

RESPONSE OPERATIONS ASHORE QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA



COMDTINST 1200.4A

April 2024

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U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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COMDTINST 1200.4A
26 APR 2024

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 1200.4A

Subj: RESPONSE OPERATIONS ASHORE QUALIFICATION INSIGNIA

Ref: (a) Boat Operations and Training (BOAT), Volume I, COMDTINST 16114.32
(series)

(b) U.S. Coast Guard Competency Dictionary, December 2023

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction outlines the policies and standards for earning the Response Operations Ashore Insignia.
2. ACTION. All Coast Guard unit commanders, commanding officers, officers-in-charge, deputy/assistant commandants, and chief of headquarter directorates must comply with the provisions of this Instruction.
3. AUTHORIZED RELEASE. Internet release is authorized.
4. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. The previous version Response Operations Ashore Qualification Insignia, COMDTINST 1200.4 is hereby cancelled.
5. DISCUSSION. The Operations Ashore Response community is a major contributor to Coast Guard service to the public and is well represented in the Coast Guard's three roles of Maritime Safety, Maritime Security, and Maritime Stewardship. This Insignia recognizes members who have obtained the skills and experience to be considered professionals within the Operations Ashore Response field as they manage and execute Coast Guard missions.
6. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is intended to provide operational guidance for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended, nor does it, impose legally binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.
7. MAJOR CHANGES. The reissue of this Instruction presents significant content changes, including:
 - a. Revised criteria for permanent entitlement. Paragraph 14.

- b. Updated guidance for delegation of issuing authority. Paragraph 15.
 - c. Competency Codes added to qualifying competencies per Reference (b). Appendix A and B.
 - d. Updated guidance for Command Duty Officer (CDO) competency. Appendix A and B.
 - e. Added Incident Commander, Operations Section Chief, and Planning Section Chief as Advanced Competencies for Warrant Officers, Enlisted Members, and Civilians. Appendix B.
 - f. Added Vessel Traffic Service (VTS), Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S), Communications Command (COMMCOM), and Operation Bahamas Turks and Caicos (OPBAT) to units of Qualifying Experience. Appendix C.
 - g. Updated guidance for members desiring to apply time at units not listed in Appendix C. Appendix C.
8. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. The Office of Environmental Management, Commandant (CG-47) reviewed this Commandant Instruction and the general policies contained within and determined that this policy falls under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) categorical exclusion A3. This Commandant Instruction will not result in any substantial change to existing environmental conditions or violation of any applicable federal, state, or local laws relating to the protection of the environment. It is the responsibility of the action proponent to evaluate all future specific actions resulting from this policy for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), other applicable environmental requirements, and the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Policy, COMDTINST 5090.1 (series).
9. DISTRIBUTION. Electronic distribution in the Directives System Library. Intranet/Pixel Dashboard: Directives Pubs, and Forms - PowerApps (appsplatform.us). If Internet released: Commandant Instructions (uscg.mil), Coast Guard Forms (uscg.mil) .
10. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. Records created as a result of this Instruction, regardless of format or media, must be managed in accordance with Records & Information Management Program Roles and Responsibilities, COMDTINST 5212.12 (series) and the records retention schedule located on the Records Resource Center Microsoft SharePoint site at: <https://uscg.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/cg61/SitePages/CG-611-RIM.aspx> .
11. DESCRIPTION. The Response Operations Ashore Insignia represents the complementary nature of the various elements of the Response community to protect the country's maritime safety and security. The Insignia shows a compass rose, framed by a life ring, overlapping a crossed oar and rifle surrounded by breaking wave crests. The Insignia has gold accents on the compass rose, life ring, oar, and rifle. The combination of pewter and gold in the Insignia represents the shared mission of both officers and enlisted team members in fulfilling the various Response missions regardless of rank/rate.

