



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

29 MAR 24
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 013/24

Subj: CHIEF DIRECTOR'S FINAL ACTION ON NATIONAL BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS
AT NTRAIN 2024

At the 2024 Auxiliary National Training Conference (NTRAIN), held virtually in March, four recommendations were placed before the National Board. They are copied below along with the Chief Director's final actions.

1. Subject: Amend the Auxiliary Manual to Eliminate the Differences of Insignia Color. (Originator: COMO Tracy Schultz / 20 November 2023)

a. Recommendation:

(1) Amend the Auxiliary Manual to make all "A"s within the insignia of the office (exclusive of Commodore shoulder boards) and aiguillettes one standard color (blue).

(1A) The current wording in the AUXILIARY MANUAL: Section 10-31 F.1. Uniform Accessories/Insignia "All Auxiliary insignia, with the exception of Commodore shoulder boards, must include the letter "A." On metal insignia, the "A" is blue for elected.

b. Discussion:

(1) The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is a diverse and inclusive organization. We align ourselves (as much as possible) in appearance and qualifications with active duty. We are distinguished by our silver insignia and an "A" within that insignia. Having two different colors within our insignia creates divisiveness and confusion at times for all components of Team Coast Guard. Unifying to one color within similar insignia recognizes all leaders as equals. We are Team Coast Guard, not the elected team and the appointed team.

(2) There is perpetual debate about elected vs appointed officers. Is an appointment position nepotism? Is an election with only one candidate comparable to when many apply or are eligible for an appointed position? There is no answer other than officers are just that, no matter how the insignia of office was achieved. Membership or leaders have confidence and trust in those chosen. Separate colors should not exist.

(3) We need to promote uniformity and inclusiveness within our organization. We all agree that our organization has excellent leadership that has been elected or appointed.

c. National Board Action: Although motions were made to amend the recommendation to include December 31, 2027 as a sunset date for wearing red “A” insignia as well as to table the proposal for further consideration, the recommendation was disapproved.

d. Chief Director Final Action: Concur, disapproved.

2. Subject: Creation of Y-Directorate. (Originator: COMO Gus Formato)

a. Recommendation: Create the Cybersecurity Directorate (Y-Directorate) for the purposes stated below and for such other and further related purposes as may from time to time be required. The Directorate shall be under the supervision of the National Commodore (NACO) through its Director (DIR) who shall report to the Assistant National Commodore for Information Technology (ANACO-IT).

b. Discussion:

(1) **Organization:** The Auxiliary cybersecurity organization is composed of five Divisions in the C-Directorate (Computer Software & Systems) under the Deputy Director for Cybersecurity (DIR-CdD). The recommendation will transfer the existing DIR-CdC and all subordinate Divisions to the new Directorate, with a net gain of one position for the new Director for Cybersecurity (DIR-Y).

(2) **Span of Control and Responsibility:** Since the inception of the Auxiliary Cybersecurity Program, it has expanded from one Division to five to meet the growing demand to provide essential cybersecurity services to the Auxiliary and augmentation support to the Coast Guard. As the program has grown, the need for an organizational structure, leadership, management, recruiting, and succession planning separate from the C-Directorate has become evident.

(3) **Best Practices:** Industry best practices call for cybersecurity organizations to be independent of software development and system infrastructure organizations. A separate Directorate will more closely align the Auxiliary’s cybersecurity organization with that of the Coast Guard, and will better enable the Auxiliary’s commitment to support the objectives of the Coast Guard Cyber Strategic Outlook.

c. National Board Action: Approved.

d. Chief Director Final Action: Approved. Ribbon creation entails coordination with the Coast Guard Office of Medals and Awards, the Coast Guard Clothing Design and Technical Office (CDTO), The Institute of Heraldry (TIOH), and ribbon manufacturers and takes approximately 12 months to complete.

3. Subject: Sunsetting of the New Member Examination. (Originator: DIR-T R. E. Kumpf / 04 December 2023)

a. Recommendation: It is recommended that the Auxiliary sunset the use of the New Member Examination as a requirement to enroll in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in favor of the completion of the updated Basic Qualification Course II. It is recommended that this action take effect NLT 31 March 2024. DIR-H is aware of this recommendation and has concurred with it in previous discussions.

b. Discussion: The BQCII renders the NME obsolete as the BQCII covers everything the NME covered, and more, and is required to become Basically Qualified. The NME is a barrier to enrollment in many cases, and it makes little sense to have an obsolete examination as part of the application process when the member will have to complete a more in-depth BQCII in order to become BQ'ed as part of their core training. Sunsetting the NME would eliminate time-consuming and applicant off-putting administrative burdens that are redundant, allowing for a more applicant-friendly and efficient on-boarding process across the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

c. National Board Action: Approved.

d. Chief Director Final Action: Non-concur, disapproved. There is inherent value to ensuring an Auxiliary applicant demonstrates fundamental interest in and appreciation of the Auxiliary in advance of enrollment. Successful completion of the New Member exam as part of the enrollment process is a tangible and appropriate way to do so.

4. Subject: Elimination of BQCII and APC as Eligibility Courses for Elected Office. (Originator: DIR-T R. E. Kumpf / 04 December 2023)

a. Recommendation: It is recommended that the Auxiliary eliminate the Basic Qualification Course II and the Administrative Procedures Course as courses that meet eligibility requirements for elected office in favor of AFLC or AUXLAMs effective 31 December 2024.

b. Discussion: The BQCII and APC are not leadership development courses, one is a basic qualification course and the other is an administrative procedures course and neither of them prepares a member to hold leadership and management roles supervising volunteer members of the Auxiliary. With monthly offerings of the Auxiliary Flotilla Leadership Course (AFLC) both online & in-person, as well as ALDP c-school courses such as AUXLAMs being offered on a quarterly basis there are limited barriers to aspiring leaders taking one of these offerings which are leadership courses versus basic training or administrative procedures training. As we strive to improve the quality of leadership officer throughout the Auxiliary enterprise, we must start with the training we require them to take and removing BQCII and APC from election eligibility in favor of AFLC or AUXLAMs is the first step in doing just that. We can better prepare our future leaders if we expose them to actual leadership training earlier in their careers versus later when bad habits have already set in.

c. National Board Action: Based on the APC's inherent value in providing elected leaders with policy awareness, the recommendation was amended to retain the APC as an election eligibility requirement in conjunction with either the AFLC or AUXLAMs. Its final wording was, "It is recommended that the Auxiliary eliminate the Basic Qualification Course II as a course that meets eligibility requirements for elected office in favor of the Administrative Procedures Course and either AFLC or AUXLAMs effective 31 December 2024." The recommendation was approved as amended.

d. Chief Director Final Action: Concur, approved understanding the effective date will be January 1, 2025.

Internet release is authorized.

Respectfully,
S. J. Minutolo
Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX), Acting

For many reasons including the value of keeping communication lines clear and open as well as facilitating access to training and educational tools, all Auxiliarists are urged to have their own email address and to keep it updated in AUXDATA II.

*All ALAUX's are posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary web site located at: [CHDIRAUX
ALAUX](#)

If you have a question regarding this ALAUX, please seek resolution within your Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) including up to your servicing District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX). If your question still cannot be resolved after that, then please email CGAUX@uscg.mil.