U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
AUGMENTATION COMMUNICATIONS MISSION

INTRODUCTION

1. The Coast Guard from time-to-time requires support and monitoring of the GMDSS response system (voice and data) and other GMDSS maritime communications systems to augment active duty systems, especially during major storms, technical outages and other events.

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this initiative is to provide mission definition for Auxiliary Augmentation of Communications (AUGCOM) for the in support of the USCG, as authorized by existing regulations.

MISSION

1. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX) will support the USCG’s efforts to help ensure adequate coverage of, and response to, GMDSS HF maritime communication, and other radio services, as ordered.

2. These missions will be performed upon request of, and under the control of the USCG COMMUNICATIONS COMMAND (COMMCOM) or Sector authority.

   a. Missions assigned by COMMCOM will be coordinated by the Auxiliary National Branch Chief, Response Telecommunications Contingency Operations (BC-RTC), or designee.

   b. Missions assigned by Sectors will be coordinated by the appropriate District Staff Officer for Communications (DSO-CM).

STATION/OPERATOR REQUIREMENTS

1. The USCG desires properly equipped and experienced USCGAUX members at defined locations to monitor HF GMDSS communications (voice and data) on either regularly scheduled or as-needed bases.

2. Enrollment in the Auxiliary Augmentation Communications (AUGCOM) activity is limited to operators that:

   a. Have current TCO qualification

   b. Have successfully completed AUXCOM
c. Are owners of approved USCGAUX HF radio facilities or operational vessel facilities which are properly equipped to monitor and report HF GMDSS/DSC, GMDSS and other communications?

d. Are specifically approved by the USCG COMMCOM.

3. Equipment and member qualification shall be detailed in the member application for initial endorsement by the BC-RTC for approval by the Commanding Officer of COMMCOM. Approved candidates will be notified of their appointment by the BC-RTC with copies to the appropriate DIRAUX for inclusion in AUXDATA.

   a. Stations will be designated as Auxiliary Augmentation Communications Stations (AUGCOMSTA).

   b. Operators will be designated as Auxiliary Augmentation Communications Operators (AUGCOMOP).

4. Only those operators qualifying as AUGCOMOP may be the lead operator at any time at an AUGCOM facility or operation.

MONITORING METHODOLOGY

1. Stations will monitor as assigned by COMMCOM or Sector(s). Assignments shall detail:

   a. Start time and duration of monitoring

   b. Monitoring may be assigned as fixed or random during the date/time window

   c. Frequencies to be monitored

   d. Information to be reported

2. Monitoring stations shall log their findings and report to the appropriate CG command, with copies to the BC-RTC or designee.

3. Monitoring stations shall not transmit responses to any transmissions, unless specifically authorized by the OIA.

4. A listing of authorized AUGCOM stations and operators will be maintained by the BC-RTC or the designated Branch Assistant and regularly provided to each USCG CAMS, as a means to verify the identity of the reporter and validity of any report.

MISSION ORDERS AND REPORTING

1. The Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual COMDTINST M16798.3 (series) applies to this operational support mission. Approved individuals performing this mission at fixed locations shall be considered “assigned to duty”. Orders may be specifically written or assignments may be part of a general OPORDER. Any movement of an
USCGAUX facility (vessel, land mobile radio) requires patrol orders to be issued pursuant to the Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual.

2. In the event there is a need to have this mission performed to assist the USCG in resolving a specific problem, or to determine the nature, extent or validity of a reported problem (e.g. a “call-out” situation), orders may be issued by the appropriate USCG command, in accordance with existing policies and regulations.

3. Hours performing this mission will be reported and entered in AUXDATA via an ANSC-7030 (Mission Activity Report), using Category 20B – Radio Net – GMDSS Watchstanding, unless otherwise directed by National Response Department staff.

4. **Mission hours to be reported are only those hours where the facility is manned and ready for intervention by the operator.** This may be different from days/hours in operation for automated stations, whose service may be reported as comments on the mission hour form or on other documents.

**MEMBER APPLICATIONS**

1. USCGAUX members possessing the desire, time, required equipment, and skills necessary to perform this mission shall make an application via e-mail to the USCGAUX Branch Chief, Response Telecommunications, Contingency Operations (BC-RTC) or the designated Branch Assistant.

2. The application shall contain an accurate listing of receiving equipment (antenna, receiver, decoder(s), recording devices); platform type (fixed, mobile, vessel); location (latitude/longitude coordinates); day(s) and timeframe(s) available to be committed to performing the mission; along with point of contact data. An informal, brief outline or statement of the member’s training and experience which indicates the member’s ability to properly perform the mission must be included.

3. USCGAUX receiving stations and personnel selected for this mission will be designated “Auxiliary Augmentation Communications Stations” (AUGCOMSTA) and “Auxiliary Augmentation Communications Operators” (AUGGCOMOP).

**TRAINING**

1. The USCGAUX Branch Chief, Training and Qualification (BC-RTQ) or the designated Branch Assistant shall provide any needed training material.

**SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS**

1. Fixed, mobile and vessel AUGCOM facilities must be equipped with the capability to receive and decode the GMDSS data modes (DSC), and should be able to receive and
record the voice transmissions as well as provide decoded digital traffic in electronic form.

2. Applicant shall possess an understanding of HF/MF GMDSS/DSC and its significance within the SOLAS Treaty.

3. Internet e-mail access is required for reporting, administrative use, and distribution of training materials. Broadband internet access is strongly encouraged.

4. Other RF and information technology capabilities as specified by COMMCOM may be required from time to time to meet specific mission requirements.

PROGRAM POINT OF CONTACT

1. The Point of Contact (POC) for this mission is: USCGAUX Branch Chief, Response Telecommunications Contingency Operations (BC-RTC)