Section A. Eligibility

Introduction

The Auxiliary is an organization of uniformed volunteers. Pursuant to provisions of this chapter, membership is open to any citizen of the U.S. and its territories and possessions who is seventeen years of age or older. Membership is predicated on successful completion of the Auxiliary enrollment application (including the passing of the New Member Exam), and receipt of a favorable (FAV) Personnel Security Investigation (PSI) in accordance with the Personnel Security and Suitability Program Manual, COMDTINST M5520.12 (series), and paragraph C.3 of this chapter.

Individuals who hold dual citizenship with the U.S. and another country may become members of the Auxiliary. Such individuals whose other country of citizenship is one of those specifically identified in Table 2.C of the Personnel Security and Suitability Program Manual, COMDTINST M5520.12 (series), will not be authorized to pursue a Direct Informational (DI) or Direct Operational (DO) PSI nor any of its associated activities. Similarly, an Auxiliarist who holds dual citizenship and who pursues a DI or DO PSI must clearly indicate in their DI or DO PSI package the willingness to renounce their other country's citizenship if circumstances dictate. Failure to so indicate will be recognized by the Director as sufficient grounds to immediately terminate the DI or DO PSI process.

Auxiliary membership is open to all U.S. citizens, or those of dual citizenship as described above, who are current military active duty or Reserve personnel, or veterans of these services who were discharged under honorable conditions (see section 3.A.6 of this Manual).

Facility (vessel, aircraft, or radio station) ownership and special skills are desirable, but not mandatory for membership.

A.1. Facility Definition

A facility is a privately owned boat, yacht, personal watercraft, aircraft, fixed land, or land mobile radio station, at least 25 percent of which is owned by the Auxiliarist. Under certain conditions, the Director may grant a waiver for corporate or government owned facilities. All surface facilities, however, must meet the requirements stated for vessels in the Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series); the Vessel Examiner Manual, COMDTINST M16796.2 (series); and local requirements established by the District Commander. For aircraft or radio facilities, the requirements are in the Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series). To become a facility it must meet applicable requirements, be offered for use, and be accepted by the Director.

	Auxiliarists may offer their Personally Operated Vehicles (POV) for use if they anticipate having to tow government property. Such offers for use shall be made to ensure appropriate liability coverage can be provided by the Coast Guard while the POV is operated by an Auxiliarist who requires the vehicle pursuant to their assignment to duty. Such offers and acceptances will not constitute facility status for the POV. Additional guidance can be found in section 5.J of this Manual.
A.2. Special Skills	An Auxiliarist's special skills and experience can rapidly enhance a flotilla's ability to carry out Auxiliary programs. Examples of such include licensed aircraft pilots, those with foreign language skills (Interpreter Corps), health care professionals (Coast Guard Auxiliarists Participation in Coast Guard Health Care Activities, COMDTINST 6010.2 (series)), radio operators, professional mariners, and educators. Other such skills and experience include computer technicians or data processors, desktop publishing, fingerprinting experience, past and current military service, and membership in other safe boating organizations like the U.S. Power Squadrons (USPS). Flotillas will make all due effort to ensure such information is obtained during enrollment of new Auxiliarists. Additionally, they shall ensure that it is forwarded to appropriate Auxiliary Unit Coordinators (AUC) and Auxiliary Sector Coordinators (ASC) for their awareness and use in support of local Cost Guard units.
A.3. Residence Requirements	An Auxiliarist may join any flotilla of their choice regardless of geographic location and/or boundaries. Appendix C specifies elected office eligibility criteria, including membership in an appropriate Auxiliary unit depending upon the elected office sought by a nominee. Although not required in some cases pursuant to this section, nominees are highly encouraged to live within or near the geographic location and/or boundaries of the Auxiliary unit to which they seek election. Regardless of geographic location, all assignments to duty will be in accordance with the Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series).
A.4. Criminal Convictions, Behavior, and Waivers	The following provisions guide the consideration of different types of criminal records and behaviors of individuals who seek enrollment in the Auxiliary.

