

Greetings from one of our Flotilla Members



My name is Brendan Day and I currently serve as SO-FS for Division 15. I have been with the Auxiliary for 4 years and joined the FS program over 3 years ago. Food is important to the women and men that serve the Coast Guard, and it's great knowing as an Auxiliarist I have the opportunity to prepare some great meals for some great people!

I first became interested in working in food service/culinary when I had my first job washing dishes at a friend's family restaurant at 13. From there, I started to get into prep cooking in high school at a local Taqueria, and then pushed myself to be out in front of people in the Front of House as a bartender and a server. After excelling in these positions, I had the chance to manage several private clubs, restaurants, breweries, and banquet programs. They went beyond food quality, cooking, and serving guests. When I prepare food, whether it is for the station crew, my customers, or my awesome partner Elizabeth, I always try to make it feel like a home cooked meal that gives you a sense of comfort. My favorite food to prepare is *tapas*, or small bites. Enough to share with friends and family and to satisfy the taste buds!

Burlington VT Flotilla 15-2, D1SR

Flotilla Commander: Bob Bernier
Flotilla Vice Commander: Alan Nye
Human Resources Officer: Kenneth Watt

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/about.php?unit=014-15-02>
<https://www.facebook.com/US-Coast-Guard-Auxiliary-Flotilla-15-02-Burlington-VT-351235695499189/>

Open Flotilla Positions

**FSO-MS Marine Safety &
Environment Officer**

Please volunteer for the position listed above. You will learn a lot, help the flotilla function more effectively, and receive help from other knowledgeable members when needed.

**Have you submitted your
7029/7030?**

**Each member should submit
one monthly.**

FC Bob Bernier 802-373-6517

**USCG Station Burlington
1 Depot St.
Burlington, VT 05401**

**Meeting virtually 1st Wednesday of
every month at 7 p.m.**

Natural Disasters: Mitigation and Preparedness

Mary Cox, ADSO-EM



This is designed as a recurring column about natural disaster mitigation and preparedness. We will begin by considering personal mitigation measures.

Mitigation is defined as “sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from hazards.” It may be useful to think about mitigation as infrastructure improvements.

If you own or rent a home or condo, you have the opportunity to plan and take specific steps to keep you and your family, as well as your property, safer from hazards.

Hazard Assessment

We begin by analyzing the specific hazards from the point of view of the location and surroundings of your home.

Flooding:

If you were in Vermont during Hurricane Irene, then you know that it is possible to have significant flooding events. You can determine the flooding risk for your specific address by going to the FEMA Flood Map Service Center, at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home> and entering your address. My own address in the Hill Section of Burlington indicates that I am in an “Area of Minimal Flood Hazard.”

Another free resource that may be slightly more user-friendly is Flood Factor, at <https://floodfactor.com/>. Again, you simply enter your address and you will get a lot of information about the flood risk. At my address, it says it is 0.2% likely that 0 ft of water will reach the largest building on this property. A very low risk of flooding.

But, also take a few minutes to look around you. For example, my home is across the street, and downhill, from the UVM campus. Although my home is uphill from much of Burlington, the campus is large and if I

imagine a major rainfall event, I want to make sure that I have taken reasonable measures to reduce or minimize damage. Also, there is a large water tower on the other side of campus from my home. It crossed my mind that it is possible the structure of the water tower could fail, causing water to flood the area. It appears from a close examination that the water would run to the east, away from my home, but I will do a bit more research on this.

Do you live downhill from a dam or reservoir? This is another consideration.

Tornadoes, Hurricanes, and other wind events:

We also have the possibility of tornadoes, with at least 46 tornadoes striking Vermont soil since 1950. <https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/local/vermont/2020/08/09/tornado-vermont-history-tornadoes-have-passed-through/3330130001/>

And we know from Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene that it is possible that we have a major tropical wind event.

Earthquakes:

Earthquakes are also not unheard of, although are relatively rare. The strongest earthquake with an epicenter in Vermont was a magnitude 4.0 earthquake in 1953, which caused some furniture to be moved and objects to fall from shelves. <http://nsec.org/vermont-earthquakes/>

Major fires:

Major wildfires are becoming more of a factor as our climate changes. There is a good article about the increased chances of major wildfires in the northern states at <https://www.vpr.org/post/reporter-debrief-climate-change-and-forest-fires-northeast#stream/0>

You can also read about Vermont fire statistics at <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/states/vermont.html>

Next month we will discuss simple mitigation measures you can take to minimize the risk from these natural disasters. Many of the measures are very inexpensive; they just take some thought and planning.

