



Awards

Recognizing Our Members

Department of Homeland Security
US Coast Guard Auxiliary – D8CR

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Acknowledgements

The material presented in this manual has been gleaned from several sources but particular recognition and thanks are due to Ron Jacobs and CDR James Montgomery whose prior work has been utilized in the preparation of this document.

Purpose

The award system is the only way that our members are compensated for their undying dedication to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and our nation. All too often, their efforts go unrecognized simply due to the fact that no one appropriately nominated them for the appropriate level of recognition.

Contents

This manual will provide you a variety of resources and due to the nature of some, we suggest that you save the manual in electronic form since a variety of fill-in documents are included. The following summarizes what is included for your use:

- An introductory explanation of the variety of awards for which members can be nominated including the revisions promulgated in July 2000. These explanations focus on requirements for the award as well as an image of the ribbon representing receipt of the award.
- The standard District 8CR Award Recommendation form for submission of all award recommendations
- A specially created check list for award recommenders to utilize in preparing the award submission. In addition to the check-list nature of this document, it also includes those key words that must be included in the award citation in order to make likelihood of approval greater.
- Fill-in citations will be found on the accompanying CD as will electronic copies of the award check list.
- While not included, the Summary of Action or Service is a critical part of the higher-level awards – It provides the details that support the recommendation and the citation. Sources of information that can be utilized to prepare the Summary include: Statements from victims involved; Representatives of other agencies involved in the action or rescue; Newspaper articles; Affidavits or letters from witnesses, relatives and so forth; National Weather Service information for the time/day an action was performed; Statements from active-duty personnel, if they were involved, attesting to the skill/expertise of the Auxiliarist or civilian involved; Statements from those having knowledge of the financial impact of the action, if applicable, i.e., the act saved the US Coast Guard \$XXX.

Background

Auxiliary and US Coast Guard awards are the only “compensation” available to our members and need to be given out whenever an act or service warrant special recognition. Many in the Auxiliary feel that recognition is not given often enough to our members. A more telling experience is when addressing a large group of Auxiliarists the question, “Please raise your hand if you feel you have ever performed an exceptional act or service for the Auxiliary that has never been officially recognized”, a rather startling number of hands are raised. What is the solution to this perceived lack of recognition? The simple answer is that more of our members need to be written-up for awards more frequently.

So, not only will this manual provide you with some utilitarian tools for initiating the awarding of awards but also some other tips on member recognition and some tools to help you recognize your members.

First, let’s briefly examine the process of the granting of awards.

The following recognitions are granted based upon a member completing training, length of service or hours of service and do not require a submission through the awards process:

- Auxiliary Membership Service Ribbon
- Instructor Program Ribbon
- Examiner Program Ribbon
- Annual Service Performance Award Ribbons
- Operations Program Ribbon
- Specialty Training Ribbon

While these ribbons are awarded “automatically”, it is incumbent upon Flotilla Commanders, Vice Flotilla Commanders and Flotilla Staff Officers for Member Training, Personnel Services and Operations to be certain that those deserving recognition are appropriately identified by the system tracking these qualifications and recognitions. Apparent errors in such automatic recognition should be communicated upon through the chain of leadership and reported to the Director of Auxiliary.

Awards and recognition for which members must be nominated go through a process that may vary from District to District but generally follows the following step-wise procedure:

1. The member is nominated at the appropriate level...most Auxiliary awards can be recommended by any member.
2. The award recommendation is reviewed by a Flotilla Awards Committee, if your Flotilla has one and then passed on to the District Vice Commodore. If your Division has an Awards Advisory Committee, the recommender for Flotilla Commander may wish to consult with that committee before the submission is sent to the District Vice

Commodore. The primary focus should be how to effectively see that the member is recognized and may entail some re-working of the citation and/or summary of action or service.

