

**Volume120, Issue 3**

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Official Newsletter of Coast Guard Auxiliary 5th District, Northern Region



**topside**  
80 Years of Topside

# 1943 - 2023

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*Leadership of 5NR*

<b>Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX)</b> CDR M. Chad Morgan
<b>Operations Training Officer (OTO)</b> CWO4 Mickey T. Price
<b>District Commodore (DCO)</b> Kurt P. Sarac, Sr
<b>District Chief Of Staff (DCOS)</b> Noreen Schifini
<b>District Captain Central (DCAPT-C)</b> Timothy D. Precht
<b>District Captain East (DCAPT-E)</b> Thomas Johnston Don
<b>District Captain West (DCAPT-W)</b> Michael B. McElwee
<b>Immediate Past Commodore</b> COMO Joseph J. Giannattasio
<b>President Past Captains Association</b> Alfred O. Grimminger
<b>Division\ Commanders</b>
<b>DCDR 04</b> Andrew C. Crowley
<b>DCDR 07</b> Thomas H. Brouillard
<b>DCDR 08</b> Lorraine Bianco
<b>DCDR 12</b> Stephen Paul Straneva
<b>DCDR 15</b> Kimberly A. Weber
<b>DCDR 16</b> Basil Iwanyk
<b>DCDR 17</b> Jeffery A. Davis
<b>DCDR 18</b> Armand F. Dauria
<b>DCDR 19</b> Edwin W. Seda
<b>DCDR 20</b> William R. Turner
<b>DCDR 21</b> Walter Conway

<b>D-AD</b> Jason C. Flynn
<b>D-AD</b> J. Douglas Willwerth
<b>DSO-C</b> Jason C. Flynn
<b>DSO-C</b> COMO Ken Brown, Janet Brown
<b>DSO-DV</b> Ruth A. Bearce
<b>DSO-FN</b> Mark F. Letavish
<b>DSO-LP</b> Francis P. Bigley
<b>DSO-SL</b> Harry W. Otto
<b>DFSO</b> Thomas Callahan III
<b>DDC-Logistics</b> Robert G. Vanderhook
<b>DSO-CS</b> Richard Taylor, II
<b>DSO-CA</b> Noreen Schifini
<b>DSO-HR</b> Steven G. Trojanov
<b>DSO-IS</b> Harry F. Dyer
<b>DSO-MA</b> Jeffery Wilt
<b>DSO-PB</b> Timothy P Marks
<b>DSO-SR</b> Donald W. Merrill
<b>DDC-Prevention</b> Alfred O. Grimminger
<b>DSO-AS</b> James Robert White
<b>DSO-MS</b> Gregg R. Bollinger
<b>DSO-MT</b> Terry F. Bearce
<b>DSO-NS</b> Frank J. Williams
<b>DSO-PA</b> COMO Kevin C. Murphy
<b>DSO-PE</b> Pamela L. Thompson
<b>DSO-PV</b> Russell M. Galson
<b>DSO-VE</b> Edwin W. Seda
<b>DDC-Response</b> Vacant
<b>DSO-EM</b> Thomas V Roberson
<b>DSO-CM</b> Richard B. Taylor II
<b>DSO-AV</b> Steve Longnecker
<b>DSO-OP</b> Donald W. Merrill

**Front Cover:**

**Signatures of many Auxiliarists from our district (5 NR). Signatures were obtained during the last D-Train in Lancaster, PA in September 2023. If your name is not on the list, that is just another reason why you should come to D-Trains!**

## *From the Desk of the Commodore*

### **Heartfelt Thank You and Call for Continued Support**

Dear Members of the 5NR Coast Guard Auxiliary,

I hope this message finds you in high spirits as we celebrated Thanksgiving and prepare for the holiday season. As we reflect on the accomplishments of this past year, I want to extend my deepest "THANK YOU" to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment to our mission and the incredible work you have done.

Your dedication has been truly remarkable. Together, we have played a vital role in augmenting the billet openings within Team Coast Guard, ensuring that essential positions are filled and operations run smoothly. Your contributions have not gone unnoticed by Admiral Gilreath and Capt. Higgins-Bloom and the entire Coast Guard. I am proud to see the positive impact we've made in chartered role in the safety and security of our great nation. I am more convinced than ever of the vital role we serve.

In supporting RBS (Recreational Boating Safety), we have excelled in our mission to safeguard lives on the water. Our combined efforts have enhanced safety measures, educated the public, and provided invaluable assistance to those in need. This is a testament to the strength of our team and our shared commitment to making our waterways safer for all.

However, as we celebrate our achievements, it is essential to acknowledge that our work is not yet complete. The need for Watchstanders, EM/IM, Aux-CA and direct unit support remains as crucial as ever. We are more needed than ever! We must continue recruiting and training dedicated individuals who can join our ranks and help fulfill these vital roles. Our organization's success depends on the continued growth of our membership and capabilities.

I urge all of you to reach out to potential recruits and encourage them to join our cause. Together, we can ensure that our Coast Guard Auxiliary remains a beacon of support and service in the years to come.

Once again, thank you for your exceptional efforts and unwavering dedication. I am honored to serve alongside each one of you and look forward to the great things we will achieve together in the future.

Semper Paratus!

Sincerely,

Kurt Sarac Sr

Commodore,

5NR Coast Guard Auxiliary



**Commodore Kurt P. Sarac Sr.  
District Commodore  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
5th District-Northern Region**



## *Michael B. McElwee, DCAPT-W*

Greetings Shipmates!

Thank you all for another successful boating season. All our surface operations members, vessel examiners and program visitors really stepped up this year. The Western Area has had success in recruiting of members mostly through the many public affair events held this year. Our instructors once again provided excellent instruction to our boating public during the Boating Safety Classes held throughout the Western Area.

With winter approaching, let's use this time to train and prepare for next year. Make sure we keep our core training current.

As I have stated before, RBS continues to be a big part of our mission in the Auxiliary, but the most urgent need is assisting the active duty with many important missions. There are so many opportunities available for members to work side by side with active duty at stations in our AOR. Culinary Assistance and Watchstanding are two of the biggest needs.

I want to thank the members who stepped up this year to be leaders of their Divisions and Flotillas. Being a leader in the Auxiliary is challenging but very rewarding! Thank you for all that you do for the Auxiliary and Team Coast Guard! I want to thank the two District Captains who I served alongside over the last year. Tom and Tim, I appreciate you for all your support and friendships. It was a pleasure to serve with you. As we move into 2024, I look forward to working with the two new District Captains.

I would like to wish a wonderful holiday season to you and your family!

Very Respectfully,  
Michael McElwee  
District Captain-Western Area  
Fifth Northern District  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



**Michael B. McElwee**  
**District Captain—West**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
**5th District-Northern Region**

## *Timothy D. Precht, DCAPT-C*

Hello District 5NR.

As we get closer to the end of the year everyone should look back on what has been accomplished and ask ourselves, am I satisfied with what I did. There are many of us that put in many many hours and then there are others that do nothing. I have never understood joining an organization and not participate. But it's not a competition, it's all about contributing.

If you only participate in Operations and that season is now behind us, now is the time to concentrate on looking at all the other programs we can do and see if you want to do something else. Take some courses, learn new tasks and grow during these winter months.

You all should have heard the message by now about how the active duty needs our help due to lower recruitment numbers. They are not alone, all the services are suffering. I just want to stress that if you are pitching in, awesome. If you are doing as much as you can, excellent. If you aren't stepping up, we all need your help. Don't be a MINO (Member In Name Only), contribute to the cause we all swore to do. Even the little things can make a difference. Ask your COLM what you can do. If you aren't sure what you can do, ask.

As the outgoing DCAPT-C, I leave the area in good hands with my replacement. Joe Mathews will serve you well and I have a lot of confidence in him. I want to thank my Division and Flotilla Commanders for their support and leadership. I am not going away but going to focus on the things I joined the Auxiliary for.

Be SAFE

Timothy D. Precht  
District Captain—Central  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
5th District-Northern Region



**Timothy D. Precht**  
**District Captain—Central**  
**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
**5th District-Northern Region**

## *From the OTO's Desk*

Greetings D5NR! We might be nearing the end of the calendar year, but things are certainly not slowing down for the Auxiliary. Elections and Changes of watch are taking place throughout the District, Watchstanders and Culinary Assistants remain in high demand, and planning for the spring D-train event is in full swing. Although cold water temperatures have exceeded the capabilities of our PPE, that won't be the case for very long as our substantial order for Dry Suits should arrive prior to the water warming up again.

I suspect by now, you've heard the quote from Admiral Fagan as follows: "Tomorrow looks different, so will we". More recently, with the announcement of the 2024 Coast Guard Force Alignment, the fact that our service is evolving is clear. In order to meet the needs of today's Coast Guard, the Auxiliary, in turn, will have to look different as well. I personally think we are at the beginning of the biggest shift in the available opportunities for the Auxiliary since 1940. So then, if tomorrow looks different for the Auxiliary, how does that affect us at each organizational level? For starters, I'd say that the DIRAUX office has a responsibility to provide the best advocacy, guidance, and support possible so that Aux members can complete their various tasks to the best of their ability. To that end, we have continued the initiative to reimburse mileage costs for members that are traveling more than a local distance to provide support to CG units. The most frequent usage of those reimbursements has been for Culinary Assistance work and

Watch-standing duties. We have also committed DIRAUX funding to put new members on CG orders to attend D-train. Another example of recent support includes the first D5NR purchase of Automatic Identification System (AIS) Transponders for some of our surface facilities.

The most important thing I would ask each of our members is to have a bias for action. We need continued action across the country to help ensure Coast Guard mission success. Perhaps as important, is helping those who are seeking to meet the call to action. Assisting someone with an ETS account, or CA training, or helping with their journey as a Boat Crew Member, Vessel Examiner, etc. is an excellent way to make a positive impact on our service. I am reminded of the prologue to the pledge for new member that reads:

"The satisfaction you derive from your Auxiliary membership will be in proportion to your level of participation. The success of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will depend upon the extent of your participation..."

As always, thank you for everything you are doing. I am continually humbled by your selfless service and dedication. Have fun and stay safe out there.



