



The CAN Corner

Welcome to the CAN Corner!

The Citizen's Action Network was created so that dependable and proactive members of the community can assist the Coast Guard in protecting waterways and communities in the

Pacific Northwest. CAN Members who notice suspicious activity should call the America's Waterway Watch hotline at: 1-877-24-WATCH (1-877-249-2824).

CAN Members Make Waves

Recent efforts by members of Citizen's Action Network (C.A.N.) made headlines for their assistance in being the extra set of eyes and ears for the United States Coast Guard (USCG). In two cases, C.A.N. members were able to investigate maritime situations before Coast Guard could arrive on scene.

A crabbing vessel wavering in rough waters capsized near a rocky shore in November 2008. The event was caught on video by C.A.N. member, Sherry Newman of Tillamook Bay, Oregon. One man aboard the fishing vessel managed to swim to shore and receive medical attention at a nearby hospital, but the two other men aboard were not found. Coast Guard and rescue personnel were able to utilize the video footage for their investigation (<http://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/21/247090/>).

In a second case, Coast Guard Sector Seattle command center called upon a C.A.N member living in Olympia to investigate possible distress flares



USCG search and rescue unites, a 47-foot motor lifeboat and an HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter scan Tillamook Bay for men that went overboard.

sent from a boat in the middle of Budd Inlet in January. Although the C.A.N. member reported seeing nothing, she was able to contact a friend who spoke to the Good Samaritan who towed the distressed vessel safely to a marina (<http://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/21/247090/>).

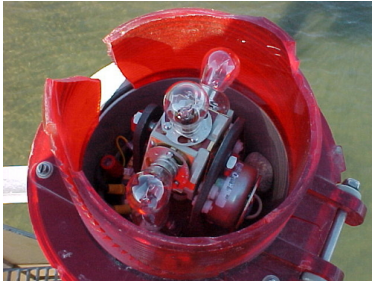
In many cases C.A.N. has saved the Coast Guard thousands of dollars in operational costs, time and resources. Inimitably the program has established a relationship between citizens and government agencies through information sharing and a common interest in secur-

ing the nations navigable waterways. Growing membership has expanded vigilance in areas where the Coast Guard is limited and has systematically created force multipliers to fill in the gaps of our homeland security and safety system. A customized networking site called Maritime Information Initiative (MII) allows for C.A.N. members to stay informed with new and updated reports by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Access to this site is encouraged for participating C.A.N. members and Auxiliary-ists. It's a place for

members to communicate with each other and reference C.A.N. and Auxiliary-related material such as news articles and job opportunities.

In 2007, the Coast Guard's Citizen's Action Network was awarded a Noblis Innovations Award in Homeland Security—a statement of faith in the system that the Department of Homeland Security had in its beginning stages. Continued on page 3...

C.A.N. Members Called on to Stamp Out Vandalism



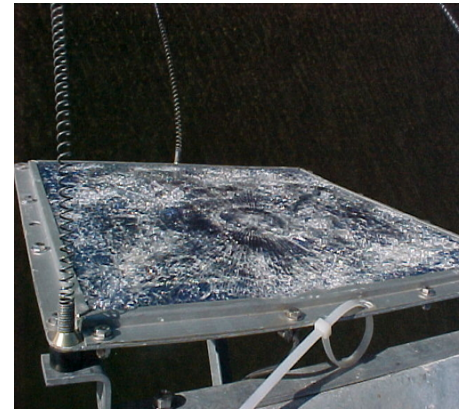
Recently a press release was sent out by the Coast Guard seeking the help of the public to put a stop to the destruction of Aids to Navigation (ATON).

Since 2005, Washington and Oregon ATON have been hit with an estimated \$117,000 in damages caused by vandalism. In response to the article, Commander Arland Wasell made the following suggestion in his own words:

Many of the CAN participants have waterfront views from their home or business.