(Submitted by Alan Nye, VFC)

The Operational Auxiliarist (AUXOP) Program Peter Graham DVC-TS



One of the primary goals of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is to provide qualified members to augment the mission, service and people needs of the Coast Guard. Answering the call to duty in performance of its missions, the Auxiliary incorporates the guiding principles of the Commandant's Direction: Ready, Relevant, Responsive. To meet that direction, we will remain steadfast and committed to the watchwords "Relevance," "Professionalism," and "Flexibility."

The AUXOP (or Operational Auxiliarist Program) is an advanced training program available to all members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary who wish to increase their practical *Relevance* to Coast Guard missions, and better assist the Coast Guard to fulfill needed skill sets. (*Ready and Responsive*).

The AUXOP program calls for a higher level of knowledge across several areas related to the Coast Guard's mission, so the program has sometimes been called the "PhD of the Auxiliary". Members who attain AUXOP status should be justly proud of their accomplishment, increased utility to the Auxiliary and to the Coast Guard, and in their ability to serve as role models for their shipmates. This higher level of qualification covers a broad spectrum of skillsets.

Members who successfully complete their training are authorized to wear the prestigious AUXOP Device, and their membership level advances from Initially Qualified (IQ) or Basic Qualified (BQ) to Operational Auxiliarist (AX or AX2), or just "AUXOP".

Qualification Requirements

To qualify as an Operational Auxiliarist, the member must successfully obtain a minimum of seven (7) credits from three categories of courses. These 3 categories are:

Core Courses

- These are required core courses. There are 3 separate courses and each carry 1 credit

Leadership Courses

- There are 5 courses available. Each is worth 1 credit. Only 1 credit is available.

Elective Courses.

- There are numerous courses and the remaining 3 credits are from this selection.

Core Courses

The required core courses are as follows. Each is worth one (1) credit, and all are required:

- **Auxiliary Weather Specialty Course (AUXWEA)**
- **Auxiliary Seamanship Specialty Course (AUXSEA)**
- **Auxiliary Communications Specialty Course (AUXCOM)**

Each of these courses are available by visiting the Training Directorate website and select from the ribbon menu on the left-hand side AUXOP Courses. This will direct you to the training materials and the Auxiliary Classroom. Courses can be taught through a variety of ways from self-paced learning to classroom instruction.

Each course requires an exam to be taken from the National Test Center (NTC) Recent changes to requirements for AUXOP level tests allow all members to take the exams without proctoring. Due to the higher level of excellence expected the requirement is to achieve 90% within a 120-minute test period. The exams no longer requiring a proctor are:

AUXCOM
AUXNAV Part A
AUXPAT
AUXSEA
AUXWEA

You can find easy access to the NTC by visiting the Training Directorate webpage and selecting Online Learning /Testing on the ribbon menus on the left-hand side.

Leadership Courses

Auxiliarists must successfully complete one of the following leadership courses, each worth one credit (AUXOP credit is not applied for more than one course from this category). These courses include:

- [Auxiliary Flotilla Leadership Course \(AFLC\)](#) -
- [Auxiliary Leadership and Management School \(AUXLAMs\)](#) – note both AUXLAMs-A and AUXLAMs-B of the exportable course version must be completed for the credit
- [Auxiliary Mid-Level Officer Course \(AMLOC\)](#)
- [Auxiliary Upper-Level Officer Course \(AULOC\)](#)
- [Auxiliary Senior Officer Course \(ASOC\)](#)

There is now a new AFLC course available. It is available in either an online format or in classroom. To complete the course there is an online test at the NTC.

The other Leadership Courses are C Schools. Auxiliary C-schools are Coast Guard-funded formal training events. They are short-term in nature (i.e. – usually 2-5 days long) and deal with specific subject matter (e.g. – distance education technology, information systems, spatial disorientation). They normally require students to travel to a Coast Guard training center, although some C-schools can be exported so that instructors travel to regional locations to deliver the training. The courses in this category are also elements in the Auxiliary Leadership Development Program.

