

DECEMBER, 2023



WET GAZETTE

Department of Homeland Security

US Coast Guard Auxiliary

Flotilla 11-10

Dunedin, Florida

Gordon Thomas, Commander

David McGee, Vice Commander

Rob Bonnem, Immediate Past Commander

Gary Walkup, Publications Officer



(Photo credit USCG)



Commander's Corner December, 2023

This *Wet Gazette* brings us to the end of our fiscal year.

We are fortunate to have an outstanding team of officers and members who have demonstrated their ability to work together. We have lost a few members to health and family issues, but we have also gained new members and new transfers with new energy for us to direct where needed.

We did not participate in "Touch a Truck", and will not participate in the 2023 Dunedin Christmas parade

because the Coast Guard was unable to provide us with a boat for the parade. At the same time, we added the "Salty Sistas" kayak club activity in Dunedin, and our flotilla single-handedly staffed a public information tent at the Honeymoon Island Fall Festival

The new year will be challenging, as we work through upcoming changes. I am sure we will do well, considering our excellent volunteers, and our ability to work together as a team.

Our flotilla still has a few staff vacancies. Don't be fearful that you may not be able to fill the position properly. We will make sure you are properly trained and will help you in any way that we can to be successful. Just let me know!

We need to keep in mind that we are volunteers. Anything that we can do to help is appreciated. Our pay is simply a pat on the back, perhaps a paper certificate, and knowing that we did a good job. I enjoy belonging to volunteer organizations because the members often prioritize their duty beyond their personal needs. I am thrilled by the number of people I know who work hard simply to help others. In the Auxiliary, sometimes things don't happen fast enough. I try to make sure that everyone understands that occasionally things don't go exactly as planned, but let's hang in there. Everyone is doing the best they can with what we have. We are all constantly learning and none of us have all the answers. Your commander for another year,

Gordon Thomas, FC (photo provided by author)

Have you heard this flying overhead? You haven't? Well, that's the plan!

As reported earlier, the Coast Guard is replacing some of their aging C-130 Hercules aircraft with the newer C-27 J aircraft. The C-130 first flew in 1954, so they are almost as old as I am.

The author of this article lives in Palm Harbor and depending on wind direction, C-130s pass directly over my house during takeoff. If the windows are open, the four 3700 horsepower engines are so loud that it appears the aircraft might be landing in my driveway! The newer C-27 J twin-engine aircraft not only has quieter engines, but the estimated 400 gallons per hour that a C-27J burns is far more fuel-efficient than the estimated 740 gallons per hour that the older C-130s burn.



(U.S. Coast Guard photo)

Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater C-27 J twin-engine aircraft

Length: 74 feet 6 inches, Wingspan: 94 feet 2 inches, Height: 31 feet 8 inches

Maximum Weight: 70,000 pounds, Cruise Speed: 290 knots, Range: 2,675 nautical miles, Endurance: 12 hours

Communications Report by Scott Birdwell, FSO-CM



Activity -No radio Watch shifts for
October-November-December
Radio room inspected
Obstacles: none
Opportunities: Keeping current with
training
Upcoming radio watch shifts not yet
established

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Photo of radio gear by Scott Birdwell, FSO-CM

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U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FSO-PV REPORT

By Robert Bonnem
(Flotilla Staff Officer-Program Visitation)

Here is the FSO-PV report for 11-10 A total of seven partner visits were made in October and twelve partner visits in November. No new partners were added. Racks and supplies are in place, restocked and on display in all clients visited. We have good stock levels of racks and supplies to fill them with in the flotilla classroom. Class schedule 2023 brochures are available. Coast Guard activity/coloring books are in stock 11-10 is constantly working on recruiting new Partners and more will be onboard in the near future. Two new PVs are ready for their supervised visits.



Public Education (FSO-PE)

About

The Public Education Department is charged with training and certifying a cadre of experienced recreational boating safety instructors, in support of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary's mission to improve recreational boating safety through public education and outreach, and providing all necessary materials and support to that mission.



