



The Flotilla Times

9 November 2024

The Chapel Hill Flotilla News

2nd Edition

Auxiliary University Program



Hidden gem of the Auxiliary

The Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program is an opportunity for those in college to experience Coast Guard life and see the opportunities that would be available to them, should they pursue it. While entirely voluntary, like many aspects of college has several required aspects to graduate. These include the Core training all members go through, ICS courses, advanced Auxiliary classes, and earning certifications.

To hear more about this program, we sat down with Chapel Hill AUP XO and VFC candidate Landon Draper to hear more about his experiences in the program. As an upcoming college graduate, Draper has been a member of the Auxiliary since August of 2023 and was enrolled in the University Program a month later.

Soon after joining the Auxiliary, Draper got his first taste of assisting in operations when he trained with Sector Upper Mississippi River to learn safe boating, an experience that also taught him to be able to chart while underway. As hands on of a feat that is, it pales in comparison to what some call the biggest asset to the Auxiliary and Coast Guard recruitment. That asset: the AUP internship.

The AUP internship is, with limited exceptions, a requirement of the program and allows potential future officers to get hands on in an area of the Coast Guard they find interesting. For Landon, he elected to participate in an AUP internship at Coast Guard Station Emerald Isle. During his internship, he lived at the station and experienced the daily life of Coast Guard personnel. He participated in real-time SAR cases, boardings, environmental studies, and observing buoys being dropped from aircraft. But above all, he made some great friends on the internship and confirmed the existence of his passion to serve as a Coast Guard officer.

Landon credits the AUP with being a catalyst for many opportunities in his life as his college experience draws to close. "I credit the AUX with giving me a lot of the professional experience I have" Draper said. He recently received a job offer in the national security field and credits the Auxiliary with putting him in that position.

Despite this, Draper is currently waiting to hear back from the Coast Guard officer selection board, with whom he interviewed in September. He hopes to serve as a response officer, specializing in intelligence, thus fulfilling his aspirations to serve the Coast Guard, even more productively than he already does.

For those interested, or know someone who may be interested, please see the AUP eligibility and graduation requirements below or on their website [here](#):

AUP Eligibility

- Must complete the Auxiliary application process and receive their FCs endorsement to apply
- Any student enrolled at an American university or college is eligible
- Must participate with on campus flotilla or the remote flotilla if one is not available

AUP Graduation Requirements

- Must achieve Senior status (BQII, ICS courses, boating course, and cyber awareness training)
- 200 level course (advanced course on weather, seamanship, communications, MSEP, or PA)
- Leadership Capstone (most commonly internship)
- Qualifications (totaling 6 credits worth)
- At least 200 hours of Aux activities logged on AuxData II

"Now hear this"

Messages from leadership and staff

FC

Kim Isaacs

Upcoming dates and events to be aware of:

Marine Safety and Environmental Protection training:

When: All lessons will take place 1900-2030 (7pm-8:30pm)

November 11 + 14 (Lesson on Aquatic Nuisance Species)

December 9 + 12 (Lesson on Sea Partners/Outreach)

Where: Zoom classroom accessible [here](#)

Change of Watch Ceremony

When: January 25, 2025

Where: NC State University Club

D-Train

(you will receive funded travel orders if you participate, so look into setting up an E2 account if you haven't already. E2 step up instruction will be coordinated depending on interest)

When: April 10-13, 2025

Where: Marriott Shortpump, Glen Allen, Virginia

D-Train Classes Available

- 30 Seats AFLC (for those interested in elected office)
- 15 Seats AUX-12 (for those interested in PA3 certification)
- 20 Seats ICS-300 Supporting Coast Guard incident command (this course is still pending)

Additional D-Train opportunities

- 3-7 September, 2025
- 19-22 February, 2026
- 10-13 September, 2026

FSO-MA

Ron Craig

If you are interested in the aviation program, you will **need** an E2 account, as it is required for aspects of training

Member Spotlight:

Finance and Nav. Systems Officer

Steve Gartrell



Gartrell in September while visiting his former station

Flotilla Finance and Navigation Systems Officer Steve Gartrell has spent a large portion of his life in public service. He started his Coast Guard journey in his youth serving aboard the USCGC Woodrush. The mission of the Woodrush, before its decommission, was buoy tending, therefore making its primary mission servicing aides to navigation, with additional missions being search and rescue, as well as icebreaking.

After 33 years working for the City of Newton, just west of Boston, Gartrell retired and was seeking out things to do. Using his prior knowledge of how much of an asset the Auxiliary is, Gartrell applied and was later accepted to the Constitution Flotilla, meeting at Coast Guard Station Boston.

Due to the flotillas close proximity to an active duty facility, Gartrell was quickly certified as an Aids Verifier and began conducting Navigation System patrols in Boston Harbor and the surrounding areas. It was during one of these patrols Gartrell experienced his favorite moment in the Auxiliary, by verifying the 30+ security buoys around Boston Logan Airport. Later in his Auxiliary service, Gartrell became a Division Staff Officer for Navigation Systems



The USCGC Woodrush (WLB-407), Gartrell's first ship, conducting operations

Gartrell described his proudest moment in the Auxiliary as, during his time in Boston, making significant steps toward flotilla growth, as he expedited the application process during his time as FSO-HR, taking the flotilla from 60 members to 100. "Being located in a major city and on a Coast Guard base didn't hurt any either" he admitted. Outside of the Auxiliary, Gartrell went on to mention his proudest personal achievement, with that being the conversion of the National Community Development Association use of in person training, to online training in the face of the COVID pandemic.

District and Division News

- The quarterly publication that covers Auxiliary affairs has been published. You can view it [here](#).
- Utilize the brand new, interactive uniform guide. You can access it [here](#).
- Check you Aux Directory periodically to ensure your contact information is correct, especially with recent natural disasters making accountability checks more likely

Flotilla News

- Ensure you are checking your emails for flotilla related messages, as there have been several opportunities recently
- If you are interested in D-Train courses, see above as dates have changed
- **ELECTION!** The election will be at the next flotilla meeting, 12 November, at Bru's Pub in Carrboro. You are encouraged to arrive by 1800 (6pm) to mingle and enjoy a "Dutch treat" which will be followed by the meeting and election at 1900 (7pm). The meeting for Zoom attendees will begin at 1900. We hope to see you there.
- **Uniform inspections!** If you are BQ status or higher, you need to have an inspection done by the end of the year. Please see Kim Isaacs for an inspection. These could be done via emailing pictures or in person.
- The flotilla is currently putting together all unused uniforms and insignia, reach out to Ron Craig if you have any unused items you wish to pass on to other members.