



## Overview of US Coast Guard Auxiliary EMT Activities

Note: This document provides a general introduction and is not policy. Those seeking information on policy should reference COMDTINST 6010.2 (series), the *Auxiliary Manual*, and the *CG Medical Manual* and/or contact your Flotilla Commander for further specific guidance.

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### What is the USCG Aux?

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCG Aux) is the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard—an agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Auxiliary operations take place on land, sea, and in the air. It provides a way to serve your country in your community, putting in as many hours as you like, without mandatory minimums.

### History & Mission

Congress established the Aux in 1939, as the United States Coast Guard Reserve. In 1941, the organization was re-designated as the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Auxiliary exists to support all USCG missions on the water or in the air, except for roles that require "direct" law enforcement or military engagement. They help with priority programs relating to things like boating safety, search and rescue, homeland security, patrols, and other related programs.

### Statistics

There are 24,000 Members who collectively contributes over 4.5 million hours of service each year and completed nearly 500,000 missions in service to support the Coast Guard. Every year Auxiliarists help to save approximately 500 lives, assist 15,000 distressed boaters, conduct over 150,000 safety examinations of vessels, and provide boater safety instruction to over 500,000 students. In total the Coast Guard Auxiliary saves taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

### The Basics

Once you join a Flotilla (group) in your area, you fill out an application, take a brief New Member test, pass a background check, obtain FEMA IS-100 and 700, obtain a proper uniform(s), then take some core basic online mandatory short classes (USCG Policy on sexual harassment, diversity, risk management, etc.)—then you will be a new Member. You will be issued an identification number, an ID card from DHS and whenever you are actively participating in training or any mission, you are covered by the USCG for workers compensation, etc..

Learn more: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=095-45&category=join-the-uscg-aux>

## Auxiliary Health Services

One of the MANY different programs the Aux offers is *Aux Health Services*. This program established a mechanism for the verification of the credentials of certain Auxiliarists who wish to assist CG Clinics or Sickbays on Coast Guard bases/facilities. This goes for physicians, to pharmacists, nurses, EMTs, etc.

After becoming a Member, if you have a valid EMT/PM certificate you can be “certified” in the USCG Auxiliary by sending a copy of your EMT card to your Flotilla’s Information Services (FSO-IS) officer. Your personnel record (*Aux Data*) will reflect “EMT Certified” shortly after. With this certification you may be able to work within the Aux Health Services program. You can also be a boat crew mentor, helping to train new Members who are undergoing training on the water. This is because that training program has a significant portion on medical emergencies and intervention. Further, if you have National Registry (or obtain it), this opens you up to even more roles as a Coast Guard EMT.

More specific information on the *Aux EMS* program, is located at the BOTTOM of the link on this page—note: it is a MS Word document. This is a selection of the language from the Aux EMS program:

*The following are the current authorized support areas and opportunities open to Auxiliary Members who are EMS providers:*

1. *Assist at Small Boat Station's as SAR Boat Crew at the EMT-B level at the discretion of the unit's CO or OIC. Coast Guard Auxiliary Operations Manual (COMDTINST M16798.3E) Section E.10.c:*

*Unit commanders may assign Auxiliarists certified as EMTs under Coast Guard standards to augment Coast Guard forces as EMTs. A unit commander must first issue the Auxiliarist a “letter of certification” (upon proof that Coast Guard EMT standards were met). The Auxiliarist is then eligible for orders. Only the Coast Guard unit which issued the “letter of certification” may issue orders assigning the Auxiliarist as an EMT.*

2. *Instructors in First Aid, CPR, AED use, and Lifesavers Course if certified as an Instructor (ARC, AHA, ASHI, etc.) and approved by local unit command.*
3. *CG Clinic as “medical assistants” as described in COMDTINST 6010.2C and the CG Medical Manual - this is at the discretion of local CG Senior Medical Officer.*

Link:

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=H-DEPT&category=auxiliary-health-services>

I hope you found this helpful. I have assembled this information to help you understand the foundation of the USCG Aux and I encourage you to visit a local Flotilla. It's a GREAT organization.

If you are in **Jacksonville, Florida** please contact me at [alfassa.uscg@gmail.com](mailto:alfassa.uscg@gmail.com) and I can help you learn more.

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