



Sound Off!

Mid-Ohio USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 18-06

Vol.1 No. 1 Feb. 2021

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Changing of the Guard

by [Erik Mowery Aux PA3](#)

December is a month we look forward to because of the festivities and fun of the holiday season. 2020 was a year we are never going to forget, even though we all want to forget it. All of us missed out on important festivities or celebrations that were planned.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary was no exception to the matter either. Being told that you are to stand down and cease in person activities, for a period of time, may not seem so bad at first. But it is a blow to the flotilla and member morale, especially when the stand down time is lengthy. We are used to having in person meetings and fellowship that go along with our regular duties. It gives us a sense of purpose, pride and belonging. Our Motto "*Semper Paratus*" is not just a saying of service pride, but a motto we live by. So when presented with the issue of no in person meetings, we stood up to the challenge and used ZOOM, an internet video service, to continue our regular business meetings. The new platform was uncharted waters for many Coast Guard Auxiliary flotillas across the country. Conducting monthly business

using video conferencing had its own challenges. Some members were new to the internet platform and didn't know how to get started. Others, when they logged on, did quite know how to use the controls to mute/unmute and turn on the computer webcam. But with a little help and persistence, we worked our way through the year.

Fellowship, also impacted by the pandemic, is one of the cornerstones that make up our organization. Being able to meet with each other for a flotilla party is a great way to celebrate accomplishments or just have a get together. Faced with knowing that an in person change of watch was out of the question, Division Commander Vicki Schuler and Vice Division Commander Clyde Bowman used the ZOOM platform for the ceremony for the very first time in the division's history. Attending the ZOOM change of watch were Coast Guard Officers Commander Paul Mangini from MSU Huntington and Commander Suzanne Hemann from DIRAUX. Coast Guard Auxiliary guest speakers included, District Commodore Dave Stroup, DCO-8ER, Keith Blosser- outgoing District Captain East, Chris Whitacre- District Chief of Staff (elect), Mathew Meyer- current DCOS and newly elected DCO. The evening's change of watch program included remarks made by both USCG Commanders and Senior USCG-AUX leadership. The commanders remarked by thanking all of us at the district & division level for our willingness, dedication, patience and understanding throughout the 2020 year and look forward to the new year where we are put into action once again.

Both commanders stated that the USCG-AUX has not been pushed aside or forgotten about. CDR Suzanne Hemann, DIRAUX They reiterated the fact that the USCG-AUX was and is continually thought of and is of vital importance, even though we have been on stand down orders for most of the year.

The COW concluded with the time honored swearing in of new division and flotilla leadership, but also recognizing members with distinctive awards.

A new day for Auxiliary Public Education

by [Erik Mowery Aux PA3](#)

Let's face it, we've arrived at a point in the history of our organization and the decision is simple; Stay the same and face an uncertain financial future or add alternative learning tools to our boating education platform.

So what do you do about the in-person boating classes that you have scheduled and are told that you can no longer conduct those classes?

This was the challenge that the E-Directorate faced this past year when the COVID-19 Pandemic caused the cancellation of the in-person About Boating Safety classes.

The E-Directorate came up with a simple solution to this very question and one that was desperately needed.

Many businesses, Schools and Organizations have been using video conferencing/Live streaming technology for some time now. Distance learning, meetings and events are the different ways that live streaming has made it a convenient way to attend. So in late June 2020, The E-Directorate announced the replacement and launching of the new National Association of State Boating Law

Administrators, NASBLA, approved Boat America course. Similar to About Boating Safety, the Boat America offers the opportunity for students to attend class in their pajamas, literally!

The most popular current video platforms in use today include - Zoom, Google Hangouts/Meet/Classroom, Go to Meeting, Join.me, Cisco Webex and Slack. (source: zipper.com) It is important to note that in October 2020 a total of 54 live streaming classes were held for 2,215 students, 196 youth and 149 families. Bringing in a total of \$34,203 in fees. An advantage that the Boat America course has over the ABS course is the cost savings to the flotilla. Traditionally we charged \$20 per student or for families \$20 for the first family member, then \$5 for each additional family member (son, daughter, spouse). This rate covered the \$250 cost for a box of 10 books (\$25 per book). While the cost for a box of 10 books for the Boat America class is only \$35.92. This is huge savings to the flotilla and to the potential paying student. So why should we encourage boaters to take this course?

- The student receives a certificate just as ABS students do
- New and current boaters gain knowledge
- The students can feel confident that they are learning from a qualified Auxiliary instructor

The student gets the most value, Other advantages that the Boat America course has would be the personal interactive video conversation a student can have with an experienced Auxiliary instructor, instead of an independent study course without an

instructor to guide you and clearly answer your questions.

The student receives peace of mind knowing that they are boating safely and family members can feel at ease that a knowledgeable boater is practicing safe boating while on the water.