Programs

- Plan, organize and direct programs and activities to promote and publicize boating safety
- Training, qualification, and currency maintenance of instructors
- Maintain the master Online Public Education Calendar



Buddy Casale

Award-winning Flotilla Staff Officer -Public Education

**Buddy Casale, FSO PE, CGAUX Flotilla 11-10
631-379-1110 boatinbud7@gmail.com**

OCT 23 REPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION FLOTILLA 11-10

Boat America safe boating course graduated four Students. Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation was canceled. The PE program presented a safe boating seminar to a newly formed fishing club known as the West Coast Anglers Club located in Dunedin. Approximately 50 Anglers enjoyed the program.

(Photo by Gordon Thomas)

Facebook Update-We're back!



The Page U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-10 has been unpublished because its content didn't follow Facebook's Community Standards. It will not be visible and you won't be able to add new people to work on the Page.



In May, I received a cryptic message that our flotilla's Facebook Page was unpublished due to unidentified violations of community standards. Many flotilla members view our Facebook page on a regular basis, and know that NONE of the posts, which are typically photos of Coast Guard activities, violate community standards in any way.

I requested a review by a real person, but got the following automated message:

“We know we don't always get it right when we decide to take something down. If your content was taken down and you think it doesn't go against our Community Standards, you may be able to request a review of the content and we'll take another look at the decision we made if we can.”

The last three words were “If we can” , and with over three BILLION subscribers, Facebook couldn't. There's no way to just pick up the phone, call Facebook and complain. The only option was to rebuild the page, so I did. There's one typo, but I can't correct it for another month. Can you find it? You can find the NEW link on our website.

(By Gary Walkup, FSO-PB)



WELCOME



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY MEMBERS

unlimited shopping privileges
at the **Coast Guard Exchange** and on **shopCGX.com**
is NOW AVAILABLE for all CG Auxiliary Members!

(Must be an active member in their assigned flotilla.)

Have you heard? UNLIMITED shopping privileges! What's new about this? Previously, Auxiliary members were not allowed to purchase alcohol or cigarettes at the Coast Guard Exchange.

Beer and wine prices were checked and were competitive with local stores like Total Wines and Leukens. We understand but have not verified that the purchases are tax-free, so if you're in the area, stop by (with your ID) and see if they stock your favorite libation!



UNITED STATES
**COAST
GUARD**

PROTECT / DEFEND / SAVE



From RADM Douglas M. Schofield

I just wanted to send a note recognizing the Auxiliary's 84th birthday and to say thanks for all the work you and the entire Auxiliary team do to support District Seven and the citizens of our great nation. The CG Auxiliary makes a tremendous impact, and I couldn't be prouder to serve with such a great team of volunteers. From service aboard our cutters, to interpreting, to the team's work at the Southwest Border, and to serving as chefs, pilots and even chaplains, your team makes ours better. Thanks for all you do!

RADM Douglas M. Schofield, Commander, Coast Guard Seventh District, Director, Homeland Security Task Force - Southeast (HSTF-SE)



From Commodore John Holmes

Members, we are entering the Holidays and my thoughts are full with the memories of past holidays and the joy of the coming season. My hope is that all of our many members find this a time of renewal, reflection and peace. My life is

filled with many things that I am grateful for and that includes our remarkable Auxiliary family.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL AND THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO EVERY DAY.

Very Respectfully, John W. Holmes US Coast Guard Auxiliary District 7
Commodore



Dated: 08 NOV 2023

On August 17, 2023, a new Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla, 070-06-14, was chartered at NACON. Unlike most of our flotillas which are geographically based, this Flotilla, the Auxiliary Chaplain Support (ACS) National Flotilla, is focused on the specific mission of chaplaincy. All members who join this Flotilla are either ACS Chaplains or Auxiliarists who join because they want to fill support roles within this Flotilla that directly support the ministry of the ACS program and Coast Guard Chaplaincy.

While some Coast Guard Auxiliary members who serve in the ACS program perform other Auxiliary missions, most ACS Chaplains only conduct Chaplain missions. As they do so, they cross flotilla, sector, district, and even Coast Guard area boundaries in the performance of these missions. The hope is that having a chaplaincy focused flotilla will allow for more specific training, better support for the ACS Chaplains, and smoother administrative processes. ACS Chaplains/Auxiliarists who affiliate with the ACS National Flotilla and wish to perform other Auxiliary missions, such as watch standing, public education, marine dealer visits, vessel exams, etc., will still be able to do so as guest members of their local, geographic flotillas.

