

OC NORTH

Flotilla 66 News

Spring 2024



Annual Uniform Inspections Begin

By Brian Tankersley, FSO-MT

Uniform inspections are now a requirement for members who want to participate in missions that require wearing a uniform. This inspection must be on record in AuxData by end of June 2024.

Our FC, David Padilla, has requested that those of us who attend the upcoming April 4 meeting to do so in the Tropical Blue Uniform as the uniform for inspection.

He has also requested that attendees of the following May 2 meeting wear the Operational Dress Uniform for informal review. For members who do not pass the April 4 Tropical Blue inspection, the May 2 meeting gives the opportunity to pass inspection in ODUs.

Members who have not passed a uniform inspection by end of June cannot participate in missions that require wearing a uniform.

“The word ‘Uniform’ implies consistency and conformance to certain standards,” says Auxiliary Manual Chapter 10.

Standards in grooming and appearance are vital to all of the uniformed services. They promote pride in membership of a profession of arms with a unity of purpose.

As a uniformed volunteer organization within the Coast Guard, Auxiliary members are privileged to wear our Coast Guard based uniforms. Note the word *privileged*. This privilege to wear the uniforms is at the discretion of the Commandant of the Coast Guard. As long as we wear the uni-



World War II Auxiliarists didn't need to worry about uniforms. These days, we do.

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Flotilla 66 Site Relunched; New Ribbon Checker Added

Flotilla 66's web site has a new address – flotilla66.us - and a new look.

There's also a new ribbon checker tool to help members build their ribbon racks and medal displays.

The focus of the flotilla web site (also known as the WOW site) now takes into account both members and non-members, including potential recruits and mariners who are looking for Auxiliary services such as vessel examinations.

The ribbon checker combines Auxiliary, regular Coast Guard and non-CG awards so that members with prior military service can build an Auxiliary-compliant ribbon rack.

The ribbon checker also has guidance for adding devices such as service stars, and information about displaying obsolete Auxiliary ribbons. A glossary of award-related terms rounds out the ribbon checker's functionality.

Its address is ribbons.flotilla66.us, or use the link at the flotilla home page.

On the main web site, the left menu has been reorganized so that there's more to see for non-members. A vessel tracker uses AIS data to show the position of all substantial vessels underway or docked in Southern California waters. This is a great resource to help mariners plan their voyages.

We've also added the NOAA Marine Forecast page for Southern California, with easy access to other areas.

Thanks to copious notes and photos provided by Flotilla 66 veteran Anne Evans, we have a brief history of the flotilla (we started in that famed seafaring village, Palm Springs) and other highlights.

We've also added a convenient link for dues payments and donations, plus a recruiting page with the latest video

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You can *easily* use AuxData II. Really.

Tips to make logging your hours pain free in minutes

By *Walter Baranger, FSO-CS*

We've all heard the pitch at every flotilla, division, district and National meeting: "Log your hours!"

We all know how important hours are, both for Congressional funding and Coast Guard planning.

AuxData II (link to it from flotilla66.us) can be faster and easier than using form 7029 or 7030, then emailing it to our FSO-IS, Heather Shanahan.

One secret is to use AuxData at least once a month. It keeps the menus fresh in my mind so that I don't skip a step, which is all too easy for occasional users.

For the most routine task most members do – recording prep, commute and attendance at the monthly flotilla meeting – there are two steps:

- 1) Tell AuxData about the meeting, then
- 2) Associate your name to the meeting.

If you don't do both, in that order, your hours will not be recorded. Simply follow the steps in the blue box at upper right. If you cannot log into AuxData or you just need more pointers, [visit the help page linked here](#).

Here's some additional AuxData advice from Heather:

For those with Net Radio hours and a registered Radio Facility, select RADIO when you create your mission submission in AuxData. This will allow you to enter your radio facility number.

If you do not have a registered Radio Facility, select Unit/

Logging Flotilla Meeting Prep & Attendance

1. Log into AuxData II through flotilla66.us
2. Select **Activity Logs** from the top menu.
3. Click **New**, then **Unit/Individual**, then **Next**.
4. Choose your **Unit**, then **Mission Code**:
99A for appointed or elected leaders.
99E for all other members.
5. Enter **date, time and duration**.
6. Enter your **round-trip mileage**.
7. Click **Save**; a new menu will appear.
8. Click **Approval Requested**.
9. Click **Add member**; search for your name.
10. Check the box next to your name, then click **Add Members**.
11. Scroll down; check the box next to your name.
12. Choose **Position: Lead**.
13. Click **Update Activity Members**.
14. Scroll to top.
15. Click **Mark As Current Review Status. Voilà!**

Individual just as you do for any other entry.

For attending D-Train, hours should be recorded as 99D. If you have already submitted time as something else, let Heather know. Remember to record your round-trip mileage.