Highlighting and knowing the benefits of the class is key in recruiting a student. Convenience of the class is one way you can increase the chances of gaining a student.

But what are those conveniences?

- The student no longer needs to worry how far they need to travel in order to take the class, saving time and money on gas and any parking fees
- The Boat America course is all inclusive that leads to state certification; it's also compliant for youth vessel drivers
- Taking the course could lead to possible lower insurance rates

A benefit to the flotilla, besides the low cost, is that the class is ready to use now and contains up-to-date graphics and new content. The flotilla is also able to add local area information, including legal requirements to the powerpoint program. The new class certainly opens a lot of opportunities for recruitment but also increases the impact it has on boater education.

(sources: edept.cgaux.org/ppt/Marketing, 30th June, 2020 L2 leadership link)

Auxiliary COVID - 19

Reconstitution Guidance

By [CG-BSX](#)

A. General Information/Guidance

1. This guidance is intended to provide assistance to the Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), Coast Guard units, and Order Issuing Authorities (OIA) on how to use Coast Guard Auxiliarists in the safest way possible during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Knowing that the spread of the Pandemic is different in every area, region, state, city, town, etc., DIRAUXs and OIAs may deviate from this guide as they see fit for their cognizant areas of responsibility (AOR). 2. This guidance provides Auxiliarists a safe way to move forward during the Pandemic and also combines and supersedes the following four ALAUXs: ALAUX 003/20 (Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Auxiliary Awareness); ALAUX 027/20 (Temporary Suspension of Online Proctor Requirement for AUXOP Specialty Course Exams); ALAUX 011/20 (Webinar Delivery of the TCT Refresher - COVID-19); and, ALAUX 032/20 (Auxiliary Currency Maintenance Changes for CY 2020). 3. DIRAUX offices, Coast Guard units, and OIAs are continually assessing operational risks posed by COVID-19 and developing mitigation strategies in advance of mission performance. They remain the best sources for guidance regarding Auxiliary assignments to duty within their AORs. All Auxiliarists are expected to help them by exercising caution and strictly adhering to all Coast Guard guidance. 4. DIRAUX offices, units, and OIA must honor and respect an Auxiliarist's request to not perform an assignment to duty due to the Auxiliarist's

concerns about COVID-19 exposure. 5. Auxiliarists should remain mindful that Commanding Officers and Officers-in-Charge of Coast Guard installations are empowered to deny entry to any personnel, including Auxiliarists, to ensure the safety and security of the installation. 6. All Auxiliarists are expected to view the CDC's COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html> for further information on transmission, prevention, symptoms and emergency warning signs, people at higher risk for severe illness, exposure risk, preventing infection, etc. Auxiliarists are also expected to view the U.S. Coast Guard's COVID-19 FAQ page at <https://www.uscg.mil/Coronavirus/FAQ/> for Coast Guard specific information. 7. All official Auxiliary engagement activities that entail physical contact with foreign partners (government, private sector, and academia) is suspended unless specifically authorized in accordance with paragraph 1. 8. Whether suspecting that exposure to COVID-19 occurred in the course of a Coast Guard assignment to duty or not, Auxiliarists are encouraged to seek medical attention from their personal health providers and follow their health provider's guidance. Suspected COVID-19 exposure pursuant to assignment to duty shall be processed as other Auxiliary injury claims in accordance with provisions of the Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 (series).

B. Authorizations

1. Auxiliarists are authorized to perform Auxiliary activities pursuant to assignments to duty from one of the following OIAs: a. The Chief Director of Auxiliary (CHDIRAUX, CG-BSX). b. The Headquarters program manager for a Headquarters unit or their designee (e.g., the Director of Health, Safety, and Work-Life (CG-11) or the Chaplain of the Coast Guard (CG-00A)). c. The Area

Commander or their designee (e.g., Area Chief of External Affairs (CG-092)). d. The District Commander or their designee (e.g., Chief of Prevention (dp), Director of Auxiliary (dpa), District Chaplain (dch), Sector Commander, unit Commanding Officer or Officer in Charge). Note: This does not preclude Auxiliary elected and appointed staff officers from assigning other Auxiliarists to duty in accordance with provisions of the Auxiliary Manual (Commandant Instruction 16790.1 (series)). The DIRAUX shall be consulted in advance of any such assignment if it entails travel outside the geographic area of responsibility (AOR) for an Auxiliarist's flotilla or division, interaction to any degree with the public, or as otherwise specified by the Director. 2. In determining assignment to duty authorization, all due consideration must be given mission need and risk that may stem from fundamental Auxiliary demographics in determining whether or not an assignment to duty is warranted. Consideration must also be given alarming trends (30+% increase in boating accidents and fatalities) among boaters stemming from the attractiveness and proliferation of recreational boating in the COVID-19 environment. All OIAs are therefore strongly encouraged to make thorough, accurate, and updated assessments of their operating environments (including incorporation of state/local guidance), fully leveraging the many best practices and lessons learned that have been compiled to mitigate COVID-19 risk. They should also identify and act upon opportunities for Auxiliarists to re-engage with boaters across the Auxiliary's authorized recreational boating safety mission activities in order to help curtail these