3. When an award recommendation is received by the District Vice Commodore, the Division Captain of the member's Division will be notified of the receipt of the award recommendation.
4. At some point during the process of the award being reviewed at the District level, it may be passed on to the Director of Auxiliary for the District to review the wording of the citation and the possible re-writing or modification of the citation to make it more in keeping with accepted norms.
5. After the award recommendation is logged-in by the District Vice Commodore, it is passed along to the District Awards Advisory Committee. This small group of very experienced Auxiliaries makes recommendations to the District Awards Board as to the approval/disapproval of the award or whether or not they believe the award being recommended is appropriate or might appropriately be granted a higher or lower precedence award. At times, the District Awards Advisory Committee will recommend to the District Vice Commodore that the award recommendation be sent back to the originator for improvement of the citation or additional supporting documentation. The District Awards Board, while respecting the opinion of the District Awards Advisory Committee, is in no way obligated to accept the recommendations of the District Awards Advisory Committee.
6. The award is then given to the District Awards Board which typically consists of the District Commodore, District Vice Commodore, District Rear Commodores, District Director and the Immediate Past District Commodore. By a majority vote of this Awards Board, the award is passed along to the appropriate Coast Guard Officer for final approval and preparation of the award. Again, after the regular Coast Guard officer who must sign a particular award may make further modifications to the citation before it is presented.
7. If an award is not approved by the Awards Board, the award recommender is notified that the award was not approved and whether a re-work of the award might modify the Board's decision. The most typical reason that an award is not approved is due to the observation that "s/he was just doing her/his job" and there was nothing more that was accomplished than should be reasonably expected of someone in a similar position.
8. If an award is not approved and the Flotilla Commander or Division Captain feels that some special recognition is warranted for the individual, there is nothing to prevent the preparation of a certificate of appreciation or a similar document. The objective is to see that someone who a member felt was deserving of special recognition does, ultimately, receive some sort of special recognition.

Award Eligibility

The following individuals can be recognized under the award system:

- Auxiliaries
- Active-duty Coast Guard
- Reservists
- Civilians can be recognized by certain Coast Guard formal awards

Why Awards Are Given

Citations are prepared to recognize individuals, teams or units for the following:

- Acts of heroism which may or may not have involved significant risk to the individual being recognized
- Meritorious achievements
- Meritorious service that goes beyond what is normally expected in the capacity in which the individual, team or unit is tasked
- A distinguished performance worthy of recognition
- Some act that demonstrated noteworthy extra effort, extra work, personal risk or significant financial benefit/savings the Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary

Things to Do Relative to Award Recommendations

First, if you recommend a member for an award, it's probably most prudent not to let the member know that you have put them up for an award and you expect them to get it...remember that the approval process is fairly stringent and you and, perhaps, the member will be embarrassed in the award is not approved.

Second, if someone is not approved for an award, consider giving them an internally generated certificate of recognition...if someone thought the act or service was significant enough to write a member up for an award, it is surely significant enough to prepare a special certificate if the award is not approved.

The first time you write up an award, get some help from someone within your Flotilla or Division who has written successful award citations.

The Awards

Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation



This award can be awarded on an Auxiliarist or active-duty recommendation. Recommended recipients can be all Auxiliarists, active duty members of the United States Coast Guard or a combination of both. The member being recommended must have made a significant contribution to the group or team being recognized.

The award can also be used to recognize a team or group's service/performance for a special event or project.

Captains (O-6) or higher serving in command billets (Area, MLC, District, Unit), serving as an office chief at CGHQ or serving as an Auxiliary District/Regional Director may authorize this award.

The command member, exercising operational or administrative control of the Team to be recognized should initiate the recommendation. Recommendations for Meritorious Team Commendation are made to appropriate operational CG commanders for actions under their control. Awards involving Auxiliary Flotilla, Division or District staffs must be forwarded to the applicable Director. Recommendations involving National Staff must be forwarded to the Chief Director. Awards should be recommended promptly after the action as there is a time limitation for making recommendations.

Separate recommendations for team members are NOT required. The recommendation includes a single award recommendation form, the citation and a listing of individuals recommended for the award.

The commendation must reflect that the activity of the group or team is clearly above and beyond the performance of other groups in like activity.

An "O" device can be recommended if the citation is for underway operations.

Recipients receive a ribbon only. There is no mini-medal.

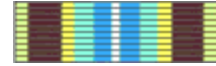
Subsequent awards are recognized by large gold stars for second through the fifth award and a large silver star for the sixth award.