Other useful mission codes suggested by Heather:

- **99B RBS Support.** VSC/RBS prep, mileage and travel time.
- **99C MS/MEP Support.** Marine Safety and Marine Environmental Protection, including prep and travel.
- **99D Training Support.** Time spent studying or completing tests.
- **20C RadioNet.** Time spent on Net Radio calls.
- **10J Community Relations.** Time spent at community events and ceremonies.

After submitting your hours to Heather, they are reviewed by SO-IS Connie Trejo. By return email you may be asked to clarify your submission or re-categorize a mission code. Just adjust the entry and resubmit it.

Eventually your approved hours become part of a database that helps decision makers from the flotilla level to National, and of course in Washington, to monitor Auxiliary activities and support for Coast Guard missions, and make funding decisions.

AuxData has more features, such as tracking your awards and ribbons, training and Auxiliary position history, but logging hours will likely be your most frequently used function. ⚓

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April & May Uniform Inspections Scheduled

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forms correctly and with pride, we will maintain the honor of wearing them.

When we wear a uniform in public, the vast majority of our fellow citizens see only the Coast Guard. How we wear uniforms is a direct reflection on the entire Coast Guard.

The responsibility for inspections resides with elected officers, preferably flotilla commanders or vice commanders. Elected leaders cannot require you to wear a specific uniform for the annual inspection. You can chose to wear any of the authorized uniforms:

- ✓ Tropical Blue
- ✓ Operational Dress Uniform (ODU)
- ✓ Service Dress Blue Alpha
- ✓ Service Dress Blue Bravo
- ✓ Polo Shirt Option for Vessel Examiner
- ✓ Winter Dress Blue
- ✓ Blue Blazer Uniform
- ✓ Auxiliary Work Uniform (AWU)

Members who do not pass either inspection still have until the end of June to pass inspection in a uniform of their choice – though it is not recommended to wait that late to pass an inspection, because of the expected time lag in recording it in AuxData.

It is equivalent to not having Core Training up to date.



Insignia on tropes are built around 1/4" vertical spacing, between elements and pocket flap edges.

Also, members who show up for an event in uniforms not within conformance of the standards can be disallowed from participating. You can see how serious the Coast Guard is taking this mandate.

About grooming: Members in uniform must adhere to the same grooming standards as the regular Coast Guard. A couple of requirements for men need mentioning:

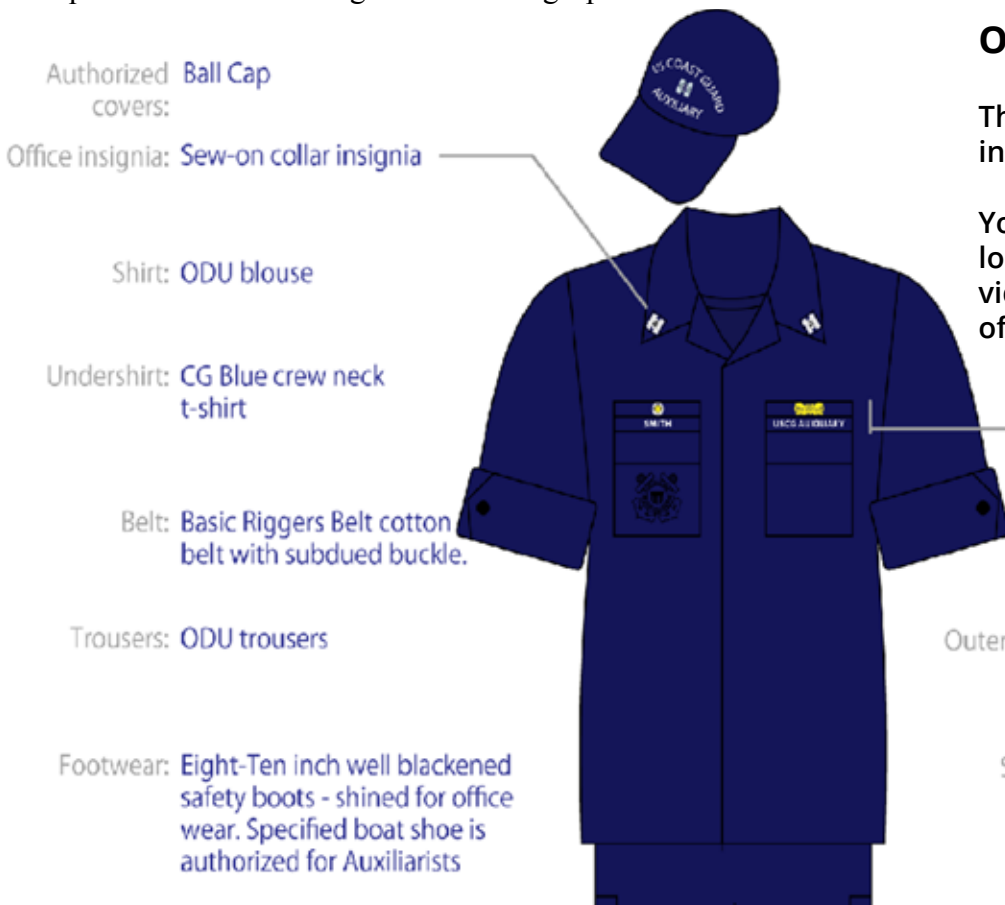
Men's hair cannot not go past the collar at the back of the neck, and beards must be neatly trimmed and no more than one inch in length.

