



Guidelines for Utilization of Coast Guard Auxiliary Members in the CFVS Program

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The Coast Guard Auxiliary plays a key role in augmenting the work of the Coast Guard and has developed an excellent track record in supporting the CFVS program over the last several years. With the solid support of the Auxiliary leadership, the Auxiliary's "M" Marine Safety Department has worked in partnership with Headquarters (G-MOC-3) to develop a training and support program for CFV examiners to perform dockside examinations in commercial fishing fleets in local AOR's.

Advantages of using and supporting CFV examiners include:

1. Auxiliary members provide local knowledge and familiarization with fishing areas and harbors;
2. Auxiliary examiners are seen as coaches, not as law enforcement officers;
3. Examiner experience and age may closely parallel customers, providing greater personal acceptance;
4. Examiners may share community ties with fishermen, making CFVE acceptance easier; and
5. Auxiliary examiners can substantially increase the number of CFV examinations with minimal impact on local unit resources.

The Auxiliary organization provides training and mentoring resources, with Coast Guard support. The Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Department provides a national support team of Auxiliary staff officers (Branch Chiefs and Branch Assistants) who work with district and local marine safety staff officers to support the CFVS program. National staff officers provide training materials and technical assistance for local efforts. District and local MS officers provide direct support to MSOs and other M units for personnel assignments and logistics support.

Involvement of an Auxiliary member in the CFVE program is accomplished through a letter of recommendation by the respective Flotilla Commander (FC). The CO or designate and the FC should mutually agree to the recommendation of assignment as CFVE. Upon completion of training through the MSO, the CO will certify the individual as a qualified CFVE.

The Auxiliary Manual (pages 2-13 and 2-14) provides general authority for Auxiliary members to undertake CFVE's as "Support Missions for the Coast Guard." That policy is reviewed below, as follows:

1. "Assigning an Auxiliarist to duty should not result in the infringement of the authority or responsibility previously delegated to Auxiliary members." (This reference to "previously delegated" relates to the preceding chapter on Auxiliary administration.)

For more on this, see "Delegations of Authority," page 1-11 of the Manual. Note that this section cites 14 USC 821(a) and makes it clear that Auxiliary officers (in this context, elected officers) are responsible for Auxiliary functioning, organization and internal administration.

2. The CFVE should keep the FC advised of his activities via the MS-Staff Officer.
3. Upon completion of initial training and certification by the Coast Guard (MSO), the CO should supply the DIRAUX and FC with a copy of the CFVE's designation. Operational supervision of

the CFVE, once he or she is qualified and assigned to duty, will then be assigned to the Coast Guard (MSO).

4. "Complaints concerning Auxiliary member misconduct, while serving on a Coast Guard support mission, must be referred, in writing, to the member's FC, with a copy to the Director of Auxiliary, for appropriate action as recommended or required by any of these Manual's (sic) provisions." (The FC is responsible for receiving any complaints involving a member or requests for any administrative action and referring them up the Auxiliary chain of leadership.)

Local M units are encouraged to maintain effective working relationships with the local chain of Auxiliary elected leadership to insure continued support for the CFVE dockside program.

National staff officers, especially officers assigned to regional responsibilities (area managers) can be helpful in providing program guidance and headquarters liaison. Local Auxiliary elected leadership, in conjunction with MS staff officers, are always responsible for personnel assignment, follow-up and official unit liaison.

Suggested forms of agreements (MOUs) have been developed by the Auxiliary and Coast Guard for local support of M activities and are available for review and reproduction from the Auxiliary Web site (www.cgaux.org). Local M units are encouraged to use these MOUs to define and describe local operations and mutual responsibilities.

For additional information and guidance on utilization of Coast Guard Auxiliary members, please contact:

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