteith and students Bill Newbold, Dale Vodicka and Patty Maxfield. Pictured in right photo from left to right: COMO Nijhuis, Patty Maxfield, Mike Heryla, Sean McDermott, Ron Hilburger, Dave Hansen, Kevin Thiel, Jim Fenske. All photos taken by: COMO Nijhuis, USCG Auxiliary

**Southern Area Regional Training (SART) Energizes Auxiliary Members Across District 13**

Held on March 14-15, 2025, in Eugene, Oregon, the Southern Area Regional Training (SART) delivered a high-energy, district-wide learning experience for U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary members from Divisions 5, 6, and 7.

This two-day hybrid event featured both in-person and online attendance, ensuring broad accessibility to essential training and leadership development. Members participated in interactive workshops, scenario-based exercises, and targeted sessions on Surface Operations, Public Affairs, Member Training, and Leadership Development—each designed to boost mission readiness and strengthen unit capabilities.

In a thoughtful outreach effort, Flotilla 52 welcomed individuals still awaiting their official member numbers, allowing prospective members to explore the value and camaraderie of Auxiliary service firsthand.

The District 13 Materials team added to the event's success by hosting an on-site District Store, providing essential uniform items and accessories—especially benefiting new members preparing to serve.

The hybrid model maximized engagement, making it possible for members across the district to participate, connect, and grow. SART 2025 was more than just a training—it was a powerful reminder of the impact of continuous learning, shared purpose, and community-driven service within the Auxiliary. As members return to their flotillas, they do so with fresh skills, renewed energy, and an even deeper commitment to supporting both the Coast Guard and the communities they serve.



SART First Aid Class



SART Crew Training Fire Extinguishers



SART Crew Training Flare Deployment

Pictured in left photo: Bill Malone, Steve Rogers, Norm Hoffman, Caleb Robbins, Joseph Cohen, Kim Singh, Kim Singh, Scott Philben, Yvonne Woytus, Robert Redfern, Kat Burges, Joe Giammona, Susan Underwood, Miyahsh Hillaire. Pictured in center photo: Steve Rogers, Yvonne Woytus, Joseph Cohen, Kim Singh, Greg Kaminski, Caleb Robbins, Bill Ebert, Kat Burges, David Honzay, Blair Elliott Instructor. Pictured in right photo: Joseph Cohen, Kim Singh, Kat Burges, Steve Rogers, Bill Ebert, Caleb Roberts, Greg Kaminski, Yvonne Woytus, Caryl Verlinden, Alan Guess. All photos taken by: Wil Sumner, USCG Auxiliary

## **Empowering the Mission: How DTRAIN and SART 2025 Strengthen the Auxiliary Through Training**

The success of both DTRAIN Spring 2025 and the Southern Area Regional Training (SART) underscores the vital role that continuous, accessible training plays in the operational strength of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. These two major events brought together members across Districts 13 and 17 in innovative hybrid formats, ensuring all personnel—regardless of location—had the opportunity to enhance their skills, expand their leadership capacity, and deepen their commitment to mission readiness.

From leadership development to surface operations, public affairs, and emergency response, the training delivered at DTRAIN and SART equipped members with the tools needed to serve their

units, flotillas, and communities with confidence and competence. Real-time engagement with senior leaders, hands-on workshops, and scenario-based exercises helped foster a dynamic learning environment where members could ask questions, collaborate, and apply best practices. Importantly, both events emphasized adaptability, with courses evolving rapidly to meet updated DHS guidelines—demonstrating that the Auxiliary remains agile, responsive, and mission-focused.

Whether welcoming new members or sharpening the skills of seasoned volunteers, these training evolutions reaffirmed the Auxiliary's core values of professionalism, preparedness, and service. As members return to their units, they carry with them not just new knowledge, but also renewed motivation and a stronger connection to the broader Coast Guard mission. Training events like DTRAIN and SART are more than just learning opportunities—they are the foundation of operational excellence and the heartbeat of a united, ready, and resilient Auxiliary.

Joe Giammona  
USCG Auxiliary, District 13