Sample citation:

For exceptionally meritorious service from May 2000 to September 2000 while serving as a member of the Auxiliary Radio Station Seabrook Relocation Team. Following the loss of the 30+ year old Seabrook radio and SAR facility, which served as the major Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary presence in the Galveston Bay

area, team members began an initiative to restore the direct Coast Guard support asset. A suitable barge was located and transferred from an active duty Coast Guard command to Division 6 of the Eighth Coast Guard District Auxiliary. Immediately upon delivery of the barge, members of Division 6 undertook efforts to make the new facility operational. Myriad tasks had to be accomplished before the barge would be serviceable, which included construction and/or installation of electrical wiring, flooring, radio cable, air conditioning, doors, gangways, and water service. Despite record-setting temperatures between 110 and 112 degrees, members of the team enthusiastically spend hundreds of hours working both inside the sweltering barge and outside in the direct sunlight. As a result of these extraordinary efforts, Auxiliary Radio Station Seabrook was transformed into an operational facility well ahead of even the most optimistic schedule. The team's hard work and long hours, under extremely adverse conditions, reestablished the Coast Guard and Auxiliary boating safety and search-and-rescue capability on the third largest recreational boating area in the United States. The dedication, pride and professionalism displayed by the Auxiliary Radio Station Seabrook Relocation Team reflects upon each team member, the United States Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Auxiliary Commandant Letter of Commendation (ACLOC)



This award is the Auxiliary's equivalent to the Coast Guard's Commandant Letter of Commendation (CLOC) award. The award is intended for Auxiliarists serving in any capacity with the Coast Guard or Auxiliary for any act of service resulting in unusual and/or outstanding achievement, whose performance is lesser than that required for the Auxiliary Achievement Award. Review the nature of the Auxiliary Achievement Award and if the desired recognition of the member or members does not come up to the Standards for the Auxiliary Achievement Award then the ACLOC is likely award for which the member should be cited.

The award can also be used to recognize an Auxiliarist's service/performance for a special event or project.

Commanding Officers/ Group Commanders, Directors of Auxiliary, division chiefs of headquarters, MLC, ICS or District offices, O-4 and above on active duty, may approve the ACLOC.

An "O" device can be recommended if the citation is for underway operations.

Recipients receive both a ribbon and an accompanying mini-medal.

Subsequent awards are recognized by large gold stars for second through the fifth award and a large silver star for the sixth award.

Sample citation:

I note with pride and am pleased to commend you for your performance of duty during the period September 2000 through March 2001 while serving as the Eighth Coast Guard District, Coastal Region, Coastie the Safety Boat Coordinator. During this period you have significantly contributed to the public affairs and outreach program by personally utilizing Coastie the Safety Boat, an interactive robotic boat, to teach safe boating and water safety to children and adults throughout the state of Texas. Since September 2000, you traveled at your own expense to 57 scheduled events reaching more than 10,000 children and willingly trained other Auxiliary members within the Coastal Region on the technical and safe use of Coastie. A formal training program you initiated, complete with a training manual, has inspired other Auxiliarists to be interested in using Coastie within their local area. You developed a Coastie website that allows members access to current schedules of events, photo archives, Coastie performance tips, Coastie appearance request information and technical assistance,. Your enthusiasm for the Coastie program has reached the national level and you graciously accepted a request to participate as a member of the National Coastie the Safety Boat Development Team. Additionally, you liaison with media representatives and your website has instilled a positive image of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. You are commended for your outstanding performance of duty. By your meritorious service you have upheld the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. You are hereby authorized to wear the Auxiliary Commandant's Letter of Commendation Award miniature medal and ribbon.

Auxiliary Achievement Award



This award is given to a member in recognition of sustained professional and/or leadership in either administration or operations. The award is for recognition of outstanding achievement or service over an extended period of time. Sustained service for this award is defined as period of one-year or more. The service to be recognized may be either administrative or operational.

The award may be approved by any O-5 of an operational unit or serving as a Division Chief or higher at a District Office or MLC or headquarters office. Any DIRAUX at O-5 and above may approve the award.

