

Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23 5SR



Chesapeake Chatter

Division 23

Volume 7 Issue 2

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Thank You

As we thank our volunteers, we often wonder how we can get all of the many Auxiliary missions done efficiently with the most value added to the Coast Guard.

Some members can give a lot of time, others some time, and still others little time. We rely on (and sometimes take for granted) too few members doing lots of things to get the missions done. But we need to rejoice in that members give what they can; many times wishing they could do more.

We, as leaders really do thank them, but not enough. The members are truly great to give what they can, and we need to orchestrate the very best way to use them, praise them, and send them home safely with the feeling that they were appreciated and will want to come back for more missions.

Ron Price
DCDR



Why did you join?

Greetings everyone! Hopefully all are well and keeping active despite the unseasonably hot weather. I know how active many of you are being this summer, so I'd like to just ask you to bear with me while I share with you a couple of thoughts about "why we do what we do" for the recreational boating community and the United States Coast Guard.

We all have our own reasons for joining the Auxiliary. For many, it is an opportunity to help make the waters we share a safer place by being out there on the water should a "situation" arise. For others, it's an opportunity to teach the public about water safety in order to minimize the potential for emergencies. For me, it was an opportunity to bring my many years of Federal service full-circle by coming back to where I began – the Coast Guard.

But regardless of the particular reason(s) for joining and serving, those of us who choose to

give our time and talents to the Auxiliary all understand what the primary missions of the organization are: promoting recreational boating safety and supporting the "gold-side."

We use a multi-faceted approach to the mission of promoting recreational boating safety. We do vessel safety checks, we teach boating safety courses, and we share boating safety information and publications with the public in a wide variety of settings.

We also directly and indirectly support the "gold-side." Members go on surface and air patrols, stand radio-watches, support the incident command structure, while others prepare food and help with special events.

But regardless of the specific authorized activities you engage in, all are equally valuable to our fulfilling the missions of the Auxiliary. Everything you do in furtherance of our authorized missions, whether it's a little or a lot, is important and much appreciated.

The second point that I would like to make is that in these days of severely constrained Federal budgets, the USCG is struggling to fulfill the expectations placed upon it. More so than at any time in recent memory, the USCG really needs us to step up to the plate to help out. There are many ways in which qualified members can help. The "needs" and "opportunities" are there waiting for Auxiliarists to step forward. We have talented members with a variety of skillsets in our Division – skills the USCG can put to good use.

Talk to your elected-leaders about how you can help. And elected-leaders, when a member comes to you inquiring about opportunities to help the "gold-side" don't let that opportunity to support the "gold-side" slip away. Connecting members to opportunities is one of the most effective ways to keep them engaged and contributing.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and remain "SEMPER PARATUS!"

John Leben
Division Vice Commander

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22 August 2015

Articles and pictures are encouraged and appreciated. Please email to: cjcosgrove@earthlink.net



Boat crew training with CG 45640 from Station Annapolis. Pictured are BM2 Bishop supervising"! BM2 Acker holding line. BM3 Wieduwilt is at the helm. SN Anderson using the skiff hook.

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Awards

The following awards have been earned since the last edition of the Chatter.



Meritorious Team for the National Boy Scout Jamboree

Ed Martin, 23-1
Robin Ouellette, 23-2
Dan McConnell, 23-6

AUXOP

Harry Scott, 23-6

Membership Award

5 years

Christopher Blohm, 23-2
Mace Coleman, 23-3
Edith Brown, 23-7
Nelson Lowes and Paula Abernethy, 23-4

10 years

James Beyea, 23-1
Alberto DeCapitani, Betsy and Robert Fehn , and Ed May, 23-2
Charles Setzfand and Kevin Hook, 23-6

15 Years

Ben Copley, 23-1
Art Pine, 23-3
Ordice Gallups, 23-4
John Rohrbaugh and George Pacharis, 23-7

20 Years

David Silberstein and Don Llewellyn – 23-1
Alfred Landry, 23-2
Michael Taylor, 23-3

40 years

Len Klaver, 23-1

45 years

Art Murray, 23-1

Sustained Service Award

James Beyea, 3rd award, 2250 hours, 23-1
John Fewer, Dale Helms, Michael Taylor; 23-3
Paul Miller, 6th award, 4500 hours; 23-7
Ray Walsh, 3rd award, 2250 hours; 23-7
George Pacharis, 2nd award, 1500 hours; 23-7



Boat Crew Qualification

Irving McConnell, 23-1



Annual Public Education Award for over 30 hours

Lynn Disque, 23-3
Ray Feller, 23-6



Annual Vessel Safety Check Award

George Pacharis, 23-7

Marine Safety Training Specialist

Dan McConnell, 23-6



Cover Photos

Top Left: Sammy the Otter gets a hug from a child at the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) which was held at the Pentagon on 22 May 2015.

Top Middle: Mrs. Zukunft is pictured with Coastie at TAPS. John Leben, SO-PA was Coastie's operator.

Top Right: Sammy the Otter had an "up close encounter". Sammy's operator was Alphard Romero (D25)

Middle left: DCO Robert Sersen addressing the crowd about boating safety. Photo by John Leben

Middle Right: Coastie was a big hit at TAPS.