All Coast Guard Auxiliary members are free to choose with which flotilla they wish to affiliate, whether this choice is made upon first entering the Auxiliary or later, via a transfer between flotillas. As such, the decision to join the ACS National Flotilla, either as a new Auxiliarist or via transfer, is totally voluntary; service in the ACS program is not dependent on affiliating with this new Flotilla. So far, 60 of the 104 ACS Chaplains have decided to join the new ACS National Flotilla.

The process used to transfer into the ACS National Flotilla is the standard procedure used by Auxiliarists transferring between any two Auxiliary flotillas. To initiate the transfer, the Auxiliarist must complete section a of ANSC-7056 (03-23) and submit it to their current Flotilla Commander. In turn, the form is routed to the receiving Flotilla Commander, the current District Director of Auxiliary, and the receiving District Director of Auxiliary. Specific directions for completion and routing of Form ANSC-7056 (03-23) are provided on page 2 of the form.

If there are Auxiliary members who desire further explanation concerning the ACS National Flotilla or this transfer process, please contact the prospective Flotilla Commander elect of 070-06-14, Chaplain Abel Lara.

NEW LOGO!



D7 Members

We are pleased to unveil the NEW DISTRICT LOGO !! . A symbol of our continued growth and evolution. After much good work and creative collaboration, we are excited to share this important milestone with you

BRAVO ZULU to R. Michael Stringer, DSO-PB, Dottie Riley, ADSO-PB and Hank Cushard DSO-PA and the Publications and Public Affairs teams for their excellent work.

Please direct any questions on the use of the logo to R. Michael Stringer, DSO-PB or Hank Cushard , DSO-PA



A note from Daniel Helou District Captain-W
US Coast Guard Auxiliary Sector St. Petersburg, FL.

WE CAN TRULY BE - "FORCE MULTIPLIERS"-

NOW, MORE THAN EVER BEFORE!

"Demands on the Coast Guard have never been more global: cyber security, port security, container shipping, counterterrorism, border integrity, drug interdiction.

We are the nation's first responders for disasters like hurricanes, disasters in the Caribbean, the Gulf, the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, for crisis response, mariners in distress, smuggling, human trafficking, and just regulating the waterways, 24-7, 365" - Adm. Karl Schultz

We are looking to build a 21st century Auxiliary workforce that draws upon the broad range of skills, talents and backgrounds, found in the richness of all Americans. A diverse, specialized, adaptive workforce is an operational imperative if we are to remain an effective "force multiplier" for the Active Side. No question about it - Attracting and retaining qualified, flexible, dedicated members is critical to the continued success of our mission, to support the Coast Guard and the boating public. But...there are roadblocks...I'm sure you know. Many of us are, in fact, close to ageing out, so it's critical that we attract and retain a younger generation of volunteers, eager to serve the nation, the Coast Guard, and the public. To that end, I have reached out to Sector Commander, Captain Michael Kahle, and together with his Deputy Commander, CDR Charles (Ben) Stanley, and ASC David Rockwell, we have begun to identify non-traditional roles and opportunities whereby qualified Auxiliary member could "stand in the gap" where the Active Side either lacks personnel or specific expertise. Example: Captain mentioned they could use help with shipping, receiving, warehousing; we put the word out to the West District AOR, and an Aux member steps up, with 30 years' experience in the field. In a couple of visits, problem solved.

Example: CG Air Station put out a call for volunteer help in the medical clinic; three separate volunteers stepped up to offer help. Example: Station required oversight on handling and storing hazardous material; one member owned a waste management company for years; a consultation and the problem was solved. Example: Sector wanted help with the Station beautification project, landscaping needed at South Moorings; Aux members volunteered. Example: Active side needed a non-military attorney, willing to work pro-bono. Aux member jumped in for us.

Going forward, we will be in position to offer more Aux culinary assistants, more members qualified for an ALAC card (security clearance to use CG network)- stand watch in Command Center, help enter data for the ANT team, etc.) Members serving at some stations have qualified to crew and patrol with the Active side.

