

## OTO CHRONICLES 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023



**1975** The Coast Guard issued regulations that became effective on March 1, 1975 that required an emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB) on small passenger vessels engaged in ocean and coastwise service [Chronology of Coast Guard History \(uscg.mil\)](https://www.uscg.mil/About-Us/History/Chronology-of-Coast-Guard-History)

First, thank you very much for the warm welcome since I reported as your Operations Training Officer in August of 2022. I've been humbled and motivated to work as I attempt to imitate your selfless service and be as dedicated as you are in this professional volunteer service for the US Coast Guard Eleventh Region District North Region Auxiliary.

Drawing from my experience, this is my philosophy.

*People are the mission, and the mission gives us purpose.*

We must ensure that we are mentally, physically, and emotionally prepared to undertake the missions. If you are not ready, please reach out to a fellow crew member for assistance. Please look out for one another and continuously identify and mitigate the risk; this will enable us to serve the people of our community better and answer the call.

*Knowledge builds Confidence; Confidence builds trust.*

Our professionalism is always on display to the public. We represent those who have served before us and lay the course for those to follow with our uniforms, operational facilities, and professional demeanor. We are confident because we know the policy, techniques, and procedures. We exude with pride because we consistently train together and are ready to serve, and for this, you are confident; your crew and the public trust you; therefore, we have confidence in our CG Auxiliary. Trust is earned in drips and lost in buckets.

### *Operate Normal in Abnormal Situations*

Because of our missions, we may find ourselves in high-stress situations where taking correct initial actions to minimize damage or save lives is imperative. Our equipment needs to operate flawlessly through proper maintenance and training. We will ensure that when we need it, it will work, and we will know how to use it. The time to know the equipment in your SAR vest is not when you are in the water.

### **New Policies-Night Operations-Vision Test-U/W Currencies**

In the words of COMO Wally Smith, "We're back" with all the COVID restrictions ending, it is time to get back to business. COMO Smith does a superb job keeping the crews informed and updated with current policies. I understand some of the new requirements can seem a bit overwhelming. Following the recommendations of Wayne Farnholtz, I'm working closely with Carl Henning to create easy access library/references. [District 11NR Operations Training Officer \(uscgaux.info\)](http://uscgaux.info) Some of the new changes is the implementation of the Auxiliary Training Boat Crew Handbook (ATH 16794.51B) and Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification Handbook (ABQH 16794.52B).

The most significant change is the implementation of night certifications, vision tests, and annual underway currencies. If you are currently certified, you are grandfathered in as you must complete *two-night hours*; this counts towards your 12 hours, one-night navigation drill TASK BCM-08-02-AUX or TASK COXN 09-05-AUX. Participate in a night Man Overboard Evolution. TASK BCM 07-01-AUX or, *night* Recover a Person from the Water Using the Direct Pickup Method. TASK COXN-07-01-AUX.

If you have been working on Boat Crew or Coxswain PQS prior to the implementation of the new Auxiliary Handbooks, you have until the end of this year to be certified. Starting January 2023, Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualifications Handbook shall be implemented. If you are not certified, you are still required to complete the night task; however, if you don't want the *night* certification when it is time for your check ride, you are not required to complete it at *night*.

The other changes are outlined in (ABQH 16794.52B) Personal Physical Fitness and Vision TASK BCM-02-02-AUX; please refer to PG.2-13 Performance Criteria 2. for an eye examination.

To maintain certifications all Boat Crew, Coxswains and PWC operators are required to complete annual currencies outlined in *ENCLOSURE (4), (5), (6) of (ATH 16794.51B)*. Please submit ENCLOSURE to [D11AUXNorthern@uscg.mil](mailto:D11AUXNorthern@uscg.mil) AUXDATA can be updated.

### **Offer For Use 7003**

It is that time of year when most vessels offer for use is coming up on the 1-year cycle, and the excitement of resubmitting in AUXDATA II is upon us. DIRAUX staff assistant William Shakespeare has volunteered to assist CWO Esselman and me in reviewing the photos, and documentation is in order so DIRAUX can approve. Please upload current photos of your vessel. Port Bow, Starboard Bow, Port Side, Starboard Side, Port Quarter, Starboard Quarter, and Stern, the focus should be on the decals. Upload the signed 7003 and current registration.

If you are concerned about PII, please black it out but keep pertinent information. VIN, date of registration, and expiration date.

## **PPE Issuance, Maintenance, Accountability**

As the boating season begins, we must ensure our PPE is put into service In Accordance With (IAW) the Maintenance Procedure Cards Provided in AUXDATA II.

[File List \(crmforce.mil\)](#). Log into AUXDATA II and go to:

*More-Files-Libraries-Rescue & Survival Systems Maintenance Procedure Cards (MPC)*. [District 11NR Operations Training Officer \(uscgaux.info\)](#) **KB0040.0** (PLB) Inspect/Accept, **KB0048.0** Boat crew Survival Vest, **KB0065.0** Type I, II, III Personal Flotation Device. Are some of MPCs you will use. We will ensure we are ready and safe to conduct our mission on the water. Alex Bennett, Michael Brown, and I have been working closely to generate a means to track. DIRAUX will be sending out a form to all the Division Commanders, Flotilla Commanders, Operations, and Materials Officers to capture all essential information so we can capture the necessary information and update AUXDATA for issuance and accountability.

AD2 now gives us the capability to manage Auxiliarists' PPE (issue, inspect, track, remove). This will be a vital tool in the efficient and cost-effective management of the District's PPE program. Flotilla 14 has already been successfully managing their PPE in AD2 for the past 18 months.

Going forward, one of our primary missions will be to input all District 11NR's PPE into AD2. To this end, we have created a PPE Form that we will be emailing to all Division Commanders.

This PPE Form is intended to be filled out by Auxiliarists who in possession of PPE. It asks for essential data elements required by AD2 to create a PPE record. These elements include make, model, size, etc. for each piece of PPE (Anti-Exposure Coverall, Type-III PFD, Boat Crew Survival Vest, etc.).

We are asking that Division Commanders distribute the PPE Log Form to Flotilla Commanders with the request that the PPE Form be sent to Auxiliarists who are in possession of PPE (coxswains, crew and trainees). On receipt, coxswains, crew or trainees should fill in the essential data elements based on their equipment, scan the form and email it back to DIRAUX with CC to their Flotilla Commander.

DIRAUX will then make the initial entry of PPE into Auxiliarists' AD2 records. Our next step will be to train select Auxiliarists (FC, FSO-OP and/or FSO-MA) in all Flotillas in the issuance and inspection of PPE in AD2. BOSN Holt and I have coordinated with the STATION OIC/CO and are standing by and have offered the assistance and training from their R&S Petty Officer to teach the issuance and maintenance of PPE, we just need the follow through on our end. See attached PPE-Inventory & PPE Issue-Return Record. [District 11NR Operations Training Officer \(uscgaux.info\)](#)

Lastly, Thank you from the DIRAUX office and staff. I look forward to seeing you out on the water.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase  
Very Respectfully,  
Thomas Perez, BOSN2

