

To: ALAUX  
From: CHDIRAUX  
Subj: COAST GUARD UNIT BALL CAP CLARIFICATION -011/09

1. ALAUX 33/08 of 10 November 2008 dealt with several Auxiliary uniform matters. One of these involved the wear of ball caps, specifically Coast Guard unit ball caps. Section 1.C.2. stated:

"If an Auxiliarist is authorized to wear a Coast Guard unit ball cap, such wear shall not extend to activities involving public interaction.

This

is to ensure that an Auxiliarist is not mistaken by the public as an active member of a Coast Guard unit with commensurate authority. For example, an Auxiliarist may not wear a Coast Guard unit ball cap when performing VSC's."

2. Questions have arisen as to whether or not the conduct of Auxiliary patrols (e.g. - surface patrols on vessel facilities) constitutes "...involving public interaction." The short answer is "Yes, Auxiliary patrols involve public interaction." As further clarification, the following involve public interaction:

a. Performance of Vessel Examiner (VE) activities involving Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) and Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Exams (CFVSE).

b. Performance of Program Visitor (PV) activities.

c. Performance of Instructor (IT) activities.

d. Performance of patrol activities (surface, air, shore side including missions involving mobile radio facilities).

e. Performance of Marine Safety, Security, and Environmental Protection (MSSEP) activities.

f. Performance of public outreach, public affairs, and recruiting activities.

3. Situations in which a Coast Guard unit ball cap may be worn, if authorized, include:

a. Wear of the cap to, at, and from the unit in the course of providing the direct support for which it is authorized (appropriate for commuting, stops for gas, and drive-thru services).

b. Wear of the cap to, at, and from flotilla meetings (appropriate for commuting, stops for gas, and drive-thru services).

c. Wear of the cap to, at, and from flotilla fellowship events (appropriate for commuting, stops for gas, and drive- thru services).

4. If there is any doubt about the propriety of wearing a Coast Guard unit ball cap due to potential interaction with the public, then the Auxiliary ball cap shall be worn.

5. These guidelines will be included in the next change to the Auxiliary Manual.

6. The purpose of this list is to keep Auxiliarist as well as all other interested parties abreast of current developments, policies, manuals, etc.

All information contained herein and linked is OFFICIAL policy and information.

7. Internet Release and Distribution is Authorized.

8. CG-542, sends