**CWO4 Mickey Price, OTO**  
**U.S. Coast Guard**  
**Director of Auxiliary**  
**Fifth District - Northern Region**

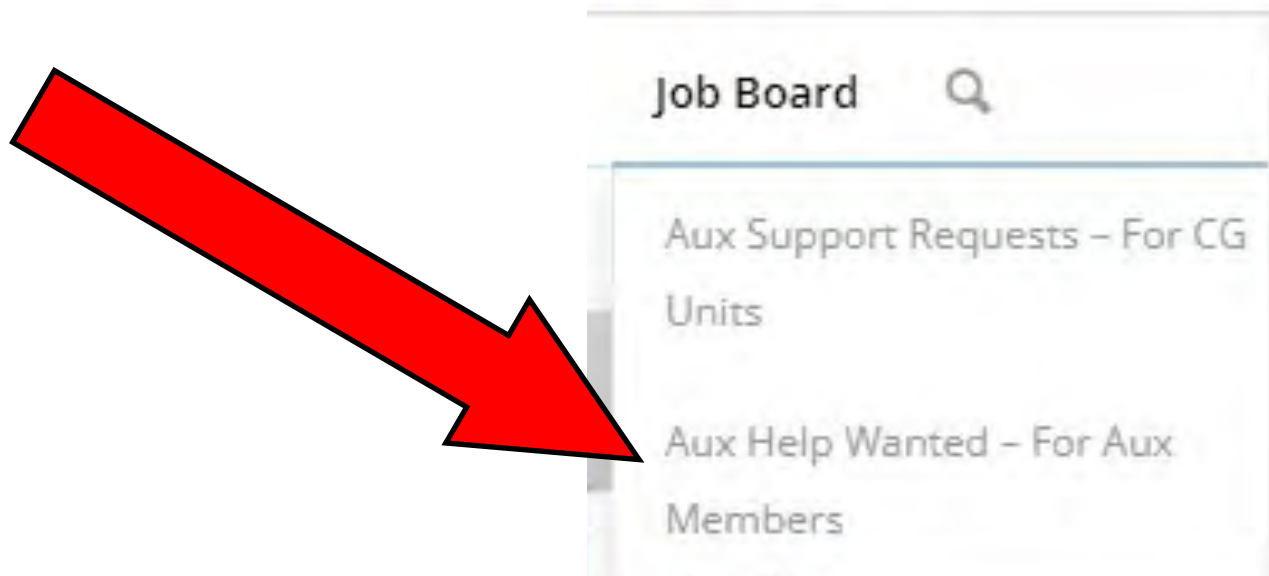
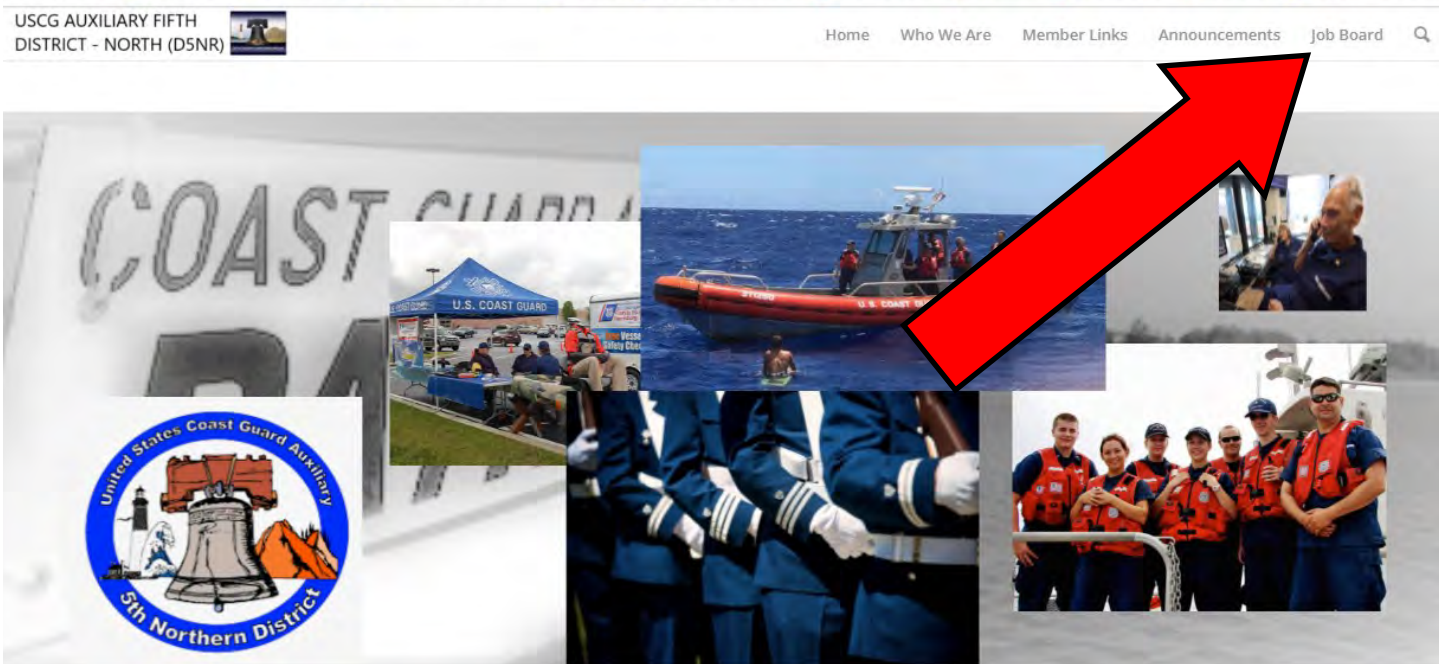
# 5NR Help Needed



## *5NR Job Board*

To get to the 5NR job board (as CDR Morgan discussed in his message):

- First, get on the 5NR website: <https://5nr.org>
- Next, hover over “Job Board” on the top right (see below):
- Then, in the dropdown, click on “AUX Help Wanted - For AUX Member”



## *5NR Job Board*



### **USCG Air Station Atlantic City Current Postings For Auxiliary Assistance 01NOV23**



The U.S. Coast Guard is seeking D5NR Auxiliarists to volunteer in support USCG Air Station Atlantic City. These postings include requests for specific short term assistance as well as ongoing mission support. Please review the following requests and contact the point of contact (POC) for each assignment listed. Note that some requests require professional skills and experience while other requests are for general assistance with training and orientation provided by Air Station personnel.

[Click here to view the entire posting.](#)



### **USCG Help Wanted Sector Delaware Bay**



**Assist  
Sec Del  
Bay OTO  
with Special  
Office Projects**

**Operational Training Officer Assistance**

[Click here to view the entire posting.](#)

# Information from Around the District



## *Auxiliarist Spotlight - Ellen Voorhees*

Auxiliarist Ellen Voorhees, Flotilla 053-07-09, joined the Auxiliary in 1999. During that time she has faithfully served as ADSO-PB for the past several years. She has also served for many years as the FSO-PB producing her Flotilla's newsletter. Along with this and other offices, Ellen has served on the Coast Guard's Atlantic Strike Team, contributing countless hours of service.

Ellen is retiring at the end of the year after 24 years of service. We thank Ellen for her service over all these year.

Ellen, we will certainly miss you. We wish you the best in all your future endeavors.



**Ellen Voorhees**  
**ADSO-PB**



In this photograph, AST Commanding Officer Eric Doucette is presenting Auxiliarist Ellen Voorhees (right) with a unit coin in appreciation of her hard work and leadership. Under Ellen's guidance, CG Auxiliarists donate countless hours to Atlantic Strike Team operations.

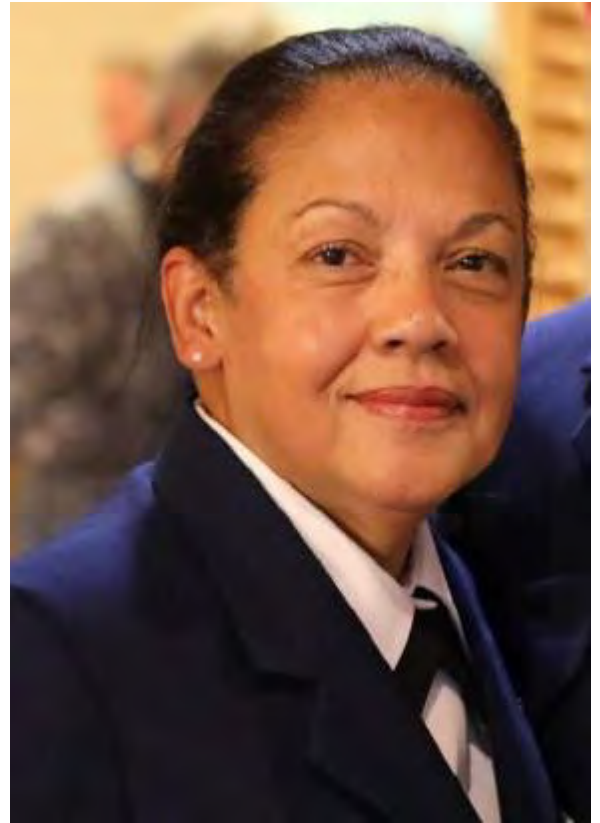
Photograph taken from the Coast Guard AST Facebook page.

## *Auxiliarist Spotlight - Barbara Sama*

Auxiliarist Barbara Sama, Flotilla 053-12-05, joined the Auxiliary in 2015. During that time she has faithfully served as ADSO-PB for the past several years and has been a fixture taking photographs at many 5NR activities. She has also served as the ADSO-EM, SO-PA, FSO-PA, ADSO-PA. Along with this, Barbara has served the Coast Guard on the Southwest Border Operations, contributing many hours of service.

Barbara is stepping down with many duties including as ADSO-PB. We thank Barbara for her service over all these years.

Barbara, you will be missed! We wish you all the best!



**Barbara Sama, AUXPA1  
ADSO-PB**

Auxiliarist Barbara Sama (right) along with another Auxiliarist supporting the Coast Guard in the Southwest Border Operations. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo



Barbara Sama, ADSO-PB took many of the photographs featured in Topside over the years. Here, she is in a rare photo capturing her taking a picture.

Photograph by Cindi Chaimowitz



## *Lucky Bag - Hours*

**Days and hours for Auxiliarists to access Lucky Bag:**

**Every Wednesday 0900-1100**

**Every Thursday 1000-1300**

**Every Friday by appointment**



## *Useful Resources*

### **HURRICANE RELATED**

National Hurricane Center <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Mike's Weather Page (one-stop shop with tons of information) <https://spaghettimodels.com/default.htm>

Tropical Tidbits <https://www.tropicaltidbits.com/storminfo/>

### **MEASURED RAINFALL**

Interactive Daily Measured Rainfall Amounts Map <https://cocorahs.org/>

### **CLICKABLE MAPS FOR WEATHER and MARINE FORECASTS**

NWS Weather Forecast Map (all US) <https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/wfos>

NOAA NWS Marine Weather Forecasts <https://www.weather.gov/marine/>

### **CLICKABLE MAPS AND HYDROGRAPHS FOR RIVER LEVELS AND FORECASTS**

NWS River Forecast Centers (Entire US) <https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/rfcs>

### **Mid-Atlantic RFC River Hydrographs – S. NY to VA**

[Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center Map](#)

### **Southeast RFC River Hydrographs - Wilmington NC to Key West, FL**

[Southeast River Forecast Center Map](#)

## *Lifejackets Can Make a Difference*

*Article by Richard by Timothy Wah, Flotilla 053-15-02*

As members of the Auxiliary, we play an important part in maintaining the well-being of recreational boaters out on the water by encouraging safe boating practices. When someone is going to be on the water, wearing a life jacket or a personal flotation device (PFD) needs to be their first thought. The following is a list of suggestions and talking points that can assist you in encouraging members of the boating public to make wearing a life jacket a habit that is no different from buckling up when they get into their car.

- **Stress safety:** The primary reason for anyone wearing a life jacket is for their own protection. It raises the chances of surviving a potentially life-threatening situation, such as an accident or an unexpected emergency, because it helps you stay afloat. It takes only a few seconds for a boating mishap to become fatal, and that life jacket can make all the difference in the world in these situations.



Photo: Royal National Lifeboat Institute/Mike Lavis

- **Emphasize legal requirements:** Wearing a life jacket is not an option in some situations. For example, water skiers and personal watercraft operators must always do so.

From November 1 to April 30, many states require boaters to wear a life jacket while underway or at anchor on boats less than 16 feet in length or on any kayak, canoe, or paddleboard. Note that they must be worn and just not being carried onboard. Finally, lifejacket wearing is not an option for children under a certain age—check your state regulations.

- **Quote the data:** The Coast Guard reports that 80% of drowning victims were not wearing a lifejacket.
- **Explain types of life jackets:** Many are unaware that in 2014, the U.S. Coast Guard removed the “Type” codes on life jackets. There will be two types going forward, referred to as either “throwable” or “wearable,” and will be indicated by an icon for performance.



These Icons indicate that this life jacket is certified for boating but note that it is not recommended for all boating activities—excluded are waterskiing, tubing, PWC use, and whitewater kayaking.

*Continued on the next page...*

## *Lifejackets Can Make a Difference*

### *Continued*

- Importance of fit:
  - ◇ Check the label for user weight and chest size.
  - ◇ Note that different body types float differently
  - ◇ Try your device on and in the water to ensure your airway is clear!
  - ◇ A good fit is secure, comfortable, and adjustable.

- Lead by example: as an auxiliary member, always wear a life jacket while on the water. You can encourage others to engage in safe boating activities and aid in the prevention of accidents if you are a model for others to follow.
- Make it simple: When boaters go out on the water, encourage them to wear their lifejacket or have one that is accessible while underway.
- Personalize it: Tell stories of those who were saved by life jackets or convey the statistics of wearing life jackets. People can have a better understanding of the significance of wearing a life jacket and how doing so can make a difference in dangerous situations by hearing these first-person tales.