Bottom Left: "Follow me to Deale" was one of 3 charter boats who took Veterans out for a day of fishing. Photo by Bill Smith

Bottom Right: Family Time on regatta patrol at the Chesapeake Bay Swim. Pictured are Ray Walsh on starboard side and Ed Ward on Port side. John Fewer - Coxswain in Pilot house. Photo by Bill Smith



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Assignment to Duty: What Every AUX Needs to Know

As we are now into the summer months and fully involved with operational support to the Coast Guard and doing the many missions we do in the Auxiliary, I want to take this opportunity to remind us all of the importance of "Assignment to Duty" and what that means.

Often members of the Auxiliary refer to being covered or "insured" by the government as if there is an insurance policy that covers everything we do in the Auxiliary.

Assignment to Duty is about the basic law that created the Auxiliary and how members doing Auxiliary missions fall under the umbrella of the law as "volunteer" Federal employees.

What the law did was make sure that when we are doing Auxiliary work—aka "Assigned to Duty"—we would be eligible for care and compensation in case of injury or accident while "Assigned to Duty," just as other federal employees are covered while working. Basically, if you are "Assigned to Duty" and are injured, you are covered under the Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA). The key is while "Assigned to Duty."

"Assignment to Duty" is not hard to attain. It may be as easy as doing Auxiliary missions on orders, or simply by having reported your plans to the knowledge of an elected leader or staff officer to do a mission on a certain date and time. This could be done by emailing or calling your plans to do Vessel Safety Checks, or following a flotilla schedule for presenting a PE class. Doing training under a qualified Vessel Examiner at a ramp would also fall within "Assignment to Duty" just as training for other mission areas with trained members would.

The basic key to proving Assignment to Duty is a prior awareness of your effort to conduct Auxiliary missions by an elected Auxiliary leader or responsible flotilla staff officer. This is the

important part to remember because with any injury claim there will be an effort to review and determine that "Assignment to Duty" is clear.

So as an example, a copy of the email you sent noting that you're doing Vessel Safety Checks will meet the requirement. While the Coast Guard will help in the process of a claim, it is the Department of Labor and Department of Justice that are the authority in approving claims. Experience has shown the process is not overly burdensome or challenging. In most cases the system has done a great job of ensuring injured Auxiliary members have been appropriately compensated per FECA.

The key things to remember are communication and documentation: 1) Make sure when you are doing Auxiliary missions there is awareness by leaders and or staff officers of what you are doing and when. 2) Make sure that if you are injured you seek care ASAP. 3) Make sure you, a fellow member, or family member advise leaders of the injury so a claim can be started working with the DIRAUX office before 30 days pass. As always a form is involved and the Department of Labor form CA-1 is the form to start the process. **So as you conduct Auxiliary missions, make sure you are thinking about what you have done to meet being "Assigned to Duty."** The AuxMan Chapter 5 section J is a good reference.

One interesting caveat: Federal Employees are not covered by FECA for any injuries sustained traveling to and from work. This same principle of FECA also applies to Auxiliarists—we are not covered going to and from our regular flotilla meeting, since that is considered our "place of work." Can offering training at our unit meeting reclassify the meeting as a "training event" and therefore enable FECA coverage? No. Federal Employees have training at their workplace but that does not enable coverage under FECA when going to work that day. Same goes for us.

Make sure you carry proper auto insurance and health insurance. While FECA provides items beyond your insurance coverage, your insurance is

Continued on page 6—see assignment

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likely to be charged first, and FECA will likely come in on deductibles. However, there is the possibility of lost wages and other compensation under FECA. Note the word choice used here: “likely” and “possibly” because every case is different, though in general, there is going to be compensation under FECA as long as you are found to be “Assigned to Duty.”

There are a lot of “what if’s” and varying scenarios because each case is different and that makes for confusion. The one key is remembering that doing all you can to help support being seen as “Assigned to Duty” will ensure you are provided an added coverage/benefit to getting you taken care of, should you be injured. Having auto insurance and health insurance is a good idea as it can add to what you are covered for.

In most all cases your auto insurance is responsible for your car. Exceptions MAY BE when towing under orders but those cases are not a FECA item. FECA applies to the employee, not the vehicle. Vehicles fall under the Damage Claim process just as boat damage is handled via claims. If you are in an accident on the way to a meeting, it is your auto insurance that is likely going to be on the hook for all claims.

On the other hand, if you are on the way to go on patrol, do VSC’s, or PE and have an accident, FECA will likely apply for your injuries along with your auto insurance for your vehicle (and maybe some medical). You MAY BE able to submit a claim to the Coast Guard for auto damage but several factors will come into play because it goes via the Damage Claim process.

Here are 5 Examples:

A member was injured while on patrol. The member had no insurance and the injury caused the member to lose employment. Under FECA all medical was covered and the member was

compensated for lost wages from the time of injury and for several months while recovering.

A member was killed in an auto accident on the way to the post office to mail out the flotilla minutes to all the members. By being able to prove that this was a routine trip solely done as part of the member’s Auxiliary duties each month, the family was ultimately provided compensation on account of the member being “Assigned to Duty” when the accident occurred. This was travel not to or from a meeting.

