

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



Auxiliary Uniform and Appearance Pilot Program

Standard Operating Procedures Primer

1. Background.

- a. In May 2020, the Coast Guard Leadership Council (CGLC) determined that review and assessment of Auxiliary uniform and appearance policies were warranted. This was prompted by the need to preserve the public's perception of the Coast Guard brand presented by its military personnel given the planned transition from the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) to the Coast Guard Utility (CG-U) as the service's primary work uniform. Pursuant to subsequent CGLC assessment, the CG-U was approved for Auxiliary wear with appropriate modifications to ensure distinction from the Coast Guard's military version.
- b. The last major Auxiliary uniform policy change stemmed from discontinuance of the Work Blue and Undress Blue uniforms in 2012. Authorization of an entirely new Auxiliary uniform has not occurred since introduction of the ODU as the Coast Guard's principal work uniform in 2004. The Coast Guard's transition to the CG-U over the next couple of years will be constrained by a limited range of available sizes for all service members authorized to wear it, including Auxiliarists. While this will trigger discontinuance of the ODU from Auxiliary wear, it will also warrant establishment of a new alternative Auxiliary Work Uniform (AWU) that will be significantly different in appearance from the ODU and CG-U.
- c. The Auxiliary's transition to the CG-U and establishment of a new alternative AWU present an appropriate opportunity to concurrently assess new Auxiliary uniform and appearance policies through an Auxiliary Uniform and Appearance Pilot Program (AUAPP) guide by the Auxiliary Uniform and Appearance Working Group (AUAWG). These policies are developed and meant to ensure assiduous vigilance by every Auxiliarist in projecting uncompromising pride whenever authorized uniforms are worn.

2. Action.

- a. The AUAPP shall be conducted in the D1 Southern Region (D1-SR) and the D8 Coastal Region (D8-CR) from 01 October 2021 until 31 December 2022. If the AUAWG determines that early termination or extension of the pilot program is warranted, or that the scope of pilot program should be reduced or expanded in terms of participating Auxiliarists, then it shall forward recommendation and justification of such to the Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX) for review and determination.
- b. Elected and appointed leaders and program managers at all levels of the Auxiliary organization shall ensure Auxiliarists who participate in the AUAPP adhere to this SOP and that all Auxiliarists adhere to specified Auxiliary-wide uniform changes.
- c. Leadership in the AUAPP regions shall maintain close liaison with the AUAWG for the purpose of general uniform program advice and guidance including matters of performance standards and expectations. The AUAWG is comprised of the following membership:

	Title	Name	Position
1	Vice National Commodore (VNACO)	COMO Gus Formato	Co-Chair
2	District Commodore D9 – Central Region (DCO, D9-CR)	COMO Susan Thurlow	Member
3	Personnel Services Command, Office of Military Uniforms (CG-PSC-PSD-MU)	Hayes Davis	Member
4	Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-1)	CDR Ed Cruz	Co-Chair
5	Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, Auxiliary Division (CG-BSX-11)	Steve Minutolo	Member

- d. The AUAPP may be expanded to additional Auxiliary districts or terminated prior to 31 December 2022 as circumstances may warrant.

3. General Guidelines.

- a. The AUAWG may include the AUAPP District Commodores (DCO) and District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX) in any of its meetings, and shall include them in such at least once every other month.
- b. Each DIRAUX shall share the SOP with the sector and air station commands in their regions and any other appropriate Order Issuing Authorities (OIA) to ensure their AUAPP awareness and opportunity to provide feedback.
- c. Other than discontinuance of the tucked Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) on 31 December 2021 as an authorized Auxiliary uniform, no authorized Auxiliary uniforms will be eliminated from wear during this (AUAPP). The Auxiliary version of the Coast Guard Utility (CG-U) uniform is expected to become available to the Auxiliary in FY24. Upon such availability, all Auxiliarists will be authorized to wear the Auxiliary version. That will also trigger a 24-month phase-out period for the untucked ODU as an authorized Auxiliary uniform.
- d. For the purpose of the AUAPP, Auxiliarists who participate in activities that often involve multiple Auxiliarists (e.g., public education classes; boat crews; air crews) may wear the ODU (with or without operations polo shirt), the CG-U, or the Auxiliary Work Uniform (AWU). Hot Weather Uniform (HWU) versions of the ODU and AWU are also authorized for wear if regionally authorized for such activities. For example, members of a boat crew may wear different uniforms on the same patrol. Wearing different uniforms under such circumstances is encouraged in order to help seek and obtain feedback from the public, Coast Guard personnel, and from fellow Auxiliarists about each uniform's appearance, durability, approachability, and preference.