**CAPE MAY, N.J.** - Richard Weiss, Flotilla 8-2 located in Cape May, inspects a life jacket during a vessel safety check at Bree-Zee-Lee Yacht Basin.

*USCG photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Johnathan Lindberg.*

- Find opportunities to tell the story. Vessel examinations are a natural opportunity to talk about this, but don't overlook those other public affairs events whether it is addressing a local organization or other type of public gathering.
- Encourage boaters to always wear a life jacket anytime they are near the water. Also make use of these suggestions and talking points, keeping in mind that the most essential thing is to place an emphasis on safety and to encourage safe practices while boating.

# *Voyage of Valiance: A Coast Guard Auxiliary Flag's Global Odyssey*

*by Tim Marks, DSO-PB*

In September, COMO Joe Giannattasio completed his two-year quest to transport an Auxiliary flag to the most extreme crossroads on Earth: the intersection of the International Date Line and the Equator, the pristine wilderness of Antarctica, the icy embrace of the Arctic Circle, and the hallowed grounds of the Prime Meridian in Greenwich, England.

Beginning in 2022 a small Coast Guard Auxiliary flag embarked on an extraordinary journey to the farthest corners of our planet. This mission wasn't just about a flag; it was an expedition dedicated to promoting the ideals and missions of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, an organization committed to supporting the United States Coast Guard and ensuring recreational boating safety. COMO Giannattasio, a member of The Explorers Club in NYC as well, emphasized that this expedition was also a tribute to the remarkable members who constitute this vital organization.

## **December 22, 2022 - Charting the Course**

The expedition began at the intersection of the International Date Line and the Equator (0° 00'00" N x 180° 00'0.00" W), a symbolic point where time and geography collide. Conveyed by Auxiliarist Anne-Marie Gillesberg deployed on USCGC Polar Star, this marked the start of an odyssey dedicated to bridging maritime boundaries and upholding the ideals of maritime quests and safety.

## **January 02, 2022 - Antarctica: A Frozen Frontier**

From this pivotal point, the Coast Guard Auxiliary flag sailed southward to Antarctica, Earth's southernmost and most unforgiving continent. Amidst the icy wilderness of McMurdo Sound, the flag waved as a symbol of the Coast Guard Auxiliary's part in protecting and preserving our planet's fragile ecosystems.

## **July 19, 2023 - The Arctic Circle: A Frozen Challenge**

The flag's next destination was the Arctic Circle, the realm of ice and snow in the northern polar region. COMO Joe Giannattasio transported the flag to Utqiagvik, Alaska where it symbolized the Auxiliary's unwavering dedication to the Coast Guard's goal of international cooperation in confronting the unique challenges of the Arctic.

## **September 27, 2023 - Greenwich's Prime Meridian: Navigating the World**

The flag expedition culminated at Greenwich's Prime Meridian (51° 28'24" N x 0° 00'3" E), a historical reference point for navigation and timekeeping. Here, the Coast Guard Auxiliary flag honored the maritime heritage that has profoundly shaped human history. It served as a reminder of the Auxiliary's mission to support the United States Coast Guard and ensure the safety of all who navigate the world's waters.

## **Promoting a Noble Mission**

As the flag returned home, it carried with it a story of adventure and exploration. Throughout its journey, 'showing the flag' served as a powerful symbol of the Auxiliary's mission and core values, a testament to the unwavering commitment of support for the United States Coast Guard. The flag also celebrated the dedication, passion, and selflessness of our members who work tirelessly making the Coast Guard Auxiliary the best trained most valued maritime volunteer service in the world.



# *Coast Guard Thanksgiving Enhanced by Auxiliary and Community Assistance*

*Article and Photographs by COMO Joseph Giannattasio*

For the sixth consecutive year, on November 18th, Auxiliarists from District 5NR and local community members came together to express their gratitude to the families of USCG Station Cape May and the crews of the homeported cutters. They did so by treating them to a heartwarming Thanksgiving feast with all the traditional dishes. John Burns, the Auxiliary Unit Coordinator (AUC) at the station, teamed up with Chef Robert Ohlsen, an instructor at the Cumberland County Technical Education Center (CCTEC), and Lieutenant Dan Nelson, who is in charge of the station, to create a special family-style dinner for more than 51 attendees.

USCG Training Center Cape May (TRACEN) is home to over 650 active-duty, reserve, and civilian members, as well as 15 tenant commands. The active-duty Coast Guard members and their families in Cape May face similar challenges as those stationed elsewhere. Some can't make it home to be with their families during the holiday season, and for others, the absence of a deployed loved one leaves a void in their holiday celebrations.



An empty plate is the best compliment a chef can ever have.



LT Nelson demonstrates his skills as a waiter.

Because Coast Guard personnel from the Duty Section must be ready to respond to emergencies within six minutes, the dinner was held at the Oceanside Community Club within TRACEN. The food for the event was generously provided by Nick DiRenzo, the owner of Westside Meats in Rio Grande. Guided by the culinary expertise of Chef Rob - John Burns and his wife Chris, along with Auxiliarists Don Dobson, Joe Giannattasio, Michael Hamilton, and Norman Ledwin, played key roles in both preparing and serving the food. Chef Rob's family members were also actively involved in the culinary efforts, including his daughter Christina Camp, and her husband William, as well as the Chef's granddaughter Claire. Contributing to the festive ambiance, CCTEC Superintendent Dr. Dina Rossi graciously permitted the utilization of CCTEC kitchens for the food preparation.

The primary aim was simple: offer a full Thanksgiving dinner, complete with turkey, stuffing, ham, sweet potatoes, vegetables, macaroni and cheese, desserts, and more, to Coast Guard members and their families as a way of showing appreciation, especially to those unable to travel home for the holiday.

*Continued on the next page...*

## *Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City*

### *Continued*



(left to right) Auxiliarist John Burns AUC, LT Dan Nelson and Chef Rob Ohlsen strategize on divvying the desserts.

After the dinner, Lieutenant Nelson acknowledged Chef Rob with a painting created by a member of Station Cape May, BM2 Corey Roman, and signed by all the station members.

The dinner came together seamlessly, providing approximately 51 active-duty personnel and their families the opportunity to gather and enjoy a delicious meal prepared by local volunteers and family members, all under the guidance of a renowned chef. Additionally, some Coast Guard Cutter Deck Officers received take-out meals. The event was a memorable experience that truly embodied the spirit of giving thanks.



Active Duty personnel and family members in a group setting and enjoying a delicious Thanksgiving dinner.

# *U.S.C.G. Auxiliary Flotilla Manasquan Inlet Host Veterans on Launch 5 Mission*

*Article by Christopher M. Orlando, AUXPA2*

*Photographs by Greg Porteus*

**HUDSON RIVER, NY**— U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla Manasquan Inlet and USCG Sector NYC welcomed seven Montrose Veterans from various branches of the United States Military on Launch 5, a retired police vessel owned by former New York State Police officer and flotilla member, Greg Porteus for a Hudson River patrol.

“This is Great Honor To Patrol The Hudson With Men & Women Who Have Raised Their Right Hand To Serve The Greatest Nation In The History Of The World,” said Porteus. “Launch 5 And Crew Have Been Doing This Patrol For 20 years and I’d like to thank Ossining Elks Club For Continued Support Of This Patrol and a special Thank You local Jeep Owners For Always Showing Up to support this cause.”

The Coxswain was Flotilla Manasquan Inlet member, Greg Porteus. Jim Picciano, Bob Daraio, Greg Delmonico, and John Scordato. Additional Crew included U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary District One—Southern Region members Louis Liotti, from FL 6-7; Lori Mastroddi, from FL 6-04; John Benz and William Roberts, from D1SR FL 7-04. Also aboard was Jason Benz, MST, from Coast Guard Sector New York.

“I watched how a few veterans' stress levels went down by being out on the water,” said Scordato, who was a crew member on the mission. “I was happy that I could help out some true heroes.”



*Continued on the next page...*

## *U.S.C.G. Auxiliary Flotilla Manasquan Inlet*

### *Continued*

“This patrol is incredibly special for not only the veterans who join our crew but for the Auxiliarists on board for these missions,” said Annamarie Ackaway, Flotilla Commander. “I commend our members who have served on these missions and to recognize Greg Porteus for his continued service to our veterans.”

“It was a true privilege to crew aboard Launch 5 in support of our veterans,” said AUX Bob Daraio. “Thanks as well to the Ossining Elks Club for their support, and the nice lunch provided by the Elks for our veterans and the crew. Finally I would like to thank Shattemuc Yacht Club for hosting the lunch. As always, it is a pleasure meeting all our heroes from the Montrose VA Hospital for a beautiful day on the Hudson River.”

“Thank You to all shipmates who helped make the Launch 5 outings for the Veterans from the VA Hospital a success, said AUX Jim Picciano. “It was truly a team effort. Our presence under orders in uniform I am sure meant more to our veterans than we could ever know. We have all served in many capacities and these missions are truly an honor.”



# *A Simple Way to Protect Your ID Card from Damage*

*By Commodore Joseph Giannattasio*

The Auxiliary ID Card is quite durable, but it still succumbs to the inevitable wear and tear caused by the passage of time. Members who directly assist the Active Duty at USCG Units and regularly retrieve their ID cards from their wallets to present to security personnel may gradually observe signs of deterioration, such as frayed edges, subtle cracks, or fading print on the card.

Here's an idea that's pretty straightforward - consider placing it inside an ATM/Debit card protector envelope. This simple yet effective solution will help maintain the card's condition throughout the year.

You can typically obtain these ATM/Debit card protector envelopes at no cost from your local bank branch, and they perform admirably!



# *Joy and Sorrow*

## *November and December 2023*

### **Crossing the Bar**

11/18 – Aux Rhonda LaGamba (04-08)

11/22 – Aux Francis Doyle (12-01)

12/2 – Ralph Alfred Gilgenast, Sr. (12-01)

12/7 – Robert “Bob” Kuhne (18-04)

12/10 – David Martin (18-04)

### **JOY!**

11/22 – Aux Christopher Orlando (16-07) was married to Anna Chamberlain on Nov 25. Congratulations to them both!



# History of the District and Auxiliary



## ***Saving 5 NR History***

*By Tim Marks, DSO-PB*

Although long-time members had always been aware of the Auxiliary's record of service and historians sometimes had been appointed to promote our history, efforts to maintain the Coast Guard Auxiliary's history have been inconsistent. The Auxiliary history program was formally established during the 50th anniversary celebration of the Auxiliary in 1989. Executive staff members were aware that documents resided in members' basements, offices, and garages all over the country. There had never been a focused attempt to collect them. Thus, in 1989, O. W. "Sonny" Martin, Jr., of Madison, Wisconsin, was appointed the National Historian. For years, Martin had spent endless hours contacting members all over the country, asking for records that members or family members had in their possession. From these efforts, a short history of the Auxiliary was written. He also realized the need for a central repository for the records he had located. After searching for the right fit, Eastern Carolina University, a leader in the field of maritime history and underwater archaeology, was selected.

A contract also was entered into with the Joyner Library at East Carolina University (ECU) in Greenville, North Carolina, to house the national records collection which would be presided over by a professional curator. Beginning in 1989, Auxiliary Districts were encouraged to pack up and ship their historical material to the Archive. The response was so overwhelming that restrictions needed to be imposed. First each District was given an assigned month to forward material, this was followed by a listing of "acceptable/unacceptable" items followed by a required review by District Historian prior to shipment. Even with these restrictions, the limited manpower continued to fall behind. Keep in mind, they were grad students and not Auxiliarists attempting to sort, classify and catalog. Finally, there was no other choice but to suspend all shipments.

Now after an extremely long pause, the archive is on the verge of once again accepting additional historical material. Prior to the official announcement there will be instructions released covering the acceptable items and the process units must follow to ensure an orderly transfer of material.