A member happened to be at a fuel dock when an Auxiliary facility on patrol pulled in to refuel. The member was helping with lines and fell breaking an arm. The member was not found to be “Assigned to duty” as the member just happened to be in the area but was not involved with any Auxiliary mission and was not part of crew on patrol.

An Auxiliary crew is on patrol and pulls in for a lunch break at the boat ramp. They send a member to take the truck and get sandwiches. On the way, the member has a flat tire and does minor damage to the vehicle but there are no injuries. The damage claim is denied because the trip for sandwiches was outside of what is covered for damages while on patrol. The member’s auto insurance covered the damage.

While traveling under orders a member suffers an engine breakdown on the highway. A claim for damage is denied because wear and tear is already covered as part of the mileage rate provided while under orders.

Steve Whitehead,
Commander, USCG Retired
5th District Planner

Editor’s Note: This article was received email through district distribution from DCO Rob Sersen.

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Auxiliarists in Approval Pending (AP) Status

As most of you are aware, the time it takes to process new member PSI packages at SECCEN has slowed to the point where the backlog of unprocessed packages has doubled over the last 12 months.

There are several factors that have contributed to this situation; most are not under Auxiliary control. Let me assure you that the Commandant is fully aware of this issue and the problems it is causing for the Auxiliary. He remains fully engaged, and has directed his staff to facilitate solutions. I would like to take this opportunity to brief you on the steps being taken to improve the situation.

- Augmentation at SECCEN by Auxiliarists - A small group of volunteers is now engaged in the pre-screening process.
- Overtime has been authorized for SECCEN staff, allowing them to work more hours to clear up the backlog.
- Serious out-of-the-box thinking is taking place at senior levels to look at the process as it applies to OS level packages. In a message to the district commodores last month, I offered a few suggestions in an attempt to alleviate the effects of this issue. I will repeat these now.
- Members should become conversant with the provisions in AUXMAN Chapter 3.2.D, which in part deals with activities and interim certifications available to members in AP status. There is a lack of awareness in the field of certain provisions of this section of the AUXMAN. ANACO-CC has worked diligently with CG-BSX to develop a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in order to clarify this issue. These FAQs are available here: <http://hdept.cgaux.org/pdf/AP-FAQ.PDF>.
- An analysis of member attrition clearly shows that members in their first two years are the most vulnerable. Many of these members are those in AP status. We have a better chance to retain these members if we provide them the tools they need to be productive Auxiliarists. Although not mandatory, the Basic Qualification Course and

PQS is a great tool to provide mentoring for these new members. Details can be found at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=basic-qualification>. Please consider using this tool.

This situation will not be fixed overnight but we are moving in the right direction. I am counting on each of you to provide leadership for our AP members as we continue to work through this issue. Thank you for your assistance.

Mark Simoni

National Commodore

Editor's Note: the above was received email from the Auxiliary list server

Temporary Suspension of Uniform Distribution Center (UDC) iStore -

1. The Coast Guard Uniform Distribution Center's (UDC) iStore, the online uniform ordering portal (<http://udcistore.net> and www.udcistore.net), is temporarily suspended for maintenance.
2. Uniform item ordering may still be conducted via phone at 1-(800)-874-6841, via fax at 1-(609)-861-7930, or by walk-in service at the UDC facility in Woodbine, NJ. These services are available Monday thru Friday, 0800-1500. Service is also available at the Cape May facility on Thursdays, 0800-1500. Please refer to the following web site for more information: <http://www.uscg.mil/uniform/Ordering.asp>.
3. The Uniform Clothing Locker at the Coast Guard Academy as well as Coast Guard Exchanges throughout the country also stand by to assist Auxiliarist in obtaining uniform items in a timely manner.
4. Estimated time of service restoration is not available. Notification will be issued when the iStore is back online.

Editor's Note: The above was received from the Chief Director's List server on 13 June

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ANNUAL READINESS FOR OPERATIONS (RFO)

On Saturday, 23 May 2015, Jim McGrath FSO-OP 23-2 presented the annual RFO Training. Participants included members of Flotillas 23-2, 23-6 and 23-7. Three members from St. Inigoes also participated: BM1 Chris Blanken, BM2 Kevin Ramirez and BM2 James Booth. The event featured training evolutions and QE sign-offs for Boat Crew Qualification and currency maintenance.

The highlight of the RFO was the luncheon organized and cooked by our AUX CHEF, Ron Hillard. The gold side joined us.

BM1 Christopher Blanken put together a training package and designed an instruction package for the morning session of the RFO. The training offered by the St. Inigoes personnel included damage control and the control of flooding, the care and maintenance of personal protective equipment and mission standard operating procedures, with emphasis on assistance protocol, mission response and standardized communications. Three hours of instruction seemed to pass very quickly because of the knowledge and presentation skills of the presenters. All presentations were backed up by a binder of reference material that was given to each flotilla.

In the afternoon BM1 Blanken, BM2 Booth and BM2 Ramirez embarked on Auxiliary facilities to observe stern and side tows, man-overboard drills, search patterns and navigation drills. In addition to acting as observers, the instructors offered their sage advice on procedures and techniques. Their participation added great value to the on-the-water exercises.