- e. Feedback reports shall be submitted by each region on a monthly basis. Division Commanders (DCDR) shall collate comments, observations, and lessons learned from participating flotillas and Auxiliarists in sufficient time to forward up their Chain of Leadership (COL) to enable Executive Committee (EXCOM) review and allow the District Commodore (DCO) to submit a collated regional report to the AUAWG by the fifth work day of the month. Appendix E provides a template for feedback reporting.
 - f. Any questions or concerns about AUAPP policy changes and uniforms may only be forwarded by either the DCO or DIRAUX to the AUAWG for response and resolution.
 - g. For the purpose of AUXDATA II reporting, all activity in support of the AUAPP shall be claimed under category 99E (Auxiliary Administrative/Logistical Support) on the CG-7029 Member Activity Form. Claimants should annotate their Mission Description line items with the AUXDATA II Operation Code, "Uniform Pilot Program."
4. Uniform and Appearance Guidelines.
- a. All members of all flotillas and divisions in each of the AUAPP regions shall abide by the uniform and appearance policy changes in the SOP.
 - b. The AUAPP applies only to Auxiliarists while they reside in the AUAPP regions. Auxiliarists from these regions who may temporarily reside in other regions during the year shall abide by current Auxiliary uniform and appearance policies while doing so.
5. Auxiliary Version of the Coast Guard Utility (CG-U).
- a. All Auxiliarists will be authorized and encouraged to wear the CG-U as soon as it becomes available which is expected in 2024. CG-U details will be included in the SOP.
 - b. The CG-U will be authorized to be worn for any purpose which the ODU had previously been authorized.
6. Auxiliary Work Uniform (AWU).
- a. Auxiliarists in AUAPP regions will be authorized and encouraged to wear the AWU as an alternative to the ODU and CG-U as soon as it becomes available. AWU details will be included in the SOP. Auxiliarists in all other regions will be authorized to wear the AWU after 31 December 2021. An AWU procured by an Auxiliarist during the AUAPP will be authorized to be worn by that Auxiliarist until no longer serviceable including beyond the end of the pilot program. Feedback about the AWU (e.g., comfort; durability; receptivity by Coast Guard personnel and the public) is strongly encouraged to be forwarded through the chain of leadership and will be used to determine the need for appropriate modifications.
 - b. For purposes of the AUAPP, the AWU will be the prescribed alternative work uniform if an Auxiliarist is unable to procure either the ODU or CG-U due to size availability, or elects to not comply with new grooming and appearance standards that are required for ODU or CG-U wear.

- c. The AWU will be authorized to be worn as an alternative work uniform whenever the ODU or CG-U is authorized to be worn. This includes authorization to be worn for the purpose of instructing virtual and in-person public education classes, performing boating safety partner visits, and for public outreach events (e.g., boating safety booths at boat shows; public outreach information tables at National Safe Boating Week events). The AWU is specifically not authorized to be worn for ceremonial events (e.g., as part of a color guard; in parade formation).
7. Auxiliary Uniform and Appearance Policy Change Highlights (by Auxiliary Manual section).
- a. **Section 10.A.1. (Auxiliary Surface Operators, PWC Operators, Paddlecraft Operators, Mobile Radio Facility Operators, and Shore-side Harbor Patrol Operators):** More detail has been added about who can specify the uniform for these operators. The AWU is introduced as an authorized alternative to the ODU and the CG-U. It is the prescribed alternative work uniform if an Auxiliarist is unable to procure either the ODU or CG-U due to size availability, or elects to not comply with new grooming and appearance standards that are required for ODU or CG-U wear.
 - b. **Section 10.A.7. (Assignment to Duty):** The AWU is reiterated as the prescribed alternative work uniform if an Auxiliarist is unable to procure either the ODU or CG-U due to size availability, or elects to not comply with new grooming and appearance standards that are required for ODU or CG-U wear.
 - c. **Section 10.A.10. (Other Auxiliary Activities):** The AWU is again specified as the prescribed alternative work uniform to be worn if an Auxiliarist is unable to procure either the ODU or CG-U due to size availability, or elects to not comply with new grooming and appearance standards that are required for ODU or CG-U wear. Unresolved questions, disputes, or misunderstandings are to be referred to the DIRAUX for resolution.
 - d. **Section 10.B.2. (Coast Guard Exchanges):** This specifies individual uniform clothing items may be tailored to fit, but they may not be physically joined or combined with other individual uniform clothing items.
 - e. **Section 10.C.1. (Setting an Example):**
 - (1) Greater detail is provided to define what “no longer serviceable” means.
 - (2) An annual requirement is established for Auxiliarists to undergo a uniform inspection by either their Flotilla Commander (FC), Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC), or other elected officer in their Chain of Leadership (COL). Multiple opportunities shall be provided Auxiliarists to undergo this inspection. Auxiliarists who do not pass their initial annual inspection shall be afforded one more opportunity to pass inspection. Flotilla elected leaders are charged with primary responsibility for ensuring Auxiliarists meet inspection requirements. Other elected leaders in an Auxiliarist’s COL may fulfill this responsibility if circumstances allow or flotilla leaders are not

available to do so (e.g., uniform inspections may be conducted for attendees at a district conference or division training forum).

