

Welcome to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Chicago Air Flotilla (03-08)

1. Welcome to the flotilla

Congratulations on your decision to join the USCG Auxiliary. Flotilla 03-08 of the 9th Western District is a flotilla with many activities in which you may become involved. With training, a member can be involved in flying patrols, surface support, public education, communications, or many other fine programs. Another great benefit is the fellowship to be found in our flotilla and the entire Auxiliary.

Your first forays in to the flotilla operation may seem daunting, but everyone wants to ensure that you enjoy yourself, succeed and become qualified. As questions arise ask other members, flotilla staff and leadership. They will have the answers or know how to get them for you.

2. Coast Guard Auxiliary history and organization

When the Coast Guard "Reserve" was authorized by act of Congress on June 23, 1939, the Coast Guard was given a legislative mandate to use civilian volunteers to promote safety on and over the high seas and the nation's navigable waters. The Coast Guard Reserve was then a non-military service comprised of unpaid, volunteer U.S. citizens who owned motorboats or yachts.

Two years later, on Feb. 19, Congress amended the 1939 act with passage of the Auxiliary and Reserve Act of 1941. Passage of this act designated the Reserve as a military branch of the active service, while the civilian volunteers, formerly referred to as the Coast Guard Reserve, became the Auxiliary. So, February 19 is formally recognized as the birth of the Coast Guard Reserve while June 23 is recognized as birthday of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

When America entered World War II, 50,000 Auxiliary members joined the war effort. They guarded waterfronts, carried out coastal picket patrols, rescued survivors from scuttled ships and did anything else they were asked to do. Many of their private vessels were placed into service.

After the war, Auxiliarists resumed their recreational boating safety duties. The Auxiliary's four cornerstones - Vessel Examination, Education, Operations and Fellowship - were established and remained the Auxiliary's pillars into the 1990s.

The well-known Vessel Safety Check, a free examination available to any recreational boater, helps boaters ensure their craft complies with Federal boating regulations.

As for Education, the Auxiliary teaches boating safety to recreational boaters of all ages.

The Auxiliary operates safety and regatta patrols and is an integral part of the Coast Guard Search and Rescue team. Auxiliarists also stand communication watches, assist during mobilization exercises, perform harbor and pollution patrols, provide platforms for unarmed boarding parties and recruit new people for the Service.

Following the passage of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 the Auxiliary's role is to assist the Coast Guard, as authorized by the Commandant, in performance of any Coast Guard function, duty, role, mission or operation authorized by law. This does not include law enforcement or military operations.

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION

The Auxiliary has members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam. Membership is open to men and women, 17 years or older, U.S. citizens of all states and territories, civilians or active duty or former members of any of the uniformed services and their Reserve components, including the Coast Guard. Facility (radio station, boat or aircraft) ownership is desirable but not mandatory.

- Flotilla - The Flotilla is the basic organizational unit of the Auxiliary and is comprised of at least 15 qualified members who carry out Auxiliary program activities. Every Auxiliarist is a member of a local Flotilla. Each Flotilla is headed by an elected Flotilla Commander (FC).
- Division - For maximum administrative effectiveness in carrying out Auxiliary programs, Flotillas in the same general geographic area are grouped into Divisions. The Division provides administrative, training and supervisory support to Flotillas and promotes District policy. Each Division is headed by a Division Captain (DCP), and Division Vice-Captain (VCP) and usually consists of five or more Flotillas.
- District/Region - Flotillas and Divisions are organized in Districts comparable to the Coast Guard Districts and must be assigned the same district number. Some Districts are further divided into Regions. The District/Region provides administrative and supervisory support to Divisions, promotes policies of both the District Commander and National Auxiliary Committee. All Districts and Regions are governed by a District Commodore (DCO), District Vice Commodore (VCO), and District Rear Commodore (RCO), under the guidance of the Coast Guard District Commander. At this level, Coast Guard officers are assigned to oversee and promote the Auxiliary programs.
- National - The Auxiliary has national officers who are responsible, along with the Commandant, for the administration and policy-making for the entire Auxiliary. These officers comprise the National Executive Committee

(NEXCOM) that is composed of the Chief Director of Auxiliary (an Active Duty officer), National Commodore and the National Vice Commodores. NEXCOM and the National Staff make up the Auxiliary Headquarters organization. The Chief Director is a senior Coast Guard officer and directs the administration of the Auxiliary on policies established by the Commandant. The overall supervision of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is under the Assistant Commandant for Operations (G-O), who reports directly to the Commandant.

3. What to expect in the coming period of time

As a prospective member, an Auxiliarist will interview you. The purpose of the interview is to answer questions you may have about the Auxiliary and how you will fit in. Several forms will need to be filled out and submitted as part of the New Member package. You will receive a New Member Handbook that will give you a reference and guide to the Auxiliary.

4. After IQ becoming BQ and operational

Once all the security checks are complete and your application is approved you will become Initially Qualified (IQ) this is just another step in the process to becoming operationally qualified in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. It is at this point you are a member. You will be sworn in and allowed to wear the uniform of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Your next step is to become Basic Qualified (BQ). To do this you must take a boating course. The Coast Guard Auxiliary has a tradition of about boating safety and the expectation is that all members should understand basic seamanship. One excellent course to take is America's Boating Course. The ABC course can be taken at a location with the auxiliary or online at <http://www.americasboatingcourse.com>

5. Links to get uniforms

Uniforms can be purchased directly through the Coast Guard or other approved vendors. Shirts, Pants, most insignia:

- Coast Aux: <http://shopauxiliary.com/>
- Light House Uniform Supply <http://lighthouseuniform.com/>

Name Tags

- For Tropical Blue Long uniform
<http://www.militaryclothing.com/IBS/SimpleCat/Shelf/ASP/Hierarchy/070Q.html>
- For Flight Suits <http://www.nametags4u.com/index.html>

Flight Clothing:

- Flight Suits and Jackets <http://www.flightsuits.com>

6. A Few Common Abbreviations

ABC	America's Boating Course
AP	Application Pending
ATON	Aids TO Navigation
AUXDATA	Auxiliary Database
BQ	Basically Qualified
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHDIRAUX	Chief Director Auxiliary
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DIV	Division
DIST	District
FINCEN	Financial Center
FSO	Flotilla Staff Officer
FC	Flotilla Commander
VFC	Vice Flotilla Commander

A detailed list of acronyms and abbreviations may be found in Appendix M of M16790.1F

FSO - Title	Office
AN	Aids to Navigation
CM	Communications
CS	Communication Services
FN	Finance
IS	Information Systems
MA	Materials
MS	Marine Safety
MT	Member Training
MV	Marine Dealer Visitor
OP	Operations
PA	Public Affairs
PB	Publications
PE	Public Education
PS	Personnel Services
SR	Secretary/Records
VE	Vessel Examination