Eileen Gray

FSO-PB 23-2

Photos by Bill Smith



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AUXILIARY MANDATED TRAINING (AUXMT) - NEW DELIVERY METHODS AND POLICY CHANGES

1. In October 2014, ALAUX 022/14 announced an extension for members to complete their Auxiliary Mandated Training (AUXMT) requirements. This ALAUX provides an update to the National Training Directorate's efforts in developing alternative ways for members to complete their AUXMT requirements, and announces a series of policy changes designed to achieve AUXMT completion throughout the Auxiliary. AUXMT remains comprised of the following courses:

a. To be successfully completed by the end of the first full year of enrollment and then once every five years thereafter:

(1) Building Resilience and Preventing Suicide in the CG - course 502379

(2) Security Fundamentals - course code 810030

(3) Privacy at DHS: Protecting Personal Information – course 810015

(4) Sexual Harassment Prevention - course 81000

(5) Sexual Assault Prevention / Response - course 810045

(6) Civil Rights Awareness - course 502319

b. To be successfully completed only once (new enrollees must complete them by the end of the first full year of enrollment):

(1) Ethics 1 / Personal Gifts - course 502306

(2) Influenza Training - course 502290

c. To be successfully completed only once (new enrollees must complete them by the end of the first full year of enrollment - they can only be taken on the FEMA website, <https://training.fema.gov/is/nims.aspx>, and they require registration on the site for a FEMA Student Identification Number (SID) in order to take the associated end-of-course exam):

(1) Intro to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 – course IS-100.b

(2) Intro to National Incident Management System – course IS-700.a

2. AUXMT prepares individuals to effectively serve as members of a volunteer organization that is in frequent contact with the American public and which augments and supports a military organization. The AUXMT requirements provide a basic understanding of critical human relations policies, personal safety and organizational security topics, and the National Incident Management System. Completion of AUXMT requirements places Auxiliarists on the same footing as other members of the Coast Guard workforce and allows seamless integration with their active duty, reserve and civilian employee counterparts. AUXMT drills down to the Coast Guard's core values. AUXMT ensures all members of the Coast Guard workforce stand ready to provide Service to Nation, fulfill our commitment to Duty to People, and reflects our Commitment to Excellence. To be considered ready to serve and in good standing with one of our nation's premiere volunteer organizations, members must conform to these training requirements. All Auxiliarists are strongly encouraged to embrace these training requirements and assist their Auxiliary shipmates to successfully complete them whenever needed.

3. The Auxiliary Training Directorate Mandated Training portal

(<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT&category=mandated-training>) provides all Auxiliarists convenient opportunities and multiple options to complete their AUXMT requirements. Here are the options for completing the eight (8) non-FEMA AUXMT training courses:

a. AUXLMS online courses with automatic AUXDATA recording (direct link to AUXLMS website: <https://auxlearning.uscg.mil/>). This is the fastest and easiest option for an individual to complete the training.

b. Classroom training (e.g., at flotilla meetings). There are three ways an instructor may present the class (the instructor remains responsible for

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completing the requisite ANSC-7039 Workshop Mission and Attendance Report form at the conclusion of the class):

(1) AUXLMS: The instructor logs into AUXLMS with their own account and projects the online course on a screen.

(2) PowerPoint Slide Presentation: The instructor downloads PowerPoint presentations for each course and then projects the slides to the class as with any other course.

(3) Video: The Auxiliary Training Directorate is developing voice-over PowerPoint videos that will be completed for all eight (8) non-FEMA courses. These videos will be made available on the Mandated Training portal as they are completed. This option may be used for both classroom and individual training situations.

c. Self-Certification. This form of training is meant for the exceptional case where neither online nor classroom training is readily available. A member may self-certify AUXMT completion by filling out a self-attestation form http://tdept.cgaux.org/documents/Mandated_Self_Training_Attestation_reh_2-9-15.pdf. Self-certification may be achieved in one of two ways:

(1) The member views the aforementioned voice-over PowerPoint training videos once they are available. After viewing the video(s), the member completes the self-attestation form and mails it to their FSO-IS for AUXDATA entry.

(2) The member studies a hard copy of the aforementioned annotated PowerPoint PDF obtained from their flotilla leadership. Upon completion, the member completes the self-attestation form and mails it to their FSO-IS for AUXDATA entry.

To reiterate, at the completion of each course the member must complete the self-attestation form affirming that they have completely read and understood the contents of the training course(s), and then mail it to their FSO-IS for AUXDATA

entry. One form may be used to self-certify multiple AUXMT courses if completed on the same date.

4. With the rollout of these additional AUXMT delivery options, a series of policy incentives and consequences related to AUXMT have been approved by Auxiliary national leadership and the Chief Director of Auxiliary, and shall be effective on January 1, 2016. Appropriate AUXDATA changes will be made

a. The following general policies apply:

(1) All Auxiliarists who have a Base Enrollment Date (BED) prior to 01 January 2016 must complete AUXMT by 31 December 2016 to qualify, re-certify, and avoid REYR status, as applicable, in any competency.

(2) All Auxiliarists who have a BED after 31 December 2015 must complete AUXMT by the end of the first full calendar year after their BED to qualify in any competency.

