Section C. Applicable Non-Military Awards

Introduction	This section describes the miscellaneous non-military awards that Coast Guard Auxiliarists are eligible to receive.
C.1. Secretary of Transportation's Outstanding Unit Award	Only those Auxiliarists enrolled in the Auxiliary from October 1993 to 30 September 1994 are authorized to wear the ribbon that accompanies the DOT Secretary's Outstanding Unit Award. The ribbon is surrounded by a gold frame. No miniature medals are authorized for this award.
C.2. Department of Transportation 9-11 Medal	This medal has been awarded to employees of the DOT and private citizens for meritorious service resulting from unusual and outstanding achievement in response to the attacks on 11 September 2001. Specifically, this award was authorized for the following personnel:
C.2.a. Eligibility Criteria	(1) Posthumously presented to those who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 that had immediate family employed by DOT. (2) Employees of DOT who were on scene at the World Trade Center Complex in New York, the crash site in Pennsylvania, or at the Pentagon on 11 September 2001 and performed a role in the initial rescue and recovery operations. (3) All personnel directly involved in the evacuation of lower Manhattan to include DOT employees, masters and crews of commercial vessels and crews of recreational boats that actually transported evacuees during the evacuation on 11 September 2001. The level of effort must clearly set the Auxiliarist above that described in the 9/11 Ribbon. (4) Personnel that demonstrated extraordinary participation or leadership while patrolling harbors, securing critical infrastructure facilities, escorting high interest vessels and conducting boardings of vessels entering U.S. waters during the period of 11 September 2001 to 11 September 2002. The level of effort must clearly set the Auxiliarist above that described in the 9/11 ribbon. (5) Employees of DOT who demonstrated extraordinary dedication or leadership between 11 September 2001 and 11 September 2002. Participation must have been at an exceptional level to warrant consideration for the awarding of the 9/11 Medal. The level of effort must clearly set the Auxiliarist well above that described in the 9/11 Ribbon.

C.3. Department of Transportation 9-11 Ribbon	This ribbon has been awarded to individuals who served in any capacity with the DOT, merchant marines, or other civilians, for an act or service that contributed to recovery from the attacks of 11 September 2001, and force protection following the attacks or efforts that directly contributed to the increased infrastructure security effort between 11 September 2001 and 11 September 2002.
C.3.a. Eligibility Criteria	(1) Coast Guard units that shifted Operational Control (OPCON) to Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, or Protecting Liberty for any amount of time between 11 September 2001 and 11 September 2002. (2) All personnel involved in patrolling harbors, critical infrastructure facilities, escorting high interest vessels, and conducting boardings of vessels entering U.S. waters during the period of 11 September 2001 to 11 September 2002. Participation in these operations must be no less than 14 days. (3) All personnel to include active, Reserve, Auxiliary, and civilian personnel that manned or augmented for no less than 14 days, Coast Guard, DOT, FEMA, and DoD command centers (including Operations Centers at Groups and above, COTP ICS, FEMA Regional Operations Centers, and VTS) between 11 September 2001 and 11 September 2002.
C.4. Lifesaving Awards	Auxiliarists are eligible to receive the Gold or Silver Lifesaving Medal for rescuing or trying to rescue another person from drowning, shipwreck, or other peril of the water. The Gold Lifesaving Medal is earned only when the rescue or attempt is at the risk of one's own life. If the action was taken while assigned to duty as an Auxiliarist, award of the Auxiliary Plaque of Merit is more appropriate than the Lifesaving Medals.
C.5. Public Service Awards	Under the provisions of the Public Affairs Manual, COMDTINST M5728.2 (series), actions eligible for Auxiliary service medals and awards are not eligible for Public Service Awards. Auxiliarists are eligible for a Public Service Award only when it is clearly demonstrated that no other award is appropriate.
C.6. Coast Guard Foundation, Inc. Award of the Year	Auxiliarists, by outstanding service to the Coast Guard, also may be eligible for the annual Coast Guard Foundation Award. The Coast Guard Medals and Awards Manual, COMDTINST M1650.25 (series), contains the authorization and criteria for this award.

C.7. Association for Rescue at Sea Silver Medal Award

The Association for Rescue at Sea (AFRAS) has created the Silver Medal Award to recognize a Coast Guard Auxiliarist involved in a heroic rescue at sea. The event must involve the rescue of life from sea where heroic action of the person being nominated is uniquely distinguished. Nominations should consist of a short cover letter indicating the nominee's name and flotilla and a short narrative (1 to 2 pages) to fully document the event. The award is submitted to the Chief, Office of Search and Rescue (CG-534), via the Auxiliarist's regional chain of leadership and management to the cognizant District Commander and thence to NACO. Award nominations are due at CG-534 by 1 February of each calendar year. The award is presented at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., attended by members of Congress, AFRAS members, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and senior Coast Guard personnel. More information on AFRAS and the AFRAS awards can be found at www.afras.org.