

Ribbons Precedence for the Coast Guard Auxiliary

Members of the Auxiliary being volunteers receive no direct compensation for the many hours of time & effort they donate to the Coast Guard. Recognition is received through the following awards that can be considered their paycheck.



Auxiliary Distinguished Service Medal

This medal recognizes Auxiliarists while serving in any capacity with the GC who distinguish themselves by contributing exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The performance required to justify this award is exceptional performance of duty which benefits the Auxiliary as a whole. To justify this award, exceptional performance of duty, clearly much higher than normally expected, which has resulted in significant benefit to the entire Auxiliary organization is required.



Auxiliary Legion of Merit

Awarded to persons for service compatible to the Distinguished Service Medal but in a duty of lesser though considerable responsibility. This award recognizes heroism in the face of grave personal risk and which clearly stands out as above normal expectations. The Auxiliarist must have exercised extreme skill, as opposed to just skill required for the Medal of Operational Merit. Lastly, there must have been risk to the Auxiliarist's life. Neither the assist nor rescue need be successful, only that the action required extreme skill and was performed or attempted at risk to the Auxiliarist's life.



Transportation 9-11 Guardian Medal

This award is given to those who demonstrate exceptional performance of duty while in a position of great responsibility, clearly above that normally expected which has contributed materially to the betterment of the US.



Auxiliary Plaque of Merit

Given to Auxiliarists in recognition of extreme skill in performing an assist or rescue that involves risk to the Auxiliarist's life.



Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal

Awarded to Auxiliarists who have contributed exceptional meritorious service to the Coast Guard and/or Auxiliary. Auxiliarists who serve in any capacity within the Auxiliary are eligible. This performance must clearly be of a nature much higher than that normally expected, and which has a significant positive effect on the ability of the Coast Guard and/or the Auxiliary to complete its missions and goals.



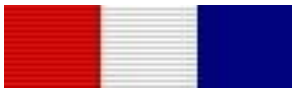
Auxiliary Award of Operational Merit

Given to Auxiliarists in recognition of outstanding skill in performing an assist, rescue or other meritorious operational service. This award recognizes outstanding achievement or service of an operational nature (defined as direct, hands on, underway, surface or airborne aviation mission activity) worthy of special recognition. To receive the Medal of Operational Merit, only skill is required, not extreme skill, and therefore does not have to be a risk to the Auxiliarist's life. Outstanding operational performance and other meritorious operational service have been included in this category. This was added to allow recognition of a cumulative series of operational services, none of which, standing alone, would merit this award, but taken as a group, do merit this level of recognition.



Auxiliary Commendation Award

This award is given to an Auxiliarist in recognition of outstanding assistance that furthers any of the Auxiliary's authorized activities, except operations. This medal is for outstanding administrative services. This requires services accomplished in a manner, which is much better than could normally be expected from an Auxiliarist of like capability and experience. The Auxiliary Commendation Medal is for outstanding administrative services. This requires services accomplished in a manner, which is much better than could normally be expected from an Auxiliarist of like capability and experience. Neither doing a difficult job well nor doing a routine job in an excellent manner will suffice. The achievement must be truly outstanding.



Transportation 9-11 Medal

This medal is awarded to employees of the DOT and private citizens for meritorious service resulting from unusual and outstanding achievement in response to the attacks on 11 Sept. 2001.



Auxiliary Achievement Award

This award is given to an Auxiliarist in recognition of their sustained professional and/or leadership achievements in administration or operations over a period of time to further authorized activities of the Auxiliary.



Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation Award

This award is the equivalent to the CG Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon and is intended for Auxiliarists serving in any capacity with the Coast Guard or Auxiliary for an act of service resulting in unusual and/or outstanding achievement, whose performance is lesser than that required for the Auxiliary Achievement Medal. The award can also be used to recognize an Auxiliarist's service/performance for a special event or project.



