



If You See Something, Say Something...

by VINCENT T. PICA, II

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Most Out East'ers, as well as many other Americans, have heard the WW II story of how Germans "invaded" Long Island. The night of June 12, 1942, a young Coast Guardsman, 21-year-old John Cullen, was walking his patrol along the beach in Amagansett when he saw lights ahead. Thinking that they were fishermen night-fishing (prohibited during the war for obvious reasons), he confronted four men dragging materiel up the beach. During the exchange, young Cullen realized that they were German saboteurs and, being out-numbered, turned heel and ran 3 miles back to his base, starting what turned out to be a full scale investigation by U.S. forces. The team was captured, as well as a parallel operation in Ponte Vedra, FL, within two weeks. All thanks to a member of U.S. Coast Guard Forces who was walking the beach. (In fact, Cullen received a personal thank-you and handshake from J. Edgar Hoover.)

A German hat, along with explosives, was found in Amagansett. While we don't have to worry about Nazi U-boats off of Long Island anymore, the nation is at war in



every sense of the word. And the US Coast Guard has implemented a rigorous program, not unlike young Cullen's foot patrol 65 years ago, called Maritime Domain Awareness for U.S. Coast Guard Forces to implement. The 'regulars' have primary responsibilities for high-value assets - fuel depots, ferry stations and the like - and the Auxiliarists have primary responsibilities for everything else - marinas, boat ramps, dive shops - wherever the private boater congregates. Nation wide, the Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) Program has been implemented and is in full swing - by car, plane, boat or on foot.

Brr... Winter is here... During our most active months, MDA patrols and observations by your fellow Out East'ers of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Division-18 number in the hundreds. Now, with winter but a wink away, everyone - including Auxiliarists - find less time and opportunity to be outside.

However, the threat is still out there. I doubt terrorists hibernate for the winter, to be frank about it. What to do about it?

If You See Something, Say Something.

First, there are 70,000 members of U.S. Coast Forces and 70,000,000 registered boaters. Who is more likely to see something? Without knowing the numbers, if you lined our shores with all our military forces, militias and police and fire fighting forces, it is still a small fraction of the boating community. There are 95,000 miles of shoreline and over 290,000 square miles of water... we can't do it alone, no matter how much better we are since 9/11...

But what is the "something" that would cause you to say something? The odd thing is this: you'll know it when you see it. You know what is "normal" for your marina or community. The way someone is asking questions or perhaps taking pictures may just strike you as "out of character." Don't for a minute think that anyone intent on harming Americans on U.S. soil is anything other than a very devilishly clever and dedicated operative. They don't wear signs on their backs that say "Terrorist." They want to blend; they want to be unobtrusive; they want to seem "normal." But something may just raise the hairs on the back of your neck... Call it in. Don't take matters into your own

hands. Call it in. The Coast Guard will not accuse you of being "Chicken Little" if it turns out to be nothing more than an over-active imagination... As we say, "People are not suspicious. Behavior is."

Why? Simple. Just as in John Cullen's day, we all are in this together. As Benjamin Franklin wrote to the Continental Congress in 1776, "We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately." So, you can be part of it.

To Report Suspicious Activity: Call the National Response Center at 877-24WATCH.

If There Is Immediate Danger to Life or Property, Call 9-1-1 or Call the Coast Guard on Marine Channel 16.

AMERICA'S WATERWAY WATCH



BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux2008@aol.com or go direct to Lisa Etter, who is in charge of new members' matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."

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Recipes by Barbara

This is a quick side dish for the nights you are short on time.

Asparagus Almandine Casserole

2 cans asparagus spears, drained, reserving 1/2 cup liquid

1 can cream of mushroom soup
pepper to taste

1 cup grated cheese (American or cheddar or Swiss)

4 tb. butter or Pam

1 cup flavored bread crumbs (I like 4-C)

toasted almonds, crushed

Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

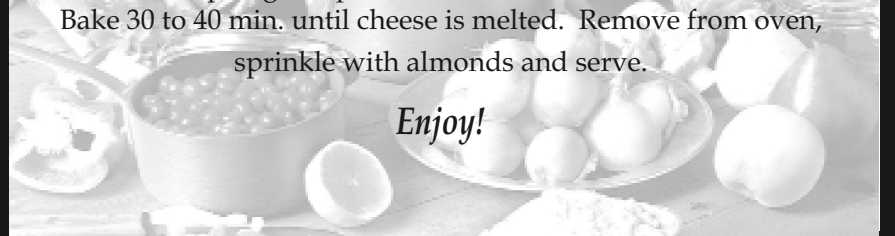
Butter bottom of oblong casserole or spray with Pam. Lay asparagus in dish. Mix soup, liquid from asparagus, and pepper together.

Pour over asparagus. Sprinkle with cheese, then bread crumbs.

Bake 30 to 40 min. until cheese is melted. Remove from oven,

sprinkle with almonds and serve.

Enjoy!



Barbara Collins is the Owner of Barbara's Kitchen,
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