

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
EIGHTH DISTRICT, EASTERN REGION



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT COMMODORE
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From: District Commodore

To: All Members, Eighth District, Eastern Region

Subj: Coastie, The Safety Boat

Ref: (a) COMDITINST M16790.1(series), Auxiliary Manual
(b) Coastie Manual located on District Web Page at Policies and Procedures Tab
(c) Robotics, Inc. Owners's Manual unique to each Coastie

1. Purpose. This instruction establishes a "Coastie, The Safety Boat" program for Eighth District, Eastern Region.
2. Directives Affected. Effective with the date hereof, all previous instructions relating to the Coastie program are obsolete.
3. Discussion. "Coastie, The Safety Boat" (hereinafter referred to as Coastie or the unit) is a robotic tool used to teach boating safety fundamentals to children. Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary are the prime operators of Coast Guard-owned and Auxiliary-owned units. In some cases, Auxiliarists are the prime operators of units owned by other organizations. The advent of Coastie in 1997 necessitates a policy that explains issues of concern to operators and owners of the units. Certain ground rules, once in place, will protect owners and operators, and ensure they make the best use of the units.
4. Assignment to Duty. Before performing any Coastie mission, the Auxiliary operator must ensure that Coast Guard orders are in hand, and proper assignment to duty has been made. See Chapter 5 of reference (a) for procedures relating to assignment to duty.
5. Uniforms. Any Coastie program shall be considered either a Public Appearance or a Public Education event. Therefore, uniforms shall be those as prescribed for those events in Chapter 10 of reference (a).
6. Movement and Operation of Coastie.

- a. Coastie should be moved in a vehicle that has proper padding, suspension, and tie downs. The vehicle should be a van or capped pick-up truck with ½-ton suspension or less. Unit shall not be transported in an open-bed truck or trailer.
- b. The vehicle operator is responsible that the unit is properly tied down and secured before movement begins. An operator who uses a trailer to transport Coastie must have the trailer inspected by another qualified operator to ensure Coastie is properly tied down before movement begins.
- c. When possible, operators should transport Coastie with a GSA vehicle or Coast Guard-owned trailer. Otherwise, the vehicle operator must ensure that the vehicle (and trailer if applicable) has private or organizational insurance that covers the contents of the vehicle or trailer (i.e., Coastie and associated equipment).
- d. Prior to transporting Coastie by POV, Coast Guard orders must be in the possession of the Auxiliary member conducting the transportation. Request for these orders are to be made by the Division Commander, or a qualified Auxiliary operator, to the Coastie Coordinator (DSO-PA), who will forward the request to the Director. Orders should be requested three weeks prior to the scheduled event. Orders may be either reimbursable or non-reimbursable.
- e. Before operating or transporting Coastie, an Auxiliary operator must have a Certificate of Training issued by the Director of Auxiliary. See paragraph 7 below for procedure to obtain a Certificate of Training.
- f. In the Eighth District, Eastern Region, two qualified Auxiliary members are required to operate Coastie. A single qualified Auxiliary member may transport Coastie. However, any Auxiliary member who transports, or operates, Coastie, must be under orders and assigned to that duty. Paragraph 6.b. above applies if a trailer is utilized.
- g. Operators should disable Coastie's horn, siren and spotlight when operating indoors to protect people around the unit from the loud sounds and bright light.

7. Operator Qualification and Support.

- a. A formal syllabus for qualifying Auxiliary operators of Coastie has been prepared. See Appendix 1. Areas of emphasis include assembly, controls, basic operation, packing, transportation, preventive maintenance, battery condition, hands-on practice and the use of assistants. Details of the material to be covered in the qualification class are contained

references (b) and (c).

