

Headlines



Maritime Volunteer Service

Swan Cottage, Holt End Lane
Bentworth, Hampshire, GU34 5LB
Tel: 0845 3700 701 Mob: 07801 631622
E-mail: hq@mvs.org.uk

June 06

Operational Support Branch

The Shore Support Branch is to be renamed "Operational Support" with immediate effect. The reason for this change is that the old name did not adequately reflect the tasks carried out and was seen by some as an administrative or maintenance function which is far from its true purpose.

The Operational Support branch is the jewel in the MVS crown – since no other volunteer organisation has a trained team capable of working in an Incident Room or Operations Room with the ability to take on almost any communications, reporting or team management task and thus provide very high quality support to the professionals involved – be they RN, MCA, Harbour Masters or Local Authorities.

At last year's International Fleet Review, a small MVS Operational Support team was embedded in the Operations Room aboard the control ship HMS Albion so the branch must be prepared to up sticks and deploy to wherever the need is greatest. (Bristol Unit was called out to man the Port Authority Incident Room on reports of an unexploded bomb in Avonmouth Docks. It was a false alarm but the call-out was an important milestone.)

Since the branch may be called on to work with any other organisation, from Beach Masters, through Port Managers to the Royal Navy the training materials must reflect the most sophisticated need on the basis that simpler systems can be followed immediately. We are reviewing the materials and the relevant skill sets but meanwhile the existing modules of Chart Work, Voice Radio, Message Handling and Computer Skills still apply.

Are you covered for insurance?

As agreed at the Conference in January, Annual Subscriptions were due to be paid to the MVS Registrar by 31st March. It is sad to report that there are a number of Units who have yet to pay their 2006/7 subscriptions.

This means that their members are NOT covered for insurance purpose so such Units MUST CEASE all MVS activities until the subscriptions have been paid.

If you have not received a receipt, do please contact the MVS Registrar immediately because there have been cases of cheques not being delivered. If you think you have paid – please check your bank statement

Gift Aid

The claim against the Annual Subs for 2005/6 has been submitted and a claim against Unit subs will be submitted next month. Claims against Unit subs are returned to the Unit less a 7.5% HQ handling fee.

Any Unit that sends HQ details of its members' Unit Subs after 30th June will not be processed.

2005/6 Unit Accounts

The last Headlines – and the one before that – asked Units to send a copy of their 2005/6 Annual Accounts to HQ by 31st May. There are still some Units who have failed to do so.

Any Unit that has not sent a copy of its Accounts to HQ by 30th June, will not be considered when central funds are to be distributed.

Fuel Tax Rebates

These will be processed shortly so if you want to be included – please submit a claim to HQ asap.

RYA Instructors

How many MVS members are qualified to instruct any RYA courses?

Please tell HQ of your RYA reference number and the courses that you are qualified to instruct

Health & Safety

If any Unit – or Region – has started preparing H&S documentation for MVS activities, please send a copy to HQ for onward transmission to our National Adviser.

Peter Collins

I regret to report that Peter has been suffering from ill health for some time and he has decided to stand down from his various MVS tasks until his health improves.

Peter has taken on so much in recent years that we now have a significant gap in our structure and this will be addressed by your Committee of Management who will reallocate responsibilities. Don't be surprised if you get a call asking for help!

Due to these unforeseen circumstances, the planned release of the long-discussed new training materials is unavoidably delayed but we hope to get the more complete items out within the next few weeks. Please bear with us! We do recognise how very important this is.

Meanwhile, we thank Peter for his very significant contribution to the MVS over many years and we wish him a full and speedy recovery.

Please contact HQ with your comments and suggestions about Headlines

Uniform

We are a uniformed Service – it says so on our Articles of Association. This means that we all wear the same simple uniform as laid down in MVS001 – Policies & Procedures.

Uniform is a great leveller because no matter where we come from, whatever our personal wealth, we all look the same. Our uniform provides us with immediate acceptance when we work with other organisations.

Those who do not want to wear MVS uniform should consider carefully why they are members.

Fleeces, polo shirts etc are NOT uniform and should only be worn when not on MVS duties

Situations Vacant

Chief Staff Officer:

Area Staff Officers (East & North):

National Public Relations Officer:

Fleet Superintendent:

If you are interested please send your CV to HQ so that an interview panel can be convened. If you know someone who would suit one of the posts available, please get them to contact HQ.

Best Practice

Please tell HQ of your recruiting and fund raising successes so that we can build a manual of Best Practice based upon real achievements.

We need recruits and we need more funds so any ideas and success stories will be much appreciated.

HMR&C Craft

A single contract is now in place covering the 10 craft on loan from HMR&C and local craft Operator Agreements will be issued shortly.

New craft management forms will also be issued so that Trustees can comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission by monitoring the effective use of all MVS assets.

An animated **MVS** PowerPoint PR & recruiting **presentation** is available on CD from HQ, price £2 including packing and postage

National Coastwatch Institution

Following a constructive meeting between MVS CoM and NCI, Units are encouraged to contact their local NCI station. There is real potential for cross-fertilisation and the opportunity to carry out local exercises.

NCI station	Phone number
Padstow	07810 898041
Boscastle	01840 250965
St. Ives	01736 799398
Cape Cornwall	01736 787890
Gwennap Head	01736 871351
Penzance	01736 367063
Newhaven	01273 56464
Bass Point	01326 290212
Portscatho	01872 580180
Charlestown	01726 817068
Polruan (Fowey)	01726 870291
Rame Hd (Plymouth)	01752 823706
Dartmouth	07976 505649
Teignmouth	01626 772377
Prawle Pt	01548 511259
Portland	01305 860178
St. Albans Hd	01929 439220
Peveerill Pt (Swanage)	01929 422596
Folkestone	01303 227132
Herne Bay	01227 743208
Whitstable	07932 968707
Southend	01702 299330
Holehaven	01268 696971
Felixstowe	01394 670808
Wells next the Sea	01263 720107
Gorleston	01493 440384
Mundesley	01263 722399
Ingoldmells	01754 874723
Hartlepool	01429 274931

Check out the NCI website www.nci.org.uk. MVS craft on passage should contact NCI stations they pass. Tell HQ how you get on after making local contact.

Christmas Card Competition
All entries to HQ by 31st July 2006

Terms of Reference

At the recent Council meeting, MVS Trustees stated that all MVS officers must comply fully with their Terms of Reference so do check out MVS001 – Policies & Procedures!

Unit Leases

Units renting or leasing premises – including vessels etc. MUST send a copy of the rental agreement or lease to HQ asap.

Events

Keep sending HQ details of local events in which the MVS is taking part so that the information can be placed on the web site and so that local patrons can be informed.

The next MVS Conference will be held in the Esplanade Hotel in Llandudno over the week-end of the 24th to 26th November 2006. The cost will be £80 per head for two nights bed, breakfast & evening meal. 100 places are reserved so we will have the hotel to ourselves. Plan your diaries now and booking forms will be distributed in August.

MVS Newsletter

You should each have received a copy of the latest issue which is the first edited by VO Steve Whalley. Well done Steve!

Please send copy about your recent activities with photos plus any ideas, complaints, worries or letters to editor@mvs.org.uk so that Steve can prepare the next edition for release at the end of August.

Norman Tuddenham

Tay Unit sadly reports the death last week after a short illness of founder member Norman who will be much missed by his many friends in the Unit and around Dundee.

MVS Badges etc

Contact David Frasier on 0117 937 2719
jill_david@ic24.net.