- (a) An Auxiliarist may wear any uniform they are qualified to wear (e.g., a qualified vessel examiner may opt to be inspected in the ODU or CG-U with authorized VE polo shirt; an Auxiliarist who only wears the Blue Blazer Outfit for their Auxiliary activities must wear that for inspection purposes). If an Auxiliarist does not own an Auxiliary uniform nor wears the Blue Blazer Outfit then they are not required to meet this inspection requirement.
 - (b) Dinner Dress uniforms and Hot Weather Uniform versions are not authorized to be worn to meet this inspection requirement.
 - (c) If distance or physical ability do not allow ready inspection, then a photo(s) may be provided to their FC or VFC via email to perform the inspection.
 - (d) Annual inspection counts as a currency maintenance task for all competencies. Except as otherwise allowed, Auxiliarists who do not undergo or do not pass the annual inspection during the calendar year shall lose their currency in all of their competencies for the following calendar year (i.e., be placed in REYR status) and shall be issued a Letter of Caution. If it happens for a second consecutive year, then a Letter of Reprimand shall be issued. If it happens for a third consecutive year, then the Auxiliarist may be disenrolled.
- (3) A requirement is established for an Auxiliarist who wants to pursue assignment to duty at a Coast Guard or military unit to undergo inspection and approval by their FC or VFC before accepting such assignment. Assignment to duty shall not occur until any discrepancies are corrected.
- f. **Section 10.C.3.d. (Trousers, Slacks, Socks, and Shoes):** Only shoes authorized for wear with a specific uniform shall be worn. Shoes like sneakers and foam clog shoes are specifically prohibited. Exception is made for footwear that has a medically prescribed purpose.
 - g. **Section 10.C.3.g. (Personal Display Items):** The allowance for only two rings per hand is specified. Thumb rings are prohibited, and an engagement and/or wedding ring counts as one ring.
 - h. **Section 10.C.3.h. (Earrings, Body Piercing, Tattoos):** Proof of legitimate medical purpose is required to be provided by an Auxiliarist who has an otherwise unauthorized tattoo, body piercing, intentional scarring/mutilation, or other modifications of the head and neck to their FC. Failure to provide such shall result in disenrollment.
 - i. **Section 10.C.3.i. (Additional Jewelry):** More detail is provided regarding avoidance of eccentricities in jewelry.

j. **Section 10.C.3.n. (Hair, Facial Hair):**

- (1) This defines the requirement that men's hair be neat, clean, not touch the collar, and be away from the ears. Men are prohibited from wearing pony tails or buns.
- (2) This specifies that an OIA may prohibit the wearing of beards or moustaches.
- (3) This requires men to be clean shaven (mustaches allowed) to participate in ceremonial events (e.g., Auxiliary color guard; Coast Guard parade formation).
- (4) This closely aligns women's policies with those for active duty personnel defined in the Uniform Regulations (COMDTINST M1020.6 (series)).
- (5) This establishes a requirement for an Auxiliarist who wants to pursue assignment to such ceremonial duty to undergo inspection and approval by their FC or VFC before accepting such assignment. Assignment shall not occur until any and all discrepancies are corrected. If time or distance do not readily allow for inspection, then photos may be provided to FC or VFC via email to perform the inspection.

k. **Section 10.E.2. (Blue Blazer Outfit):** More detail and allowance are provided regarding how to wear the blazer patch. Blue Blazer Outfit wear is required when an Auxiliarist does not have any prescribed uniform to wear in a non-operational activity (exceptions are provided for specific activities (e.g., a female Auxiliarist may wear a formal civilian gown to a district conference banquet)).

l. **Section 10.E.2.d. Auxiliary Work Uniform (AWU):** This is a new section to describe AWU expectations. A Hot Weather Uniform (HWU) version is authorized for the AWU. An AWU procured by an Auxiliarist during the AUAPP is authorized to be worn by that Auxiliarist until no longer serviceable including beyond the end of the pilot program.

m. **Section 10.F.3. (Name Tags):** This now addresses name tag allowances for Auxiliary Chaplains.

n. **Section 10.H.4. (Operational Dress Uniform and Coast Guard Utility):** This specifies that the leader of an Auxiliary member training or conference event (e.g., FC; DCDR; DCO) may prescribe the ODU, CG-U, or AWU for wear at such events. Also specifies that the tucked ODU will no longer be authorized for wear after 31 December 2021. The section also weaves in comparable allowances for wearing the CG-U.