(3) For all Auxiliarists, events occurring after 01 January 2016 such as eligibility for certain awards, elections, Auxiliary ID cards, - Schools, and augmenting the Coast Guard will require AUXMT to be completed prior to those events regardless of their BED.

b. The following specific policies apply:

(1) Eligibility Status: Starting on 01 January 2016 for all Auxiliarists regardless of BED, all AUXMT courses must be completed and current in order to be eligible for the following:

(a) Auxiliary Member Service Award: An Auxiliarist must successfully complete all initial and recurring AUXMT requirements to be eligible to receive any iteration of the Auxiliary Member Service Award. Subsequent awards will only be issued if an Auxiliarist is current in all recurring AUXMT requirements. Section 11.A.15.C of the Auxiliary Manual will be amended accordingly.

(b) National Commodore's Three Star Unit Award for Training Excellence: The

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National Training Directorate is developing criteria for a new National Commodore's Three Star Unit Award for Training Excellence to recognize positive unit-level leadership initiatives to inspire and achieve completion of AUXMT. Details about how Auxiliarists will collectively contribute to this new unit award will be made available during the summer of 2015.

(c) Auxiliarist of the Year and Greanoff Inspirational Leadership Awards: AUXMT completion and currency maintenance will be an eligibility requirement for all Auxiliarists of the Year and Greanoff Inspirational Leadership Award nominees. Sections 11.A.16.e and f of the Auxiliary Manual will be amended accordingly. Auxiliary regions are encouraged to adopt a similar requirement for Auxiliarist of the Year recognition among their Auxiliary units.

(d) Auxiliary Identification (ID) Card: Auxiliarists must successfully complete all AUXMT courses in order to receive their initial identification card. Initial AUXMT completion will become a requirement for new Auxiliarists to have their membership status changed from Approval Pending (AP) status to any other status. AUXMT currency will also be required in order to be issued an ID card renewal or replacement. Appropriate sections of Chapter 3 of the Auxiliary Manual will be amended accordingly.

(e) Elected or Appointed Office: Initial AUXMT completion and currency maintenance will be required as eligibility criteria for any elected or appointed office. This requirement may not be waived for Auxiliarists in AP status. Sections 4.F. and 4.G. of the Auxiliary Manual will be amended accordingly.

(f) Attendance at CG-funded C-Schools and Travel: Initial AUXMT completion and currency maintenance will be required to receive orders for Coast Guard-funded C-schools or any Coast Guard-funded travel including travel to national and regional conferences.

(g) Limited Coast Guard Augmentation and Participation in Coast Guard Public Affairs Events: A proper and professional command climate at any Coast Guard unit is

directly shaped by the crew's completion of its mandated training requirements. Initial AUXMT completion and currency maintenance will therefore be required to be eligible for augmentation positions at Coast Guard units or to participate in public affairs activities with other-than Auxiliary personnel (e.g., active duty, reserve, civilian, other agency).

(2) Qualifications, Re-certifications, and REYR Status:

(a) All Auxiliarists regardless of BED: Initial AUXMT completion and currency maintenance will be required to qualify, re-certify, and avoid REYR status in any Auxiliary competency. This means AUXMT completion will be recognized as a task like any other required for qualification and currency maintenance for any competency, including for those Auxiliarists in AP status. Appropriate sections of Chapter 3 and Chapter 8 of the Auxiliary Manual will be amended accordingly.

(b) Auxiliarists with Base Enrollment Date (BED) prior to 01 January 2016: If AUXMT is not completed and current by 31 December 2016, and then Auxiliarists shall be placed in REYR status in their respective competencies, and shall not be authorized to qualify in any other competencies. For example, a current Auxiliary Vessel Examiner (VE) who has a BED of 14 May 2009 will be placed in REYR status on 01 January 2017 if they have not completed AUXMT by 31 December 2016 and even if all other currency maintenance tasks have been completed (e.g., 5 annual vessel safety checks; mandatory VE workshop).

(c) Auxiliarists with BED after 31 December 2015: Auxiliarists must complete AUXMT by the end of the first full calendar year after their BED to qualify in any competency. For example, an Auxiliarist who has a BED of 12 November 2016 will have until 31 December 2017 to complete AUXMT in order to then qualify as a Vessel Examiner, Instructor, etc.

Editor's Note: The above was sent out down the Member Training channel originating with the Chief Director's list server on 3 June

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“Diversity: the art of thinking independently together”

What is Diversity? Before we define what diversity is, we must establish what diversity IS NOT. Diversity IS NOT about discrimination. Discrimination involves violating the law – and people’s own dignity. Diversity is about being **PROACTIVE** in building a team of different personalities, backgrounds and perspectives who share the same vision towards our mission and work. The National Commodore’s official policy states that “It is the policy of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary to ensure that all citizens, regardless **of race, gender, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, religion, or physical or mental disability** have an equal opportunity to become a volunteer of this organization” (**paraphrased**). It is after all, part of our mission to become the volunteer organization of choice.

Embracing the diversity of thoughts, ideas, and competencies of our people, keeps the Auxiliary strong and empowers us to mission readiness and excellence. Diversity is an imperative to the Auxiliary; it can increase morale and impact our success. In essence **every member** is responsible for fostering an inclusive team atmosphere and being a contributing part of Team Coast Guard. The Auxiliary is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment, a journey guided by the deeply held values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty, as America's Guardians, we understand that diversity is not a problem to be solved, but is an asset to be developed.