***Steve Marthouse  
5NR Historian  
ADSO-PB History***

## ***Saving 5 NR History***

### ***Continued***

Previously when the shipments were halted, there was little incentive for our Divisions and Flotillas to continue to review their file holdings, which no doubt have continued to grow. This leads me to the purpose of this message. With winter coming on and the soon to be opening of the archives, I would like to suggest that both the Division and Flotilla Commanders consider appointing an individual or better yet forming a committee to review all the units' stored records. This undertaking really will benefit all of us. For the unit, identifying material and records that have significant historical value that should be preserved as well as material that and should be disposed of. No doubt the units will uncover material that tells the story of significant contributions made by their members. These stories need to be saved and made available to truly document our value and contributions since 1939. From the District Historians perspective, I believe this review would identify items that are significant to the entire District and need to be made available on the 5NR Website history pages.

Today we are fortunate that we have technology that allows us to store information electronically. This technology also facilitates user access of information remotely thus saving one from having to travel to a storage location to do research. Archives should be thought of as places where original historically significant items should be stored in a safe and secure environment. However, we should no longer simply store material in filing cabinets and locked away boxes that never see the light of day. Important records, events, and stories on paper should be converted to electronic or digital format and shared with our membership. The original documents then can either be shipped to the archive or destroyed. Thus, history is preserved, and no one ends up with boxes of stuff that eventually is lost.

I stand ready to provide any assistance I can if your Division or Flotilla would like to undertake this project.



## Douglas Munro

# The Story Behind the Coast Guard's Only Medal of Honor Recipient

by Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA3

“Did they get off?” Those words represent a true hero to each Coast Guard member. Signalman 1st Class Douglas Munro, the service’s only Medal of Honor recipient. Those were the last words spoken by Douglas Munro before his death at the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War II. On September 27, 1942, Munro gave his life so that a detachment of Marines might live.

Douglas Albert Munro (October 11, 1919-September 27, 1942) was born in Canada, and his family moved to the United States when he was a child. Raised in Washington, Munro attended Central Washington College of Education before volunteering for military service. Munro volunteered shortly before the United States entered World War II. Munro underwent recruit training at Coast Guard Air Station Port Angeles. He was assigned and served aboard the Treasury-class cutter USCGC Spencer, until 1941. Throughout his military service, Munro expressed a desire to become a career Coast Guardsman. In 1941, the Coast Guard was transferred from the Department of the Treasury to the Department of the Navy. Munro volunteered for assignment on the USS Hunter Liggett. The Hunter Liggett was assigned to support the Guadalcanal campaign.



Douglas Munro  
Source: Public Domain.

Cross-trained as a coxswain and signalman, he ferried troops to shore and helped to manage a U.S. Marine unit conduct ship-to-shore communications. Munro staffed the Naval Operating Base (NOB) Cactus at Lunga Point on the northern coast of Guadalcanal. NOB Cactus is the only known instance of a naval operating base primarily led by Coast Guard personnel. At the Second Battle of the Matanikau in September 1942, Munro led the extrication of a force of Marines whose position had been overrun by Japanese forces. Munro, at great risk to his life, led five of his small craft toward the shore. As he closed the beach, he signaled for others to land, he placed his craft with its two small guns as a shield between the beachhead and the Japanese. Munro died of a gunshot wound at the age of 22 while he was using the Higgins boat that he was piloting to shield a landing craft filled with Marines from Japanese fire.

*Continued on the next page...*

## *Douglas Munro, Continued*

Munro was buried on September 28, 1942, the day after his death, on Guadalcanal. His remains were recovered from Guadalcanal in 1947 and were reinterred in 1948 at Laurel Hill Memorial Park in Cle Elum (small city near Seattle Washington). Munro's family had declined a full military burial at Arlington National Cemetery. The City of Cle Elum expanded Munro's gravesite with the installation of two decommissioned Mk22 naval deck guns to either side of the tombstone. The Marine officer who had ordered the attack in which Munro perished, Colonel Puller, nominated the Coast Guardsman for the Medal of Honor, the highest U.S. personal military decoration. President Franklin Roosevelt approved the decoration on or about May 1, 1943. The medal was presented to Munro's parents on May 24th by President Roosevelt in a White House Ceremony.

To date, Munro is the only member of the U.S. Coast Guard to have received the Medal of Honor. In addition, Munro also was awarded the Purple Heart, the Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. Three United States warships have been named after Munro. As of 2022, USCGC Munro (WMSL-755) is in active Coast Guard service. Three Coast Guard facilities are named in honor of Munro: Munro Hall at the United States Coast Guard Academy, Munro Hall at the United States Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, and the Douglas A. Munro Coast Guard Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C. Several monuments have been erected to honor Munro including a bronze statue at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May. In 2006, Munro was added to the Wall of Heroes of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, becoming the only non-Marine represented on the memorial. Recruit classes at Training Center Cape May are annually assembled at the statue Douglas Munro on the anniversary of Munro's death, during which three volleys are fired. Munro's leadership, planning, and devotion to duty undoubtedly saved the lives of many who otherwise would have perished.

Sources:

USCG.mil

Bunch, James (1994). *Coast Guard Combat Veterans: Semper Paratus*

Williams, Gary (2014). *Guardian of Guadalcanal*



Douglas Munro Statue at TRACEN Cape May.

US Coast Guard photos by  
Auxiliarist Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA3



# 5NR DCOs Pictorial Essay

by COMO Joseph Giannattasio

## A Comprehensive Pictorial List of all District Commodores Coast Guard Auxiliary District Fifth Northern

#1 RICHARD W. NELMS

#2 VICTOR LAZO

#3 FRANK B. HINELINE

#4 H. EARL HUSTON



#5 W. LYLE HOLMES

#6 JOHN J. SADER

#7 ALEXANDER S. BAUER

#8 DONALD P. OSTERHOUT



NO PHOTO

NO PHOTO

NO PHOTO

#9 WILLIAM R. MCDONALD

#10 ALFRED B. WRIGHT

#11 RICHARD SCATTERGOOD

#12 JOHN S. BLACK JR.



NO PHOTO

NO PHOTO

NO PHOTO

#13 ROBERT E. EVANS

#14 ROYDEN S. HAGER

#15 JACK E. NUNEMAKER

#16 WILLIAM J. GARRY



NO PHOTO

NO PHOTO



#17 JOHN D. MCINTOSH

#18 JOHN E. JOHANSEN

#19 HAROLD B. HANEY

#20 VICTOR F. BAUMEISTER



# 5NR DCOs Pictorial Essay

Continued

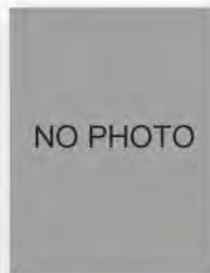
## District Commodores Coast Guard Auxiliary District Fifth Northern

#21 JOSEPH L. KRAGER JR.

#22 LLOYD FURBER

#23 WILLIAM DISCHERT

#24 ROBERT CARSON



#25 LEE B. WEAVER

#26 ROBERT L. WECKER

#27 RICHARD RAUDABAUGH

#28 ALEXANDER M. LEWIS



#29 WILLIAM PIERCE

#30 EUGENE M. PESTER JR.

#31 EDWARD W. REARICK

#32 HARRY L. DAVID



#33 CLYDE E. COLLEGE

#34 JOHN A. LOCASALE

#35 ROBERT J. PERRONE SR.

#36 EUGENE A. BENTLEY JR.



#37 LEON E. KEHR

#38 ROBERT P. AMORT

#39 JOHN S. WITEMEYER

#40 HAROLD T. ROBINSON



# 5NR DCOs Pictorial Essay

Continued

## District Commodores Coast Guard Auxiliary District Fifth Northern

#41 KENNETH E. BROWN  
#42 K.C. MURPHY  
#43 BARRY M. KYPER  
#44 THOMAS J. DEVER



#45 JOSEPH GIANNATTASIO  
#46 KURT SARAC SR



**In honor of the individuals from the Fifth District Northern who, over the years, have taken on the important role of District Commodore, dedicating themselves to serving their fellow Auxiliarists.**

Researched and compiled by COMO Joseph Giannattasio

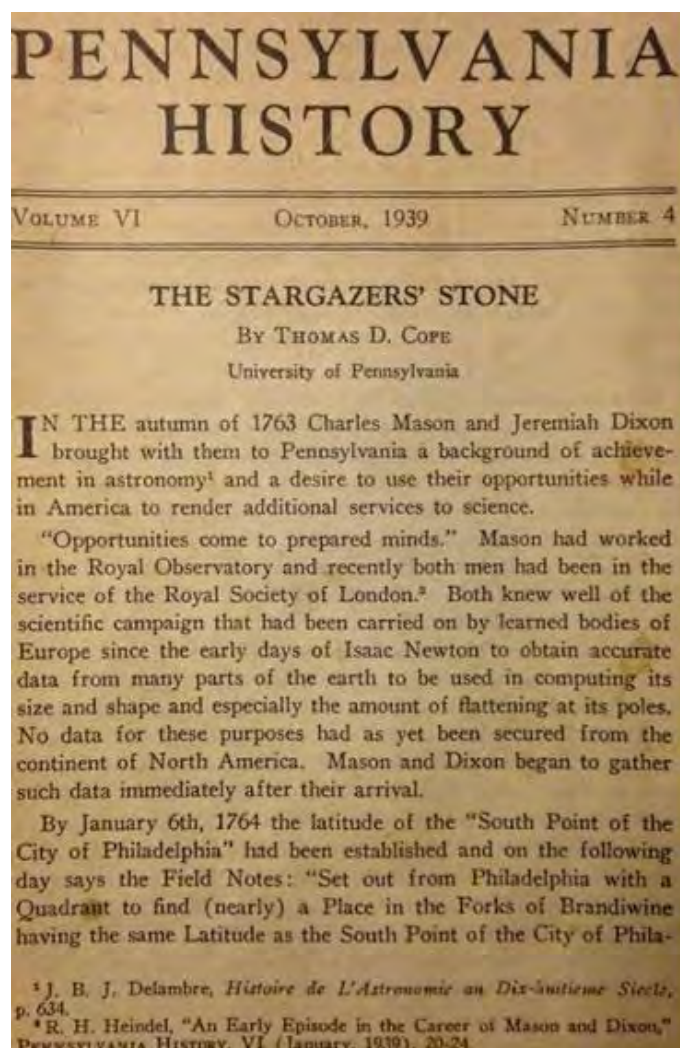
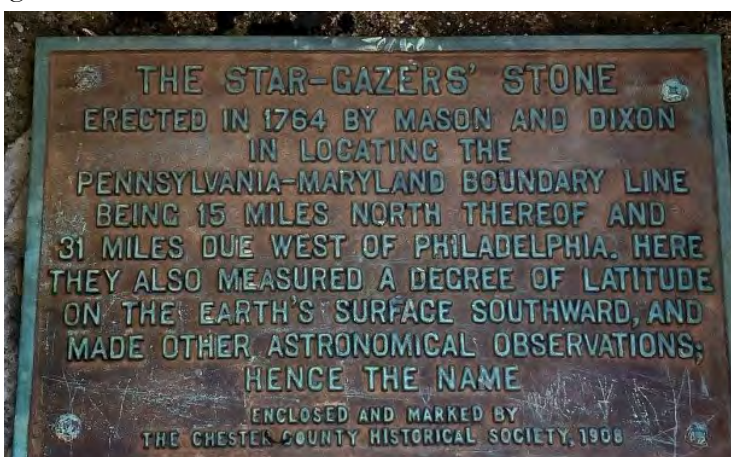
# 5NR Obscura



## Star Gazers' Stone

Star Gazers' Stone located off Stargazers Road in Coatsville, Pa., marks the site of a temporary observatory established in January 1764 by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon where they began their observations of the night sky in the attempt to discern the actual boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland, now known as the Mason-Dixon Line.

The Star Gazers' Stone is an unassuming quartzite rock measuring no more than 18 inches in height, but one that played an outsized role in the political fates of the nation. Some 240 years before the advent of GPS units, Mason and Dixon visited the then-wilds of Chester County to end a bloody, 80-year boundary dispute between Pennsylvania and Maryland. Their survey, which established the official line between the two colonies, stands among the greatest scientific achievements of the time.



# Photos from Across the District



**CAPE MAY, NJ** - A crystal clear night sky and reflection of the water showcase Cape may Flotilla's headquarters decorated for the holidays and the flotilla's 80th anniversary celebration on December 16th.

