

Why AUXPTT is Good for Auxiliary Communications

The newest tool for efficient USCG Auxiliary communications is the Push-To-Talk (PTT), an application that may be downloaded onto any smart phone, computer, laptop or pad device. It provides instant communications between users worldwide without any lag and features multiple channels available to all, including two national channels. National Administrators have complete control of the AUXPTT system, allowing new members to be brought online in minutes.

AUXPTT allows for easy joint operations with other agencies who use ESChat as a PTT provider. For example:

- In Thompkins County, NY, the county 9-1-1 center to allows AUXPTT users access to the county's PTT channels. This arrangement is used for AUX patrols on Cayuga Lake, where there is no VHF COMMS with the Coast Guard.
- AUX patrols on the Arkansas River have no VHF COMMS with the sector's command center so they use AUXPTT for patrol communications. Local Auxiliarists bring attention to the fact that, because of AUXPTT's world-wide coverage, their patrol Watchstander is two states away.
- AUXPTT was used in twice-daily Hurricane Idalia "conference calls" for three days by DSO-CMs from D7, D5N, D5S, D8E, and members of National TELECOMM Division staff. Temporary AUXPTT assignments were made for 5S and 5N who are not normally AUXPTT users. These calls were made on the PTT NAT.HF channel so that all HF station operators in the country could listen.
- Most of Sector New York active duty use AUXPTT. It was the sole means of COMMS on Veterans Day 2022 by the protective detail for the Vice Commandant, MCPOCG Vince Patton, Grand Marshal of the Veterans Day parade, and numerous other military dignitaries. This was the first time agencies had complete two-way coverage in NYC, actually aiding in the removal of dignitaries/protectees from protests.

"AUXPTT is a great way for us to communicate without others hearing us," added Dave Springer, ADSO-CM, D8WR. "PTT is great for short conversations in lieu of making a telephone call. We used it a couple of weeks ago at Floatzilla on the Mississippi River to great advantage. This is the largest paddle craft event on the Mississippi, with over 3,000 participants. We have many historical radio 'blind spots' when using VHF FM system and AUXPTT covered them well."

What's your opinion of AUXPTT—like it or not? What could make it better and attract you as a user? Please let us know. We're always looking for better and easier ways to communicate within the Auxiliary and PTT is just one new way we're finding out that upgrades like this one are worth it.