12. ELIGIBILITY. Enlisted members (E-4 and above) and officers of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve, and Coast Guard civilian employees who meet the criteria outlined in this Instruction may be awarded the Response Operations Ashore Insignia.
13. CRITERIA FOR TEMPORARY ENTITLEMENT. Eligible personnel are authorized for temporary wear when they meet the following conditions:
 - a. Attained three qualifying competencies as outlined in Appendix A or B.
 - b. Assigned to a billet of qualifying experience as outlined in Appendix C.
 - c. Certified by an issuing authority.
 - d. The temporary Insignia may only be worn while actively serving in a billet of qualifying experience for which the issuing authority approved the Insignia. Upon transfer to a new billet, the Insignia must be removed from the uniform. If the new billet is also a billet of qualifying experience, approval to wear the temporary Insignia must be granted by the issuing authority. Only one temporary Insignia may be worn at a time.
14. CRITERIA FOR PERMANENT ENTITLEMENT. Eligible personnel are authorized for permanent wear when they meet the following conditions:
 - a. Commissioned officers: attained a minimum of four qualifying Operations Ashore Response competencies as outlined in Appendix A and completed five years of qualifying experience at units outlined in Appendix C. At least one qualifying competency must be Command Duty Officer (CDO).
 - b. Commissioned warrant officers, enlisted members, and civilian employees: attained a minimum of four qualifying competencies as outlined in Appendix B and completed five years of qualifying experience at units outlined in Appendix C. Of the attained competencies, at least one must be an “Advanced Competency” as denoted in Appendix B.
 - c. Certified by an issuing authority.
15. ISSUING AUTHORITY. The issuing authorities for the Response Operations Ashore Insignia are unit commanders, commanding officers, and officers in charge of the unit types outlined in Appendix C. District and Area Commanders may delegate issuing authority, but no lower than the O-6 level. Unit commanders, commanding officers, and officers in charge of the unit types outlined in Appendix C are the issuing authority for all other field units. Commandant (CG-741) is the issuing authority for separated or retired individuals, or individuals not currently assigned to a unit of qualifying experience. This will include officers who meet the Insignia requirements and are requesting a legacy approval to wear the new Insignia. Issuing authorities must ensure all requirements have been met before certification and supporting documentation is entered in Direct Access.
16. DOCUMENTATION. For permanent entitlement, the Response Operations Ashore Insignia Certificate, maintained electronically by Commandant (CG-741), must be signed and issued

by the issuing authority. The unit's Servicing Personnel Office (SPO) must record award of the Insignia in Direct Access and in the member's OMPF. For temporary entitlement, the Administrative Remarks, Form CG-3307 entry must be made.

17. FORMS. Suggested changes and/or corrections for immediate action may be submitted to USCG.Forms@uscg.mil.
18. SECTION 508. This policy is created to adhere to accessibility guidelines and standards as promulgated by the U.S. Access Board with consideration of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) requirements. If accessibility modifications are needed for this artifact, please communicate with the Section 508 Program Management Office (PMO) at Section.508@uscg.mil. Concerns or complaints for non-compliance of policy and/or artifacts may be directed to the Section 508 PMO, the Civil Rights Directorate (<https://www.uscg.mil/Resources/Civil-Rights/>) for the Coast Guard, or to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security at accessibility@hq.dhs.gov.
19. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. Units and individuals may formally recommend changes to this Instruction to Commandant (CG-741) at: HQS-SMB-CG-741@uscg.mil .

/LISA R. SCHLEDER-KIRKPATRICK/
Senior Executive Service, U. S. Coast Guard
Acting Assistant Commandant for Capability

Appendix A. Qualifying Competencies for Commissioned Officers

Appendix B. Qualifying Competencies for Warrant Officers, Enlisted Members, and Civilians

Appendix C. Qualifying Experience

Appendix A. Qualifying Competencies for Commissioned Officers*

Command Center and Search & Rescue

Command Duty Officer (OS0031)**

SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC)

Emergency Management & Force Readiness

Emergency Mgmt Specialist (EMS)

Emergency Management Credential (CGEMC)

Master Exercise Practitioner (MARMEP)

Law Enforcement

Boarding Team Member (OPSBTM)

Boarding Officer (OPSBO)

Boarding Officer Certified Ashore (OPSBOCA)

Boat Forces Operations

Boat Crewmember (BCM) (Any standard boat type)

Boat Coxswain (COXN)

Incident Management

Pollution Responder (MARED)

Federal On Scene Coordinator's Representative (MARET)

Deployable Specialized Forces

Response Member (MAREE)

Response Officer (MAREH)

DSF Deployable Team Leader (DSF-DTL)

DSF Tactical Operator (DSF-TO)

PSU Tactical Action Officer (PSU-TAO)

Incident Command System (Type 3, 2, or 1)

Incident Commander (ICS-IC)

Operations Section Chief (ICS-OSC)

Planning Section Chief (ICS-PSC)

Obsolete Competencies: Personnel may use previous versions of listed competencies to meet the competency criteria. However, double counting will not be allowed. A revised competency cannot count as one of the four if the member also intends to count the original version. Any questions regarding prior competencies must be referred to the issuing authority for final determination.