Being culturally aware provides an opportunity to stand back and consider that there are certain backgrounds, personal values, beliefs and upbringings that shape the things we all do. Something that is considered inappropriate behavior in one culture may be perfectly appropriate in another. Learning about other cultures helps us relate to one another and opens us up to different perspectives or ideas. I challenge you to find difference to embrace the diversity of those around you.

If your flotilla would like a briefing at your next meeting please email Margaret Butler at DiversitySODiv-23.5SR@usa.com for more information.

Margaret Butler

Division Staff Officer for Diversity

Photo by Bill Smith



Wounded Warriors get escort

On July 9, Auxiliary Facility Liz Reece with coxswain Ray Feller was the escort vessel for a group of wounded warriors. Mark Campbell, Drum Point Flotilla FC; Bill Smith, Flotilla Member Training Officer; and Willie Witters, Flotilla Vessel Examination Staff Officer participated in the annual "Take a Hero Fishing" event.

Twenty veterans from Hughesville Veterans were escorted to Deale, MD by Maryland State Police and Anne Arundel County Police and were saluted by fire departments they passed.

Upon arrival at Skipper’s Restaurant pier they embarked into 3 charter boats. The fleet proceeded from Skipper's Pier (next to Paradise Marina) for a day of fishing off Holland Point.



The event was organized by John Aylor, Ruritan Club, and John Hiser, owner Paradise Marina in Deale.
Ray Feller
SO-MT

John Hiser - Owner of Paradise Marina, Deale, Maryland with Drum Point Flotilla FC Mark Campbell and flotilla members. Photo by Willie Witters. Top photo was taken by Bill Smith from Auxiliary Facility Liz Reece.

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AUXINFO AVAILABILITY STATUS -016/15

1. The following information provides an update to ALAUX 001/15 issued on January 12, 2015 and ALAUX 003/15 issued on February 6, 2015 which dealt with anticipated disruptions to AUXINFO availability.

2. AUXINFO is an invaluable online tool for Coast Guard and Auxiliary leaders from national to flotilla levels to monitor Auxiliary program activities. It carries similar value by enabling each Auxiliarist to monitor their activities. Its lifecycle age, supportability, and increasing cyber security considerations necessitate a long-term replacement plan as well as a bridging strategy between now and then. Long-term replacement planning is underway with other Coast Guard offices.



3. A bridging strategy was recently achieved in the form of an upgrade of the COGNOS software upon which AUXINFO is based. This upgrade will occur in the last quarter of calendar year 2015. It will take place during regularly scheduled maintenance periods, so there should be no additional downtime for the system. There will be minor appearance changes to the system, but functionality will be essentially identical to that provided by current software.

4. The URL for AUXINFO will not change due to the upgrade, however all bookmarked reports that are currently available are expected to cease working after the upgrade. Instructions on remapping the bookmarks will be issued prior to the upgrade. Although such remapping will pose a temporary inconvenience for users, the overall upgrade will help ensure AUXINFO sustainment.

Editor's note: the above information was contained in email to all Auxiliarist dated 11 July.

[CHDIRAUX-L] Honored to Serve -

To our Coast Guard men and women,

It has truly been an honor to serve as your Commandant over the past year. Our 88,000 active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary men and women comprise the most talented workforce in our nearly 225-year history. This includes families and loved ones who do not take an oath but faithfully support your service.

A year ago, I published my Commandant's Direction with three guiding principles for our Service: Service to Nation, Duty to People and Commitment to Excellence. Today, I released the Commandant's Strategic Intent 2015-2019 <http://go.usa.gov/3Xrpr> which builds upon my direction and details our areas of focus over the next four years to ensure we are best aligned with national objectives and our Department's priorities.

It is your story - the Coast Guard's story - that highlights your exceptional service. It is my privilege to share this story with everyone who will listen. In doing so, I can best ensure you have the resources and authorities you need to execute our missions for decades to come. A large part of this is engaging on social media, often in real-time as with my most recent video Q&A <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BsHhYwhCPI> on Facebook. I have also written to you directly through our official workforce blog, All Hands. I encourage you to read any messages you may have missed <http://go.usa.gov/3XrKk>, and standby for future communication from me as I continue to share our story.

In looking ahead, budget uncertainty and challenges will persist, but your ethos, bias for action and talent give me absolute confidence in our success.

Thank you for your service in America's CG.
Semper Paratus,
Admiral Paul F. Zukunft

Editor's Note: The above was received by members on the Chief Director's Lists Server.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT (OPM) CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT - UPDATE -013/15

The following message was recently received from the Department of Homeland Security Management Communications network. It provides an update to information first provided in ALAUX 011/15 issued on June 5, 2015. Notifications to affected individuals began June 8 and will continue thru June 19. Auxiliarists are strongly encouraged to thoroughly review this following message:

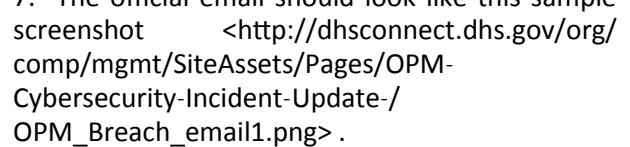
"As was communicated on June 4, 2015, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) recently became aware of a cyber-security incident affecting its systems and data that may have exposed the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of some current and former federal employees. This email provides additional information regarding next steps for DHS employees.