A.4.a. Felony Convictions	Application for Auxiliary membership should be denied by the Director if the applicant indicates any conviction, particularly those related to drug possession or use (including trafficking, trading, selling), sexual deviation, or aggravated assault, as set forth in the Coast Guard Recruiting Manual, COMDTINST M1100.2 (series). Paragraph A.4.e below provides additional details. Such denial shall be regarded as final. However, the Director may forward an application to the Coast Guard Security Center (SECCEN) for normal PSI processing with a recommendation to waive the felony conviction as a reason for an unsuitable for service determination if the Director determines that reasonable circumstances exist for such waiver consistent with provisions of the Coast Guard Recruiting Manual, COMDTINST M1100.2 (series).
A.4.b. Major Misdemeanor	Application for Auxiliary membership should be denied by the Director if the applicant indicates any major misdemeanor conviction related to drug possession or use (including trafficking, trading, selling), sexual deviation, aggravated assault, and those other major misdemeanor crimes as set forth in the Coast Guard Recruiting Manual, COMDTINST M1100.2 (series). Paragraph A.4.e below provides additional details. Such denial shall be regarded as final. However, the Director may forward an application to the SECCEN for normal PSI processing with a recommendation to waive the major misdemeanor conviction as a reason for an unsuitable for service determination if the Director determines that reasonable circumstances exist for such waiver consistent with provisions of the Coast Guard Recruiting Manual, COMDTINST M1100.2 (series).
A.4.c. Minor Misdemeanor	Application for Auxiliary membership should not normally be denied by the Director if the applicant has a record of minor misdemeanor offenses (e.g., traffic and non-traffic conviction(s)). Paragraph A.4.e below provides additional details. However, the Director may deny an application if, based upon all available information presented or after initiating further inquiry to gather additional relevant facts, these convictions provide evidence of personal character inconsistent with Coast Guard core values. Such denial shall be regarded as final.
A.4.d. Other Than Prior Criminal History	Auxiliary membership is a privilege, not an entitlement. Accordingly, suitability for service in the Auxiliary is predicated as much on high standards of personal character as it is on the review of an individual's criminal history and the associated outcome of the PSI process.

If at any time during the enrollment process up to and including submission of the enrollment application, the Director becomes aware, either through first-hand observation(s) and/or verified third-party report(s), of any element(s) of an individual's personal behavior and/or moral character that is inconsistent with Coast Guard core values, the Director may deny the individual's application. The Director shall make this determination, in consultation with the District legal office and the Chief Director, and notify the individual of such denial and its reason. There shall be no avenue of appeal of this denial.

If at any time after acceptance of an individual's enrollment application by the Director up to and including receipt of the PSI determination from SECCEN, the Director becomes aware, either through first-hand observation(s) and/or verified third-party report(s), of any element(s) of an individual's personal behavior and/or moral character that is inconsistent with Coast Guard core values, the Director may disenroll the individual for cause in accordance with section H.5 of this chapter.

Circumstances surrounding civil court action involving an applicant may warrant a determination of lack of suitability for Auxiliary service (e.g., acquittal of egregious criminal charges, but conviction on associated civil charges), whether the circumstances are discovered prior to acceptance of the enrollment application or subsequent to enrollment. The Director shall make this determination, in consultation with the District legal office and Commandant (CG-5421). Anyone denied enrollment based upon this provision may appeal to the Director's supervisor. The Director's supervisor's decision shall be final and not subject to further review or appeal. This provision also applies to an applicant who may be awaiting trial or sentence by a civil court.

A.4.e. Disclosure of Felony, Major Misdemeanor, or Minor Misdemeanor Conviction

The following provisions deal with the requirement to provide notification and information regarding conviction for a felony, major misdemeanor, or record of minor misdemeanors when applying for Auxiliary membership.

A.4.e.(1) Required Conviction Information

Applicants with a conviction for a felony, major misdemeanor, or record of minor misdemeanors shall submit the following with their enrollment package:

(a) Any records regarding the conviction(s).
(b) Letter briefly explaining the background and mitigating circumstances.

