

Southeast District 2025 Training Summit (D-Train)
Class Descriptions for Saturday 9/20/2025 & Sunday 9/21/2025

Artificial Intelligence and District AI Assistant Overview

Doug Armstrong, DDC-R & COMO Martin Goodwin

This session provides an introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its emerging role in supporting Coast Guard Auxiliary operations. Attendees will gain a basic understanding of AI concepts, practical applications, and how AI is being integrated to enhance member support, knowledge management, and operational efficiency within the district. The session will also feature a live demonstration of the District AI Assistant, showcasing its capabilities in answering member questions, assisting with forms and procedures, and streamlining routine tasks. Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of how AI can empower Auxiliarists at every level and how to begin using the District AI Assistant in their own roles. **(2 hours)**

Auxiliary Awards Workshop

Bill Ballard, D-AA-DAC

This session will cover all aspects of the Auxiliary awards nomination, writing, and approval process. It will discuss the various awards available to members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the eligibility criteria for those awards. Specific attention will be paid to the various forms required for submission of an award nomination, including techniques for drafting the citations. **(1 hour)**

Auxiliary Culinary Assistant Qualification Class (POS)

Pat McAlvey, DSO-CA; Nevin Hofin, ADSO-CA; Ken Rubenfeld, ADSO-CA

This class designed to qualify Auxiliarists to provide culinary support at Coast Guard stations, aboard cutters, and during auxiliary or VIP events. It represents a hands-on opportunity to serve with the Coast Guard in a meaningful operational support role, even without prior culinary training. **(12 hours)**

AUXPAD: The Auxiliary Paddlecraft Program

Donna Hornsby & Don Rice

What is the Auxiliary Paddlecraft Program? What are the various missions AUXPAD can conduct and/ or support? Why do we need it, especially in the Southeast District? Who can do it and what are the training and qualification requirements? Where can we get training? When is it going to happen? This interactive session will provide these answers and more. Sessions will be conducted in the pool and in the classroom **(2 hours/1 hour)**.

Color Guard Program

Daniel Oliveras

This informational session provides an overview of the knowledge, skills, physical requirements, and practical training necessary to perform in official Color Guard units with precision, professionalism, and respect for military customs and traditions. **(1 hour)**

Commodore & Chief of Staff Q&A Session

COMO Martin Goodwin & DCOS Murray Price

This informal session provides an opportunity to meet your Southeast District leadership team to discuss issues, ask questions, and get informed about upcoming programs and initiatives. **(1 hour)**

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Counter-Intelligence Briefing

Paul Piepoli, Counterintelligence Agent

This session provides Auxiliary leaders and members with an in-depth overview of counter-intelligence considerations relevant to the Southeast maritime operating environment. Participants will gain insight into the types of threats that impact Coast Guard and Auxiliary missions, and learn how counter-intelligence awareness directly supports operational readiness and mission success. **(1 hour)**

CPR/First Aid Certification Class

Michael Distefano

Pre-Registration Required: Please register on the Southeast District D-Train web page.

This class prepares you to provide proper care for life-threatening illnesses or injuries until professional emergency medical care is available. The skills taught in this course include one- and two-rescuer CPR for adults, use of automatic external defibrillators, assisting choking victims, and responding to a person in shock. The first aid skills taught include bleeding control and responding to medical emergencies. Participants will receive the American Safety and Health Institute Basic CPR and First Aid Card upon successful completion of the class. **(4 hours)**

Cybersecurity: Introduction to Maritime Cybersecurity

Gary Kessler, DVC-YV

This session will provide a broad, high-level overview of cybersecurity, the maritime transportation system (MTS), and aspects of cybersecurity that are unique in the MTS. This is planned as a non-technical talk to introduce terms and concepts, and to help USCG auxiliaries understand the role of USCG and CGAUX in the cyber domain. **(1 hour)**

Cybersecurity: AIS and GPS Interference in the Maritime Domain

Gary Kessler, DVC-YV

Spoofing and jamming of Global Positioning System (GPS) signals and Automatic Identification System (AIS) messages can have devastating effects. This talk will describe incidents of GPS and AIS interference, geopolitical implications, and impacts on USCG. **(2 hours)**

DIRAUX & OTO Q&A Session

LCDR Tuxhorn & BOSN Blount

Join us for a question and answer session with our Director of Auxiliary LCDR Tuxhorn and Operations Training Officer BOSN Blount. **(1 hour)**

Emergency Management: Activation and Deployment PQS

Jeff Barnes, ADSO-EM

Previously known as “Part A”, these PQS tasks apply to all USCG ICS positions and are incorporated as a mandatory requirement for all USCG ICS qualifications. Students will gain an understanding on how to prepare for duty, how to manage themselves and others, and how to work with others in stressful environments. **(2 hours)**

