

The Ultimate Image Starts With You

Great News: It's Much Easier to Get the Right Uniform and Look Great

by Commodore Dale Fajardo

As part of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association's initiative to bring the benefits of membership directly to you, I've been asked by COMO Richard Washburn, COMO Larry King, and COMO Vincent Pica to write a short periodic column to highlight these great benefits and give you a few hints (the "gouge") to help you make the most of your membership in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Before I begin, I believe it's important to present a short background on the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association. The Association was established in 1957 as the national nonprofit organization to support U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary activities, and for over 60 years, the



LIKELY FIRST UNIFORMS



Association has conducted critical fiscal and business management responsibilities for the Auxiliary to include fundraising, partnerships and donations that enable us to accomplish our primary mission: recreational boating safety. In addition to its support of the Auxiliary, the Association provides you, a number of benefits, such as discounts on consumer products and in the

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TROPICAL BLUE





TROPICAL
BLUE

Enhanced
Shoulder
Boards

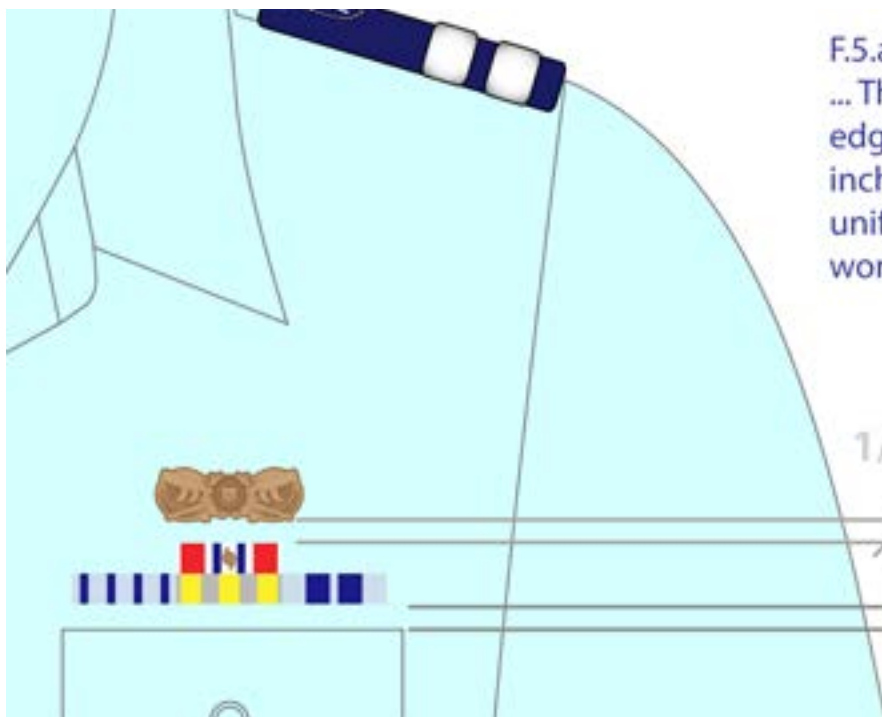


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case of Auxiliary uniforms, it's the main resource for you as an Auxiliarist to obtain the Auxiliary specific uniform accessories and equipment required to perform your duties and look your best.

With this in mind, one of the amazing privileges by being a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is that we are allowed to wear the same core uniforms as our fellow Coast Guard active duty and reserve personnel; as a result, the public may not be able to tell the difference between Coast Guard Active Duty and the Auxiliary. When in uniform, we, as Auxiliarists, represent the United States Coast Guard and the U.S. Government, and in keeping with the true spirit of an organization of volunteers, the possession and proper wear of the Auxiliary uniform must be a matter of personal pride.

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F.5.a. Ribbons

... They shall be worn with the lower edge of the bottom row centered 1/4 inch above the left breast pocket. On uniforms with no pocket, ribbons are worn in the same relative position.



Uniforms

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Recently, there have been changes for the better that will make it easier for all of us to get the right uniforms to ensure we look sharp. So, instead of three places to obtain our uniforms, it's become simpler, now it's just two: 1) the Coast Guard Exchange System and 2) the Auxiliary Center.