These views contain ATONs and could be monitored to a greater degree than at present. If each of us with

these views of ATONs used a navigation chart and identified all ATONs within their view, along with the color and frequency of illumination, we could take responsibility and psychological ownership of these ATONs. With this increased awareness and feeling of responsibility, we would frequently observe the performance of the ATON and follow a notification procedure to insure prompt correction of any malfunction. A spreadsheet could be maintained by District Headquarters that would display each ATON and the name and phone numbers for each CAN participant. This could be used to follow up on reports or verify reports regarding the ATON, without mobilizing Coast Guard resources.



For more information, the original article is made available on Maritime Information Initiative (MII) under USCG Alert to Citizen's Action Network Members.

If you are a member of the Citizen's Action Network and have a comment or suggestion of your own on the issue of vandalism, please log on to <http://www.chds.us/>.

National Chief of Staff Sails C.A.N. Eastward

National Chief of Staff for the Auxiliary, Steven McElroy, has a vision of seeing Citizen's Action Network (C.A.N.) implemented beyond the regional level. He has extended the opportunity to initiate the program on the east coast and will be following up in a meeting with the Sector Commander of Baltimore. The Coast Guard 5th District which, stretches from Maryland, Virginia to North Carolina has expressed interest in starting C.A.N. —as there are thousands of miles of shore line that encompass Chesapeake Bay as well as the Intracoastal Waterway.

McElroy has been an active member for the Coast Guard since 1993. Previously, he served as an Immediate Past District Commodore for 5th District-Southern Region. His job duty is supervising and overseeing the duties of the

Auxiliary National Staff, and one of his biggest tasks this year is to create a community of collaborators who can be of extra help to the Coast Guard in fulfilling their missions.

Over 2,500 Auxiliarist reside in the prospective district which would be the foundation of this program. Member expansion after the programs implementation is anticipated as it will be a great tool for recruiting new Auxiliary members. McElroy also adds, "The ability to involve the local population in assisting with observation of these waterways would be a tremendous help to the Coast Guard."

To join the Auxiliary, you can call (877) 875-6296 or log on to <http://www.cgaux.org>.



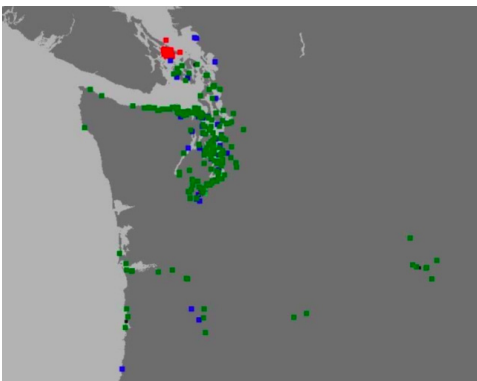
Steve McElroy, National Chief of Staff for the Coast Guard Auxiliary

Picture graphs make clear the mission of C.A.N.

The following are graphics taken from LCDR Andre Billeaudeau's thesis entitled, "Leveraging Citizens and Cultivating Vigilance for Force Multiplication in the Maritime Domain," (<http://www.citizensactionnetwork.info>).

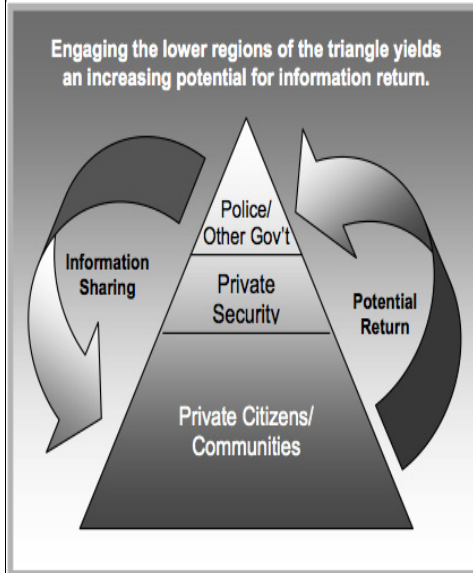
The scatter plot is to provide an example of C.A.N.'s intricacies and how it assists Coast Guard. The models are a theoretical vision in what happens when people take an active stance. The first is a visual of when information sharing is distributed from established government agencies to the people within a community. The second illustrates the impacts of being vigilant and how it has a high return rate for the protection of the whole community.