Special wording that should appear in the citation includes: **OUTSTANDING, EXCEPTIONAL, SUSTAINED OVER** *mention period of time*, **LEADERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT(S) OVER** cited period of time.

If the award is for operations awarding of the "O" device should be recommended.

Recipients receive both a ribbon and accompanying mini-medal.

Subsequent awards are recognized by large gold stars for second through the fifth award and a large silver star for the sixth award.

Sample citation:

Auxiliarist BLACKLIDGE is cited for superior performance of duty while serving as Division 1 Staff Officer for Communications for the period from 01 January 1999 to 31 December 2000. During this period, Auxiliarist BLACKLIDGE demonstrated sustained leadership skills and program knowledge while upgrading and improving the effectiveness of radio communications in the Division 1 area of responsibility. Included in the upgrade was the adoption of the same radio reporting guidelines used by Group Mobile to enhance the transfer of information between Auxiliary and active duty Coast Guard Stations. He also worked with Group Mobile to set up quarterly division wide radio drills to increase knowledge and comfort level of both active duty and Auxiliary working together. Auxiliarist BLACKLIDGE used information obtained to help establish new radio facilities in weak areas of coverage. Auxiliarist BLACKLIDGE was also instrumental in having Group send out a train-the-trainer team to teach the skills necessary to upgrade the Auxiliary AUXCOM qualified watchstanders to active duty standards. This training program has already resulted in upgrading 35 Auxiliarists. Throughout this time period, Auxiliarist BLACKLIDGE continued to be active in the flotilla area by standing regular watches and providing radio coverage when necessary to support Group Mobile. Auxiliarist BLACKLIDGE's diligence, perseverance, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Auxiliary Commendation Award



This award is given to members who provide outstanding administrative service that furthers any of the Auxiliary's authorized activities. This is purely an administrative award and, thus, no "O" device may be worn. This award recognizes administrative service that is truly worthy of special recognition. It recognizes service that is much better than could normally be expected from a member of like capability and experience. Neither doing a difficult job well nor doing a normal staff or elected position in an excellent manner is sufficient. The member must have done some administrative task that is both outstanding and significantly furthers or expands an authorized activity.

The award must be approved by a Coast Guard Commanding Officer at the O-6 level or above.

Special wording that should appear in the citation: **OUTSTANDING, EXCEPTIONAL, SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED** the authorized activity, **SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEEDED THE EXPECTED RESULTS FROM** the authorized activity.

Recipients receive both a ribbon and accompanying mini-medal.

Subsequent awards are recognized by large gold stars for second through the fifth award and a large silver star for the sixth award.

Sample citation:

Auxiliarist FAULL is cited for outstanding administrative achievement and leadership while serving as the Division Captain of Division 1, Eighth Coast Guard District Coastal Region, during the period January 1999 through December 2000. During this period, Division 1 had over 150 new enrollees, qualified 98 new Boat Crew members, had 124 Specialty Courses passed, taught 1,495 hours of Member Training, expended over 1,800 Instructor hours conducting 110 Public Education courses, performed over 3,600 Vessel Safety Checks, and made 1,800 Marine Dealer Visits. Under his leadership and support, members of the Division performed over 6,200 mission hours, and is credited with 103 assists to boaters that saved 22 lives and property valued at \$1,432,000. Working closely with the active duty Coast Guard, over 10,600 hours of direct Coast Guard support was given, with five Division Auxiliarists standing watch each weekend and holiday from the first of April through November. Division 1 and a Division flotilla were recognized as leading the nation in Aids to Navigation reporting for the second year in a row. National recognition was also given both years of his tenure to a Division flotilla as the top producer of Vessel Safety Checks, and the number one flotilla for Public Education one of the years and runner up the other year. Auxiliarist FAULL's leadership proved critical in the revitalizing of two flotillas on the verge of disenrollment, and both are now back on line and functioning. Auxiliarist FAULL's perseverance, dedication, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Award of Operational Merit



This is purely an operational award and thus there is no "O" device authorized for this award.

This award is approved for only underway operations on board an aircraft, boat or ship involving an outstanding assist, rescue or other operational service. This award is not authorized for those involved in radio watch standing nor those involved in an operational mission in a staff capacity only. In addition, the operational activity must be truly outstanding in its demonstration of the member's skill though it does not require extreme skill nor any risk to the member's life.

This award may be approved by any Commanding Officer O-6 and above of an operational unit or serving as a Division Chief or higher at the District Office, MLC or Headquarters. Or a District DIRAUX, O-6 and above, may also approve the award.

Special wording that should appear in the citation: **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT, OUTSTANDING SKILLS, OUTSTANDING OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE, OUTSTANDING SKILL IN PERFORMING THE ASSIST/RESCUE, MERITORIOUS OPERATIONAL SERVICE.**

Outstanding operational performance and other meritorious operational service have been added to allow for recognition of members having performed a series of operational services that, standing by themselves, would never warrant this award but taken together receive this special recognition.

Recipients receive both a ribbon and accompanying mini-medal.

Subsequent awards are recognized by large gold stars for second through the fifth award and a large silver star for the sixth award.

Sample citation:

*Auxiliarist BURCH is cited for outstanding meritorious achievement and operational skill in the performance of duty on 2 June 2001 while serving as coxswain of the Auxiliary Facility SERIT during a rescue on Lake Pontchartrain. While moored in the vicinity of the Seabrook Bridge, the crew of the SERIT observed a 15 to 16 foot tri-hulled vessel with seven persons on board, including young children. One of the Auxiliary crewmembers actually counted the number of people on board because he felt that it was dangerously overloaded, not just by the number of persons, but the lack of freeboard based on the size *of the persons. This count soon became very important to everyone. There was a 4 to 5 knot current running to Lake Pontchartrain from the Gulf of Mexico with white water showing at the Seabrook Bridge. As the tri-hull approached the white water, waves began coming over the bow, and those in the front of the vessel ran to the back. This caused the stem to start taking on water and the tri-hull quickly slipped under the churning water, stem first. Auxiliarist BURCH immediately backed the SERIT down to the overturned vessel and recovered two of the victims. They observed the remaining 5 non-swimmers were not wearing PFD's and were slipping away from the overturned vessel. Two of the younger children had gone beneath the surface several times and were struggling to stay afloat. Auxiliarist Burch and his crew threw Coast Guard issued throw lines with floats to the drowning children. Even*

though one of the children was going down again he was able to grab the correctly positioned line along with another child and was pulled to the stem of the facility where they were yanked to safety. Simultaneously with float lines, Auxiliarist BURCH and his crew were also throwing throw rings and flotation devices to the other victims. The worst case of the two drowning children was rescued first and given treatment as she coughed up and regurgitate a lot of water. Other victims were removed and treated by priority. Auxiliarist BURCH demonstrated exceptional professionalism in dealing with multiple victims without life jackets, exceptional boat handling in turbulent waters, and exceptional stamina and courage in recovering persons as large as or larger than he from the swim platform of the SERIT under the turbulent conditions. Auxiliarist BURCH's perseverance, dedication and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Auxiliary Meritorious Service Award



The service recognized by this award must be of an exceptionally outstanding nature and have enhanced the Auxiliary goals at the District level or above. The service rendered and recognized has a significant positive effect on the ability of the US Coast Guard or the Auxiliary to complete its missions or goals.

The recognition must be approved by a US Coast Guard Flag Officer.

Special wording that should appear in the citation: **OUTSTANDING, MERITORIOUS, WORTHY OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION, ON THE ENTIRE DISTRICT (OR THE ENTIRE US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY), SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT, IMPACT ON THE US COAST GUARD, IMPACT ON THE US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY.**

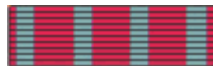
Recipients receive both a ribbon and accompanying mini-medal. "O" attachment may be authorized for this award.

Subsequent awards are recognized by large gold stars for second through the fifth award and a large silver star for the sixth award.