Beginning June 8 and continuing through June 19, OPM will be sending notifications to individuals who's PII was potentially compromised in this incident. OPM has retained a private vendor, CSID, to transmit the notifications on behalf of OPM. Consequently, the email will come from opmcio@csid.com and will not come from a .gov email address. The notification will feature a CSID logo and will contain information regarding credit monitoring and identity theft protection services being provided to those federal employees impacted by the data breach. In the event OPM does not have an email address for the individual on file, a standard letter will be sent via the U.S. Postal Service.

This notification is different from other notifications you may have already received. The Department is also in the process of notifying some DHS employees in CBP, ICE, TSA, and in a small number of other components that one of the companies that DHS contracts with to conduct background investigations and credit checks may have had a compromise of its network. That

notification, which was made via U.S. Postal Service, is separate from this OPM notification.

As a note of caution, confirm that the email you receive is, in fact, the official notification. It's possible that malicious groups may leverage this event to launch phishing attacks. To protect yourself, we encourage you to do the following:

1. Make sure the sender email address is "opmcio@csid.com."
2. The email should not contain any attachments. If it does, do not open them, and forward the email to dhsspam@hq.dhs.gov.
3. The email is sent exclusively to your email address. No other individuals should be in the TO, CC, or BCC fields.
4. The email subject should be exactly "Important Message from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management CIO."
5. The email will feature an embedded "Enroll Now" button. Do not click on the included link. Instead, record the provided PIN code, open a web browser then manually type the URL - <http://www.csid.com/opm> - into the address bar and press enter. You can then use the provided instructions to enroll using the OPM/CSID website.
6. The email should not contain any attachments. However, once you visit the OPM/CSID website (<http://www.csid.com/opm>) to enter your PIN code, you will be asked to provide personal information to verify your identity.
7. The official email should look like this sample screenshot  <http://dhsconnect.dhs.gov/org/comp/mgmt/SiteAssets/Pages/OPM-Cybersecurity-Incident-Update-/OPM_Breach_email1.png> .
8. If you would prefer not to enter your personal information on the OPM/CSID website (<http://www.csid.com/opm>), you may call the CSID call

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center toll-free at 844-777-2743 or 844-222-2743. (International callers: call collect 512-327-0705).

9. OPM will not proactively call you about the breach. If you receive a phone call about the breach claiming to be OPM, do not provide any personal information. CSID, not OPM, is making all notifications about this breach, and the notifications are by email or through the U.S. Postal Service.

Additional information is also available on CSID's website, <http://www.csid.com/opm> (external link), or you can call them toll-free at 1-844-777-2743 (International callers: call collect at 1-512-327-0705).

Regardless of whether or not you receive this notification, you should take extra care to ensure that they are following recommended cyber and personal security procedures. If you suspect that you have received a phishing attack, contact your component's security office <http://dhsconnect.dhs.gov/org/comp/mgmt/cso/Pages/DHS_Security_Offices.aspx> .

In general, government employees are often frequent targets of "phishing" attacks, which are surreptitious approaches to stealing your identity, accessing official computer systems, running up bills in your name, or even committing crimes using your identity. Phishing schemes use email or websites to trick you into disclosing personal and sensitive information.

We will continue to keep you advised of new developments regarding this cybersecurity incident as we learn more from OPM. The following includes helpful information for monitoring your identity and financial information and precautions to help you avoid being a victim.

Steps for Monitoring Your Identity and Financial Information:

* Monitor financial account statements and immediately report any suspicious or unusual activity to financial institutions.

* Request a free credit report at www.AnnualCreditReport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228. Consumers are entitled by law to one free credit report per year from each of the three major credit bureaus – Equifax®, Experian®, and TransUnion® – for a total of three reports every year. You can find contact information for the credit bureaus on the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) website, www.ftc.gov.

* Review resources provided on the FTC identity theft website www.ftc.gov. The FTC maintains a variety of consumer publications providing comprehensive information on computer intrusions and identity theft.

* You may place a fraud alert on your credit file to let creditors know to contact you before opening a new account in your name. Simply call TransUnion® at 1-800-680-7289 to place this alert. TransUnion® will then notify the other two credit bureaus on your behalf.

Precautions to Help You Avoid Becoming a Victim:

* Be suspicious of unsolicited phone calls, visits, or email messages from individuals asking about you, your employees, your colleagues or any other internal information. If an unknown individual claims to be from a legitimate organization, try to verify his or her identity directly with the company.

* Do not provide personal information or information about your organization, including its structure or networks, unless you are certain of a person's authority to have the information.

* Do not reveal personal or financial information in email, and do not respond to email solicitations for this information. This includes following links sent in email.

* Do not send sensitive information over the Internet before checking a website's security (for more information, see Protecting Your Privacy, <http://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/tips/ST04-013>).

* Pay attention to the URL of a website. Malicious websites may look identical to a legitimate site, but the URL may use a variation in spelling or a different domain (e.g., .com vs. .net).

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* If you are unsure whether an email request is legitimate, try to verify it by contacting the company directly. Do not use contact information provided on a website connected to the request; instead, check previous statements for contact information. Information about known phishing attacks is also available online from groups such as the Anti-Phishing Working Group (<http://www.antiphishing.org>).