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Emergency Management Careers

Jeff Barnes, ADSO-EM

Learn about all of the opportunities in Emergency Management, the PQS, and prerequisites for each. **(2 hours)**

Emerging Auxiliary Programs

LCDR Ben Tuxhorn, DIRAUX

This presentation offers Coast Guard Auxiliary members a vital overview of rapidly evolving technologies impacting Coast Guard operations in the Southeast region. We'll explore advancements in Maritime Domain Awareness, Unmanned Systems, Communications, Cybersecurity, and Artificial Intelligence, detailing how these innovations enhance mission effectiveness – from Search and Rescue to Aids to Navigation and port security. Importantly, this course highlights specific opportunities for Auxiliary volunteers to contribute to these advancements, fostering a deeper understanding of their evolving role and equipping them with insights to support the Coast Guard's future success. This session is designed to be informative, engaging, and focused on practical applications for those dedicated to safeguarding our waterways. **(1 hour)**

Help Room – HR, IS, AuxData, Test Proctoring, Etc.

District Staff

The Member Help Room provides assistance to help you with HR, AuxData, IS, and other issues. Test proctors will also be available for any online tests you need to complete **(6 hours)**

Illegal Charters/Passengers for Hire Workshop

Alvaro Ferrando

This is a focused training session designed to enhance awareness regarding illegal passenger-for-hire operations commonly known as "Illegal Charters". Participants will learn to understand the applicable definitions under the U.S. Code and those regulations governing lawful passenger-for-hire operations with some state mandates also addressed, recognize common indicators of illegal charters and unsafe vessel operations and or conditions, and apply best practices for detection, inquiries, and documentation of violations observed. **(3 hours)**

Information Services (IS) Officer's Workshop

Kevin Wilcox, DSO-IS

This workshop is for current Information Services officers and members who want to know more about being a future IS officer. This workshop will offer tips and tools to help IS officers do their job and will include roundtable discussions on problems and concerns applicable to all IS officers. **(1 hour)**

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Instructor Development Course (PQS)

Karen Miller, DSO-MT; Greg Fonzeno, DIR-Ed; Ramiro Antorcha, ADSO-MT; Anna Scott, VFC; Larry Cook, SO-MT

The Instructor Development Course (ID2025) is designed to prepare members to become certified instructors, capable of effectively delivering Auxiliary training programs and public education courses. The course emphasizes adult learning principles, effective presentation techniques, and instructional best practices in both classroom and virtual environments. Participants will have completed three preparatory evening sessions prior to D-Train, during which they will have received foundational instruction in course content, presentation skills, and classroom management. These sessions are intended to ensure that students arrive at D-Train fully prepared to deliver a short instructional presentation. On Sunday, students will present their instructional segment in a supportive, evaluative environment. This presentation satisfies the short practical requirement for demonstrating teaching proficiency. Upon successful completion of this presentation and the associated Instructor Qualification Performance Qualification Standard (PQS), participants will return to their flotillas for the final longer “student teaching” requirement. This session at D-Train allows members to complete the course in a collaborative, high-energy setting with access to mentorship and feedback from experienced instructors. **(6 hours)**

Legal Issues for Flotillas

Mike Williams, DLO

This session will explore legal issues for flotillas, including discipline, solicited and unsolicited gifts, contracts, corporations, conduct, and more. Participants will have opportunities to address legal questions pertaining to Auxiliary activities. **(1 hour)**

Marine Safety: Auxiliary Pollution Responder Refresher

Matt Copeland, ADSO-MS

This course is intended for those Auxiliarists that hold the Auxiliary Assistant Pollution Responder Designation or, those Auxiliarists who may be interested in pursuing this Certification and would like an overview of the requirements. Auxiliary Pollution Responders who are called out by the Coast Guard in response to a pollution call, are typically the first on the scene and provide feedback to the Coast Guard on the incident. They may also get involved in post storm assessments from an environmental perspective and may be called on the conduct or accompany the Coast Guard on dockside harbor patrols. **(1 hour)**

Marine Safety: Water Pollution Sources and Prevention

William Saltenberger, DSO-MS

One of the basic Auxiliary Marine Safety and Environmental Protection courses is the Good Mate course. This one-hour session on water pollution is a part of that course. Here, attendees will learn about the many pollution threats to the water environment from boating and marina operations as well as prevention best practices. **(1 hour)**

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Marine Safety Prevention Outreach Specialist (AUX-MEES) PQS

