

Why reporting your activity is so important, please read on...

I wanted to emphasize the sentence below from the DSO-IS in **RED**.

This was the last conference for DIRAUX, Commander Peter Nourse. The Commander has been a strong advocate for IS and an appreciative client for our services. Every month I prepare a report for him that he takes up his leadership chain to show how the Auxiliary contributes to the overall mission of the Coast Guard in DINR.

It is imperative that we report our activity so the Coast Guard knows the value the Auxiliary provides them. Remember, although we work locally it is the brass in Washington that funds our activities and authorizes our active mission(s). I'd like to share with you three specific examples of members not reporting activity that affect us all:

1. Remember two years ago we had a VSC decal shortage? The reason for the shortage was Farmers Insurance (company who pays for the printing) looked at Auxdata to see how many VSC's were reported vs. how many were requested. The request far exceeded the numbers showing in AuxData. As a result, Farmers decided they would only increment a small percentage over the REPORTED decals awarded generating the shortage because members were not reporting their work to Auxdata (filling out the forms).
2. When I first started on the National Navigation Systems (NS) staff or known then as the ATON program, it looked dead with little to no activity reported to AuxData. There was some discussion whether the program would survive or just be terminated. The issue was a lot of work was being done locally throughout the county but very little mission activity was making back into AuxData. Since AuxData is the only auxiliary reporting system for the Coast Guard, they have to rely upon it for their reporting and it looked as nothing was being done. Luckily, under Frank Larkin's leadership he spread the word about reporting and now the CG see the value of the Auxiliary in the NS program and has even handed several programs to the Auxiliary to manage exclusively.
3. PE course numbers are looked at by NASBLA (organization who approves courses) as they prepare and authorize new training materials. They look at the hours Auxiliarists are teaching as well as types of courses and the retention rates associated with each course type. Declining student retention in the late 90's lead to development and approval of the ABC (now ABS course).

Many of you think that your specific 7030 or 7029 report makes no difference and you rather not receive any awards because you like to volunteer. In reality all our little report submissions together make a huge impact for the Auxiliary and show the Coast Guard the value and support the Auxiliary provides them which in the end continues the funding and authorizing of existing and new missions for the Auxiliary.

If you need assistance filling out either the online or paper forms, I'm here to help! If you HATE paperwork, call me and I'll be happy to work with you on a reporting method that works for both of us.

To help get people reporting, I have all the forms listed for easy access on Flotilla 76's website found here: <http://www.northstarflotilla.com/members.htm> under the heading **Report your Activity**

Also at the bottom of the page you will find **AuxInfo Quick Link** reports. Members not in 76 can view their own statistics by selecting the down arrow by North Star Flotilla at the top left of the page and changing it to display your specific flotilla and then drill down to a specific member.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need assistance.

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