alarming trends. C. Coast Guard Operations and Auxiliary Activities

1. All Auxiliary activities are authorized to be performed as long as the cognizant DIRAUX office provides regional guidance, the Auxiliary activities conform to the risk-vs-gain assessments of the OIA, and the activities are determined by the OIA to fully meet their mission need criteria. In cases in which an OIA is not geographically located with the Auxiliarist, (e.g., CG-11 serving as OIA for Auxiliary Health Services (AUXHS) participants) then it is incumbent upon that OIA to ensure awareness of the Auxiliarist's region and reconcile any concerns with the cognizant region. The principal point-of-contact for such awareness and reconciliation is the DIRAUX (dpa).

2. Coast Guard OIAs should follow the guidelines set forth in The Agile Workforce Guide (enclosure (15) of the PLANORD) when Auxiliarists will be working with each other or other Coast Guard personnel. Order Issuing Authorities should also follow the Pandemic and Emerging

Infectious Disease Risk Assessment (enclosure (1) of the PLANORD) when Auxiliarists will be working or interacting with the public. For recreational boating safety (RBS) specific missions, OIAs and Auxiliarists should follow the Auxiliary RBS Specific Risk Assessment (enclosure (3) of this guidance).

3. All risk-vs-gain assessments by OIAs for Auxiliary assignments to duty must apply PLANORD factors and control band criteria (enclosure (1) of the PLANORD) along with the considerations identified in paragraph B.2. above.

4. For operational ordered patrol missions, OIAs must work with their Auxiliary Sector Coordinators (ASC), Auxiliary Air Coordinators (AAC), and Auxiliary Unit Liaisons (AUXULO) to conduct operational planning, taking into account the COVID-19 risk factors, OIA mission needs, and training/proficiency needs of the Auxiliary. Once these operational planning discussions have taken place, only then should patrol requests be submitted to the OIA in accordance with OIA unit policy and procedures. Patrol requests should be submitted well in advance of the patrol date (7-14 days) to allow time for thorough risk assessment to evaluate any COVID-19 risk considerations or changes in mission needs. It is imperative that OIAs and Auxiliarists apply proper risk management principles prior to, planning, requesting, or undertaking any assignment to duty where risk of exposure to COVID-19 is possible. OIAs and Auxiliarists should also be aware of any mission restrictions or prohibitions established by the DIRAUX. 5. All OIAs must give special consideration of age, particularly for Auxiliarists 65 years of age and older, and COVID-19 high-risk factors in determining the propriety of any Auxiliary assignment to duty. The Auxiliary COVID-19 High Risk Form (enclosure (1) of this guidance) must be used for Auxiliarists to certify their status with respect to COVID-19 high-risk criteria. Copies of this form must be provided to the cognizant OIA and DIRAUX office prior to any individual Auxiliarist commencing an activity. The form only needs to be submitted once unless any information in Blocks 1 or 2 change. An updated form must then be

submitted prior to commencing any activity.

6. All OIAs must give special consideration to the proper outfitting of Auxiliarists with PPE for an assignment to duty per enclosure (1) of the PLANORD. Facial masks commonly used by members of the public are acceptable PPE when Auxiliarists are assigned to duty unless otherwise specified by the OIA. If the OIA or the Auxiliarist cannot ensure that requisite PPE for the assignment to duty is ready, available, and will be properly used, then the assignment to duty must not be performed. (Note: The CHDIRAUX will not provide funding for PPE)

7. Understanding that many Auxiliary assignments to duty often have an Auxiliarist who effectively serves as the OIA instead of a distinct Coast Guard OIA (e.g., conducting staff officer duties, meetings, training, vessel safety checks, public education classes, marine dealer visits, public outreach events), the cognizant DIRAUX, through the Auxiliary Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM), will serve as the Coast Guard OIA for the purpose of determining whether or not such activities proceed when COVID-19 considerations exist, unless authorized in accordance with paragraph B.1.d. of this guidance. The COLM will be the only personnel authorized to contact the DIRAUX office; individual members must not contact the DIRAUX office.

8. Units and/or OIA's must ensure that Auxiliarists who are required to wear respirators in accordance with Sect 3.1.4 of the PLANORD are entered into the unit's respiratory protection program are: medically cleared and physically fit to wear them; fit-tested; and properly trained to use and maintain them.