Auxiliary Sustained Service Award (Automatically Awarded)

This award is presented to an Auxiliarist contributing a documented total of 750 volunteer hours of Auxiliary service.



Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon

Awarded to Auxiliarists serving in any capacity with the Coast Guard or Auxiliary for an act of service resulting in unusual and/or outstanding achievement, whose performance is lesser than that required for the Auxiliary Achievement Medal.



Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation

Awarded to all U.S. Coast Guard and [Coast Guard Auxiliary](#) personnel responding to [Hurricane Katrina](#) by President [George W. Bush](#) for rescue and relief operations. All who received the award are authorized to wear the Presidential Unit Citation ribbon with a special clasp in the form of the internationally recognized "hurricane symbol"



Secretary's (DOT) Outstanding Unit Award

Given to Auxiliarists enrolled from October 1993 to 30 September 1994 are authorized to wear the ribbon that accompanies the DOT Secretary's Outstanding Unit Award.



Coast Guard Unit Commendation Award

Awarded to any unit of the CG that has distinguished itself by either valor or meritorious achievement or service in support of the CG operations involving combat, which renders the unit, outstanding compared to other units performing similar services. Auxiliarist must have participated directly in at least 50% of the action in a single operational incident for which the CG Unit involved received a citation for one of these awards. Specific Auxiliary units awarded the CG Unit Commendation are authorized to fly the award pennant for three years after the award and on occasions of dress or full dress thereafter.



Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation

An Auxiliarist must have participated directly in at least 50% of the action in a single operational incident for which the CG Unit involved received a citation.



C.G. Meritorious Team Commendation

Awarded to Auxiliarists who have made a significant contribution to a group or team (that does not constitute a CG Unit and individual members of the group must have performed service that made a significant contribution to the Group's overall outstanding accomplishment of a study, process or mission cited for the award) is cited for this award.



C.G. Bicentennial Unit Commendation

Only those Auxiliarists who were Auxiliarists during the entire from Mar 1989 to Oct 1989 are authorized to wear the Coast Guard Bicentennial Unit Commendation.



Auxiliary Humanitarian Service Award

Presented to Auxiliarists who distinguish themselves as individuals or as members of an operation unit by meritorious, direct, non-routine participation in a significant act or operation of a humanitarian nature.

Service rendered in the act or operation being considered must meet the following criteria:

- (1) Must be above and beyond normal duties.
- (2) Must have major significance.
- (3) Must have provided immediate relief, relieve human suffering, and should save lives.
- (4) Must have affected the outcome of the situation.
- (5) Must have specific dates and must be restricted to the period of immediate relief.

Examples of the types of acts or operations which may qualify for this award include:

- (1) Significant assistance in the event of national or international disasters, natural or man-made, such as, but not limited to earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, typhoons, or conflagrations.
- (2) Support or resettlement of refugees or evacuees.
- (3) Significant acts or operations directly related to humanitarian service which are above and beyond routine service.
- (4) Participation in domestic disturbances involving law enforcement, equal rights to citizens, or the protection of This award is considered the Auxiliary equivalent of the military Humanitarian Service Medal (HSM). Since Auxiliary members are not eligible to receive the HSM, the Auxiliary Humanitarian Service Award is awarded to Auxiliarists who participate in the same operations where active duty members are awarded the HSM. properties are excluded from this award.



Department of Transportation 9-11 Ribbon

Awarded to an individual serving in a capacity with DOT, merchant marines or other civilians for an act or service that contributed to the recovery from the attacks of 11 Sept. 2001 and for force protection following the attacks that directly contributed to the increased infrastructure security effort between 11 Sept. 2001 and 11 Sept. 2002.



Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon

Awarded to Auxiliarists who participate in a Coast Guard special operation, not involving combat and not recognized by another service award for the same operation, during the same period of service. This award can be authorized by the Commandant or an Area Commander.