Coast Guard Auxiliary  
photo by Dave Sedlak



Cape May Flotilla Elects new Bridge

**CAPE MAY, NJ** - Flotilla 08-02 elected their new bridge for 2024. Pictured (L to R) David Sedlak FC, Mike Hamilton IPFC, James Stokes VFC.

Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by  
COMO Joe Giannattasio

# *Helo Night OPS*

*Bill Fithian, Division Staff Officer – Operations*

The Auxiliary supports both Air Station Atlantic City and Small Boat Station Atlantic City for surface and air training activities. A dedicated Auxiliary facility, a 27-foot Boston Whaler UTL or Utility Light-Boat, is scheduled three days per week to assist Air Station Atlantic City Helo Operations for both day and night currency/qualification missions. This includes training for rescue basket deployment from a HH-65C Dolphin Helicopter to a moving target (the Aux facility), along with the UTL maintaining a safety perimeter during rescue swimmer training. The basket deployment includes a direct drop and a trail line drop while the UTL is underway, and a trail line drop with a stationary UTL target.

The photographs were taken during the rescue swimmer safety zone phase of the night operations mission conducted on 03NOV2023.. The Auxiliary members taking part in this mission were: Mark Rubino (Coxswain); Dave Houghton; Rich Sampson; Larry Nolan and Bill Fithian (photographer).



## *Sept 11th Photo Tribute*

*Photographs by Leon C. DeFulgentis, AUXPA3*

The Tribute in Light shines above the skyline of lower Manhattan and One World Trade Center. This year marks the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in New York, captured on a rainy Sunday evening 9/10/23.

Captured along with @heather\_noelle82 & @eyesofj9



## *Flotillas 19-04 and 05 COW*

*Photographs taken by David Blechertas*

Flotillas 19-04 and 19-05 held a joint Change of Watch on December 2nd, 2023. It was held at Millersville University in Millersville, PA.



*Christmas at Sector*  
*Photographs taken by Barbara Sama, ADSO-PB*



# COMMS Center

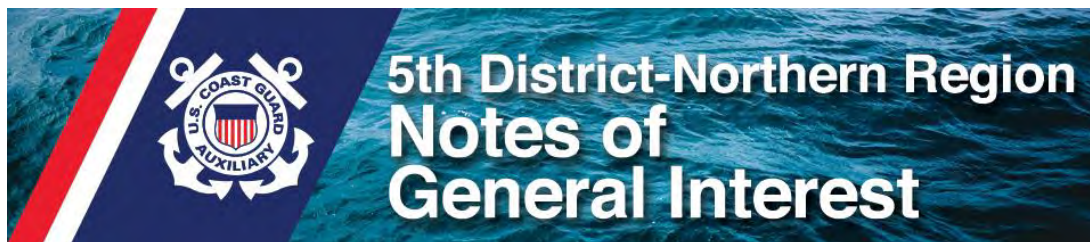
Communications to the  
membership compiled together  
(November 2021-January 2022)



# COMMS CENTER

## NEWS FROM FIFTH DISTRICT-NORTHERN REGION

16JNOV23—SPRING 2024 DTRAIN—SAVE THE DATE



## 2024 Spring DTRAIN!

Save the Date...

5, 6 & 7 April, 2024  
Hilton Wilmington/Christiana,  
100 Continental Drive,  
Newark, Delaware

FROM THE COMMODORE

***Fellow Auxiliarists,***

***Save the Date for our 2024 Spring District Training & Annual Awards Banquet! More details to follow!***

*We are returning to the same location where we had Spring DTRAIN in 2023. The District Board Meeting, open to all members, will be on Friday. Scheduled events for members follow Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday. Expanded course offerings and sessions planning is well under way.*

*You will hear from the U.S. Coast Guard Active Duty about exciting new opportunities for D5NR Auxiliarists at our Saturday Annual Awards Banquet.*

*I am encouraging every District member to plan on joining us for the entire DTRAIN weekend, or at least for a day. Your time will be well invested, you are certain to have a great time and will gain valuable knowledge and some terrific new friends. Be sure to catch up with me to have a chat!*

*Looking forward to seeing you at DTRAIN!  
Semper Paratus!*



Commodore Kurt P. Sarac, Sr.,  
District Commodore  
Fifth District-Northern Region  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary





## Same Location as Spring 2023 DTRAIN!

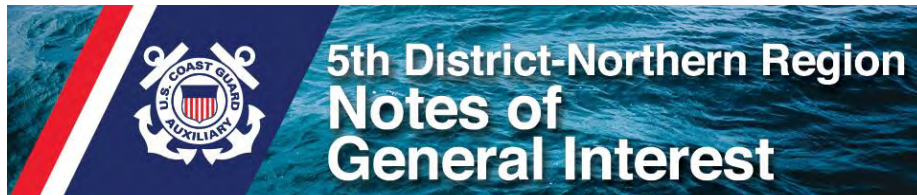
The **Hilton Christiana/Wilmington** in Delaware has been entirely renovated. The facility is very nice and the staff and management are eager to host our event to the best of their ability.

###

End of Newsletter



NOGI 15NOV23. Sec Del Bay Help Wanted—Special Office Projects



## USCG Help Wanted Sector Delaware Bay



**Assist  
Sec Del Bay OTO  
with Special Office  
Projects**

### Operational Training Officer Assistance

**CG Unit/shop requesting support:** DIRAUX Office at Sector Delaware Bay

**of duties:** Assist OTO with various projects

**Skillsets/qualifications needed:** Experience and knowledge of operations/QEs helpful.

Competent writing skills & good attitude.

**Number of Auxiliarists needed:** 1 – 2

**Timeline/duration/frequency:** Weekly—many projects can be done remotely. Potential for mileage reimbursement.

**Point of Contact:**

CWO4 Mickey Price. [Mickey.t.price@uscg.mil](mailto:Mickey.t.price@uscg.mil)

**Relocate Interior Door**

**CG Unit/shop requesting support:** DIRAUX Office at Sector Delaware Bay

**Description of duties:** Relocate steel frame door in sheetrock / metal stud wall.

**Timeline/duration/frequency:** One-time project. Materials and meals provided, potential for mileage reimbursement.

**Point of Contact:**

CWO4 Mickey Price. [Mickey.t.price@uscg.mil](mailto:Mickey.t.price@uscg.mil)

**Here's your chance!!**



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End of Notice



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## Veterans Day Message | 11NOV23



*As we express our gratitude,  
we must never forget  
that the highest appreciation  
is not to utter words,  
but to live by them.*

-John Fitzgerald Kennedy

On this Veterans Day, over twenty-five million veterans are living with us. These men and women selflessly served for our nation's liberty setting aside their civilian lives.

Let us recognize the sacrifices made by our military members so that we can have a safer life and live with the freedom that we are privileged to have. No amount of recognition can be enough to honor them. Let us offer our sincerest gratitude and most solemn prayers for them and their loved ones.

Some people live their whole lives wondering if they ever made a difference in the world, but veterans don't have that problem.

To all of our veterans from all of us in Fifth District-Northern Region, thank you for your service and your sacrifices today and every day.



***Semper Paratus!***

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kurt P. Sarac, Sr.".

Commodore Kurt P. Sarac, Sr.,  
District Commodore  
Fifth District-Northern Region  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

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###

End of Notice





**23 OCT 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 038/23

**Subj: CREDIT FOR QUALIFICATIONS OF HONORABLY DISCHARGED AND/OR RETIRED COAST GUARD MILITARY PERSONNEL**

1. Section 4 of ALAUX 015/23 approved credit for the training and qualifications of honorably discharged and/or retired Coast Guard military personnel who enroll in the Auxiliary. The credit applies to any three-year period between a Coast Guard military person's last currency and their Auxiliary enrollment after they separate from service.

2. To clarify boating safety course and Auxiliary Core Training (AUXCT) completion requirements, Section 4.c.(1)(b) of ALAUX 015/23 is changed to read as follows:

“(b) The requirement for successful completion of an approved boating safety course and most Auxiliary Core Training (AUXCT) courses may be waived by the DIRAUX for the purpose of conveying any qualification listed in the table below. The BQII course may not be waived. If the boating safety course and AUXCT courses are waived, and the BQII course is completed, the DIRAUX may then place the Auxiliarist in Basically Qualified (BQ) status and make appropriate notes of waiver in AUXDATA II.”

3. This change clarifies that completion of an approved boating safety course along with any AUXCT courses except the BQII course may be waived by the DIRAUX for the subject personnel.

4. ALAUX 015/23 also approved credit for the Auxiliary Instructor competency to be applied to a full-time instructor at any Coast Guard training center. That credit is expanded to apply to a current Coast Guard Team Coordination Training (CG TCT) Facilitator who falls within the three-year period. Section 4.c.(1)(b)9. is changed as follows:

	<b>If Possessing This Coast Guard Qualification / Rating</b>	<b>Then May Be Granted This Auxiliary Qualification / Status</b>
9	Full-time instructor at any CG training center; CG TCT Facilitator	Instructor

5. Internet release is authorized.



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**NOTICE: Heightened Situational Awareness**



**SAFETY NOTICE**

## **To All Fifth District-Northern Region Auxiliary Members**

### **Until Further Notice Safety Precautions In Effect**

Relative to the current high level of tensions in our geopolitical world, we are advising members to increase your situational awareness for your personal safety.

#### **Uniforms**

Please exercise caution in the wearing of Auxiliary uniforms in public. While no direct threats have been received, our Team Coast Guard uniforms could be targeted for hostile actions. We ask you to use good judgement to wear your uniforms safely.

Consider wearing civilian clothes when traveling to and from duty assignments or meetings. Increase your situational

awareness at all times—particularly when in uniform. Avoid large gatherings—especially protests or solidarity events—even if they are anti-violence in nature.

### **Report Suspicious Activity Immediately**

If you become aware of potentially aggressive or threatening behavior, or witness unusual activities, report any information immediately to the authorities or base security.

### **Your Safety Is Paramount**

This notice is being given to help assure the safety of all members, their families and the public we serve.

*Semper Paratus!*



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kurt P. Sarac, Sr.".

Commodore Kurt P. Sarac, Sr.,  
District Commodore  
Fifth District-Northern Region  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

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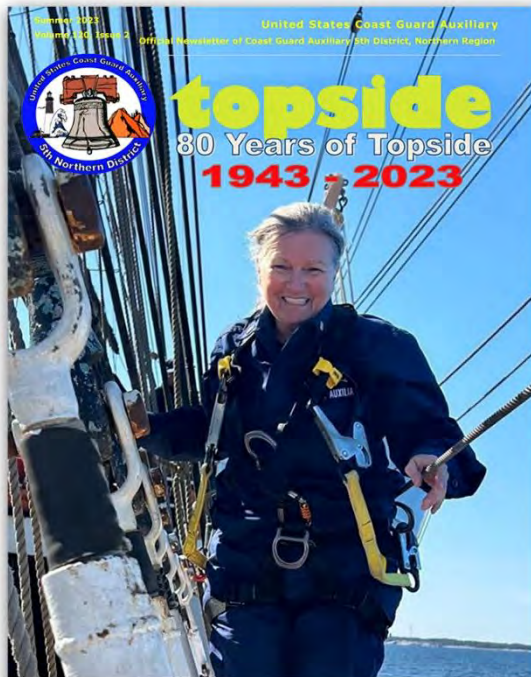
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End of Notice



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**Summer 2023 Topside, Notice: All Hands Meeting**  
**09OCT23**



## **For An Informative Read...**

**The Summer 2023 Edition is now online**

Topside is the Fifth District-Northern Region's premier magazine/newsletter that is celebrating its 80th year. After you check out the [latest edition](#), read the interesting stories from over the last 80 years. The edition includes information from around the district highlighting members and member activities.

Be sure to check out the entire 80 years of this great Auxiliary history found in District Publications in the [Topside Archives](#) found on the [5nr.org](#) website.

## AUXILIARY LEADERSHIP LINK

### **L2** Auxiliary Leadership Link



#### **Digest of Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity**

**Dated: 08 NOV 2023**

**To: All Auxiliarists**

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. 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.