Respirators (N95s) can be re-used up to five (5) times provided they are not damaged or soiled. Voluntary respirator use must be done IAW ALCOAST 423-20 (enclosure (6) of this Guidance). a. Auxiliarists (all crewmembers) performing ordered patrol missions for Coast Guard commands must follow the same PLANORD protocols for those missions including PPE outfitting and decontamination procedures as may be necessary. Such Auxiliarists must fulfill the following training requirements which are available through the Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS: <https://auxlearning.uscg.mil/>): i. (1) Blood Borne Pathogens Training (Course #100293). This course is available in the COVID portfolio of the Auxiliary course catalog in the AUXLMS. However, it will become inoperable, no matter where it is located, for several months after December 28, 2020 due to the termination of Adobe Flash Player elements that are embedded within it. Auxiliarists are strongly encouraged to take it through the AUXLMS before December 28, 2020. An OIA designated unit-level version of the course is also acceptable. Until a link to record this course completion in AUXDATA II is established, Auxiliarists should retain a copy of their course completion (electronic acceptable) to provide an OIA as necessary. ii. Currency in Auxiliary Core Training (AUXCT) requirements is otherwise sufficient for Auxiliarists to be assigned to duty and engage in authorized activities outside their homes.

9. Strong potential exists for the stand-up of Incident Management Teams (IMT) in response to continued COVID-19 expansion. Auxiliarists with Emergency Management expertise are strongly

encouraged to offer their availability for such IMT support through their COLM. 10. Auxiliarists engaged in AUXHS must know the clinical manifestations of COVID-19 and be familiar with applicable guidance on MEDEVAC for High Risk Infectious Disease. 11. Public Education Classes: Class sizes must be limited by the size and type of room the class will be in and take into account minimum social distancing requirements (e.g. 6ft away from each other). In addition, the classroom must have proper ventilation, frequent breaks must be taken, and all interaction between all persons in the classroom must be conducted at minimum social distances. The number of Auxiliary personnel physically present for the purpose of instructing or supporting the conduct of the class must be minimized, and there should be no more than one instructor teaching the class at any given time. Personal protective equipment should be utilized in accordance with enclosure (3) of this guidance.

D. Training

1. Guidance regarding Auxiliary C-schools will be issued through CHDIRAUX office.

2. Currency Maintenance Changes for Calendar Year (CY) 2020. a. In acknowledgement of the significant constraints that have been levied upon Auxiliarists' ability to perform authorized activities in CY 2020, the following changes to currency maintenance requirements are effective immediately:

i. General Qualification and Currency Maintenance Requirements.

1) All annual currency maintenance requirements for CY 2020 (e.g., the four marine dealer visits required to maintain

currency as a program visitor) and other-than-annual requirements that were due in CY 2020 (e.g., the 3-year check ride required to maintain currency as a coxswain if due in 2020) are waived except tests and workshops that can be completed online through the AUXLMS or Auxiliary National Classroom.

2) Currency maintenance requirements that have been waived must now be completed by 31 December 2021 (e.g., the five vessel safety checks that were originally required by 31 December 2020 in order to maintain currency as a Vessel Examiner must now be completed by 31 December 2021). Currency maintenance requirements that would normally have applied in CY 2021 are effectively cancelled (e.g., a Vessel Examiner will only have to perform five vessel safety checks in CY 2021 in order to maintain currency). 3) CY 2020 completion of the Team Coordination Training (TCT) Refresher and the Crew Resource Management (CRM) Refresher is not waived. These refreshers are available through webinars, and if they are due in CY 2020 then they must be completed in CY 2020 in order to maintain certification.

4) If an Auxiliarist started CY 2020 certified in a competency, then they will remain certified per the provisions of this section. If an Auxiliarist started CY 2020 in REYR status in a competency and was unable to fulfill the requirements to regain certification during CY 2020, then the Auxiliarist will remain in REYR status in that competency and will have until 31 December 2021 to complete those same requirements in order to regain certification.

5) All requirements for initial qualification/certification remain in effect and will not be waived.

ii. Auxiliary Aviation Specifics: The currency task requirements listed below are waived for CY 2020 and must be completed by the dates specified: 1) The semi-annual Air Mission Currency task (3 missions totaling at least 6 hours) with a currency expiration date of 30 June 2020 and/or 31 December 2020 must be completed by 30 June 2021. 2) Annual and greater-than-annual cycle (2-year/5-year) currency tasks with a currency expiration date no later than 31 December 2020 must be completed by 31 December 2021 (e.g., a biennial flight check that was originally required by 31 December 2020 in order to maintain currency as a pilot must now be completed by 31 December 2021).

Task Name	Frequency	Affected Competencies
Air Mission Currency	Semi-annual	First Pilots, Aircraft Commanders, Instructor Pilots/Flight Examiners
Emergency Egress Training	Annual	All AUXAIR Competencies
Swim Test	Annual	All AUXAIR Competencies
Annual Aviation Workshop	Annual	All Pilots and Air Crew
Instructional Flights (3)	Annual	Instructor Pilots/Flight Examiners
Auxiliary Flight Check	Biennial	First Pilots, Aircraft Commanders, Instructor Pilots/Flight Examiners
Flight Crew Medical Screening*	Biennial-Sliding	Air Crew and Air Observers
AUX-17 Crew Resource Mgmt.	5-Year	All AUXAIR Competencies
AUX-18 Spatial Disorientation	5-Year	All Pilots

* Must be completed as soon as possible and no later than 31 December 2021. If certified Air Crew/Air Observers have experienced any significant medical change since their last Flight Crew Medical Screening that would affect mission performance and/or would preclude medical clearance by a medical authority, then they must notify the DIRAUX prior to engaging in flight operations.

