

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary History Highlights, 1939-2016
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June 23, 1939 Congressional legislation establishes the Coast Guard Reserve as a volunteer civilian organization the purpose of which is to promote recreational boating safety and to facilitate the operations of the Coast Guard.

February 19, 1941 Congressional legislation changes the name of the Reserve to the Auxiliary and in addition, creates a military Coast Guard Reserve under which enrollees are subject to military law and the Articles of War.

June 1942 Congressional legislation allows Auxiliarists to enroll as part-time or intermittent members of the Coast Guard Reserve. Thousands of Auxiliarists enroll themselves and their vessels in the Reserve. Over fifty thousand temporary Reservists served during the war patrolling harbors, factories, bridges, and docks; fighting fires; providing emergency and disaster assistance; conducting search and rescue and anti-submarine warfare; training; giving blood; selling war bonds; recruiting SPARs (CG women reservists). (An equal number of Auxiliarists served, but many held both titles simultaneously, so the 50,000 figure is used for both the number of Auxiliarists and temporary Reservists.)

July 1942 Coastal Picket Force is formed; Auxiliary enrolls large sailboats and motorcruisers and mans a number along with newly recruited yachtsmen for anti-submarine work along 50-fathom curve of Atlantic Coast. Integrated Army-Navy-Coast Guard coastal and beach patrol system established consisting of mounted, foot, canine, and afloat units. Temporary reservists serve in all branches.

December 1942 Temporary reservists required to transfer to full-time active duty, if physically fit, or serve part- or full-time on a volunteer basis or resign from service.

November 1942 Congressional legislation allows women to enroll as temporary Reservists. This included Auxiliary members who numbered approximately 100, as of March 1943.

1943 When a flood struck St. Louis during the Spring season, Coast Guard Auxiliarists and Reservists evacuated seven thousand people and thousands of livestock to safety.

1944 Congressional legislation allows aircraft and marine radios to be used as facilities to assist with search and rescue operations.

1945 The Coast Guard Auxiliary boasted a wartime membership of 67,533, and 53,214 men and women (most of them Auxiliarists) were serving as temporary members of the Reserve. At the end of the war the Coast Guard TRs were "honorably disenrolled." Many remained Auxiliarists for years afterward. Wartime service had earned them no veterans' benefits and precious little other public recognition. In 1946 the TRs were awarded the Victory Medal. Auxiliarists who had not joined the Reserve had to be satisfied with the thanks of ADM Waesche: "The Auxiliary during the war years was indispensable. Many thousands of you served faithfully and loyally as Auxiliarists and as temporary members of the CG Reserve, performing hundreds of tasks and relieving thousands of Coast Guardsmen for duty outside the continental limits. The Coast Guard is deeply appreciative of this service."

1946 Flotillas established in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands.

July 1946 CG-170, "Instruction to Coast Guard Auxiliary," first Auxiliary manual issued.

1947 Courtesy Marine Examination Program (CME) is launched in the 7th District.

January 1948 Public Education program launched at the New York National Boat Show.

1950 First 8-lesson boating safety course developed.

1951 Bert C. Pouncey, Jr. elected first National Commodore at the first National Conference; National Board is created.

1952 AUXOP established as original premier operational training program.

1953 CG-289, first Courtesy Marine Examination manual issue.

1955 Academy Introduction Mission (AIM) program is begun which recruits potential cadets for the U. S. Coast Guard Academy. Presently, approximately 200 high school students get a taste of "swab summer" prior to their senior years by attending AIM Week at the Academy each year. Operations in 17th District in Alaska reactivated following hiatus after World War II.

1957 Ole Evinrude Award presented to Auxiliary for its "outstanding contribution to recreational boating afloat."

1958 Auxiliary helps implement provisions of the Federal Boating Act as well as new vessel numbering system through the public education and CME programs. State law enforcement officials are trained in the new law and seamanship. Between 1950 and 1960, 18 million Americans move to the suburbs, a factor that increases the number of boating "enthusiasts" to 40 million by 1959.

June 4 President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaims National Safe Boating Week under Congressional resolution. First initiated under the leadership of Steve Sadowski of the 1st Coast Guard District in 1952.

1959 First operations manual/training course initiated.

1961 The Navigator, the national publication of the CG Auxiliary commences publication.

1962 National Oceanographic Administration enters agreement with Auxiliary for chart updating.

1964 Auxiliary conducts chart-updating nation-wide for Coast and Geodetic Survey.

1967 Coast Guard transferred from the Department of Treasury to Transportation.

1968 Auxiliary adopts navy blue ensign/emblem with white stripe. Auxiliary receives National Safety Council citation for distinguished service to safety.

