

## Consider the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Chaplain Support (ACS) program!

The Auxiliary Chaplain Support (ACS) program was developed to support active-duty United States Coast Guard (USCG) chaplains to expand religious ministry within the USCG to better meet the needs of USCG members and their families.

USCG chaplains (officers in the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps assigned to the USCG) provide religious ministry to USCG members. They play a vital role in support of overall mission execution of the USCG. Due to the limited number of USCG chaplains, they may be prevented or delayed in the timely response to religious ministry requirements.

The USCG recognizes that the USCG Auxiliary is composed of many skilled volunteers, some of whom have clergy credentials. The ACS program expands the religious ministry capacity within the USCG to better meet the needs of USCG members.



Funeral of a USCG Auxiliary member officiated by Chaplain Phillip Poole, USCG Auxiliary ACS. In background is Harold Johnson, Oak Lawn Cemetery.

## What does an ACS chaplain do?

Chaplains in the ACS program support active-duty chaplains by being where they cannot be, providing pastoral and spiritual care; participating in changes of command, retirements, and other official ceremonies; conducting funerals, burials at sea, baptisms, and weddings; making unit visits and hospital visitations; providing training; and getting underway on cutters. They also backfill for USCG chaplains when they are temporarily away from their commands. In other words, ACS chaplains do most of the things active-duty chaplains do..

## Supervision

ACS chaplains serve under the direct supervision of their designated USCG chaplain with whom they coordinate activities and report all religious ministry support.

*If you have an interest in serving the members of the Coast Guard in your community or area, please contact us at*  
***HQS-SMB-CG-00A-ChaplainOffice@uscg.mil***  
*or*  
***202-372-4545***  
*and we will further explain this ministry opportunity.*



# CHAPLAIN SUPPORT PROGRAM

**SERVING GOD AND GOD'S PEOPLE  
IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
AND U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**



Baptism of Hayden and Charlotte Schmidt with parents, MKC Justin Schmidt and Rebecca Schmidt. Chaplain Andy Wilson, USCG Auxiliary ACS, officiating. (USCG Auxiliary photo.)

**Are you interested in serving the men and women of the military as a volunteer chaplain? Please read more inside.**



## Who may qualify?

Qualified religious ministry professionals who are members of the USCG Auxiliary, or willing to join the Auxiliary, have the opportunity to provide spiritual and religious support to USCG members and their families.

Some ACS chaplains serve a few hours a month and others one or more days each week visiting USCG units. Others serve on standby, ready to respond to needs for pastoral and spiritual care or help support USCG cutters at sea. The level of involvement is up to the ACS chaplain.

Many ACS chaplains are retired from full-time ministry, military chaplaincy, or other ministry positions and want to continue in ministry. Others are still in full-time ministry or academic ministry positions and are looking for additional ways to serve. The flexibility of the ACS program allows ACS chaplains to serve as their schedules allow.



Chaplain Ken Waclo, USCG Auxiliary ACS, officiates at a burial at sea. (USCG Auxiliary photo.)

## Opportunities for each ACS Chaplain.

This is a uniformed, volunteer organization where you, in consultation with your assigned supervisory USCG chaplain, can determine where, how and when you will serve.

You will serve as a team in all aspects of chaplaincy:

- conducting training
- responding to crisis
- pastoral counseling
- unit visits

You may officiate at:

- burials at sea
- memorial services and funerals
- weddings

You may provide ceremonial support for:

- retirements
- USCG cutter commissioning ceremonies
- USCG unit changes of command

You may conduct:

- worship services
- sacramental ministry in keeping with your faith tradition
- Bible studies



CGC Maria Bray Change of Command. (L to R) Warrant Officer Tomasi, Warrant Officer Brandt, Chaplain Gary Gray USCG Auxiliary ACS (USCG Auxiliary photo.)



Chaplain Lyle Schrag, USCG Auxiliary ACS, on the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Healy out of Seattle, WA. (USCG Auxiliary photo.)

## Requirements to be an ACS Chaplain

- be a member of the USCG Auxiliary
- have an ecclesiastical endorsement
- hold bachelor's and master's degrees (waiver available for one or the other, not both)
- complete a moderate risk background investigation
- receive recommendations from:
  - Auxiliary flotilla commander
  - USCG sector chaplain
  - USCG sector commander
  - USCG district chaplain
  - USCG district commander
  - USCG area chaplain
- be evaluated annually
- complete required training courses



Chaplain Isaac Rosenberg, USCG Auxiliary ACS, aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Eagle.