Tropical Blue and ODU are among the set of uniforms that are worn when Auxiliarists interact with the regular Coast Guard. A few common tips are shown here. ⚓

Operational Dress Uniform

The May flotilla meeting will include an inspection of ODUs.

You can either wear the sleeves long or folded. See the helpful videos in the member-only menu of flotilla66.us for more tips.



Sew on name and Auxiliary tapes - one qualification device and AUXOP device if earned

Outerwear: Foul Weather Parka, ODU Utility Jacket

Socks: Black socks

Authorized Ball Cap covers:

Office insignia: Sew-on collar insignia

Shirt: ODU blouse

Undershirt: CG Blue crew neck t-shirt

Belt: Basic Riggers Belt cotton belt with subdued buckle.

Trousers: ODU trousers

Footwear: Eight-Ten inch well blackened safety boots - shined for office wear. Specified boat shoe is authorized for Auxiliarists

Anne Evans Named SO–SR At Div. 6 Change of Watch



Anne Evans, Flotilla 66’s longtime FSO-SR, took over as Division 6 SO-SR at the division Change of Watch dinner in Costa Mesa on January 24. At the dinner table (clockwise from left) were Kathya Martinez, Rick Latronico, Desiree De Liser, Al Vaitkus, Gary Hooper, Ramon Evans, and of course Anne.

Flotilla 66’s Insignia: A Very Brief History

Until now, our distinctive orange unit insignia was mainly seen on lapel pins.

Now it will appear on the flotilla web site, in unit publications and on the new ribbon checker.

Thanks to flotilla member and insignia designer Clint Wells, we again have a high-resolution version of



the insignia, which members adopted in 2013. ⚓

Flotilla Web Site Relunched

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from National.

The Members Only area is now full of information, freeing up space on the main menu for items of interest to non-members and prospective Auxiliarists.

We’ve added a consolidated district-division-flotilla calendar, giving everyone a quick overview of regional events.

And we now have a series of brief videos produced by TRACEN Cape May demonstrating the care and wearing of the ODU, the Operational Dress Uniform.

The staff at TRACEN Cape May, which includes boot camp instructors, know the tricks and tips to help Coasties more easily maintain their military appearance. Their videos have bite-sized, no-nonsense and yet incredibly helpful collegial advice from seasoned pros. Have a look! ⚓



Know Your Insignia

What does this ribbon mean to Auxiliarists?

Each quarter, this space will ribbons or devices worn by Auxiliarists.

For spring, we have a ribbon that Auxiliarists can’t earn, but is commonly seen on their ribbon racks: The **National Defense Service Medal** ribbon.

It means that you are looking at a veteran, and not just any vet. It is someone who served during wartime, though not necessarily in a war zone. This ribbon is in a class informally known as “intergenerational awards,” bestowed on large numbers of veterans over a broad time period.

Until the Persian Gulf War, it had the nickname “I was alive in ‘65.”

(Another example of intergenerational award is the Army of Occupation Medal, awarded from 1945 to 1990, when Berlin’s status as an occupied city ended.)

In fact, the National Defense Service Medal is the oldest service medal (not a personal decoration) earned by all six armed forces, and is the most widely bestowed medal in U.S. history, with countless millions of recipients.

To earn this medal or a service star in lieu of subsequent award, the wearer must have served in any of these four eras:

Korean War, June 27, 1950, to July 27, 1954; Vietnam War, January 1, 1961, to August 14, 1974; Persian Gulf War, August 2, 1990, to November 30, 1995; or the Global War on Terrorism, September 11, 2001, to December 31, 2022.

Because the eras are so widely spaced, it is believed that no one has earned the basic ribbon plus the maximum of three service stars.

It is classified as a campaign ribbon, so it usually sits in the middle of most veterans’ racks.

The medal itself was most frequently delivered in a plain blue U.S. Mint cardboard sleeve, often to boot camp recruits on their first day of training. At my own boot camp class in 1974, hundreds of the ribbons were in a large plastic bag, and were handed out when uniforms were issued. ⚓

– Walt Baranger