Very respectfully,

Agostino "Gus" Formato,

National Commodore

## **L2** Auxiliary Leadership Link



### **The Journal of Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity**

**7 NOV2023**

#### **To All Auxiliarists**

During November 2023 AUXDATA II will be updated to enhance and simplify the Member Competency Task management system. Although AUXDATA II will remain available during the update, users may experience temporary non-availability of tasks.

The update process is expected to be initiated within the first two weeks of November. Users will see an informational message below their name on the AUXDATA II home screen to alert them when the updates are in progress.

Additional information detailing the updates will be provided to the Information Services (IS) officers and posted on the IT User Support & Services Directorate website.



## **L2** Auxiliary Leadership Link



### **The Journal of Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity**

**4 NOV 2023**

#### **To All Auxiliarists**

"RBS: Volume 9, Issue 2 - Your U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary resource for Recreational Boating Safety is now accessible online. Inside, you'll discover valuable insights catering to anyone passionate about enhancing Recreational Boating Safety. This edition showcases various articles covering various Recreational Boating Safety topics, providing you with essential knowledge."

- Do You Know Your District Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program Specialist?
- Protecting Your Boat and Health: Understanding Moisture and Carbon Monoxide Risks
- The RBS Program Visitor: More Than Meets the Eye
- Complacency
- Situational Awareness Is for Everyone
- 16 Watch Outs for Auxiliary Boat Crews
- The Magnetic Compass
- 2022 Commodore Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education
- They Don't Call it "Flotzilla" for Nothing
- Enhancing Boating Safety: Digital Selective Calling and Maritime Mobile Service Identity
- Understanding the Difference: Vessel Safety Check vs. Uninspected Passenger Vessel Inspection
- Last Words

We encourage all members to read this issue. Email us at [rbs-job1-publication-team@cgauxnet.us](mailto:rbs-job1-publication-team@cgauxnet.us) if you have an article or photograph to submit. Send us questions or comments you want addressed in the following publication.

Click here to view this edition:

[RBS Job 1 October, 2023](#)



## **L2** Auxiliary Leadership Link

### **The Digest of Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity**

**TO: All Auxiliarists**  
**Dated: 3 NOV2023**



## **Auxiliary Safety Climate Survey**

Fellow Auxiliarists,

You should have received an L2 Leadership Link Message via e-mail recently from the National Commodore discussing a Culture of Safety. He outlined the rationale and importance of asking you, our members, about your perceptions of safety in the Auxiliary.

To help learn about the current state of our safety culture, the Coast Guard Office of Safety, and the Auxiliary, working together, have prepared a safety survey to assess member perceptions of safety in the Auxiliary. This e-mail contains the link to that survey.

The work of the Auxiliary covers a very wide range of activities, so we request that you think through each question in the context of the work that you most typically perform. You are invited to add specific examples, personal observations or comments in the provided text box. Your thoughts will be particularly helpful.

You will be able to change your responses until you finish the survey. When you select "Submit" on the last page, the survey will close, and you will no longer be able to change your responses or view the survey. The survey is hosted on the Google Forms platform. There is no need to sign in to Google to take the survey.

The survey is voluntary, and responses are anonymous. No one will make any effort to associate your responses with your identity. This gives you an opportunity to provide candid feedback in an anonymous forum.

Thank you for your important contributions to assessing the current Auxiliary safety climate. The results will be made available after the responses have been collected and analyzed.

Very respectfully,

The Auxiliary National Safety Board

To take the Auxiliary Safety Climate Survey, please click this link. The survey will open in your browser. [Auxiliary Safety Climate Survey \(Beta Test V 2.0\) \(google.com\)](#)



## L2

### Auxiliary Leadership Link

#### The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

Dated: October 4, 2023

To: All Auxiliarists



### Introducing the New "Water N' Kids" Youth Course and Toolkit from the Public Education Directorate

We are pleased to announce the launch of an exciting youth water safety class, called "Water N' Kids" designed to enhance safety, skills, and knowledge for students ages 8 to 10 years (third and fourth grade). Developed by the Public Education Directorate, this course includes many support templates to help instructors contact schools, teachers, parent information, a general lesson plan, and more for those instructors who want to expand their flotilla's course offerings.

"Water N' Kids" is designed to teach basic water safety topics to young students. There are 12 items in the tool kit, including:

- Sample Elementary School Letter
- Sample Elementary School Thank You Letter
- Sample High School Letter
- Sample High School Class Flyer (Boat America)
- Sample High School Thank You Letter
- Sample Youth Course Water N' Kids Flyer
- Student Course Completion Certificate (Fillable)
- Classroom Course Completion Certificate (Fillable)
- Water N' Kids Certificate Letter to Parents
- Summary Lesson Plan for Instructors
- Water N' Kids Instructor Notes (PDF)
- Water N' Kids PowerPoint Presentation

What topics are included in this course?

- Swimming safely.
- Rip currents.
- Wearing life jackets
- Basic boating safety.
- Clean environment

Getting our instructors into school classrooms will provide a tremendous growth opportunity in boating safety. Not only can we affect the current generation of boaters, but also their families and the next generation. *Water N' Kids* can be the shining example of "a child shall lead. Please go to the E-Directorate website to download *Water N' Kids* and join the mission to help educate our school community.

Click here for course content: [Course Content](#)

Click Here for what's new: [What's New](#)



## L2

### Auxiliary Leadership Link

#### The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

Dated: October 4, 2023

To: All Auxiliarists



### Announcing the Recipient of the 2022 Commodore Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education

The Public Education Directorate is pleased to announce the selection of Auxiliarist Gary R. Bowerman of Seventh District, Flotilla 59 in Stuart, Florida, as the 2022 Commodore Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education awardee.

Auxiliarist Joseph M. Antonaccio of First District-Southern Region, Flotilla 24 in Keyport, New Jersey, Auxiliarist Virginia A. Suda of Ninth District Eastern, Flotilla 75 in Five North Cleveland, Ohio, and Auxiliarist Grant W. Graves of Eleventh District Southern Region, Flotilla 12-4 in Los Angeles, California are also congratulated for being selected as the Regional winners from Atlantic East, Atlantic West, and Pacific Regions respectively. They demonstrate exemplary instructor performance and an outstanding spirit of service to members of the public and Coast Guard Auxiliary members.

The Commodore Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education was established to motivate and inspire the entire Instructor cadre to reach beyond the comfortable or ordinary to achieve the extraordinary. Some of the goals of the Award are to increase the diversity of courses offered by flotillas and additional numbers of classes offered; to improve Public Education and Member Training Instructor effectiveness and performance; to improve mentorship of newer or lesser experienced Instructors; to develop new and innovative teaching methods and techniques; and to develop new and innovative teaching aids.

Auxiliarist Bowerman enrolled in the Auxiliary in January 2010 and has significantly increased the reach and effectiveness of public education classes. Demonstrating an unwavering commitment to continuous

improvement and innovation, he adapted several national seminar courses to fit the local audience, focusing on youth education. He piloted a “Kids N Safety” seminar encompassing 290 hours of instruction, resulting in over 175 graduates. His laser focus on boating safety included mentoring new instructors and leveraging his participation in the Vessel Examination and Program Visitation missions to spread the boating safety message. Recognizing that the key to reducing boating fatalities and accidents requires a vigorous effort to educate the boating public, he dedicated more than 52 hours in 2022 toward public education and training other Auxiliarists. His peers, local community leaders, and public safety officials recognize him as an expert in water safety, resulting in high demand to get into his classes.

Click on: [Information Here](#) to review the Commodore Daniel Maxim Award information, as well as previously submitted winning nomination packages and even sample awards for local nominees.



## L2

### Auxiliary **Leadership Link**

#### The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

September 30, 2023

To: All Auxiliarists



Good day All,

A new and updated combined workbook/PQS has been created for PA3, PA2, and PA1 qualifications. The February 2016 versions of the PA3, PA2, and PA1 PQSs will be accepted through 31 March 2024. Oral board interviews for members completing the February 2016 PQSs must be completed no later than 31 March 2024. Members who have yet to begin their PA qualification must start their qualification process using the October 2023 versions of the PQSs.

The workbook can be found here: [New PA Workbook](#)

Very Respectfully,

Barry Denton, DIR-A

US Coast Guard Auxiliary



# L2

## Auxiliary Leadership Link

### The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

15 September 2023

Importance: High

To: All Auxiliarists



### Notice of Availability of Expedited Payment Process for Travel and Other Expenses Through Third-Party Vendor Bill.Com

The Commandant recognizes the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc. (AuxA) as the entity established by the National Board of the Coast Guard Auxiliary to manage all fiscal matters and fundraising efforts in support of Auxiliary activities not funded by the Coast Guard. Certain travel expenses incurred by members of the Auxiliary while traveling pursuant to authorization issued by the AuxA are reimbursed by the AuxA. The AuxA also, from time to time, may reimburse Auxiliarists for other expenses incurred in the performance of authorized Auxiliary activities.

In order to expedite the reimbursement process, the AuxA contracted with a third-party standalone accounting service, Bill.Com. to issue the reimbursement checks as directed by the AuxA. The vendor must receive certain personally identifiable information (PII) from the AuxA regarding Auxiliarists in order to effect reimbursement through the issuance of paper checks. Those checks will be mailed to the recipient through the United States Postal Service. The AuxA advises that the only PII of the member provided to the vendor will be the member's name, email address, and mailing address as they appear in Coast Guard Auxiliary records.

The Chief Director approved the AuxA's use of this service provided that members who do not wish to have their PII shared with this vendor may opt-out by sending an email to the AuxA indicating their preference. That email should be addressed to: [finance@cgauxa.org](mailto:finance@cgauxa.org). Opting out of this program may lead to moderately extended reimbursement processing times. Members are encouraged to review the vendor's privacy notice: [BILL Privacy Notice](#) and privacy policy: [BILL Spend & Expense Privacy Policy | BILL](#) before determining whether to exercise their right to opt-out.

Only travel that is reimbursable by the AuxA is affected by this notice. Travel under Coast Guard orders and reimbursement by Coast Guard FINCEN is handled in-house and is not affected.

Very respectfully,  
"Gus" Formato, National Commodore  
US Coast Guard Auxiliary



# L2

## Auxiliary Leadership Link

### The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

To: All Auxiliarists

Dated: September 12, 2023



#### THE NATIONAL COMMODORE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY Agostino "Gus" Formato

Dear Shipmates,

NACON unfortunately came to an abrupt end due to COVID last month in Orlando. Prior to the decision to safeguard our members and cancel activities, it was a wonderful gathering of shipmates to train, collaborate, and chart our future course.

We have made great strides in Diversity and Inclusion within our organization, as evidenced by over 46% of all units receiving the NACO Three Star Award for Excellence in Diversity. We are rolling out an ILEAD program to all districts and developed a National Commodores Inclusive Advisory Group in addition to new and updated Diversity and Inclusion curriculum. We are confident that diversity and inclusion will strengthen us as an organization. We believe it will improve us in becoming ready, relevant, and responsive units that transition and adapt to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As such, it will also assist in our recruiting and retention goals.

At NTRAIN in March, we voted to make the Diversity Award, as noted in the Auxiliary Manual, an annual award. It recognizes "the most exemplary performance in the field of diversity." The award and the submission process are noted on pages 545-546 (11-19 to 11-20) of the Auxiliary Manual. Nominations will be accepted throughout the month of September and may come from any level within our organization.

We encourage all leaders and members to disseminate this information, evaluate your fellow shipmates' contributions to Diversity and Inclusion goals, and, if appropriate, submit an application.

Our goal is to recognize not only those units that receive the NACO Three Star Award for Excellence in Diversity Management, but deserving individuals as well.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Gus Formato--NACO



# L2

## Auxiliary Leadership Link

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

6 SEPT 2023 Edition

To: All Auxiliarists



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.