**** A maximum of two competencies from each mission set can be used to meet the four competency Response Operations Ashore Insignia Requirements.***

*****Only CDO qualifications earned at a Sector, District, or Area Command Center meet this requirement. Qualifications earned prior to 2015 require documentation of SAR competence to be submitted.***

Appendix B. Qualifying Competencies for Warrant Officers, Enlisted Members, and Civilians*

Command Center and Search & Rescue

SECTOR Comms Unit Watchstander (OS0001)
Situation Unit Watchstander (OS0030)
Ops Unit Watchstander (OS0029) #
Command Duty Officer (OS0031) #**
SAR Mission Coordinator (SMC)

Vessel Traffic Service (VTS)

VTS Watchstander (OS0003)
VTS Watch Supervisor (OS0011) #
VTS Director (VTSDIR)
VTS OPS (VTSOPS)
VTS Training Coordinator (VTSTC)

Emergency Management & Force Readiness

Emergency Management Specialist (EMS) #
Emergency Management Credential (CGEMC) #
Master Exercise Practitioner (MARMEP)

Law Enforcement

Boarding Team Member (OPSBTM)
Boarding Officer (OPSBO)
Boarding Officer Certified Ashore (OPSBOCA) #

Boat Forces Operations

Boat Crewmember (BCM)(Any standard boat type)
Station Officer of the Day/Command Duty Officer (STA-OOD/STA-CDO)
Boat Coxswain (COXN)

Incident Management

Pollution Responder (MARED)
Federal On-Scene Coordinator's Representative (MARET) #

Deployable Specialized Forces

Response Member (MAREE)
Response Technician (MAREF)
Response Supervisor (MAREG)#
Response Officer (MAREH)
DSF Deployable Team Leader (DSF-DTL) #
DSF Tactical Operator (DSF-TO)
PSU Tactical Action Officer (PSU-TAO) #
PSU Fire Team Member (FTM)
PSU Fire Team Leader (FTL) #

Incident Command System (Type 3, 2, or 1)

Only two ICS competencies may count towards award.

Incident Commander (ICS-IC)#
Operations Section Chief (ICS-OSC)#
Planning Section Chief (ICS-PSC)#
Division Group Supervisor (ICS-DIVS)
Operations Branch Director (OPBD)
Air Operations Branch Director (ICS-AOBD)
Environmental Unit Leader (ENVL)
Liaison Officer (LOFR)
Safety Officer (ICS-SOFR)
Resource Leader (RESL)
Situation Ldr (SITL)
MarTransSys Ldr (MTSL)
Comms Ldr (COML)

Obsolete Competencies: Personnel may use previous versions of listed competencies to meet the four competency criteria. However, double counting will not be allowed. A revised competency cannot count as one of the four if the member also intends to count the original version of the competency. Any questions regarding prior competencies must be referred to the issuing authority for final determination.

** A maximum of three competencies from any given mission set can be used to meet the four competency Response Operations Ashore Insignia Requirements.*

***Only CDO qualifications earned at a Sector, District, or Area Command Center meet this requirement. Qualifications earned prior to 2015 require documentation of SAR competence to be submitted.*

Denotes an “advanced competency” that counts toward earning the Permanent Response Operations Ashore Insignia.

Appendix C. Qualifying Experience

Service at the following unit types and programs, in a billet with direct and regular involvement in operations as determined by the Unit Commander or Commanding Officer, satisfies the qualifying experience criteria for the Insignia:

- (1) Activities Europe or Far East
- (2) Command Center (District, Sector, or Area)
- (3) Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT)
- (4) Marine Inspection Detachment
- (5) Marine Safety Detachment
- (6) Marine Safety Unit
- (7) Sector
- (8) Boat Forces Unit (per ref (a))
- (9) Strike Team
- (10) MSRT, TACLET, MFPU, MSST, PSU
- (11) National Strike Force Coordination Center
- (12) Legacy Marine Inspection Offices, Marine Safety Offices, Groups, and Activities
- (13) Vessel Traffic Center (VTS)
- (14) Joint Interagency Task South (JIATF-S)*
- (15) Communications Command (COMMCOM)
- (16) Operations Bahamas Turks and Caicos (OPBAT)
- (17) Commandant (CG-741)

** Enlisted members only.*

Commands of units not listed above may submit a written request for determination of eligibility to Commandant (CG-741) via their chain of command.

Members desiring to apply time assigned to units not listed above may submit a written request for determination of eligibility to Commandant (CG-741) via their chain of command.