Auxiliary Annual Service Performance Award Recruiting Service

Awarded for recruiting seven or more new Auxiliarists into the Auxiliary as determined and credited through the FC.



Coast Guard Recruiting Service Award

Awarded to Auxiliarists who have successfully completed the Recruiter Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS) and have augmented a recruiting office for two years since 1 Jan 1980 to be eligible.



Auxiliary Specialty Training

Presented to an Auxiliarist who has satisfactorily completed any of the Specialty Courses. Auxiliarists add 3/16-inch bronze or silver star to show completion of additional courses



Auxiliary Operations Program

Awarded to qualified Auxiliarist crewmember, air observer, ATON verifier, CG watch stander, CG boat crewman or CG boat engineer, interpreter corp. and certified TCO.



Auxiliary Examiner Program

Recognizes Auxiliarists who have qualified as a VE, RBSV or CFVE.



Auxiliary Instructor Program

Given to an Auxiliarist who has successfully completed the Instructor Program and has qualified as an instructor.



Auxiliary Membership Service (Automatically Awarded)

This award is presented to any member who completes five cumulative (need not be consecutive) years of Auxiliary membership.



Auxiliary Flotilla Meritorious Achievement

This award is given annually to one flotilla in each district and region. Auxiliarists who have been flotilla members for a least 5 months and a day during the award period are eligible to wear the award ribbon and receive the award certificate.

Operations Service Performance Award

Awarded for supporting CG units and missions



“O” device for underway (excluding underway for training), surface mission activity (sixty or more hours), or for airborne aviation mission activity (excluding training) thirty or more hours.



“S” displays support activities not involving the movement of a facility (i.e. watchstanding). Complete 200 or more hours of Operational Support.



Annual Service Performance Award Vessel Examinations/Marine Dealer Visitation

Awarded for completing sixty or more VSCs, which include examinations of recreational boats, personal watercraft, commercial fishing vessels and uninspected passenger vessels or conducting 60 or more RBSVPs or conducting a combination of VSCs, CFVEs and RBSVPs, which totals at least sixty checks/visits. Also the award may be earned by conducting a total of 20 CFVEs.



Auxiliary Annual Service Performance Award Public Education

Awarded for Instructors & Instructor’s Aides completing thirty or more hours of instruction (in Public Education or Member Training), or serving as an IT’s Aide for 60 or more hours, or completing a combination of IT hours and IT’s Aide hours to total at least 30 credits (one IT hour equals one credit and one aide hour equals one-half a credit).



Coast Guard Auxiliary Excellence



The Operational Excellence Program will provide CG Auxiliary boar crews with a challenging opportunity to highlight their proficiency and skills through the completion of a series of evaluated scenarios. Boat crewmembers will receive a letter of successful completion and coxswains will be issued the Auxiliary Excellence “E” ribbon will be issued to those team members who earned the Operational Excellence Program E-Decal award. It is intended to give Auxiliarists certified in the Boat Crew Program an incentive to train and increase proficiency by working together as a highly trained and coordinated crew and to encourage additional Auxiliarists to offer their boats as Facilities.

The following Coast Guard Awards are presented, upon completion of all the requirements listed in the Auxiliary Manual for that award.

- Auxiliary Sustained Service Award
- Coast Guard Auxiliary Humanitarian Service Award
- Auxiliary Recruiting Service Award
- Coast Guard Recruiting Service Ribbon
- Specialty Training Ribbon
- Operations Program Ribbon
- Examiner Program Ribbon
- Instructor Program Ribbon
- Auxiliary Membership Ribbon
- Flotilla Meritorious Achievement Award
- Auxiliary Examinations/Marine Dealer Visitation Service
- Auxiliary Public Education Service. Award
- Auxiliary Operations Service Award

Auxiliary Awards

Distinguished Service Award
Plaque of Merit
Auxiliary Achievement Award
Meritorious Service Award
Award of Operation Merit
Auxiliary Commendation
Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation