

Volunteers receive accolades

Civil Air Patrol awards two for life-saving efforts

By **LOUIE BROGDON**
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Two volunteer pilots were presented with one of the Civil Air Patrol's highest awards Saturday for their part in saving five lives last summer.

Civil Air Patrol Capt. Bill Cozine and Roy Scarborough received Life Saving Medals from the air patrol Saturday for their efforts in a July 22, 2011 rescue.

Maj. Gene Warnock, who investigated the incident to determine if the awards were warranted, said the Life Saving Medal is one of the patrol's top honors.

"It's fairly rare. It does have to involve the saving of a life. In this case it was five lives," he said.

Cozine and Scarborough were surprised but pleased to find out they received the honor.

"Bill (Cozine) and I were on the regular sun-down patrol. We had just taken off from St. Si-

Patrol: Two spotted survivors in water

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mons Island, and we heard a call from Glynn County ... someone had seen a sailboat overturned in the sound," Scarborough said.

The sailboat turned out to be a catamaran that had capsized vertically, which is unusual, Scarborough said. He and Cozine spotted the tips of the boat's two pontoons sticking out of the water as it was being pulled out to sea by the outgoing tide in the shipping channel.

At the time, Cozine and Scarborough could see two adults in the water, but they later learned there were three juveniles as well, one of whom was legally blind.

"The current had caught the sail and started carrying them right out to sea," Scarborough said.

Cozine and Scarborough circled the troubled catamaran by air and directed the Coast Guard to its location.

Without the air support, the



Meghan Pittman/The Brunswick News

Roy Scarborough, left, and Bill Cozine, right, prepare the Civil Air Patrol plane for flight Friday at St. Simons McKinnon Airport on St. Simons Island.

boat would have been difficult to find because the pontoons were only a few feet above the water, according to Maj. Warnock, who came from Savannah to investigate the incident.

On top of that, had the boaters not seen the CAP plane circling them, they would not have survived before the Coast Guard arrived, Warnock said.

"We heard later that some of

the victims were about to try to swim to shore and then decided not to when they saw the Civil Air Patrol plane circling because they knew someone had seen them. If they had tried to swim, they would be dead," Warnock said. "The Coast Guard at that time reported a 5 knot cross current heading away from shore. An Olympic swimmer would have had a hard time swimming that."

Cozine, the squadron commander, said after the rescue he and Scarborough just continued their patrol. It wasn't until a few months later that they learned they were being considered for the award.

"It was kind of strange the way it came about because we were on our routine patrol. We just went out and did our job," Cozine said.

"I don't know how to put it. It's sort of the payoff for all the training when you get to save someone."