



U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



AUXILIARY PUSH-TO-TALK (AUXPTT)

AUXPTT provides world-wide two-way communications without the need to purchase special equipment or obtain specialized training.

The National Telecommunications Division is pleased to offer Push-to-Talk service to Auxiliarists, providing worldwide coverage in a familiar push-to-talk format on your cellular phone. Switching seamlessly between Wi-Fi and cellular coverage, AUXPTT is an encrypted system, available only to Coast Guard Auxiliarists. You'll have access to channels restricted for your District, and other channels to talk to members of other Districts. Your fellow AUXPTT users will be only a button press away. Gone will be the need to make repeat phone calls to send a message to your team — get them all onto AUXPTT and you'll reach them all with a press of a button!

AUXPTT is not just for our COMMS personnel, but an easy and convenient tool for all Auxiliarists. Whether you use it to stay in touch with your flotilla members, coordinate field activities such as vessel inspections, conduct surface patrols, or communicate at civic events and contingency operations, you'll find it the perfect partner.

Plus, AUXPTT provides you with real-time mapping, showing your location and the locations of all other AUXPTT users right on your smartphone.

National TeleCOMM has specially trained administrators on the system to provide you with help if you need it. Those ADMINS can reconfigure the system in an emergency, providing additional channels, or merging channels with other Districts.

Using AUXPTT is easy. Just push the PTT on the channel you want to talk on, mention the name of who you're calling, then your name, and announce the channel you're using — just like on a two-way radio. That's our only etiquette. We like keeping it simple, so you don't need "over" or "out" or call signs.

AUXPTT relies on Wi-Fi and cellular coverage — it is not a replacement for two-way radio.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does AUXPTT service cost?

The monthly service charge is \$4.57 per month (per device).

Do I need special equipment? No, AUXPTT works on your existing smartphone, regardless of your cellular carrier.

Do I need special training? No, AUXPTT is intuitive, plus National provides you with a custom written instruction manual and personal training, if needed.

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How do I get AUXPTT?

1. Send an email to Andrew.W.Ely@cgauxnet.us.
2. Include your full name, your member number, your personal email address, your District, and the number of the cellular phone you will be using for AUXPTT.
3. You will receive a confirmation email, along with printed AUXPTT instructions.
4. You will also receive a text message on your cell phone. Follow the text message's instructions. Answer "yes" to any permission requests.
5. Then, go to <https://eschat.com/uscg-pay/> and enter your billing information. You will be billed automatically monthly for your \$4.57 payment.



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Auxiliary Push-to-Talk



Can I use AUXPTT while underway?

Yes. National staff views AUXPTT as an enhancement to our two-way radios and both should be used as tools. Of course, the operator of a radio or AUXPTT must be careful to always maintain situational awareness.

What does AUXPTT look like on my cell phone?



On the left you'll see the basic screen, with five different channels. The first two are "National" channels for speaking to members of other Districts. The bottom three are for the use of your District's members. You can listen to all channels, or just one, by pressing the "RX" icon next to the channel(s) you want to monitor. You can only talk on one channel at a time. The lower part of the screen acts as a Push-to-Talk button.

FAQ Frequently Asked Questions

Who can I talk to? AUXPTT allows you to talk to any other Auxiliarist who has AUXPTT, anywhere in the world.

Is AUXPTT secure? Yes, AUXPTT is encrypted, end-to-end. Also, only Coast Guard Auxiliarists are allowed AUXPTT service.

What happens if I get a phone call while I'm using AUXPTT? AUXPTT is polite, and will automatically stop when you get a call. Your phone will work just like it does normally. AUXPTT will resume after your call is over.

I use hearing aids, will that be a problem? If your cell phone has Bluetooth, you'll hear AUXPTT through your hearing aids, and through your car radio's Bluetooth as well.

Can I use AUXPTT on my computer. Yes, AUXPTT will work on your smartphone and tablet computer. There is also a special version of AUXPTT that will work on a computer.



The map on the left shows Auxiliaries using AUXPTT while assigned to Hurricane Dorian.

The map on the right shows an Auxiliarist at the Zurich Airport. (We told you that AUXPTT has world-wide coverage!)