C.A.N. scatter plot



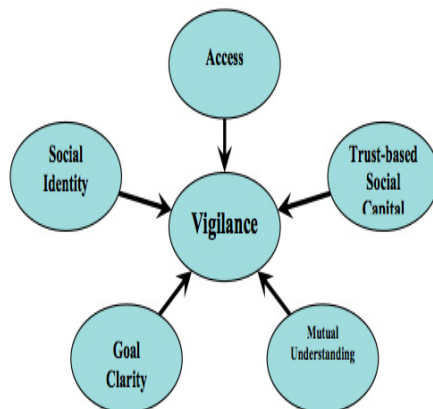
This graphic interface is a visual directory of where participating C.A.N. members reside. As the cursor runs over each plot it provides access to member's contact information, training qualifications and more. Each color distinguishes different levels of membership –Red signifies Canadian C.A.N. members' living on or near the U.S./Canadian maritime, blue is dual C.A.N. and U.S. Auxiliary membership and black means participating waterfront businesses.

Police/Private Sector Information Sharing -ROI Triangle



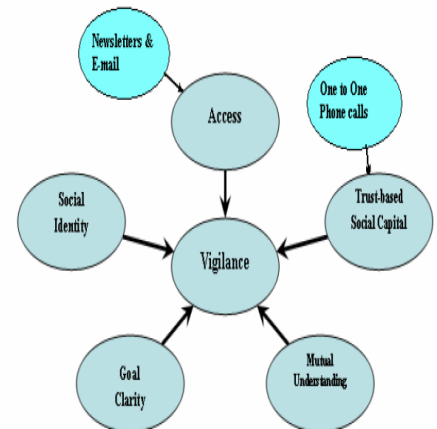
This is a visual of how information sharing between law enforcement and community works. Government agencies relay information to the community in turn encouraging local policing in their area. It accentuates the idea that information sharing from state to local produces homegrown terrorism intelligence rather than a central hub of intelligence.

Community of Practice indexes correlate to Vigilance



Community of Practice (CoP) constructs five predictors (relationships) of vigilance and to propose a predictive model for community outcomes. Access to information, a trust-based foundation, mutual understanding, goal clarity and social identity within your community increases likelihood of community vigilance.

Coast Guard's Influence on CoP



Coast Guard newsletters and e-mails provide accessibility to imperative information that's not available through mainstream media ideally increasing member's vigilance. As well as one to one calls from the Coast Guard command center to members ideally establishes a trust-based foundation between member's and the Coast Guard.

C.A.N. Members Make Waves continued... Nearly ten years ago, C.A.N. started out as a program called "Eyes on The Sound." C.A.N. eventually extended to Canada and is currently in the works of being implemented nationally; it is essentially a program creating a community of practice. Now over 500 waterfront residents and business owners are active participants in Washington State, Oregon and Canada and more citizens than ever are getting into the heart of the action.

For additional information on getting registered on MII go to <https://www.chds.us/?special/info&pgm=Maritime>.

CAN Members Wanted!

Over 40 new volunteers have signed up to be members of the Citizen's Action Network in 2009 — increasing our total roster to over 250! But we are always on the lookout for more volunteers.

CAN is successful in not only lending aid to the Coast Guard, but it also saves taxpayers thousands of dollars. It costs approximately \$1,200 per hour to operate a Coast Guard 47-foot motor lifeboat. A helicopter or larger cutter may cost anywhere from \$9,000 to \$12,000 an hour. Citizen's Action Network members can reduce search times by providing valuable eyes on scene information when called by opera-

tion centers. Because of our location, we also work closely with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who have their own CAN program up north (with another 250 members bringing our total CAN network to over 500 members!). Together, we are working to protect all of our borders and waterways.

If any of your friends or neighbors have access to a phone and a view of the water, they are eligible to join CAN. Even if they have the same view of the water as other CAN members, they will still be of service.

You can help us expand our network by spreading the



word to anyone who may be interested in becoming a Citizen's Action Network volunteer, or who would like more information on the program. To join CAN, simply contact the 13th Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office at (206) 220-7237 or visit the Citizen's Action Network website at <http://www.uscg.mil/d13/can/default.htm>.