3) In addition, all AUXAIR pilots will continue to be required to: a) Maintain all FAA license and flight requirements including biennial check flights and holding a minimum of a valid Third Class FAA Medical Certificate. b) Maintain Passenger Currency (for Pilots carrying passengers or crew). c) Fly and log a minimum of 12 hours PIC time each

semi-annual period (may be General Aviation or Auxiliary flight). d) Complete the CRM Refresher. b. Questions should be directed to the servicing DIRAUX and OTO. 3. AUXOP Specialty Course Exams.

a. Sections 8.C.2.(b) and (d) of the Auxiliary Manual (Commandant Instruction Manual M16790.1G (series)) require all Operational Auxiliarist (AUXOP) specialty course exams to be proctored and have a minimum passing score of 75%. Current COVID-19 safety protocols often prevent Auxiliarists from engaging in in-person Auxiliary activities, including meeting with proctors to take AUXOP specialty course exams.

b. Given the constraint posed by COVID-19 on in-person AUXOP exam proctoring, the proctor requirement is temporarily suspended for the following AUXOP specialty course exams when taken online: Auxiliary Navigation (AUXNAV-A / also listed as AUXACN), Auxiliary Weather (AUXWEA), Auxiliary Patrols (AUXPAT), Auxiliary Seamanship (AUXSEA), and Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOM).

c. If taken online, these AUXOP specialty course exams are authorized to be taken open-book and must still to be taken through the Auxiliary National Testing Center (NTC: <http://ntc.cgaux.org/>). Taken this way, they now require a passing score of 90% and must be completed within a 120-minute time limit. Once the online exam is started, it can only stop upon exam completion or once 120 minutes have passed. It cannot be temporarily stopped nor logged out. For these reasons, students should therefore ensure they are fully prepared and ready to take these online exams prior to starting them.

d. This change does not apply to the Auxiliary Search Coordination and Execution (AUX SC&E) specialty course or the NavRules 90 exams.

e. This temporary suspension will end when COVID-19 safety protocols allow restoration of normal AUXOP specialty course exam proctor and passing score policies as determined by the CHDIRAUX. Provisions of this temporary suspension will remain in place for 30 days after its announced end to allow Auxiliarists to complete their exams for AUXOP specialty courses already in progress. Notification about the end of the temporary suspension of the proctor requirement will be via an ALAUX message.

4. TCT Refresher.

(1) Due to established COVID-19 safety protocols, webinar delivery of the TCT Refresher course specified in the Risk Management COMDTINST 3500.3A and CG-BSX Policy Letter 19-01 - Risk Management Training Requirements for the Coast Guard Auxiliary is authorized. All updated training materials have been posted to the Auxiliary On-Line Classroom at <http://classroom2.cgaux.org/moodle/> in the TCT Refresher Resources folder. Updated training materials include new slide presentations that include other Auxiliary mishaps and a Webinar Facilitator Resource Guide. Additional notes have been added to the presentation slides to assist facilitators with webinar training discussions. Listed below are the specific guidelines to ensure that the TCT Refresher learning objectives are met.

i. Webinar Platform. Because there are a variety of webinar platforms used by the Auxiliary, Districts and units are authorized to use any webinar platform that will allow the facilitator to present the training presentations for viewing by the students and permit facilitator/student interaction in real-time.

ii. Webinar Facilitator Selection. District DIRAUX or OTO may select an Auxiliary member to oversee the selection of Webinar Facilitators. Webinar facilitators must be approved by the DIRAUX, OTO, or a designee, must be current in all TCT facilitator certification requirements listed in CG-BSX Policy Letter 19-01 - Risk Management Training Requirements for the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and must be proficient in webinar presentations.

iii. Webinar Training Session Guidelines. In order to ensure course objectives are met, the following guidelines must be followed to ensure successful course completion:

a) Based on webinar training feedback, class size should be limited to 4-12 students. DIRAUX/OTO may authorize larger classes if necessary. Facilitators must ensure all attendees participate in the discussions.

b) All attendees must be able to view the presentations and participate in discussions in real-time. Just calling in to a session is not sufficient to meet the training objectives.

c) The course may be split into two sessions, the first covering the human factors of risk management and the second covering mission planning, risk management, and mishap analysis. If the

course is split into two sessions, attendees must complete both sessions in their entirety to receive credit for the course.

d) Webinar Facilitators must review the Facilitator Resource Guide and take all steps to prepare for the course and provide advance notification and meeting instructions to students prior to the class.

e) More than one facilitator can be utilized to deliver the course. Using one facilitator to deliver content while another monitors discussions or comments is a good tactic. If using more than one facilitator, both must be present for the entire session in order to get credit for teaching the course.

f) Facilitators should invite DIRAUX/OTOs and/or other facilitators to monitor training sessions in order to solicit feedback on the delivery of the course and apply lessons learned to improve course delivery.