Elective Courses

To provide members of the Auxiliary a broader view of different missions of the Coast Guard, the Elective

Courses selection was created. Auxiliarists will be required to complete their AUXOP credits by completing a combination of the following elective courses, totaling three (3) or more credits:

- Auxiliary Search Coordination and Execution Specialty Course (AUXSC&E) - 2 credits.
- Auxiliary Navigation Specialty Course (AUXACN) – Both parts A&B 2 credits.
- Introduction to Marine Safety - 2 credits.
- Auxiliary Patrol Specialty Course (AUXPAT) - 1 credit.
- Auxiliary Aids-to-Navigation (ATON) and Chart Updating C-school (AUX-06) - 1 credit.
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)-compliant Incident Command System (ICS) 300 & 400 (ICS 210 cannot be used as a substitution) - 1 credit.
- Auxiliary Air Coordinator C-school (AUX-15) – 1 credit.
- Specialty ICS Courses – 1 or 2 credits (see below)

Certain NIMS-compliant ICS courses count as one credit for completion of the in-class course and one credit for completion of the corresponding PQS, for a possible total of two credits. NIMS compliancy is established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). NIMS-compliant ICS courses may only be taught by instructors, Coast Guard or another agency, that are certified to teach them. If any of the following in-class courses is not available, then its corresponding PQS may be successfully completed for one credit. Such PQS may only be signed off by NIMS-compliant ICS verifying officers designated by a Coast Guard command or other agency.

The specialty ICS Courses include:

- ICS 346 (Situation Unit Leader)
- ICS 347 (Demobilization Unit Leader)
- ICS 348 (Resources Unit Leader)
- ICS 351 (Finance Section Chief)
- ICS 430 (Operations Section Chief)
- ICS 440 (Planning Section Chief)

The Auxiliary Search-and-Rescue Specialty Course (AUXSAR) and the Auxiliary Administration Course (AUXADM), if completed successfully, may be substituted for any elective course above, on a one-for-one basis, at one (1) credit each.

In addition certain NIMS-compliant ICS courses (*i.e.*, ICS Type 3 courses) count as two credits for successful completion of all required elements (*e.g.*, the in-class course, the corresponding PQS, and the associated oral board; all as applicable). NIMS compliancy is established by FEMA. NIMS-compliant ICS

courses may only be taught by instructors, Coast Guard or another agency, that are certified to teach them. Corresponding PQS may only be signed off by NIMS-compliant ICS verifying officers designated by a Coast Guard command or other agency. Associated oral boards, as required, must be administered by a Coast Guard Sector or the agency that conducted the in-class course and/or corresponding PQS. All required elements must be completed to get two credits (partial credit may not be issued).

Acceptable NIMS-compliant ICS courses subject to these criteria are:

- ICT3 (Incident Commander)
- LNO3 (Liaison Officer)
- SOF3 (Safety Officer)
- PIO3 (Public Information Officer)
- OSC3 (Operations Section Chief)
- AOBD (Air Operations Branch Director)
- DIVS (Division / Group Supervisor)
- OPBD (Operations Branch Director)
- STAM (Staging Area Manager)
- DMOB3 (Demobilization Unit Leader)
- DOCL3 (Documentation Unit Leader)
- ENVL3 (Environmental Unit Leader)
- MTSL (Marine Transportation System Recovery Unit Leader)
- PSC3 (Planning Section Chief)
- RESL3 (Resources Unit Leader)
- SITL3 (Situation Unit Leader)
- LSC3 (Logistics Section Chief)
- BCMG (Base / Camp Manager)
- COML3 (Communications Unit Leader)
- FACL3 (Facilities Unit Leader)
- FDUL3 (Food Unit Leader)
- GSUL3 (Ground Support Unit Leader)
- VSUL3 (Vessel Support Unit Leader)
- MEDL3 (Medical Unit Leader)
- FSC3 (Finance / Administration Section Chief)
- COST3 (Cost Unit Leader)

- PROC3 (Procurement Unit Leader)
- COMP (Compensation / Claims Unit Leader)
- TIME3 (Time Unit Leader)

Recognition

Members who successfully complete all AUXOP requirements are entitled to wear the AUXOP Device shown above. Until that time, members who have completed one or more of the specialty courses above are permitted to wear the Auxiliary Specialty Ribbon, right, with one or more 3/16" Bronze or Silver Stars indicating the successful completion of another course. When AUXOP qualification is attained, the ribbon is no longer worn.

Published by the USCG Auxiliary at no expense to the U.S. Government.

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Submit articles/photos NLT 2 weeks
prior to the next meeting, or as directed.

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