	Any applicant who fails to provide such notification and information as part of their enrollment package shall be disenrolled by the Director upon confirmation of these missing elements. Such disenrollment shall be regarded as final and will not be subject to appeal.
A.4.e.(2) Waivers	If the conviction is for a waiverable offense, and the Director determines that a waiver is appropriate, then the Director shall submit the applicant's PSI package to the SECCEN with a notice of intent to waive the felony. If not a waiverable offense, the Director shall reject the application in accordance with paragraphs A.4.a thru c above.
A.4.e.(3) Information Retention	Copies of all correspondence associated with these aspects of Auxiliary membership shall be kept in the individual's file in the Director's office.
A.5. Physical Fitness Requirements	There are no specific physical standards that must be met in order to be eligible to enroll in the Auxiliary. There are also no requirements for Auxiliarists to schedule physical examinations solely for the purpose of evaluating their physical fitness to perform missions. However, all Auxiliarists and Coast Guard Order Issuing Authorities (OIA) are expected to take all appropriate action to ensure the safety of assigned crews, facilities, the public, and Auxiliarists themselves. Any Auxiliarist, regardless of physical limitations, may participate in training to achieve certification in an operational position. However, to become certified in an operational discipline, Auxiliarists must demonstrate their ability, mobility, and endurance to satisfactorily complete performance-based training and qualification tasks that are based on the procedures outlined in associated qualification guide(s) as established by Commandant (i.e., the Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual, COMDTINST M16794.51 (series), and associated qualification guides). Once certified, Auxiliarists must meet currency maintenance requirements in order to validate their continued ability, mobility, and endurance to safely perform any qualification task for which they are certified. Auxiliarists are charged with the responsibility to use good judgment and common sense when evaluating their continuing ability to carry out assignments to duty. Of particular note, if a physician has advised an Auxiliarist that a condition exists which may preclude safe and reliable performance while conducting Auxiliary activities or comparable non-Auxiliary activities, that Auxiliarist must neither seek nor accept orders to perform those duties. The Auxiliarist is required to make these circumstances known to the Flotilla Commander and any appropriate OIA.

If an OIA is made aware of an Auxiliarist's physical condition that may preclude safe and reliable performance while on orders, then orders shall not be issued pending notification and guidance from the Director via the chain of command. In the case of a first-hand observation by anyone of such a circumstance, an OIA may immediately deny or revoke any orders. In either case, the Director shall suspend the Auxiliarist's certification until that Auxiliarist can demonstrate to the Director or the OIA, or their designated representative, the ability, mobility, and endurance to satisfactorily perform the assigned duty.

A.6. Circumstances for Ineligibility

Individuals are not eligible for enrollment in the Auxiliary when any of these circumstances, which shall be addressed by all individuals in the course of application for enrollment, exist:

a. Does not possess a Social Security Number (SSN).
b. Any pending or unresolved criminal court action or judicial proceeding (including pre-trial intervention or diversionary program sanctions).
c. Convicted of a felony, major misdemeanor, or minor misdemeanor(s) given consideration for waiver in accordance with provisions of this section.
d. Current or prior registered sex offender.
e. Convicted of any domestic violence charge.
f. Currently under criminal restraint, serving a sentence, on parole, probation, or other civil restraint.
g. Prior military service with a DD-214 that reflects a reenlistment code of RE-4 (individual's ineligibility for reenlistment is based on unsatisfactory performance due primarily to personal behavior/conduct). Limited circumstances may warrant waiver, in which case the Director shall consult with the Chief Director prior to any such action.

Individuals are also not eligible for enrollment in the Auxiliary when any of these circumstances exist:

a. Raised and trained in institutions having mental or correctional features, including voluntary.
b. A history of psychotic disorders.
c. Repeated drug, including marijuana, or chemical substance abuse/use, where the use of and reliance on these substances are part of the person's behavior pattern (this includes participation in a drug rehabilitation program, but does not include drug experimentation which is defined as a few times for reasons of curiosity, peer pressure, or similar reasons).
d. Intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of application or during any stage of processing.