Things are changing...and the goal is ENGAGEMENT/ INTEGRATION/ INNOVATION. The Aux can offer clerical hours, data entry, watch standing, front gate guards, recording critical aircraft data for maintenance files, and so many other competencies and skills we're not even aware of yet.

Division Commanders, and Vice; Flotilla Commanders and Vice; reach out to the OIC's of the Station that primarily serves your Division, and simply remind them - there are 21,000 Auxiliarists standing ready to answer any "Request for Forces." As we deepen our dependency on each other, an already remarkable partnership will grow stronger, enabling us all to better respond to the challenges ahead.

Perhaps YOU will usher in a new era in the Auxiliary, where we are free to expand our service "as needed and requested" to meet the new challenges. Everything within the framework of our Oath, Manual, and Standing Rules. We could be the shallow water experts, partnering with the Red Cross, replacing the Cajun Navy. Our ODU's should be recognized nationwide, as the volunteer force that exists to "Save Lives."

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

A-School

Auxiliarists can take advantage of continuing education courses such as:

- AUX-02 Auxiliary Leadership & Management School (AUXLAMs)-Resident Course
- AUX-02A Auxiliary Leadership & Management School (AUXLAMs) - Part A
- AUX-02B Auxiliary Leadership & Management School (AUXLAMs) - Part B
- AUX-04 Distance Education Tech Training - Basic
- AUX-05A Auxiliary Mid-Level Officer Course (AML0C)
- AUX-05 Auxiliary Upper-Level Officer Course (AUL0C)
- AUX-06 Auxiliary Aids to Navigation (ATON & PATON),
- AUX-07 Auxiliary Senior Officer Course (AS0C)
- AUX-10 Information Systems (AUXDATA II) Training
- AUX-12 Auxiliary Public Affairs Training
- AUX-14, AUX-15, AUX-17 & AUX-18 Auxiliary Aviators C-Schools

For more information, here's a link! <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=aux00>



What's a mishap?

Why isn't it an accident?

A Mishap is an unplanned event that results in personal injury or property damage.

Have you noticed the military usually does not use the term "accident"?" They use the term "mishap." The reason is that all these "unplanned events" are driven by human actions and not some invisible force. The term "accident" seems dismissive like "stuff happens" or the passive voice "it broke."

In this larger viewpoint, there are really no "accidents," without cause. There is chain of events and actions that lead to a "mishap".

The Auxiliary uses risk management tools to minimize mishaps. Here's a message from Commodore Holmes, forwarded by DCDR Harvey Prior

Please remind your members to use the various risk management tools the Auxiliary teaches and to use common sense. Accidents under orders are usually preventable. Definitely report any accidents but using risk assessment ahead of time might save everyone from pain and paperwork. The note below is from our District Commodore.

Harvey Prior DCDR 11

We recently had 3 accidents that were preventable in each case. Please emphasize the need for our members to utilize all the aspects of our approach to Risk Management and plan ahead for potential low light situations or slip and fall conditions or any other situation that could have been prevented. The need for a stand down will be considered if this pattern continues . In addition, please make sure that the OIA is copied on any incident no matter how small

Very Respectfully, John W. Holmes US Coast Guard Auxiliary District 7 Commodore



(Photo provided by John Landon)

AuxAir update: My facility is down for an engine overhaul and should be back on patrol in November. Received a request to fly with Marc Miller on his Piper Aztec out of FMY (Fort Myers) as a co-pilot on an OVS (Operation Vigilant Sentry) mission August 17th. Kevin Wilcox served as crew and Moises Escolastico served as observer. Departed from Fort Myers around 0930 directly to Dry Tortugas area, then Marquesas and then along the 24th deg parallel. Landed KMTH (Marathon International Airport) for lunch. Departed KMTH to the FL Straits and then the Cay Sal Bank, about 30 miles north of Cuba. Picked up an aerial flare over Cay Sal and saw an SOS scrawled in the sand. We observed a disabled boat flying a Bahamian flag and what appeared to be a makeshift shelter. We were unable to make radio contact with anyone on Channel 16. Advised Sector Key West of our position via a Garmin INREACH Satellite device and then climbed to 3000 ft where we were able to talk to Sector Key West. They requested we stay on site until they could dispatch another asset. We circled the area for 30 minutes until we had to return to KMTH to refuel. Refueled and returned to KFMY. Sector dispatched a MH-144 which dropped a radio, water, and food to the survivor. Sector diverted the Cutter Paul Clark who picked up the survivor and transferred him to a Bahamas Defense Force Asset. The 64-year-old Dutch survivor advised rescuers that his boat had mechanical problems and he had been stranded for 3 days. This rescue story was carried by all major news outlets. Bravo Zulu to the crew!