Very respectfully,

Agostino "Gus" Formato,

National Commodore  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



# L2

## Auxiliary Leadership Link

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity  
22AUG 2023 Edition

To: All Auxiliarists



### Guidance on the Reimbursement of Expenses for Those Attending NACON 2023 Shortened Due to the Spread of COVID-19

All persons who paid the NACON registration fee or purchased tickets for any of the group meals (Friday Night Fun Night dinner, National Association of Commodores (NAC) Luncheon, Commodore's Saturday Night Banquet) will receive refunds of those purchases directly from the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc (CGAuxA). It is not necessary to take any action to claim those refunds. If paid online, the refund will go to the credit card(s) used for the purchase(s). If paid by check or other method of payment, the CGAuxA will refund those purchases by check.

Members who received a Travel Reimbursement Authorization (Form CGAuxA-1) should submit their claim for reimbursement of the usual travel expenses to the CGAuxA on Form CGAuxA-3, or CGAuxA-3A, as appropriate, within 7 days of returning home. Charges imposed by the airlines for rebooking flights caused by truncating NACON will also be reimbursed; please be sure to include supporting documentation from the airline showing those charges. When submitting your travel claim it is not necessary to request reimbursement for the NACON registration fee or the group meals identified above, as stated, those payments will be refunded automatically. If you have already submitted your travel claim and included a claim for the registration fee and group meal expenses, those amounts will be reimbursed separately and not be included in the travel claim allowance.

Please refer all questions to the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association's finance team at [finance@cgauxa.org](mailto:finance@cgauxa.org).

Very respectfully,

"Gus" Formato, National Commodore,

US Coast Guard Auxiliary



# L2

## Auxiliary Leadership Link

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity  
12 AUG 2023 Edition

To: All Auxiliarists



## SECOND QUARTER NAVIGATOR EXPRESS AVAILABLE [ONLINE](#) NOW!

The Auxiliary's quarterly e-magazine [Navigator Express 2nd Quarter 2023](#) Edition is now available! Wrapping up a successful boating season and National Safe Boating Week, this edition highlights the Auxiliary's nationwide participation. Learn about our stories:

- 2023 National Safe Boating Week
- AUXPAD Training in District 1NR
- 50 Years as an Auxiliarist
- From Florida to Antarctica
- 9/11 Response in Alaska
- Pride Month Highlight
- Cape May's 80th Anniversary
- President's Volunteer Service Award
- Sea Scouts Medal of Merit
- Understanding the Mission
- Heartland Blues 2023

Click [here](#) to access the online edition.



## L2

### Auxiliary Leadership Link

The digest of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

1 AUG 2023



The correct URL to the Introduction of the New Personal Watercraft (PWC) Seminar Course from the Public Education Directorate is:

[PWC Seminar URL](#)

This corrected URL takes you to the Seminar Course which is exciting and comprehensive, designed to enhance safety, skills, and knowledge for PWC enthusiasts. Developed by the Public Education Directorate in consultation with PWC experts, this seminar course is designed for instructors who want to expand their flotilla's course offerings.

This course is designed to teach participants the basics of safe PWC operation, including:

- How to operate a PWC in a variety of conditions
- How to avoid accidents and injuries
- How to be a courteous and responsible PWC operator

What's new about this seminar course?

- Emphasis on safety, ensuring a safe and enjoyable PWC experience.
- Expertly crafted comprehensive curriculum with updated and enhanced graphics and videos.
- Environmental awareness that emphasizes the importance of environmental conservation and educates participants about the potential impact of PWCs on marine ecosystems.
- Updated legal and regulatory information to keep students informed and compliant.
- Certification: Upon successfully completing the course, the student will take a short exam to determine proficiency in the material and receive a completion certificate



# L2 Auxiliary Leadership Link



## The Journal of Coast Guard Auxiliary Activity

**Dated: 22 NOV 2023**

**To: All Auxiliarists**

### When Members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary May Wear the Coast Guard Auxiliary Uniform

Good day shipmates,

From time to time questions arise with respect to when wearing the Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform is authorized. The Auxiliary Manual at chapter 1 section A.4.a provides that “Uniforms shall be worn as prescribed in Coast Guard Uniform Regulations, COMDTINST M1020.6 (series), except as noted in Chapter 10.” The policies at chapter 10 of the Auxiliary Manual and subsequent guidance documents contain the policies that instruct as to what uniforms we may wear, how they are to be worn, and when they may be worn.

The overarching Coast Guard policy is that an Auxiliarist may only wear the Auxiliary uniform when assigned to duty. The Auxiliary Manual provides some examples of when Auxiliary uniform wear is prohibited, but whether or not specifically prohibited, uniform wear is only authorized when assigned to duty.

“Assignment to duty” is addressed in the Auxiliary Manual at chapter 5 section J. as follows:

“The Commandant employs the services of qualified Auxiliarists in support of various Coast Guard programs. To this end, specific Auxiliary activities are authorized in support of Auxiliary programs or Coast Guard units. An Auxiliarist performing such duties is considered to have been assigned to duty within the meaning of 14 U.S.C. [§§3912 and 3903a] when these activities have been authorized and clearly communicated verbally and/or in writing by appropriate authority.”

The Auxiliary Manual, other manuals, guidance documents, SOPs, Letters and Instructions, are all “writings” that may function to assign us to duty. Written or oral orders are not necessarily required to be assigned to duty, although for certain Auxiliary activities, (e.g. surface or air operations), orders from an authorized Order Issuing Authority (OIA) are mandatory for assignment to duty.

An Auxiliarist is assigned to duty when 3 prerequisites are satisfied:

- The Auxiliarist is engaged in an activity in support of an authorized Auxiliary program.
- The Auxiliarist is qualified to engage in that activity in accordance with CG or CG Auxiliary policy.
- The Auxiliarist is performing the activity in conformity with applicable CG or CG Auxiliary policy (i.e. the Auxiliarist is acting within the scope of duty).

When those three criteria are met, then, and only then, the Auxiliarist is assigned to duty. Also, it is only then, that an Auxiliarist is deemed an employee of the United States, and eligible for the federal statutory protections described more fully by the Auxiliary Manual at chapter 5 section J.

Many examples of authorized activities are given at Table 5-1 on page 5-50 of the Auxiliary Manual, but given the “Semper Gumby” nature of the Coast Guard and Auxiliary, that list is by no means intended to be all-inclusive.

Chapter 10 section A of the Auxiliary Manual specifically authorizes wear of the Auxiliary uniform as follows:

- Auxiliarists onboard vessel facilities during an ordered mission and Auxiliarists involved with mobile radio facility operations and shore-side harbor patrols.
- Vessel Examiners conducting vessel safety checks.
- Pilots, air observers, and aircrew on ordered missions in aircraft facilities.
- All instructors (IT) and assistant ITs in public education classes.
- Auxiliarists serving as Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitors.
- Auxiliarists travelling on any Coast Guard or military air or surface craft if so prescribed by the local commander.
- Auxiliarists for whom an Order Issuing Authority (OIA) has prescribed an Auxiliary uniform as a condition for assignment to duty.
- Auxiliarists interacting with, acting on behalf of, or representing the unit when assigned to duty
- Auxiliarists when performing duty on a Coast Guard vessel.
- Wearing an appropriate Auxiliary uniform by active or retired Auxiliarists for formal and ceremonial occasions events with a military or Auxiliary nexus that require formal wear.
- During military ceremonies such as retirements, changes of command, funerals, patriotic parades on national holidays or occasions in which active or Reserve personnel are taking part or social and other functions when the invitation has been influenced by the member’s military service.
- At civilian, military, and Auxiliary ceremonies and events that are clearly military service-centric in nature (e.g.,military changes of command; Auxiliary changes of watch; military and Auxiliary retirements; Coast Guard Foundation dinners; local community banquets in honor of military services; patriotic parades on national holidays; funerals of military veterans and Auxiliarists) and which require a uniform.
- Certain formal Auxiliary events like changes of watch, conferences, and banquets recognized as falling within the general scope of military ceremony.

Uniform wear is prohibited unless specifically authorized, but as noted, there are certain occasions when uniform wear is specifically prohibited by the Auxiliary Manual, including:

- In places of dubious reputation where the uniform might be discredited or disgraced.
- When engaged in political activities.

- During paid employment or sports.
- Aboard an Auxiliary vessel or aircraft facility unless the facility is on an authorized patrol.
- Entry to or while present in a foreign country or territory unless specifically authorized by an appropriate Coast Guard authority.

Authorization may be granted in the following cases:

- A scheduled patrol or deployment that might enter foreign territories.
- An authorized SAR mission involving foreign borders or territories.
- Deployment or guest status aboard a Coast Guard cutter or aircraft that enters foreign territory.
- Visiting a foreign country as an Auxiliarist on official business.

Except as authorized in the Auxiliary Manual, Auxiliary uniforms may not be worn for any personal ceremony or event (e.g., an Auxiliarist may not wear an Auxiliary uniform for their own wedding, college graduation, vacation, etc.).

Auxiliarists may not wear any distinctive part of the uniform or official Auxiliary insignia with civilian clothing when not assigned to duty. This includes Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that is marked with wording that includes, "USCG Auxiliary" or any version thereof (e.g., life jackets, cold weather gear).

If ever in doubt, before donning the uniform, seek guidance from your elected unit leader.

Semper Paratus

Very respectfully,

Agostino "Gus" Formato, National Commodore

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

# NATIONAL NOTICES



15 NOV 2023  
FM: CHDIRAUX  
TO: ALAUX  
ALAUX 041/23

Subj: POSTING OF AUXILIARY NATIONAL C-SCHOOL CALENDAR

- 
1. The Auxiliary National C-School calendar for Fiscal Year 2024 has been posted at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=aux00>. Members can now submit a Short-Term Training Request (STTR, form ANSC-7059; <https://forms.cgaux.org/archive/a7059.pdf>) in accordance with the form's instructions and associated Auxiliary district policy. As training dates occasionally shift, members are encouraged to check the calendar periodically for changes that occur throughout the year.
  2. Please note that funded training quotas are more limited than in previous years, so submitting a STTR early will increase a member's chances of getting a funded seat. Any member that wants to attend an Auxiliary C-school on unfunded orders issued by their District Director of Auxiliary must first check with the listed course Point of Contact (POC) to make sure there is space to accommodate such a request.
  3. Any questions about a course can be answered by checking the C-School Student Support Sites. The links to the sites are located at the bottom of the page at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=aux00>. A member can also contact the course POC directly using the contact information provided on the Auxiliary National C-School calendar.
  4. Internet release is authorized.





**08 NOV 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 040/23

Subj: COAST GUARD AUXILIARY EMERGENCY MANAGER AWARD AND CREDENTIAL BOARD RESULTS

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Auxiliarist Matthew Hammons of the Eighth District Coastal Region was selected as the 2023 International Association of Emergency Managers Uniformed Services Caucus (IAEM-USC) Auxiliary Manager of the Year. In addition, Auxiliarist Eddie Puckett of the Eighth District Eastern Region has achieved the Emergency Management Branch Assistant Credential. The two attached ALCOAST's recently announced these selections. Congratulations to Auxiliarist Hammons and Auxiliarist Puckett! Bravo Zulu!

Respectfully,  
Captain Troy P. Glendye  
Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX)

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\*\*\*For many reasons including the value of keeping communication lines clear and open as well as facilitating access to training and educational tools, all Auxiliarists are urged to have their own email address and to keep it updated in AUXDATA II.\*\*\*

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\*All ALAUX's are posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary web site located at: [CHDIRAUX ALAUX](#)

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If you have a question regarding this ALAUX, please seek resolution within your Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) including up to your servicing District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX). If your question still cannot be resolved after that, then please email [CGAUX@uscg.mil](mailto:CGAUX@uscg.mil).

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- [410-23 ALCOAST-2023 IAEM USC AND AUXILIARY EMERGENCY MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD.pdf](#)
- [438-23 ALCOAST-OCTOBER 2023 COAST GUARD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CREDENTIAL BOARD RESULTS.pdf](#)





**08 NOV 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 039/23

**Subj: 2022 COAST GUARD AUXILIARY AVIATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE  
RECIPIENT**

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Auxiliarist Judith Redlawsk of the Fifth District-Southern Region is the 2022 Coast Guard Auxiliary Aviation Award of Excellence recipient. The attached ALCOAST recently announced this selection. Congratulations to Auxiliarist Redlawsk and fellow Auxiliarists who earned honorable mention! Bravo Zulu!