Sample citation:

Auxiliarist CLINCHY is cited for outstanding meritorious service in the performance of duty from 1 March 2000 through 16 December 2002 while serving as both instructor and site coordinator for twelve sessions of the Flotilla Commanders Academy in the Eighth Coast Guard District, Coastal Region. The three years of Academy sessions have seen cycles of continuous improvement that has resulted in the Eighth District program being the benchmark for Flotilla Commander training in the nation. Though only 40% of Commanders attended the sessions of the first year, over 94% attended the sessions in 2002. For the eastern half of the region, Auxiliarist CLINCHY personally arranged berthing at the Bachelor Officer Quarters at the Pensacola Naval Air Station for each session, each year, at a cost savings of more than \$7,000 over using hotel rooms in the area. Further, Auxiliarist CLINCHY used his experience as a professional educator to create PowerPoint presentations for all the instructors, infusing technology and learning principles to produce outstanding training aids. Though originally scheduled for a two-year tenure as an instructor, Auxiliarist CLINCHY met a last-minute call to serve again a third year in 2002 and rearranged his schedule to accommodate the District need. His contribution definitely benefited the entire District by producing better leaders. Auxiliarist CLINCHY's perseverance, dedication and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Plaque of Merit



This award is given to Auxiliarists in recognition of their extreme skill in performing an assist or rescue that also involved risk to the Auxiliarist's life.

The recognition must be approved by a US Coast Guard Flag Officer.

Special wording that should appear in the citation: **EXTREME SKILL** in performing an **ASSIST** or **RESCUE** at **RISK TO THE MEMBER'S LIFE**. The Plaque can only be given for an assist or rescue. The individual must have demonstrated extreme skill as compared to skill required for the Award of Operational Merit. There must, in addition, have been risk to the member's life. Neither the assist nor rescue must have been successful, only that the action required extreme skill and was performed at risk to the member's life.

Recipients receive a bronze plaque, ribbon and miniature medal. There is no certificate. The operational "O" attachment is not authorized for this award since, by its very nature, it is an operational award.

Subsequent awards are signified by 5/16 inch gold or silver stars as appropriate.

Sample citation:

Auxiliarist CHANDLER is cited for extreme skill in effecting a rescue on 13 July 2000 at risk to his own life. While chaperoning a group of children from his church on a boating trip at Lake Tangipahoa, Auxiliarist CHANDLER observed a Plymouth van slide down an embankment next to the dam and into the lake. Racing his boat to the location, Auxiliarist CHANDLER spent those precious few seconds briefing the other adult on the boat on the course of action to be taken and arranged for someone to take over the helm of the boat. Diving into the water, Auxiliarist CHANDLER quickly arrived at the passenger window and observed an elderly couple sitting in the van, frozen in terror. Based on Auxiliarist CHANDLER's direction, the other adult from the boat put a life jacket on the male driver and assisted him from the van, which was now taking on water at an increasing rate. The female passenger, besides being terrified to the point of hysteria, was overweight and had a knee replacement, which immobilized her leg. As the driver was pulled out, the van suddenly sunk with a gulping sound, taking down with it both the female passenger and Auxiliarist CHANDLER. The water depth by the dam ranges from 15 to 30 feet, and the van disappeared from sight. Auxiliarist CHANDLER broke the surface for a moment, took a great gasp of air, and dove back down again. Then, according to a witness, it was just like in the movies. The water has gotten still, there was complete silence on shore from the onlookers, and as everyone focused on that small patch of water, Auxiliarist CHANDLER's hand came splashing up, then his head appeared, and finally the figure of the rescued victim. Park Rangers and State Police were both on scene by the time the rescue was complete, and they provided emergency medical assistance to the semiconscious woman for breathing difficulties prior to admitting her to a hospital for treatment, which resulted in a full recovery. Auxiliarist CHANDLER's rapid response, skillful direction, and unselfish actions are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Auxiliary Distinguished Service Award



This award, equivalent of the US Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal, recognizes those individuals who distinguish themselves by contributing exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service to the Coast Guard Auxiliary at the national level.

The performance required to justify this award is exceptional performance of duty which benefits the entire Auxiliary. This performance must be much higher than normally expected and must have a measurable, positive effect on the entire Auxiliary organization. Normally this award will be given to elected or appointed officers for extraordinary achievement. However, this caveat does not exclude the possibility that anyone whose service measures up to the above description may be recognized by this award.

This award can only be approved by the Commandant of the US Coast Guard.