Lisa Gordon, FSO-MS

The Auxiliary Prevention Outreach Specialist (MEES) is one of two Marine Safety certifications that are exclusive to the Auxiliary and issued by DIRAUX. This course will cover such topics as knowledge of pollution issues, laws and regulations governing pollution prevention, The Maritime Transportation Security Act, and America's Waterway Watch. Attendees should download and print the PQS and the study guide. Verifying Officers will be available by request to sign off on the PQS. Attendees should have with them documentation of the completion of the prerequisites listed in the front of the PQS. **(3 hours)**

The New Coast Guard NAVCEN website: Unlocking its Capabilities

John Frassanito, DSO-NS & Tony Hooper, ADSO-NS

Learn the functionality of the Coast Guard NAVCEN website and unleash useful data like Local Notices to Mariners (LNM), Light Lists (LL), and Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNM). **(1 hour)**

Public Affairs: The Road to Auxiliary Public Affairs Qualification

Mary Patton, DSO-PA

The PA Specialist Program offers a pathway to skills development by blending formal and on-the-job training. Candidates are certified through AUXPA3 [Entry Level], AUXPA2 [Intermediate Level] and AUXPA1 [Senior Level] levels using the Performance Qualification System (PQS). Each candidate completes a series of tasks for print and broadcast media, photography, public appearances, video, static displays, and exhibits. Come learn about this exciting program and have your questions answered! **(1 hour)**

Public Education: Youth Education Programs

Dan McIntyre, ADSO-PE

The Southeast District has a huge untapped population of young people who will benefit from water and boating safety education. While Boat America and Boating Skills and Seamanship, as well as several enrichment courses, target adults, there are courses that directly target elementary school age children. This session will illustrate the elementary school courses and will explain how Flotillas can get started in promoting and teaching youth programs. **(2 hours)**

Recent Boating Laws and Recreational Boating Safety Update

Anda Ray, DSO-SL & Scott Szczepaniak, Southeast District RBS Specialist

This session will cover recent boating law changes along with an overview of the national recreational boating safety program. This presentation will detail recreational boating trends and laws specific to the Southeast District Area of Responsibility. This holistic overview is intended for members engaged with public affairs, vessel examinations, public education, leadership at all levels, and anyone with an interest in the boating safety mission. **(1 hour)**

Risk Management/TCT Refresher Class

COMO Martin Goodwin & Charles Lambeth, ADSO-AV

This is the RM/TCT annual refresher class required to maintain currency in several Auxiliary qualifications and serve in elected office. **(3 hours)**

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Rules of Order for Flotillas and Divisions

Mike Williams, DLO

Auxiliary business meetings follow a specific set of parliamentary procedures. This session covers the general rules governing flotilla and division business meetings, including handling different types of motions, managing discussions, and conducting voting procedures. **(1 hour)**

Surface Operations: How to Make Your Program Thrive

Chris Juall, DSO-OP

In this session, you will learn about the many ways to enhance your surface operations program. Topics discussed include, how to start, ideal operational facilities, how to build an efficient training program, how to build interest and recruit new members, how to get the most from your local Coast Guard Unit, and how to stay out of REYR. **(1 hour)**

Telecommunications Operator Class

Carlos Arenas, DSO-CS & Ed Quintella, ADSO-CM

The class presents the knowledge elements and provides participants with the opportunity to demonstrate skills needed to be certified as a Telecommunications Operator in the Southeast District. The course follows the outline of the Telecommunications Operator Professional Qualification Standard. The course is an intense 8-hour session split over two days (Saturday and Sunday) with a partial PQS review. **(8 hours)**

Uninspected Passenger Vessel (UPV) Qualification Course (PQS)

George Peek, DVC-PV & David Green, ADSO-MS

Uninspected Passenger Vessels are commercial vessels that carry six or less paying passengers. This course covers six hours of instruction over two days (Saturday and Sunday). Completion of this course will provide attendees with a complete understanding of the requirements for vessel exams and will prepare the attendee to start on their pursuit of this designation. It is recommended that attendees print the Auxiliary Uninspected Passenger Vessel Examiner PQS and the study guide titled "Requirements for Uninspected Passenger Vessels" prior to attending this class. Attendees may request the availability of a Verifying Officer on Sunday morning if they want to get some of the recitation requirements in the PQS signed off. Verifying Officers will be available on request from 0900 to 1100 on Sunday. Those requesting a meeting with a Verifying Officer should bring documentation of having completed the prerequisites listed in the front of the PQS. **(6 hours)**

Using the Southeast District Help Desk

Bill Ballard, D-AA-DAC

A general briefing on what the Help Desk is (and what it's not); overview of what is needed for various categories; best practices for submitting Help Desk tickets; and an overview of certification and reward requirements. Each portion will include current guidance on when to send in a ticket and when to allow the system time to complete an action. **(1 hour)**