**Want To Try Something New?**

Then check out Marine Safety and Environmental Protection in the Prevention Directorate! The Prevention mission is to plan and administer Auxiliary programs to support the needs and activities of the Coast Guard Prevention and Response Departments, which are part of the Coast Guard Operations Directorate.

So how does the Auxiliary support the Prevention mission? What types of activities are available to members? There are three categories of activities that we are authorized to engage in: 1) public outreach, 2) member training and activities, and 3) Sector augmentation as needed and requested by the Sectors. Think “Soup to Nuts”! We can provide support for marine environmental response in both salt and freshwater locales, assist with port safety and security inspections or commercial vessel safety/security inspections and examinations, container inspections and MISLE support (Maritime Information for Safety and Law Enforcement). Or members might be assisting with waterways management and navigation systems, training Active Duty, Auxiliary or the general public in any of the Sea Partners programs, America’s Waterway Watch, or other environmental issues. Any outreach we perform through our PA, PE, PV or VE programs can – and should – include discussion and provision of information on all aspects of Prevention; there is a lot of material that supports many kinds of outreach activities beyond our standard PE courses!

OK – I’m interested – how do I get trained? What do I need to know? The Prevention training program includes three parts, not all of which are required to participate in Prevention programs and activities. If a member is interested in earning the Marine Safety M-Pro Pin, then the entire program is required, but if someone is interested only in working with America’s Waterway Watch, for example, then they would need only the background education and a knowledge of the AWW program.

The first part of the MS/MEP training program is the **education component** – you should know something about marine safety and environmental protection if you want to assist in Prevention missions professionally and responsibly. There are two online courses available to members through the national Prevention website (pdept.cgaux.org); the first one is called Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection (IMSEP) – it counts as two points toward the Auxiliary AUXOP designation. This is the basic MS/MEP training, and should be taken by any member interested in working in Prevention. The second course, Good Mate, is available in the same location. It deals with clean boating and clean marina information and is relevant to all Auxiliary missions. ICS 100, 200, 210 or 300, 700 and 800 are also required for operational MS/MEP missions and some Performance Qualification Standards (PQSs).

The second part of the MS/MEP program involves **on‐the‐Job training (OJT)** with a mentor. There are 16 Personal Qualification Standards (PQSs) available to fulfill the Marine Safety M-Pro Pin requirement to earn four (the list can be found on the national Prevention Directorate webpages); two of these (Marine Safety Admin and Management – MSAM, and Outreach Specialist - MEES) are Auxiliary‐only, which means they may only be signed off by an Auxiliary Verifying Officer who holds that qualification. Not all qualifications are offered within a District – only those that are useful to the Sectors within the District will be available to the members. If a member is not interested in earning the Marine Safety M-Pro Pin but wishes to work only with single missions such as Container Inspections, Port State Dispatch office or Outreach programs, they do not need to earn four qualifications – they may take training in only that area which interests them. Many areas open to Auxiliarists in Prevention do not require any additional training beyond the basic education courses. Once a member has completed one qualification of their choosing, they may apply for the Marine Safety Training Ribbon (MSTR); the application is found on the national website under Marine Safety.

Then, regardless of whether or not the member wishes to earn the Marine Safety M-Pro Pin, the whole point of the education and training is for the member to provide service in their areas of interest. Anyone working to earn the Pin must provide five (5) years of service, to include a minimum of 96 hours per year. Both the Marine Safety Training Ribbon and the M-Pro Pin are recognized as representative of significant time and effort as well as interest and commitment by the members who wear them proudly.

All service in Prevention is highly valued – whether the member is working to earn the M-Pro Pin or not. This is a five‐year career path in the US Coast Guard, so the Auxiliary assistance is becoming increasingly important as a force multiplier. Staff Officer positions at any level are another way to serve by helping to promote and manage the Prevention programs. There are activities available to everyone, regardless of age or physical capability, and the opportunities for learning and working with others to promote marine safety and environmental protection are limited only by your desire and imagination! So come join the fun – meet others and learn something new! After all, there really is something for everyone!