



**UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD
AUXILIARY**

BRANFORD FLOTILLA 24-01
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First Southern District - Division 24
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Change of Command at U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Branford Flotilla 24-01

Branford, Conn. — United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 24-01, Branford, Connecticut, ushered in a change of command at the top with a newly elected flotilla commander and vice flotilla commander taking office in January 2013.

Ralph V. Vuolo, Jr., the new flotilla commander, succeeds Kevin Morann, who will continue on as flotilla staff officer for communications and navigation systems. Morann had served as flotilla commander during 2012.

Vuolo joined the Auxiliary on June 29, 2010. He is qualified as a vessel examiner, instructor and AUXCHEF, and also has completed the administrative procedures and flotilla leadership courses. He will also serve as the flotilla staff officer for materials. He has been a 911 dispatcher since 1999 and a volunteer firefighter and EMT since 1988 with the East Haven Fire Department, is certified in CPR, and completed the GoodMate and Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection courses. He completed both the AUXWEA Weather and AUXCOMM communications courses, and the classroom portion of Boat Crew and will continue in that course. He recently co-taught an AUXCHEF course at Sector Long Island Sound galley, bringing in three more AUXCHEFs to serve the U.S. Coast Guard.

Thomas R. Violante, the new vice flotilla commander, succeeds Vuolo and also serves as flotilla staff officer in charge of public affairs and publications. He also serves on the national staff of the Recreational Boating Safety Outreach Department as branch chief, boating liaison publications. He joined the Auxiliary originally in 1970 as a member of the former Branford Flotilla 1701 but left the unit when he moved to Meriden. He rejoined on June 29, 2010. He is a vessel examiner, marine dealer visitor, telecommunications operator, instructor, AUXCHEF and serves as the assistant district staff officer (ADSO) for food services. He recently co-taught an AUXCHEF course at Sector Long Island Sound galley with Vuolo. He is working on his certification as a communications watchstander for Coast Guard Station New Haven and completed two courses towards his Auxiliary public affairs specialist designation as well as the GoodMate, AUXWEA weather and AUXCOMM communications courses. He is self-employed as a writer/photographer and specializes in graphic design and communications.

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U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 24-01 in Branford, Division 24, First Southern District, has been in active service since 1931. Our volunteers perform safety patrols from New Haven harbor to Clinton. We do vessel exams every week at various shoreline marinas, where most of our patrol boats are located. The members of Flotilla 24-01 are always glad to do a free courtesy vessel exam for boat owners in support of recreational boating safety for all vessels on the water. Join us for a meeting to explore the many ways you may contribute to your nation's safety and security. Since its creation by Congress in 1939, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has served as the civilian, non-military component of the Coast Guard. Today, the 30,000 volunteer men and women of the Auxiliary are active on the waterways and classrooms in over 2,000 cities and towns across the nation. Each year, Auxiliarists save almost 500 lives, assist some 15,000 boaters in distress, conduct more than 150,000 courtesy safety examinations of recreational vessels, and teach over 500,000 students in boating and water safety courses. The results of these efforts save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars every year. Visit Flotilla 24-01 on the Web at <http://a0142401.uscgaux.info/>