Special wording that should appear in the citation: **EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE, MERITORIOUS SERVICE** having a **SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL IMPACT** on the entire US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Include **QUANTIFIABLE MEASURE** of the Auxiliarist's contribution.

The award consists of a Commandant's citation letter, a plaque, ribbon, miniature medal, and lapel pin. The operational "O" attachment is not authorized for this award.

Subsequent awards are signified by 5/16 inch gold or silver stars as appropriate.

Active duty and reserve members can be recognized with this award but the associated ribbon and medal are not authorized for wear on the military duty uniform.

No sample citation is show below since anyone deserving of this award will have a citation prepared by the office of the Chief Director.

INDIVIDUAL AWARD RECOMMENDATION
(upon completion send to Vice Commodore, electronically preferred)

From: _____
(Recommenders name and title)

Recommender's E-Mail Address: _____

Recommendee Name(s): _____

Recommended Award: ___ Distinguished Service Award ___ Plaque of Merit
 ___ Meritorious Service Award ___ Award of Operational Merit
 ___ Commendation Award ___ Achievement Award
 ___ Commandant Letter of Commendation
 ___ Meritorious Team Commendation
 ___ Other (specify) _____

Action location / service area: _____

I certify the facts contained on the Summary/Citation are (check as appropriate):
 ___ Known to Me ___ A Matter of Record

*Note: A Summary of Action is required for MSA or higher awards, and optional on all others.

(Recommender's Name and Title)

(Recommender's Signature and Date)

Forwarding information

TO	DATE	RECOMMENDATION
=====	=====	=====
Vice Commodore	_____	Copy to DCP
Advisory Committee	_____	
Awards Board	_____	
DIRAUX	_____	
Signature Ready	_____	
Presented to member	_____	

DISTRICT 8CR AWARD PERFECTION/APPROVAL CHECK-LISTS

General comments:

- Remember that your citation and accompanying documentation, where applicable are the only things that the reviewing officers and Award Board will see in evaluating whether or not the member will receive the award.
- If you are not experienced in writing awards up for members, get help from your FC or DCP...either or both of these individuals have likely written up a number of successful award citations.
- Award of Operational Merit, Auxiliary Meritorious Service Award, Plaque of Merit and Auxiliary Distinguished Service Award all require supporting documentation. All others require only the District 8CR Award Recommendation Form and a well written commendation.
- When you have recommended a member for an award, do not indicate to the member that they are to receive an award until you are certain that the award has been approved.
- Sometimes, the VCO will get to you and ask that the commendation be re-worked in order to secure approval or will advise you why an award was not approved.

Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation

MEMBERS NAMES: _____

RECOMMENDER: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

- Commendable action is activity which is above and beyond other groups in like activity.
- Justify in commendation why action is "above and beyond"
- See criteria for Award of Operational Merit if award is operational, i.e., **OUTSTANDING OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE** or **SKILL** in performing an **ASSIST** or **RESCUE** or **OTHER OPERATIONAL MERITORIOUS OPERATIONAL SERVICE**.
- See criteria for Auxiliary Commendation Award, i.e., the activity is **TRULY OUTSTANDING**
- If action is operational in nature, include "O" device in commendation
- No additional documentation attachments required
- District 8CR Award Recommendation Form and complete
- Sent to VCO on _____ (date)

ACLOC – Auxiliary Commandant’s Letter of Commendation Award

MEMBER NAME: _____

RECOMMENDER: _____

TODAY’S DATE: _____

- Commendable action less than for Auxiliary Achievement Award (see below)
- Award being used to recognize a special event
- Action being recognized covers a period of one year or less
- Use the words **EXCEPTIONAL** in commendation
- Justify in commendation why action is “above and beyond”
- Ask yourself is member just “doing his/her job”? If that’s how the commendation reads, work on it yourself or get advice
- If action is operational in nature, include “O” device in commendation
- No additional documentation attachments required
- District 8CR Award Recommendation Form and complete
- Sent to VCO on _____ (date)

Auxiliary Achievement Award (Formerly Award of Merit)