1. Just a few days ago, the Coast Guard Personnel Service Center announced the return of online Coast Guard uniform and uniform accessory sales through the Coast Guard Exchange System online store at <https://shopcgx.com/>. For more information, you can review the recently released ALCGPSC message 025/18, but I've summarized the key points for your convenience:

- Instead of visiting Uniform Distribution Center (UDC), you can visit the Uniform section of the Coast Guard Exchange System online store at <https://shopcgx.com/uniforms/>.
- When accessing the site for the first time, you will be required to establish a customer profile on a secure web page, which will be validated through AUXDATA, which means you will need your Auxiliary Member ID number and password.
- You will be able to browse the current selection of uniform items sold by the UDC and use a secure checkout.
- Key point: Though this site has a few Auxiliary uniform items, the main use of this site is for you to get access to the core USCG uniforms items that are common to both Active Duty and Auxiliary personnel such as shirts and trousers for Tropical Blue, Service Dress Blue & ODU uniforms, shoes and boots, coats, parkas, windbreakers, and sweaters.

2. Now, if you want to get Auxiliary-specific uniform items and everything else to complete your uniform, you should visit the Aux-

iliary Association Center at <http://shopauxiliary.com>.

- Items on the site include Auxiliary-specific shoulder boards, officer devices, covers and hats, regulation name tags, qualification insignia, sleeve lacing, and other items to fully complete your uniform especially those hard-to-find uniform items.
- In addition, you can find commemorative coins, flags, stickers, stationery, and much more.
- When accessing the site for the first time, <http://shopauxiliary.com> you will need your Auxiliary Member ID number and password. Once you access the site, you will be able to browse for the uniform items that you need.
- If you have any questions, the store is a phone call away at 314-962-8828 or by email at auxcen@cgauxa.org.
- More importantly, if you buy from the store, a portion of the sales proceeds will be sent back to help your district.
- Here's a helpful hint, thanks to COMO Larry King, consider having your flotilla place a group order to save on shipping and see if your flotilla membership would be willing to approve reimbursement of the shipping.

Lastly, as I looked through the Auxiliary Manual as I wrote this column, I came across an interesting statement, "Elected and appointed leaders are expected to wear the uniform properly to set an example. They must help other Auxiliarists develop proper habits of personal appearance, hygiene, and grooming when wearing the uniform. Uniforms shall be pressed, clean, fit properly, and be in good repair." I earnestly believe that this statement is what we should strive to attain as we help each other when wearing this uniform, not only as a way to pay homage to our active duty Coast Guard family, but as a way to pay our respects to those who wore the uniform before us.



OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM



TROPICAL BLUE



* optional for women

WINTER DRESS BLUE

Authorized covers: **Combination Cap or Garrison Cap**

Office insignia: **Collar insignia**

Shirt: **Winter Dress Blue shirt**

Undershirt: **White v-neck (optional for women)**

Belt: **Black web belt, silver belt tip & silver buckle**

Trousers: **CG Trousers, Dress or CG Skirt, Dress***

Footwear: **Oxfords, pumps*, or flats* shined or optional synthetic**

Name tag, ribbons & devices

Tie: **CG Four-in-hand for men & women**

Outwear: **Windbreaker, trench coat, bridge coat, Foul Weather Parka (limited)**

Socks/Hosiery: **Socks are worn with oxfords, hosiery with pumps or flats.**

* optional for women

SERVICE DRESS BLUE

Authorized covers: **Combination Cap**

Office insignia: **Sleeve lace & shoulder boards on light blue shirt**

Shirt: **CG light blue shirt short or long sleeve**

Undershirt: **White v-neck (optional for women)**

Belt: **Black web belt, silver belt tip & silver buckle**

Trousers: **CG Trousers, Dress or CG Skirt, Dress***

Footwear: **Oxfords, pumps*, or flats* shined or optional synthetic**

Jacket: **Service Dress Blue jacket**

Name tag, ribbons & devices

Tie: **Men: CG Four-in-hand
Women: Blue tab tie**

Outwear: **Windbreaker, trench coat, bridge coat**

Socks/Hosiery: **Socks are worn with oxfords, hosiery with pumps or flats.**

* optional for women



Flotilla
Elected →

Member

Appointed →

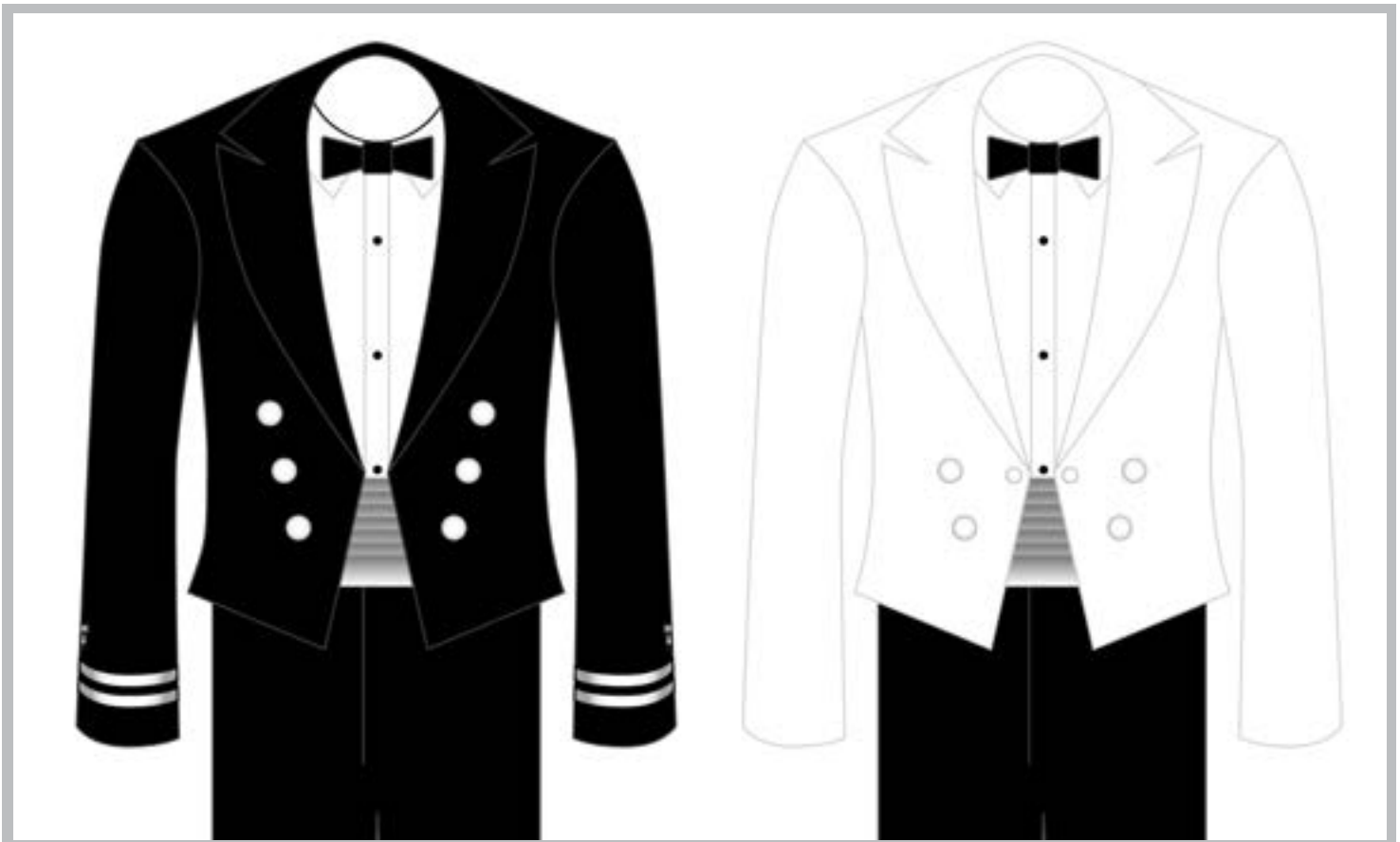
Division

District

National

AUXILIARY INSIGNIA

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



For more information, please visit the Uniform Division of the Human Resources Directorate at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=H-DEPT&category=uniform>. Images courtesy of Commodore Daren Lewis.

