



**Homeland
Security**

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
District 11 Northern Region**

Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah



Date: MARCH 2013
To: COMO Rodney E. Collins, COS & District Board/Staff
From: D11N DSO-OP, Commodore Gail L. Ramsey
Subject: District OPS Report/ Respectfully Submitted

HIGHLIGHTS:

OTO CORNER

D11N Mandatory OPS Workshop, 1 Hour TCT Mandatory Workshop & AOM Information

SCHEDULING OPS EVENTS

POTENTIAL SEQUESTRATION & PATROLS

AUXDATA ORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AOM)

SURFACE SAFETY REPORT

OPS CALENDAR

UNDERWAY HOURS TO DATE

OTO CORNER:

First off...

Thanks for all the feedback from the previous months' OTO Corners. I'm happy to see that the Corner is being read and that many of you are willing to contact me and request amplifying information or set me straight on things like calling 225 Relative the Starboard Quarter.

In my two previous command tours, I've always taken a moment to discuss expectations with my newly reported members. The funny thing about expectations is that they cut both ways: I have expectations for my boat crews and QE's to meet, but you should also have expectations of me. So, this month I thought we could start a conversation about expectations.

Here are mine:

1. Safety of your crew and the safe conduct and navigation of your vessel will always be priority number one. The Commandant's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) policies are written in the blood of the crews we've lost in the line of duty. I'm working with our chain of command to make some adjustments for the inland lakes and AUX-specific matters, but those changes may take awhile. In the meantime, keep your gear serviceable, bring it for every sortie, and know who to ask for waivers and what the limitations of the waiver are.

Know where you are at all times. If your vessel is equipped with GPS, use it. Have charts and maps available. When in doubt, stop and take a fix.

During tow and MOB evolutions, keep a "calm yet deliberate hand on the throttle". You should never approach anything in your vessel at any speed faster than the speed in which you want to hit that object. Bear in mind though, that you may need to quickly apply power to avoid a worsening situation.

2. If you aren't improving, you're probably getting worse. Many of the skills we use on the water are perishable skills. As Auxiliary Boat Crews, your time on the water can be quite limited. Maximize your time.

Coxswains and mentors should have a training plan in minds for each sortie. More on this topic to come in later months.

3. **Be an ambassador on the water.** Coming from the law enforcement community, one of my favorite recent stories happened to my shipmates last summer. Their boat crew boarded a sailboat in Vineyard Sound that had enough safety violations that the Boarding Officer terminated the vessel's voyage. The master of the vessel was very vocal in his objections. He informed the Boarding Officer he was an attorney and berated him with questions about his authority to terminate the voyage. Eventually, those questions deteriorated into personal slurs being thrown in the Boarding Officer's direction. Upon mooring at the marina, the master continued to make a scene on the pier, which was filmed by numerous onlookers. Throughout the incident, the BO kept his cool, answered all questions professionally and as thoroughly as possible. He even briefly explained the situation to a party that was filming the incident. Local LE eventually arrived on scene and the master stood down in the face of being arrested for Disturbing the Peace. Unbeknownst to the boarding officer, several local government officials were present at the marina on personal business and had observed the incident. One of the officials phoned the Sector Commander to praise the demeanor and restraint shown by the boat crew. You never know who is watching and *everybody* has a camera these days. If you lose your cool or "step off the reservation", odds are somebody will capture it.

What about your expectations of me? I'm sure you have some preexisting ideas from your interactions with previous OTO's. As a culture, Warrant BM's are pretty similar in background and temperament. But, here's a few things you should expect from me:

1. **I will be wrong.** This was always a tough concept to relay to my junior members. We all have our strengths and weaknesses, good days and bad. If you are expecting perfection from the Director's Office, you have already been sorely mistaken. Feedback is a gift. If you think I'm wrong, call me on it. I'd appreciate it if you extended the same respect and courtesy you would expect from me, but if I'm about to drive your boat onto the rocks, speak up and call me names if need be.

2. **I should be on the water.** The Commander isn't paying me to check emails and surf the web. If I'm not working on the PPE program I'm working on the training program. Give me an excuse to get underway. I plan on making all but one of the OPTREX this summer (sorry DIV 5, I got bullied into entering the Napa Triathlon), when I'm not doing the OPTREX, I'm happy to get underway and train. The trick is, you have to invite me.

3. **I should be available.** Again, get me out of this office. If your flotilla has new members that are interested in the boat crew program, I'm happy to come and teach a block of instruction. If your flotilla is interested in the "bigger picture" of what's happening in the Coast Guard, I'm happy to come and speak. If your flotilla is looking to bridge a gap between your operators on the local station...I'm your guy.