MEMBER NAME: _____

RECOMMENDER: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

- Recognizes sustained professional leadership and/or management in either administration or operations
- Service must be of an exceptional nature or an outstanding service that is worthy of special recognition.
- Citation states specifically that service is sustained for a period of one year or longer
 - i) **SUSTAINED** leadership over a period of ____ months/years
 - ii) **MERITORIOUS OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY** for the citation period
 - iii) **MERITORIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE PERFORMANCE** for the citation period
- If action is operational in nature – include “O” device in commendation
- District 8CR Award Recommendation form attached and complete
- Sent to VCO on _____ (date)

Auxiliary Commendation Award (Formerly Award of Administrative Merit)

MEMBER NAME: _____

RECOMMENDER: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

- Award is administrative in nature only...not appropriate for any operational activity.
- Recognizes truly outstanding administrative or service activity that furthers any authorized program area
- Must be approved by any CG Commanding Officer O-6 or above
- Wording in the commendation must demonstrate that the activity is **TRULY OUTSTANDING**
- Neither performing a difficult job well nor doing a routine job in an excellent manner qualifies for this award.
- District 8CR Award Recommendation Form attached and complete
- Sent to VCO on _____ (date)

Award of Operational Merit

MEMBER NAME: _____

RECOMMENDER: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

- Equivalent to the US Coast Guard Commendation Medal with "O" device
- Recognizes meritorious operational performance in assist, rescue or other operational service
- Issued ONLY for underway operations – aircraft, boat or ship.
- Wording in commendation should include **OUTSTANDING OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE** or **SKILL** in performing an **ASSIST** or **RESCUE** or **OTHER OPERATIONAL MERITORIOUS OPERATIONAL SERVICE**.
- SKILL required but not extreme skill
- There does not have to be a risk to the member's life.
- Must be approved by any CG Commanding Officer O-6 or above.
- Summary of action or service must accompany Award Form and citation.
- District 8CR Award Recommendation Form attached and complete.
- Sent to VCO on _____ (date)

Auxiliary Meritorious Service Award

MEMBER NAME: _____

RECOMMENDER: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

- Equivalent to US Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal
- Recognizes meritorious service to the US Coast Guard or US Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Recognized service must have enhanced Auxiliary goals at the District level.
- Performance clearly of a much higher level than normally expected and had a positive impact on the quality of the US Coast Guard or US Coast Guard Auxiliary's ability to complete its missions and goals.
- Wording in commendation should include **OUTSTANDING** and **MERITORIOUS** and service **WORTHY OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION** that contributed significantly to the fulfillment of Auxiliary goals.
- Must be approved by any CG Flag Officer.
- Summary of action or service must accompany Award From and citation.
- District 8CR Award Recommendation Form attached and complete.
- Sent to VCO on _____ (date)

Plaque of Merit

MEMBER NAME: _____

RECOMMENDER: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

- Equivalent to the US Coast Guard Medal
- Recognizes heroism in the face of grave personal risk that clearly stands out as above normal expectations.
- Issued ONLY for underway operations – aircraft, boat or ship.
- Wording in commendation should include **EXTREME SKILL** in performing an **ASSIST** or **RESCUE** at **RISK TO THE MEMBER'S LIFE**
- EXTREME SKILL required
- There was a risk to the member's life
- Must be approved by any CG Flag Officer
- Summary of action or service must accompany Award Form and citation.
- District 8CR Award Recommendation Form attached and complete.
- Sent to VCO on _____ (date)

Auxiliary Distinguished Service Award

MEMBER NAME: _____

RECOMMENDER: _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____

- Equivalent to US Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal
- Recognizes exceptionally meritorious service and distinguished service to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary as a national organization.
- Recognized exceptional performance of duty that benefited the Auxiliary as a whole.
- Performance clearly of a much higher level than normally expected and must have a measurable, positive effect on the entire organization.
- Wording in commendation should include member **DISTINGUISHED** him/herself and contributed **EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS** service **WORTHY OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION** that contributed significantly to the **ENTIRE AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION**.
- Must be awarded/approved by the Commandant.
- Summary of action or service must accompany Award Form and citation.
- District 8CR Award Recommendation Form attached and complete.
- Sent to VCO on _____ (date)