1969 Boating Skills and Seamanship course required for membership; expanded to 12 and 13 lessons.

1971 Under the 1971 Federal Boating Act, Auxiliary flotillas are allowed to open on sole-state waters. Federal construction of inland lakes, dams, and reservoirs greatly increases boating in western and plains states and scores of flotillas begin to operate there. As a result the search and rescue caseload soars, reaching a peak of 58,000 persons assisted in 1980.

1973 Youth courses begin with development of Water`n Kids course. Auxiliary takes over seven small boat stations on Great Lakes.

1975 Coast Guard adopts "Bender Blue" uniform, replacing khakis.

1979 Bolling Douglas of the 7th District elected first female district commodore.

1984 Auxiliary Boat Crew training program is established under which coxswains and crew members are tested on seamanship and search and rescue operations by specially qualified examiners. 1989 50th Anniversary of Auxiliary celebrated; history program established.

1990-91 Coast Guard begins integration of Auxiliarists into everyday operations: Auxiliarists inspect commercial fishing vessels, fly as air observers in C-130 aircraft, work in Coast Guard offices, qualify as Coast Guard boat crew.

1993 First Personal Water Craft (PWC) utilized as Auxiliary facilities.

1996 Congressional legislation expands role of Auxiliary to include any Coast Guard mission, except direct law enforcement and military operations, as authorized by the Commandant.

2001 For the first time since World War II, Coast Guard Auxiliary lends major operational support to Coast Guard in protecting U.S. cities, coastlines, ports, and citizens against foreign attacks, due to Al Qaeda terrorist attack on New York City and Washington, D. C., on September 11. Auxiliary publishes first official history, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary: A History, 1939-1999, authored by John A. Tilley of East Carolina University (U.S. Government Printing Office).

2002 U. S. Coast Guard transferred from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Homeland Security.

2003 March -- 1 March 2003, U. S. Department of Homeland Security formally established. U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member organization.

2004 Auxiliarists become victims and rescuers during unprecedented four hurricanes that hit Florida: Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne.

2005 Hurricane Katrina hits Louisiana and the Gulf Coast in August. Hurricane Rita hits Texas, Louisiana in September and Hurricane Wilma hits Florida in October. Auxiliary members nation wide assisted at these disasters. Search and rescue operations alone saved 24,135 lives from imminent danger, usually off the roofs of the victims' homes as flood waters lapped at their feet. Coast Guardsmen "evacuated to safety" 9,409 patients from local hospitals. In total, 33,545 lives were saved. Seventy-six Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary aircraft took part in the rescues. They flew 1,817 sorties with a total flight time of 4,291.3 hours in the air. The air crews saved 12,535. A total of 42 cutters and 131 small boats also participated, with their crews rescuing 21,200. More than 5,000 Coast Guardsmen served in Katrina operations. District 8CR sent several divisions to support the Coast Guard with personnel and facilities - surface, air, and communications. The District also donated \$10,000 to assist members impacted by Katrina.

2006 Commandant Thad W. Allen, USCG issues the following Auxiliary Policy Statement "The Auxiliary is a force multiplier of vetted and trained volunteers devoted to the support of Coast Guard missions and provides a broad inventory of vital skills, assets, and experience for our units across the nation. As the leading volunteer organization in the Department of Homeland Security, it is an essential component of our daily operations and an effective resource primed to prevent and respond to catastrophes in the maritime region."

2007 The worth of each Auxiliarist in today's dollars is estimated to be approximately between \$2,850 and \$2,927 annually. The CG receives close to \$70 million worth of work from the Auxiliary organization each year following the subtraction of \$14M in expenses.

2008 CG seeks AUX support in America's Waterway Watch program. AUX membership stands at 28,635.

2009 AUX Memorial unveiled at U.S. Coast Guard Training Center (TRACEN), Cape May.

June 19, 2009 the Commandant of the Coast Guard awarded the Coast Guard Unit Commendation to Auxiliary members for "performance...nothing short of stellar" from the period of June 24, 1999, to June 23, 2009.

2010 AUX supports SAR operations in response to the largest off-shore oil spill in U.S. history, with the loss of eleven lives aboard Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in Gulf of Mexico. Auxiliary examiners participate in safety exams for vessels of opportunity, conduct overflights of Gulf for observation of oil flow, serve in Joint Information Centers, (JICs) and backfill Coast Guard Positions in Public Affairs Units at the Unified Area Command Center in New Orleans.