Dunedin Flotilla 11-10 participated in an event at the Dunedin Causeway on August 26 with the "Salty Sistas" Kayak Group . The "Salty Sistas" raised funds for neglected and abused children and the Flotilla demonstrated boating safety. (Photos by Gordon Thomas)



**Steve Rea, Buddy Casale, J.C. Anson,
David McGee, Gordon Thomas**

Knots, boat safety pamphlets and trash life span game



Flotilla 11-10 Holiday Party

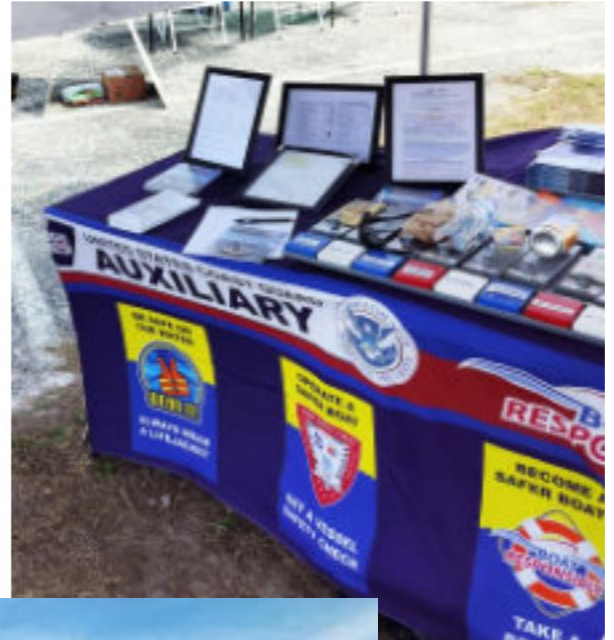
Our Holiday Party was a big success thanks to the generosity of our members. We made a total of \$780.00. These funds will go towards our Summer Picnic and 2024 holiday party. Cash donations were made by Rob Bonnem, Steve Rae, Buddy Casale, David McGee, and Jimmy Ryder. Holiday baskets were donated by Rob Bonnem, Don Andersen, Kristi Mackey, and Jay Pits. Thanks to Scott Birdwell for entertaining us on his sax and Kristi Mackey for the table decorations



Holiday Greetings from Gordon Thomas, Flotilla Commander! Christmas is now closing in on us quickly. So, before it gets too late, I want to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas or holiday time. Some of you have already gone away, others are in the process of doing so. Some of us have family coming in. In any case, most Auxiliary activities are on hold except for those few events that must go on. I was at the Air Station doing my flight chart updates Tuesday, and it was like a ghost town with many already in holiday mode. I had the place to myself for a few hours which helped me to get the work done with no interference. Everyone needs to rest up well and come back reinvigorated. We will have more work to do and more members to assign duties to.

Honeymoon Island Fall Festival

The annual “Fall Festival” was held at Honeymoon Island State Park on October 21 and 22. Dunedin Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-10 was asked to participate to promote boating safety since the Event Administrator was a former Coast Guardsman.