- b. It is expected that the qualification course will be of about four (4) hours of classroom instruction plus at least 30 minutes of “hands-on” operating Coastie under the supervision of a qualified Coastie operator for each student.
- c. A list of members who complete each qualification class will be sent to the District Coastie Coordinator (DSO-PA). The DSO-PA will forward the names of newly qualified operators to the Director for the issuance of an appropriate Certificate of Training. Operators will be considered to be qualified when the Certificate of Training has been issued.
- d. A master list of qualified Auxiliary operators will be maintained by the District Coastie Coordinator (DSO-PA).
- e. It is desired that each division will select a Division Coastie Custodian who will organize scheduling, training, maintenance and assure that all protocols are followed. Should a division not having a Coastie desire to utilize a Coastie for an event or training, the Division Commander should contact the DSO-PA for assistance in locating the necessary assets to fulfill the requirement.
- f. Qualified Auxiliary Division Custodians are authorized to train other Auxiliary members in the use of the unit. Auxiliary Custodians should exercise as much care in qualifying other Auxiliary operators as they would in qualifying Auxiliary instructors and vessel examiners.
- g. Coastie qualification courses may be taught at district conferences, or at division or flotilla levels. It is important that prospective operators be given the opportunity for one on one instruction with Coastie and a qualified operator.
- h. In order to maintain their qualification as a Coastie operator it is necessary to operate Coastie at one (1) event each year or to attend an annual workshop.
- i. Annual workshops may be taught at district conferences, or at division or flotilla levels, and are to include:
 - i. Assembly of Coastie.
 - ii. Operation of Coastie.
 - iii. Care & safety hazards involved with operating Coastie.
 - iv. Coastie maintenance and repairs.
 - v. Proper transportation of Coastie.

8. Ownership and Liability.

- a. Claims and liabilities in the event of loss or damage to Coast Guard-owned units, personal injury to operators and third party suits will be handled in accordance with reference (a) and COMDTINST M5890(series), Coast Guard Claims and Litigation Manual.
- b. Entities other than the Coast Guard may own a Coastie. Auxiliarists who operate a Coastie not owned by the Coast Guard should ensure that liability and property insurance is in effect before use. Proof of insurance may be requested by the Director.

8. Action. All elected and appointed Auxiliary leaders and Coastie operators will know the contents of this instruction, and ensure compliance by all units and the Auxiliary membership. Disregard of this guidance may result in suspension of Coastie operator qualification and/or disciplinary action in accordance with reference (a).

Thomas C. Mallison
District Commodore

Appendix 1

Coastie Training Syllabus Outline

OVERVIEW

Objective of this training

- Provide minimum knowledge about robot and systems
- Discuss interactions with public
- Illuminate safety considerations
- Present transport procedures

What are we going to do?

- Spend about 30-45 minutes on the robot and systems
- Spend about 20 minutes on public interactions
- Spend about 50 minutes (or more) operating Coastie for familiarity

COASTIE

Specifications

- 150 pounds
- 4 ½' long
- 3' wide

Transported, and attached to, a dolly

Dolly, with Coastie attached, and presentation accessories
transported/stored in trailer

Systems

- Radio command and control system
- Voice System
- Sound system
 - CD
 - Tape deck
- Siren
- Battery systems
- Drive motors
- Eyes and Eyelids
- Water Squirter
- Voice Modifier
- Emergency stop switch

COASTIE SYSTEMS IN DETAIL

Radio command and control

VHF/AM pulse-width control system (75 Mhz)

Fully proportional control of basic motions and eye motion by
joysticks

Switch actions for various discrete functions

Wink/blink/sleep eyes

Siren

Spot light

Bilge/horn operation

Cassette off/on

Running lights off/on

Voice system

Operator to Coastie

VHF/FM system (170.245Mhz)

Modifier

Coastie to Operator

VHF/FM system (185.150 Mhz)

Coastie mic location in the bow

CD player – operation

Cassette player – operation

Siren – internal switch location and position

Battery systems

Robot battery & charger

Command/control battery & charger

Coastie to operator receiver battery

Operator to Coastie transmitter battery

Drive motor system

Eyelids and Eyes Left and Right

Eyelid wink, blink and sleep

Eyelid lateral movement

Water squirter

Fill

Operation

Voice modifier

Emergency stop – operation

STARTING

Record keeping

Removal from transport dolly

Removal and installation of top

Installation of flags/signs

Operator preparation

Turn on

Sequence – transmitter first then Coastie

Check out – all functions

STOPPING

Turn off sequence – Coastie first, then transmitter

Operator unrigging

Removal of flags/signs

Securing to transport dolly

Record keeping

MAINTENANCE

Battery charging/changing

Water draining – hint- change to water bottle and then command “squirt”

Cleaning