(2) When authorized and deemed safe to return to in-person training activities, the classroom delivery of the TCT Refresher will be the required method of instruction. The CHDIRAUX staff will work with the Coast Guard Office of Safety and Environmental Health to review the quality and continued benefit of the webinar training to determine viability for future use.

(3) It is imperative that facilitators continue to ensure the principles of risk management are well understood and that attendees can apply those principles to reduce and/or mitigate risk. We must continue to develop our proficiency in risk management and instill in all members the idea of building a Culture of Safety.

E. Meetings and Conferences

1. Unless specifically authorized in accordance with Section B, all official Auxiliary engagement activities that entail attending other-than-Coast Guard or other-than-Auxiliary conferences, conventions, or other large gatherings are suspended.

2. Given the current COVID-19 environment, Auxiliary unit meetings are authorized pursuant to the following guidelines:

a. Auxiliary leaders and DIRAUX offices are encouraged to assess which meetings can be adapted to wholly remote or virtual means, or a hybrid of such with the allowance for partial in-person presence, using approved video or audio platforms.

b. If the meeting can be conducted in person, wholly or in part, then The Agile Workforce Guide (enclosure (15) of the PLANORD) (also includes the Coast Guard Risk Assessment for Enclosed Space Mass Gatherings) should be used by the DIRAUX office to determine if an Auxiliary unit meeting is needed and meets the risk-vs-gain criteria. If The Agile Workforce Guide and the Mass Gathering Risk Assessment (enclosure (2) of this guidance) determines that an Auxiliary unit meeting is permitted by policy, then the meeting number must not exceed any currently defined state/local maximum (e.g., if a current state maximum for any meeting is 10 people and the Auxiliary unit meeting is permitted based on the Mass Gathering Assessment, then the Auxiliary unit meeting in-person maximum shall not exceed 10 members)

c. A social distancing and PPE plan for meetings held pursuant to this guidance

must be approved in advance by DIRAUX. An approved plan is acceptably applicable for subsequent meetings of the same population provided there are no significant changes from one meeting to the next (e.g., a division meeting plan submitted and approved once is acceptable and applicable for all subsequent division meetings as long as the meetings are held in the same location/venue). Applicable risk-vs-gain and mission need criteria must be met.

F. Travel

1. Foreign Travel.

a. The CDC is issuing Travel Health Notices (THNs) for locations affected by COVID-19. A list of THNs can be found here:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.cdc.gov_coronavirus_2019-2Dncov_travelers_index.html&d=DwMFaQ&c=0NKfg44GVknAU-XkWXjNxQ&r=iuXh5Df8aiyf260_a6VFGD-TgsJHaMedBtP9rpL61Zg&m=DTkao2O7K5V8a2Vp rtuR1XGXc_Gw6gXIRuLmdJyZZkA&s=XGiNZ-5XmmY9wvY973DWAgIBmefgqIUSXncDmFsA1o4&e=

b. Travel to foreign countries or territories affected by any level THN is highly discouraged. It is highly encouraged that Auxiliarists consult the CDC and Department of State (DOS) travel advisory websites prior to making any decision.

c. If you choose to travel, both the DOS and CDC maintain their own travel advisory systems for international travel. International travelers should always check the DOS and CDC websites prior to any trip. DOS travel advisories can be found at:

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/u>

[rl?u=https-3A wwwnc.dcd.gov travel notices&d=DwMFaQ&c=0NKfg44GVknAU-XkWXjNxQ&r=iuXh5Df8aiyf260 a6VFGD-TgsJHaMedBtP9rpL61Zg&m=DTkao2O7K5V8a2VprtUR1XGXc Gw6gXlRuLmdJyZZkA&s=mq5WloBSOKvMJ2p-VvZrJGWGeDKfr03GFSNowpZX-B8&e=](https://wwwnc.dcd.gov/travel/notice/2020031401)

CDC travel notices can be found at:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A wwwnc.dcd.gov travel notices&d=DwMFaQ&c=0NKfg44GVknAU-XkWXjNxQ&r=iuXh5Df8aiyf260 a6VFGD-TgsJHaMedBtP9rpL61Zg&m=DTkao2O7K5V8a2VprtUR1XGXc Gw6gXlRuLmdJyZZkA&s=RZZxMMY8kJF NTxsCxR9SvdOEIRP2aHzt8NE-OVAj_Y&e=

