

ISSUED: 5/28/2007

**ODU MEMORANDUM
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

QUESTION 1: The Chief Directors Website Auxiliary Knowledge Base (AuxKB) seems to contradict this policy guidance. It states the ODU should be used where we are trying to convey the multi-mission nature of the Auxiliary. Who is right?

ANSWER: As stated on the website, the AuxKB is a “tool to enable members to find answers to frequently asked questions. It should not be considered to be the "end all, be all", in other words the arbiter of all things Coast Guard/Auxiliary. Use of appropriate COMDTINSTs, ALAUXs, ALCOASTs and other official announcements and web sites should be part of any research on a particular subject.

Should conflicting information be found, usually the latest information is correct, but one should always get an official answer by using the Chain of Leadership up to your local DIRUAX.”

In accordance with Chapter 10 para. A.11, the DCO (as unit leader of District 11SR) may prescribe a specific uniform, in this case the ODU; to be worn in those activities not listed in paragraphs A.1 through A.10.

QUESTION 2: The Chief Directors Website Auxiliary Knowledge Base states the ODU may be worn at flotilla meetings. Why does this MEMORANDUM differ?

ANSWERS: A careful examination of policy states the “ODU may be worn in any situation where any form of dress uniform is not required or more appropriate” AUX MAN CH 10 para. H.4.

The AUX Manual clearly indicates a number of dress and undress uniforms that are considered more appropriate for unit meetings. These uniforms include Service Blue (Bravo), Tropical Blue (Long), and Undress Blue – Summer (Alpha) to name a few.

Therefore, wearing the ODU at unit meetings would not be appropriate.

QUESTION 3 : The policy states I may wear my ODU's if I am directly involved with a static display of an Auxiliary facility or Coast Guard Operational Asset or equipment. What does "directly involved" mean?

ANSWER: Directly involved means you are physically on or in very close proximity to the facility/Asset/Equipment and your scope of employment requires that you are fully or partially responsible for its proper display, demonstration, and access by the public.

For example, at an air show you are next to an aircraft assisting the aircraft commander or pilot answer questions of the general public and you are supervising and assisting the general public in climbing aboard the aircraft. ODU would be appropriate to wear in this situation.

QUESTION 4: What if during the same air show (see the Q&A above) I am manning a PA booth next to the aircraft. What should I wear?

ANSWER: Unless your scope of employment requires you to attend to the aircraft's display and demonstration or you are supervising the access to the aircraft by the public, a dress or undress uniform is more appropriate. For example, Tropical Blue (Long) or Undress Blue – Summer (Alpha) would be typical uniforms appropriate for such activity.

QUESTION 5: Who would determine who wears what?

ANSWER: An elected leader of the unit that is sponsoring the activity would normally specify the uniform for the activity. That individual should also determine who wears what. That leader must use the Memorandum as a guide. As a member, you should never attend an Auxiliary activity and decide on your own which uniform to wear. The elected leader has the responsibility for prescribing the correct uniform so all members look as a team. Ask before the event.

QUESTION 6: The Chief Director's web site states: "The first uniform that should be purchased depends on what area of the Auxiliary you wish to concentrate your time in. For most, it will be the ODU uniform. For others it will be Tropical Blue Long." Why did he select the ODU for most?

ANSWER: The Coast Guard Auxiliary is still primarily a boating organization. New members like operational activities. If their funds are limited, and the new member wants to get into Operations, then purchasing

the ODU will get the member on the water. The member can wear appropriate civilian attire for meetings and other social events.

QUESTION 7: Law enforcement personnel like to see us wearing the ODU because we look like them. Shouldn't we all look uniform and like them?

ANSWER: No- We do not have any law enforcement authority, and it could be dangerous even giving the appearance that we do.

QUESTION 8: When on a normal CG AUX patrol, under orders, by the OIA, members are wearing ODUs with sew-on office insignia collar devices. The CG needs assistance in a SAR and calls the AUX vessel for backup. Does the crew have to change into a different ODU coat with member devices?

ANSWER: No they don't. It is still an AUX patrol. The mission is SAR and not what the member is wearing.

QUESTION 9: A CG AUX patrol is getting underway and finds it has to stop at a CG Station or Sector to pick up some equipment. Members are wearing the ODU coat with office collar sew-on devices; do they have to change to an ODU coat with member sew-on devices before entering the Station or Sector?

ANSWER: No they don't. It is still an AUX patrol.

QUESTION 10: Doesn't the requirement to wear member devices in lieu of office insignia when working with active duty units reduce the recognition and accomplishment to the office attained by the AUX member?

ANSWER: Some members of the CG do not recognize the Auxiliary structure and feel intimidated having someone with high "officer" status to work with. This practice is the same as an AUX QE wearing member devices while conducting a QE session. For some, it takes focus away from the mission. (This is the primary reason for wearing member devices when working with CG units.)

QUESTION 11: Does this mean that I have to purchase two ODU coats, (when working directly with the CG and also performing AUX activities,) one with member sew-on devices, and one with AUX office sew-on devices?

ANSWER: There are three options:

- Wearing the ODU coat with sew-on member devices is permissible for all occasions.
- Purchasing a second ODU coat with AUX office sew-on devices.
- Using VELCRO to attach the two different sets of “sew-on” devices to the ODU coat.

NOTE: Until VELCRO devices become professional-produced available, this method of attachment must maintain a professional appearance.

QUESTION 12: My ODU pants are not marked with Coast Guard or Auxiliary markings and I like all the pockets; can I wear them at any time with other civilian clothing?

ANSWER: Yes you may, but you can't wear any CG or AUX distinguishing items such as belts with them. When wearing the pants back with the uniform you must take care to meet the regulations of appearance.

QUESTION 13: There are many official documents coming out regularly such as a new AUX Manual change, CG UNIFORM regulations, ALAUXs and ALCOASTs. These official documents might cover uniform changes. What happens to the District ODU MEMORANDUM?

ANSWER: All documents are “living” and subject to change. Any changes originating from official documents will be evaluated as to the official interpretation as it pertains to the Auxiliary. If it is self-explanatory it will be distributed and adhered to as-is. If necessary, the District ODU MEMORANDUM will be changed to comply with the official governing document interpretation for the Auxiliary.

QUESTION 14: Is there a DCO designee to ask for guidance and get advance approval for events/situations not specifically covered in the Memorandum?

ANSWER: Yes- It is the VCO.