2011 Auxiliarists volunteer hours for the fiscal year total 4,861,156 hours.

2012 Thomas Mallison elected thirty-first NACO.

October 2012 members of the Flotilla 20-10 (Swansboro, NC) received The Association for Rescues at Sea Silver Medal. The awarding citation read as follows:
AFRAS SILVER MEDAL (Presented to a Coast Guard Auxiliarist(s) who displays extraordinary bravery during a rescue at sea.) An AFRAS Silver medal will be awarded to US Coast Guard Auxiliarists Ronald Johnson, Dennis Szeba, Jim Mauk, Bill Gerdson, and Fred Jelinek for their outstanding operational skill while serving aboard Auxiliary Facility 25371 on 30 June, 2011. While underway conducting man overboard training, the Auxiliary crew noticed a woman frantically waving her hands while her small boat was circling. The operator of the boat was slumped over the helm in obvious medical distress. Auxiliarist Johnson, serving as coxswain, sprang into action and skillfully maneuvered the Auxiliary vessel alongside the out of control boat to get it under control and further assess the situation. Once alongside, Auxiliarists Jelinek and Gerdson boarded the boat and immediately determined the operator was in cardiac arrest. They quickly started CPR while Auxiliarists Johnson, Mauk and Szeba rigged the small boat for alongside tow and coordinated additional assistance with Coast Guard Station Emerald Isle and local EMS. The Auxiliary team continued CPR as they towed the boat toward shore while the station dispatched one of its rescue boats to assist. Upon rendezvousing, the station and auxiliary teams continued all attempts to revive the boater until they reached the pier and the rescue team successfully employed an Automatic Emergency Defibrillator restarting

the boater's heart. The boater was stabilized and transferred to local EMS. The fast action, perseverance, and devotion to duty displayed by Auxiliarists Ronald Johnson, Dennis Szeba, Jim Mauk, Bill Gerdsen, and Fred Jelinek proved critical to saving the boater's life and resulted in his full recovery from the events of that June afternoon.

2013 As of January, membership stands at 32,156.

June 23, 2014 The Commandant awarded another Coast Guard Unit Commendation ribbon to all Auxiliarists on the 75th anniversary of the USCG Auxiliary.

November 16, 2016 The Coast Guard Foundation and its supporters gathered to honor and celebrate the achievements of those serving in the Coast Guard's Seventh District - a district which encompasses an area of 1.8 million square miles and shares operational borders with 34 foreign nations and territories.

Sources

Tilley, John A. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary: A history 1939-1999. United States Coast Guard: Washington D.C., 1999.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary: Birth to the New Normalcy? 1939-2007. Turner Publishing Company: Nashville, TN, 2007.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary History Highlights (<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081&category=auxiliary-history>), Retrieved on 5 January 2017.

List of Commodores

There have been 32 national commodores of the Coast Guard Auxiliary since the office was enacted in 1951. Robert Washburn is the current national commodore.

#	NACO	Tenure
1	NACO Bert C. Pouncey, Jr.	1951–1952
2	NACO Alexander S. Bauer	1953–1954
3	NACO J. Webb L. Sheehy	1955
4	NACO John Brent Tanner	1956–1957
5	NACO Charles S. Greanoff	1958–1959
6	NACO Bliss Woodward	1960–1961
7	NACO Homer L. Byers	1962–1963
8	NACO Elsworth A. Weinberg	1964–1965
9	NACO Grover A. Miller, Jr.	1967–1968
10	NACO John B. Stone	1969–1970
11	NACO Harry S. Osbourn	1971–1972
12	NACO Harold B. Haney	1973–1974
13	NACO Anderson A. Cordill	1975–1976
14	NACO J. Kevin Mitchell	1977–1978
15	NACO Dr. Robert L. Horton	1979–1980
16	NACO Aime R. Bernard	1981–1982
17	NACO Martin S. Herz	1983–1984
18	NACO Christopher G. Lagen	1985–1986
19	NACO Will C. "Papa" Harr	1987–1988
20	NACO Henry G. Pratt, III	1989–1990
21	NACO Stanley Y. Kennedy	1991–1992
22	NACO Joseph J. Lanz, Jr.	1993–1994
23	NACO Peter W. Melera	1995–1996

24	NACO Everette L. Tucker, Jr.		1997–2000
25	NACO Viggo C. Bartelsen		2001–2002
26	NACO E.W. Edgerton		2003–2004
27	NACO Gene M. Seibert		2005–2006
28	NACO Steven M. Budar		2007–2008
29	NACO Nicholas Kerigan		2009–2010
30	NACO Jim Vass		2010–2012
31	NACO Thomas C. Mallison		2012-2014
32	NACO Mark Simoni		2014-2016
33	NACO Richard A. Washburn		2016–Present