2. Returning From Travel.

a. ALCOAST 084/20 of 14 March 2020 provides travel guidance for Coast Guard personnel, including Auxiliarists.

i. Auxiliarists returning from travel from or through a location that the CDC has issued a Level 3 THN are prohibited from participating in Coast Guard/Auxiliary activities or visiting Coast Guard/Auxiliary units during a period of 14 days following the return from travel. This prohibition also applies to Auxiliary personnel who live with someone who is subject to self-monitoring due to travel or exposure history. They must advise their District Director of Auxiliary via their COLM and their Flotilla Commander that they are subject to this prohibition immediately upon return from such travel. During this 14-day period, Auxiliarists are expected to self-monitor and exercise preventative practices consistent with the provisions of paragraphs 2.b.i, ii, and iii below. If any symptoms listed in 2.b.i. have been

experienced during the 14-day period, then the Auxiliarist must provide formal notice from their personal health care provider that they are clear of COVID-19. Commands and the COLM must handle information protected by the Privacy Act of 1974 and/or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, in accordance with existing laws and policies.

ii. Auxiliarists returning from travel from or through a location that the CDC has issued a Level 1 or 2 THN must consult with their COLM prior to participating in Coast Guard/Auxiliary activities or visiting Coast Guard/Auxiliary units. In any case, Auxiliarists who are advised during airport screening to self-monitor are prohibited from participating in Coast Guard/Auxiliary activities or visiting Coast Guard/Auxiliary units and must consult with their COLM at the earliest opportunity and advise that they were directed to self-monitor. Auxiliarists are otherwise authorized to participate in Coast Guard/Auxiliary activities and visit Coast Guard/Auxiliary units after 14 days, only if symptom free, and in accordance with this guide.

b. When returning from travel meeting the conditions of paragraph 2.a above, Auxiliarists should remain in their home, except as in sub-paragraph (3) below per CDC governmentwide guidelines and 5 U.S.C 7106 (a)(2)(D). During the 14-day interval, Auxiliarists should:

i. Self-monitor for onset of fever, cough, and/or trouble breathing. If these symptoms develop, Auxiliarists should contact their physician for further direction.

ii. Separate themselves from other people in the home/quarters if residing with roommates/family members and avoid sharing personal items.

iii. Practice social distancing by remaining six feet away from people outside the home, not traveling, not visiting public/crowded areas, not using public transportation, and avoiding interaction with pets or other animals.

*Enclosures:

- (1) Auxiliary COVID-19 High Risk Form
- (2) Coast Guard Risk Assessment for Enclosed Space Mass Gatherings
- (3) Auxiliary RBS Specific Risk Assessment
- (4) Control Bands and Corresponding Risk Control Options
- (5) Safety & Env Health Bulletin – COVID-19 – Face Coverings, Masks, and Respirator Options
- (6) ALCOAST 423-20, COVID-19: Respirator Use Policy Update

*The original enclosures for the Auxiliary COVID-19 Reconstitution Guidance can be found by going to AUXDATA II and scrolling to the end of the guidance.

Login to AUXDATA II; from the AUXDATA Navigation Bar select "More," then "Files," and then select "Libraries." The guide and other relevant COVID-19 information will be located in the folder listed as "CG Auxiliary COVID-19 Guidance.")

A message from National Commodore Alex Malewski



ATTENTION COAST GUARD AUXILIARY AVIATORS

and AVIATION ENTHUSIASTS

While a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary have you flown under orders in a Coast Guard Aircraft or Coast Guard Auxiliary Aircraft Facility as a certified Flight Examiner, Instructor Pilot, Aircraft Commander, First Pilot, Co-Pilot, Aircrew or Air Observer?

The Coast Guard Aviation Association (CGAA) has recently modified its by-laws to make members of the Auxiliary who have met those qualifications eligible for "Regular" membership in the *Ancient Order of the Pterodactyl* (AAOP) whose motto is "Flying Since the World Was Flat."



The Coast Guard Aviation Association or “Ancient Order of The Pterodactyl” is the result of the hopes, aspirations and hard work of a small band of kindred spirits. In the spring of 1977, four retired Coast Guard Aviators informally organized a fraternal association open to all pilots who had flown or were flying Coast Guard aircraft. The organization was later expanded to include all personnel who flew in Coast Guard aircraft under official orders. Only those who have willfully placed themselves in harm’s way and have known that innermost feeling which comes from the personal experience of saving life or property can understand the bonding and uniqueness of Coast Guard aviation crewmembers.

Today, the CGAA has grown to over 1200 active duty Officers and Enlisted, retired and former Coast Guard Aviation personnel, Auxiliarists, and supporters. Each year its members gather at a site that is nicknamed a “Roost,” chosen by consensus of the members, usually near a Coast Guard Air station.