* You should take steps to monitor your personal information and report any suspected instances of identity theft to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

Additional information about preventative steps by consulting the Federal Trade Commission's website, www.consumer.gov/idtheft. The FTC also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with the commission using the contact information below.

Identity Theft Clearinghouse
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20580
<https://www.identitytheft.gov/>
1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338)
TDD: 1-202-326-2502"

The above was received from the Chief Director of the Auxiliary's web server on 13 June



New Members

The following have become members of our division since the last issue of the Chatter. Please make them feel welcome and offer them any assistance you can.

Harold Hunt and Nick Munz, 23-1
Edward Ward, 23-3
Eric Amo-Gottfried and John Medlin; 23-7

Religious Lay Leader: SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE

Have you ever wondered who is that staff officer or person that facilitates prayers during invocations, moments of silence and other religious activities on behalf of our U.S. Coast Guard or for Auxiliary special events?

In many cases it may have been an Auxiliary Lay Leader or one of the many ordained U.S. Navy Chaplains. You may be thinking is this a new position?

For you history buffs, as early as 6 April 1917, the same day the United States declared war on Imperial Germany; the entire Coast Guard (approximately 200 officers and 5,000 enlisted men) were transferred into the Department of the Navy. As a result of that transfer, Coast Guard personnel automatically fell within the scope of Navy chaplains' responsibilities; however, no chaplains were assigned to Coast Guard units or commands.

U.S. Navy Chaplains are commissioned to facilitate and provide for free exercise of religion on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard. Nearly ten decades later, the U.S. Navy Chaplain still oversees and assists in the development and administration of the Command Religious Program for the U.S. Coast Guard.

What are the duties and what are the origins of a lay leader position? Lay leaders are appointed by the Chaplain and play an important role in conducting divine non-sectarian religious activities. It is the privilege and duty of a lay leader to conduct divine services in the absence of the ordained Chaplain assigned to the area of responsibility (AOR). Lay leaders are not "ordained clergy" as defined by the United States Coast Guard or any branch of the Armed services. This means that they will not perform religious acts reserved for military chaplains as defined by faith group guidelines and the U.S. Coast Guard

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policy. In the absence of a chaplain, the duties of a twenty-first century lay leader may include conducting prayer services organizing and leading scripture studies at an assigned U.S. Coast Guard station or visiting the sick and support those who are bereaved within the Auxiliary.

Margaret Butler

Lay Leader for Sector Baltimore

Carriage of Arms by Auxiliarists

In response to the recent Chattanooga, TN lone wolf attack upon the Recruiting Center and Naval Detachment, many citizens across the country are forming "protection rallies" and some are appearing outside government facilities bearing arms to express their patriotism or show support. As questions have been raised about members' participation in these events, Auxiliarists should be reminded of the strict prohibitions against carrying weapons as articulated in the AUXMAN, which is excerpted below.

Only in the capacity as a private citizen, in accordance with their relevant local, state or territorial laws, and NOT as a Coast Guard Auxiliarist or representing the US Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary in any form or function, may they be armed.

The operative AUXMAN sections dealing with weapons carriage are excerpted below:

1. AuxMan section 2.B.21.e. CG Unit Support: "Auxiliarists shall not be vested with any titles or duties which imply or entail law enforcement responsibilities nor shall they carry, handle, repair, or fire weapons of any sort while assigned to Coast Guard operational missions or Coast Guard Auxiliary activities. Section 5.Q of this Manual provides further weapons guidance....

2. AuxMan section 5.Q.

Weapons: "Introduction: Weapons are defined as any type of sword, bayonet, firearm, or any

related law enforcement equipment (e.g., pepper spray, handcuffs, taser)."

3. AuxMan section 5.Q.1. Weapons Carriage: "Weapons, except those worn by certified law enforcement officers in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations and required by their agency policy, may not be worn, carried, or held by any Auxiliarist or guest of the Auxiliary while attending an approved Auxiliary function or participating in an authorized Auxiliary activity, including regularly scheduled detachment, flotilla, or division meetings. This prohibition extends to those who have concealed weapons permits and those who may otherwise be authorized, but not required to wear weapons when not performing law enforcement duties (i.e., off-duty law enforcement officers). This prohibition also extends to periods immediately preceding and following Auxiliary functions (e.g., during fellowship periods).

Weapons are excluded at all times from Government facilities, buildings, property, and military installations. This means certified law enforcement officers who are required by their agency policy to carry a weapon(s) shall be subject to the policy of the facility they are entering and may be required to check the weapon(s) or be denied entry.

Weapons, except those worn by certified law enforcement officers in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations and required by their agency policy, may not be worn, carried, or held by any Auxiliarist or guest of the Auxiliary while aboard any Auxiliary surface, air, or mobile radio facility while under orders. This includes the exclusion of weapons even though they may be able to be locked up or secured on the facility. If a surface facility is an Auxiliarists primary residence upon which a personal weapon(s) is normally secured and stored, then a request for waiver of this exclusion may be submitted to the Director."

We trust that all Auxiliarists will comply with these policies, as required, and provide support to the Coast Guard through our authorized activities.

Mark Simoni

National Commodore

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

FIRST CLASS

United States
Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
SO-PB
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Prince Frederick, MD 20678

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