Respectfully,  
Captain Troy P. Glendye  
Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX)

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- [441-23 ALCOAST 2022 COAST GUARD AUXILIARY AVIATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENT.pdf](#)





**04 OCT 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 037/23

Subj: **NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH**

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1. October 2023 is the twentieth annual National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Since 2004, the President of the United States and Congress have declared October to be National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, helping individuals and organizations protect themselves online as threats to technology and confidential data become more commonplace. All Auxiliarists are strongly encouraged to remain vigilant against cybersecurity threats and to actively apply strong countermeasures in their personal and Auxiliary activities.

2. In 2022, the average data breach cost grew to \$4.45 million per attack. That is a 15% jump over the past three years. Further, it takes an average of 277 days to identify and contain a data breach according to a report released by IBM. The Anti-Phishing Working Group, an international coalition of counter-cybercrime responders, reported that it observed 3 million phishing attacks in the third quarter of 2022, the most ever tracked in a three-month period. Cyber-attacks on supply chains continued to grow, with a projection by Gartner, a technological research and consulting firm, indicating that 45% of organizations worldwide will have experienced cyber-attacks on their supply chains by 2025, a three-fold increase from 2021. Threats like these are prevalent and dangerous, and it is critical that we all take the necessary steps to prevent an attack.

3. This year's Cybersecurity Awareness Month campaign theme - "Secure Our World" - focuses on our increasingly connected world where more of our sensitive information is online. Online convenience comes with risks. Each of us has a part to play in adopting cybersecurity habits and improved online safety behaviors to keep ourselves and others safe whether at work, home, school, or in the Auxiliary. The following four practices are highly effective methods to achieve a strong cybersecurity posture:

- Use Strong Passwords
- Enable Multi-Factor Authentication
- Keep Your Software Updated
- Recognize and Report Phishing

4. More details on these as well as other cybersecurity guidance and best practices are available in the updated U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Cybersecurity Awareness presentation. To view the presentation and other guides, [click here](#).

5. Internet release is authorized.





**03 OCT 2023**

**FM: CHDIRAUX**

**TO: ALAUX**

**ALAUX 036/23**

**Subj: AUXILIARY UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE POLICY LETTER**

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1. The Chief Director of Auxiliary (CHDIRAUX) has issued BSX Policy Letter 23-02. It promulgates Auxiliary uniform and appearance policy changes stemming from the pilot program conducted in the Auxiliary's First District - Southern Region (D1-SR) and Eighth District – Coastal Region (D8-CR) from 01 October 2021 to 31 December 2022.
2. Policy Letter 23-02 can be found on the CHDIRAUX website: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP>, and a summary of its major changes can be found in its promulgation memo. Changes address a broad range of uniform provisions in the Auxiliary Manual (Commandant Instruction Manual 16790.1 (series)) including grooming, various uniform components, and institutionalization of the Alternative Work Uniform (AWU) as an Auxiliary work uniform. These changes are effective immediately except for the new annual uniform inspection requirement which shall be effective starting with CY 2024.
3. Internet release is authorized.





**19 SEP 2023**

**FM: CHDIRAUX**

**TO: ALAUX**

**ALAUX 035/23**

**Subj: FY24 AUXDATA II PATROL ORDER GUIDANCE**

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1. Please review the guidance below for FY24 patrol orders in AUXDATA II (ADII).
  - a. The Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget will start at 0000 hours on 01 October 2023.
  - b. Any patrol order being conducted on or after 0000 hours on 01 October 2023 will fall under the FY24 budget for funding.
  - c. Auxiliary members and Order Issuing Authorities (OIA) are reminded to continue to work on closing out FY23 patrol orders in accordance with ALAUX 028/23.
  - d. Any FY23 "Approved" patrol order with "No Activities" dated greater than 45 days old, will be "Cancelled".
  - e. The Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX), Office of Budget Execution (CG-83), and the Salesforce ADII team are in the process of updating ADII for patrol order processing under the FY24 budget.
  - f. Starting on or after 01 October 2023 through 14 October 2023 or until the Financial System Modernization Solution (FSMS) is funded to allow patrol orders through ADII, verbal authorization for patrol orders is authorized in accordance with the Auxiliary Operations Process Guide: Volume I, AOPG 16798.31 (series) as directed by the District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX). OIA's must verify verbal authorization from their respective DIRAUX before issuing verbal orders.
  - g. After 01 October 2023, Auxiliary members receiving verbal authorizations for a patrol order by the OIA must start a "NEW" patrol order in ADII and must add the following comments in the "Request Description" field: "Verbal authorization issued by the OIA on Insert Date here."
  - h. Patrol requests for FY24 in "Requested" status, already entered in ADII, will be "Denied".
  - i. Existing patrol orders for FY24 in "Approved" status, already entered in ADII, will be "Cancelled".
2. The Coast Guard Comptroller recently released ALCGFINANCE 026/23, Subj: FY23 CLOSEOUT GUIDANCE. This message guidance forecasts that FSMS will open for new FY24 business to all end users on October 14th.
3. CG-BSX will continue to update messaging on FY24 budgeting and ADII as it comes available.
4. Internet release is authorized.





**19 SEP 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 035/23

Subj: **FY24 AUXDATA II PATROL ORDER GUIDANCE**

- 
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    - h. Patrol requests for FY24 in "Requested" status, already entered in ADII, will be "Denied".
    - i. Existing patrol orders for FY24 in "Approved" status, already entered in ADII, will be "Cancelled".
  2. The Coast Guard Comptroller recently released ALCGFINANCE 026/23, Subj: FY23 CLOSEOUT GUIDANCE. This message guidance forecasts that FSMS will open for new FY24 business to all end users on October 14th.
  3. CG-BSX will continue to update messaging on FY24 budgeting and ADII as it comes available.
  4. Internet release is authorized.





14 SEP 2023  
FM: CHDIRAUX  
TO: ALAUX  
ALAUX 034/23

**Subj: PROMULGATION OF THE AUXILIARY TRAINING HANDBOOK - AVIATION**

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- A. Auxiliary Aviation Training Manual, COMDTINST M16798.5B
  - B. Auxiliary Training Handbook - Aviation, ATH 16798.5A
- 

1. This ALAUX announces the cancellation of reference (A) and the promulgation of REF (B).
2. REF (B) was signed by the Chief, Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX) on 01 Aug 2023. Major changes include:
  - a. Converted from Manual to Handbook.
  - b. Updated Coast Guard office designations, addresses, and telephone numbers.
  - c. Updated flight rules and regulations.
  - d. Removed all references to the legacy Patrol Order Management System (POMS) and replaced with AUXDATA II.
  - e. Added a requirement that members who have been in Required Yearly Not Met (REYR) status for a period of five years or more must re-qualify by completing all required tasks for the desired position.
  - f. Updated for new technology.
  - g. Removed requirements for usage of Pilot/Aircrew Qualification, Form (ANSC-7015).
  - h. Updated and changed currency flight hour and mission requirements from semi-annual to annual.
  - i. Added Coast Guard Short-Range Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SR-UAS) program.
3. No paper distribution will be made of this Handbook. It is available on SharePoint at: (for USCG systems, copy and paste the following URL to browser) <https://uscg.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/cg-bsx/cgbsx1/SitePages/Home.aspx>, and the internet: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP&category=guides-and-handbooks>.
4. Questions should be directed to the appropriate Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM).
5. Internet release is authorized.





**14 SEP 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 033/23

**Subj: NATIONAL RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY SURVEY EXPERTISE SOLICITATION**

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1. The Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX) wants to hear from the Coast Guard workforce to create the next National Recreational Boating Safety Survey (NRBSS)! The NRBSS is administered to over 25,000 boaters every 5 to 10 years. It seeks to identify trends in safety, usage, and technology, helping the Coast Guard discern the number of recreational boats and boaters utilizing our waterways and properly regulate recreational boating.
2. This is YOUR chance to influence this nationwide survey of boaters and tell CG-BSX what the current trends, concerns, and issues are in recreational boating. For example, have you seen something during your Auxiliary maritime activities that needs to be addressed by the Coast Guard? Is there new technology such as iPhone SOS monitoring, boating smartphone apps, or peer-to-peer-sharing of boats that the Coast Guard should examine? By sharing your questions, concerns, and observations you can help CG-BSX create its NRBSS!
3. This solicitation is extended to all active duty, reserve, civilian, Auxiliary, and Coast Guard Academy personnel and runs through October 27, 2023. Please consider contributing your input. You need to have a CG\_Ideas@Work account in order to do so. You can create such an account at: <https://cg-ideasatwork.ideascalegov.com/a/community/login>. This NRBSS solicitation can then be found as a Featured Challenge under the Active Campaigns menu.
4. To view past NRBSS for reference, please visit <https://uscgboating.org/statistics/national-recreational-boating-safety-survey.php>. Questions should be directed to the appropriate Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM).
5. Mr. Jonathan Hsieh of the Boating Safety Division in CG-BSX is the point of contact ([smb-comdt-cg-bsx-data@uscg.mil](mailto:smb-comdt-cg-bsx-data@uscg.mil)) / (571) 608-6241).
6. Internet release is authorized.





**11 SEP 2023**

FM: CHDIRAUX

TO: ALAUX

ALAUX 032/23

Subj: **PROMULGATION OF THE AUXILIARY OPERATIONS PROCESS GUIDES**

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- A. Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3E
  - B. Auxiliary Operations Process Guide, Volume I – General/Surface, 16798.31A
  - C. Auxiliary Operations Process Guide, Volume II – Air Operations, 16798.32A
  - D. Auxiliary Operations Process Guide, Volume III – Telecommunications, 16798.33A
  - E. Auxiliary Operations Process Guide, Volume IV – Marine Safety and Security, 16798.34A
- 

1. This ALAUX announces the cancellation of reference (A), and the promulgation of REFs (B) through (E).
2. REFs (B) through (E) were signed by the Chief, Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX) on 01 Aug 2023. For lists of major changes refer to the Letters of Promulgation within REFs (B) through (E).
3. No paper distribution will be made of these Process Guides. They are available on SharePoint at: (for USCG systems, copy and paste the following URL to browser) <https://uscg.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/cg-bsx/cgbsx1/SitePages/Home.aspx>, and the internet: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP&category=guides-and-handbooks>.
4. Questions should be directed to the appropriate Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM).
5. Internet release is authorized.



All ALAUXs are posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary web site located at: [CHDIRAUX ALAUX](#)

**To access all ALAUX Memoranda and all things Auxiliary: <http://agroup-bx.wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=BX-GROUP>**

# *A Message from the Editor*

Good day 5NR,

On this, the final issue of 2023, I pause to reflect upon the 80 years that Topside has been published and also the Auxiliary as a whole.

The Auxiliary was in its infancy when the first edition came out in 1943, only being established 4 years prior. Please take the time read about that history and peruse the Topside Archives at <https://5nr.org/topside-archives/>. You never know what interesting fact or tidbit you might find!

I wish everyone a fantastic holiday and happy New Year. Have a wonderful start to 2024.

Semper Paratus,

Tim Marks

DSO-PB



**Timothy Marks**  
District Staff Officer -  
Publications

## United States Coast Guard Auxiliary 5th District, Northern Region

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
DIRECTOR OF AUXILIARY 5NR  
FIFTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT  
1 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147-4393

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

## Newsletter Staff

### Editor

**Timothy Marks**

District Staff Officer for Publications

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

5th District, Northern Region

[tpmarks@comcast.net](mailto:tpmarks@comcast.net)

**Communications** Ellen Voorhees

**Historian**

Steven Marthouse

**Media**

Christopher Orlando

**Photography**

Barbara Sama

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# Parting Shot



**Congratulations Steve Trojanov, Flotilla 04-04 D5NR, on earning his certification as a Coast Guard Auxiliary Air Observer.**

*Coast Guard Auxiliary photo by COMO Joe Giannattasio*