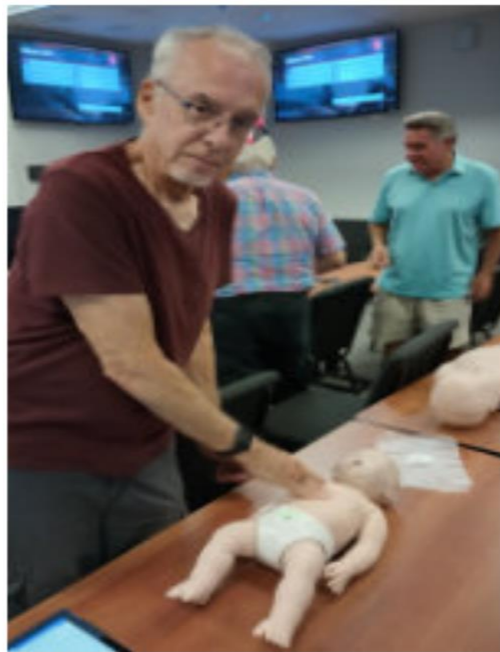
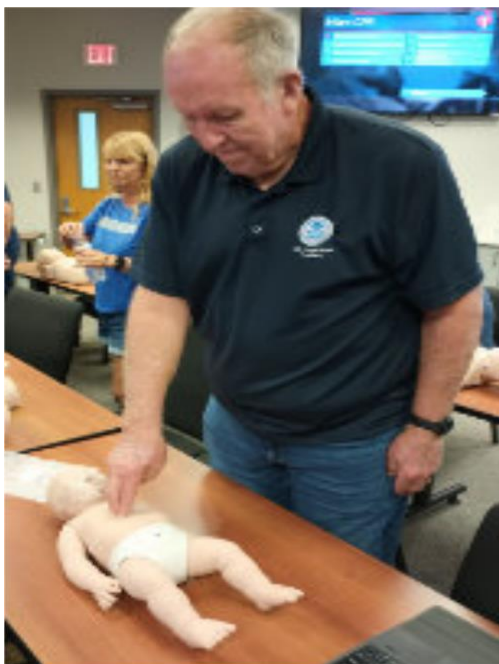
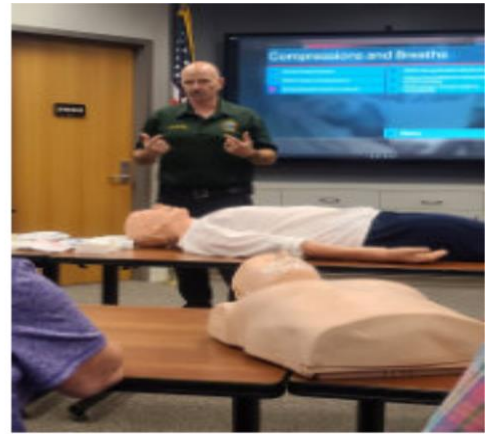


Dunedin Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-10 participated on both days from 9AM to 5PM. The event was highly successful with many visitors inquiring about vessel exams, boating safety courses, and other nautical matters. Thanks to those who staffed the booth, including George Inderweis, Gordon Thomas, Chelsea Miller, Buddy Casale, Harvey Prior, David Cooper, Steve Rae, and Gary Walkup. Special thanks to Geary Daves, Grady Altman, and Gordon Thomas who participated in the event set up. Geary and Grady also donated the use of their card tables.

(Photos by Gordon Thomas and Harvey Prior)



**CPR AND
FIRST AID
CLASSES**



Several members of Flotilla 11-10, including Gordon Thomas, Harvey Prior, Kristi Mackey, and JC Anson attended CPR/First Aid Training at the Tarpon Springs Public Safety Center on July 28, 2023. Photos by Gordon Thomas and Kristi Mackey



Over the years, Dunedin Flotilla 11-10 has had several newsletter editors. This issue of the “Wet Gazette” will be my last edition. I’ll be relocating to North Carolina in 2024 to be closer to my children and grandchildren who live in Virginia and Ohio.

This means that Flotilla 11-10 will have an opening for a Publications Staff Officer (FSO-PB) to edit the Flotilla Newsletter and Flotilla Facebook Page.

If you’re active on Facebook, you should have no problems being the Flotilla 11-10 Facebook admin and content creator. The Coast Guard even has an instruction book!

The newsletter is flexible. Some editors use Adobe Acrobat, others use Microsoft Publisher, or other formats. I’m familiar with Microsoft Word, so that’s what I used.

If you’re interested in a Coast Guard Auxiliary position that you can do from your desk, and being the FSO-PB sounds interesting, please reach out to Gordon Thomas, Flotilla Commander.