The AAOP is established as a non-profit fraternal organization, operating:

- To actively contribute to the enlargement and perpetuation of the history of Coast Guard Aviation and the recognition thereof, both internally and to areas external to the service.
- To support Coast Guard Aviation and its goals, and to promote interest in such matters in areas external to the service.
- To maintain informational liaison between present and past members of the Coast Guard Aviation community.
- To promote social contact and camaraderie between all Coast Guard aviation personnel and supporters of Coast Guard Aviation through periodic gatherings, fraternal in nature and both national and regional in scope.

As an AUXAIR pilot for many years, I encourage all Auxiliary Aviators who have “slipped the surly bonds of Earth,” to join our active duty shipmates in the Coast Guard Aviation Community.

I also encourage all Auxiliarists who are working towards an aviation certification or simply have an interest in Coast Guard Aviation to join as “Associate” members. Your membership will be changed to “Regular” as soon as you achieve certification in any of the AUXAIR or Active Duty aviation competencies. If interested in joining, or for more information about the CGAA, please click on:

<https://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=11401297&msgid=162988&act=GIFQ&c=1449813&destination=https%3A%2F%2Faoptero.org%2Fmembership%2F%2520&cf=6681&v=6ac872b6b01c4cadb0d602f3623830df4a0b81eb42cf33db8a7e4937b6877e4>

If you are currently a member of the CGAA, be sure to confirm your status as “Regular” or “Associate” in your member profile accessible through the <http://aoptero.org/> member-only area listed directly under your name. Due to the very recent change in the by-laws all eligible Auxiliarists as noted above should now be listed as “Regular” members. Please also check and update your aviation designation as applicable in your profile’s “Additional Information” section. If any updates are needed or issues noted, please email member-services@aoptero.org

FLY SAFE and FLY COAST GUARD

Semper Paratus

National Commodore Alex
Malewski

Debut of the

“GOLD SIDE 101” series

A message from the Director of Auxiliary
Commander Hemann, D8ER & D8WR

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

DIRAUX is hosting a series of meetings for all members, a combined outreach to the Western Rivers and Eastern Regions. You’re invited to participate.

WHAT: Gold Side 101 Series - A monthly topical discussion with the DIRAUX regarding the Coast Guard, its traditions, its administrative and operational organization, and general information about how the Auxiliary fits and supports the Coast Guard. We will cover one issue per meeting, with the topic repeated during the day and in an evening meeting, and a recording will be made for sharing. Come check-in as you're able to get to know more about the Coast Guard in a no-stress Zoom meeting, where cameras are optional and comfy sweats are encouraged.

WHO: Any and all members, new and old members, current leaders, future leaders, past leaders; anyone interested in learning. To be clear, any member is welcome to attend either meeting.

WHEN: 1000 Central and 1900 Central on the third Tuesday of each month

First call:

February 16th 1000 Central

<https://uscgaux.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3c7ab4394a04b21283fc3befa&id=289aa6dd96&e=e247d6310c>

Meeting ID: 817 6069 4564

Second call:

February 16th 1900 Central

<https://uscgaux.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3c7ab4394a04b21283fc3befa&id=a2bfc4eaae&e=e247d6310c>

Meeting ID: 842 5853 8423

TOPIC: What is a DIRAUX?

Agenda will be:

Intro of the DIRAUX

Review of DIRAUX authorities and roles

Who works from the DIRAUX?

Who does the DIRAUX work for?

How does DIRAUX interact with Sector, District, and HQ?

Open floor

UPCOMING TOPICS:

What is a DIRAUX?

Coast Guard budgeting and purchase processes

Coast Guard Sectors, Districts, Areas, and Headquarters

Military etiquette

Coast Guard correspondence

Officer and Enlisted promotions, assignments, and evaluations

PCS - Why do they move around all the time?

Uniform questions and recent changes

Message Traffic: what's an ALCOAST, ALAUX, PLANORD, OPOD

Coast Guard boat building - what's happening in vessel acquisitions

What's the difference - Sector, MSD, MSU, Boat House, Station?

2021 Flotilla 18-06 meeting schedule

All meetings will be conducted over invite only ZOOM meetings until further notice.

Join Zoom Meeting at 1855 hours on the second tuesday of every month:

March 9th

April 13th

May 11th

June 8th

July 13th

August 10th

September 14th

October 12th (Division Elections)

November 9th (Flotilla Elections)

December 14th (Party TBA)

To access the meeting, click on the link and enter the password below to enter, or go to ZOOM.us, click on “join a meeting” at the top of the page, and type in the personal meeting ID and then enter the password when prompted.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/177983558?pwd=YTNlMWVRYkdVSDNRb3ZpRWVBVktvUT09>

Meeting ID: 177 983 558

Password: 2vi84a

SOUND OFF!

An online newsletter publication of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 06, Division 18, District 08 Eastern Region. I welcome your submissions of news articles and photos pertaining to Mid-Ohio Flotilla 06.

Erik Mowery
Publication Editor (Aux PA3)
erikpmowery@gmail.com

