

## LETTER HEAD

Date

Greetings from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary:

We are writing to you from the Sixth Division, Eighth Coastal Region, essentially the greater Houston, TX area. Your name has come to us because of an interest in the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

For over 60 years, tens-of-thousands of men and women of the Coast Guard Auxiliary have spent millions of volunteer hours helping the Coast Guard carry out its missions. Auxiliarists are probably best known for educating the public through their boating safety classes and Vessel Safety Checks. Yet, they do much more and have been doing even more since the passage of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996. The purpose of the Act is to allow the Auxiliary to assist the Coast Guard, as authorized by the Commandant, in performance of any Coast Guard function, duty, role, mission or operation authorized by law. The Coast Guard Auxiliary was authorized by act of Congress on June 23, 1939.

We are an organization of volunteers that supports many of the missions of the active duty Coast Guard. As with most volunteer work there are many rewards and always some responsibilities.

In a nut-shell, most of our activities can be grouped in three areas:

- Boating safety
- Public Education
- Operations on the water, in the air and on the ground

The Sixth Division has approximately 250 members. We are further organized into flotillas with about 15 to 30 members each. Our leaders are elected by the members. The operational missions involve: life saving, search and rescue and patrols. Some members offer their private boats and airplanes that are used as Coast Guard "Facilities" when properly inspected, qualified and placed under Coast Guard orders. However, most members do not have boats and airplanes to place in service. Their service as crew and non-operational support is essential to fulfillment of the coast Guard missions that are expected of the Division.

The Auxiliary is well organized and works within well documented policies and procedures published under the authorization of the Coast Guard. This sort of strong organization makes the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary the "go-to" people during times of disaster. We wear Coast Guard uniforms when meeting and on-duty but remain civilian volunteers.

There are many jobs requiring many different skills needed in the Auxiliary. Most people want to know what would be expected of them in time or expense. Here are some of the requirements and expectations.

- Seventeen years of age and a US citizen
- Annual dues of \$50.00
- Attend monthly meetings
- Provide your own uniform(s) (Initially, one uniform will cost about \$75 or less)
- Within the first year not much work is expected of the member for duties and jobs as it takes time to learn the workings and organization of the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary.
- One of the major benefits of the Auxiliary is training offered to the members at no cost. The first year, the new member is encouraged to take an evening class in many topics available. If the member is interested in the Operations side of the Auxiliary classes are available periodically for boat and air crews.
- If disaster strikes all members may be called to assist where they can help in the Coast Guard missions.
- There is no official minimum amount of time that is expected from a member monthly or annually. There are many ways that a member can actively contribute. Skills in teaching, computers, writing, photography, logistics, organizing events, trade shows are just some of the special jobs outside of the "Operations" jobs. However, everyone can contribute and is expected to find a niche where their skills and interest fit. Although social events are very much part of our culture the Auxiliary is a working organization.
- Since 9/11 all members are required to submit as part of the application a security form. There are two levels. The top security level requires a rather comprehensive Federal Government investigation. This is because many of our missions are in close support of the active Coast Guard. New members will complete a much less rigorous application that authorizes a general background check. If a member chooses to go into operations or stand for election as an officer then the more comprehensive background check will be required.

There are ten flotillas in the Sixth Division. Each meets monthly at a fixed time and location in their area. Often a prospective member may attend one or two meetings to get an idea if the C.G. Auxiliary and a certain flotilla meet your expectations. You could attend a meeting at more than one flotilla if you choose. There is no rush. We want you to be completely comfortable with the C.G. Auxiliary before you make application.

At the beginning of the letter we mentioned rewards. Every member brings something different to the Auxiliary and everyone takes away a different satisfaction. Some enjoy teaching or patrols, rescues, earning awards by completing training and competency examination in difficult seamanship or air

crew skills. Training is available along side active duty Coast Guard members. Many Auxiliary members are qualified to train the active duty “Coasties,” officers and enlisted personnel. There are many ways you could help us.

One of the four “Corner Stones” of the Auxiliary is “Fellowship.” Camaraderie and social events are part of the reward for your service to your community.

If the sense of belonging to a well organized, highly qualified, mission oriented group of people interests you then the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary may be just what you are looking for.

Please visit the Coast Guard’s website at [www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil). In the left column under “Our People” you will find a selection for “Auxiliary.” The section under “Join the Auxiliary” will give you even more information.

Best wishes and congratulations for your interest in volunteering for good of the community. Hopefully the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary can be your avenue for service and personal growth.

Semper Paratus (Always Ready)

Charles Maricle  
Staff Officer, Personnel Service

Gary Schroeder  
Division Six Captain

Drafted by George Young, SO-PA

## **Division Six Flotilla Location**

Flotilla 61, Chocolate Bayou, Texas  
Commander, Harry Trainer

Flotilla 62, Houston, Texas  
Commander, Thomas Simons

Flotilla 63, Seabrook, Texas  
Commander, David Cooley

Flotilla 64, Freeport, Texas  
Commander, Paul Heinig

Flotilla 66, Lake Charles, Louisiana  
Commander, Dave Phillips

Flotilla 68, Clear Lake, Texas  
Commander, Rex Prosser

Flotilla 69, Lake Conroe, Texas  
Commander, Wayne Coffman

Flotilla 6-10, Ellington Field, Texas (Air specialty unit)  
Commander, William (Bill) Tuite

Flotilla 6-11, Beaumont, Texas  
Commander, Alvin Adams

Flotilla 6-12, Air Station Houston  
Commander, Robert (Bob) Koryciak