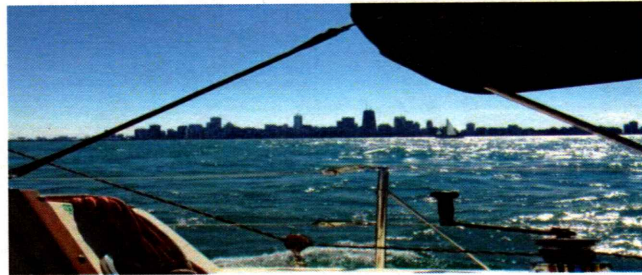


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US Coast Guard Auxiliary

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The U.S. Coast Guard and the Auxiliary: More Than Just Search & Rescue

Most Americans know that when some type of mishap occurs on the water, many times the U.S. Coast Guard and the Auxiliary are the first responders. When most people think of the Coast Guard, they think of boat patrols where the main objective is to patrol for persons

in distress and rescue those in need. Yet, Coast Guard from its inception was designed for more duties than just people in trouble.

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August 1790, was
created to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of the federal revenue. It was originally known as the Revenue Marine Service and then the Revenue Cutter Service. Many "waves" later, the Coast Guard was given humanitarian duties such as rescuing mariners in distress.

Years later, duties were expanded in order to enforce laws related to slavery, piracy and a greater range of smuggling activities. Not until 1915 did the Coast Guard acquire its name. The Revenue Cutter Service and the Life-Saving Service were merged together via an act of Congress. As such the Coast Guard was now the maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.

In 1939, the Coast Guard Auxiliary was established. Today there are approximately 30,000 members of the Auxiliary. The Coast Guard and the Auxiliary have a great influence on the safety and security of the United States.

Volunteer members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary save the citizens of the United States millions of dollars a year. Auxiliarists are an integral part of the Coast Guard, and the Department of Homeland Security. To citizens and many of the young men and women of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard reserve, when they see you, they see a Coast Guard officer based on your ODU collar insignia or the epaulets of your Tropical Blue Long uniform. You are a representative