That's basically where I'm coming from.

Wally Smith and COMO Gail Ramsey have been hard at work prepping material for this year's OPS workshop to be presented at DTRAIN. I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Thanks.

CWO Matthew D. James

D11N Mandatory OPS Workshop, 1 Hour TCT Mandatory Workshop & AOM Information:

Sunday morning March 17th, at DTRAIN the above workshops and information will be given. This is an excellent time to absorb, gain knowledge and have your workshops taken care of early in the year. There will be two attendance sheets passed, be certain you sign one for the OPS Workshop and one for the 1 Hour TCT. It is your responsibility to be sure the sign-up sheet is signed. We do not know if you have attended unless you sign in. This will also be the perfect time to learn how to be comfortable with the AUXDATA Order Management System (AOM).

POTENTIAL SEQUESTRATION & PATROLS:

Sorry we do not have any information how the "Sequestration" will affect our patrols at this time. I can say to be certain to fill in the comments section as to what you are doing while under orders and if you are working directly with the Coast Guard the name of the Active Duty that put in the request. You will have more information as soon as it is received.

AUXDATA ORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AOM)

There is still no word as to when we will be off the AOM Training Site and go live with the AOM Production program. I believe it to be very soon so please continue to train and become familiar with the program. Meanwhile if you do a patrol please fill out your request for reimbursement and send it in as soon as possible. During Sunday morning at DTRAIN there will be an excellent presentation regarding AOM!

SURFACE SAFETY REPORT:

From Dean La Chapelle, Surface Safety Officer West, March 2013

I have two areas of interest to report.

1. Cold water Shock:

Boating season will soon get underway, but between now and then there is still a lot of cold water. All Land Mobile Units, AUXAIR and Surface Facility crews should review cold water procedures. I have attached one of many You Tube Video addresses as a starting point. Also, remember that even when the air temperature is in the 90's or 100's the water just under or a couple feet below the surface can be in the low 50's depending on the source of the water.

You Tube Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srgMCFXNsKE>

2. Exclusionary Zone

Soon there will be boat races, regattas, festivals and parades throughout our AOR. We will have several occasions to assist the active duty Coast Guard and/or the private boating community during these controlled events. Surface facility crew are reminded that Exclusion Zones fall into two categories:

Safety Zones - Protect People from Things; spectators at a marine event, a marine hazard such as a burning vessel, partially submerged vessel or debris field etc.

Security Zones - Protect Things from People; military war ships, cruise ships, a liquefied natural gas container ship or shore side locations of high risk events such as political convention or visits or foreign dignitaries.

Safety Zones can often be handled solely by Auxiliarist providing assistance and guidance to the spectator boating public. Security Zones missions are, for the most part, law enforcement missions. Auxiliary surface facilities may assist active duty CG facilities, but they must not imply LE authority. During Security Zone Missions AuxFacs will usually be assigned outside the Exclusionary Zone, while the Activity Duty elements will work inside the Security zone.

All public contact must be conducted professionally and courteously. Any activity that might suggest or imply Law Enforcement power must be avoided. Safety is the primary mission of the Auxiliary surface facilities. Safety of the participants, Spectators and the Auxiliary Crews.

OPS CALENDAR

For flyers, regarding these events please go to the District Calendar

OPERATIONS EVENT CALENDAR

AS OF: 05 March 2013

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT	LOCATION AND POINT OF CONTACT
APR 7	DIV 4	OPTREX	REDWOOD CITY CONTACT DAVE NAUMANN 408-249-2983
APR 13	DIV 5	OPTREX	STATION VALLEJO CURTIS HAN 707-965-3836
APR 25-28	FLT 39	OPTREX	ANTLERS RESORT CONTACT CARL PIERCE 530-949-8513
APR 27-28	DIV 10	TRAIN NO QEs	LAKE KAWEAH ROD ROLLINS 559-301-4444
MAY 4	DIV 1	OPTREX	BERKELEY MARINA STEVE SALMON 510-295-9716
MAY 31ST/ JUN1ST	FLT 8-8	OPTREX	BRAITOS MARINA CLEAR LAKE BRUCE ROGERSON 707-813-1561
JUNE 22/23 RD	DIV 12	OPTREX	COAST GUARD ISL GEORGE PROWS caseyct@pacbell.net
AUG 3	DIV 11	OPTREX	LAKE TAHOE DEE DEE KINCADE 775-831-7192
AUG 9-10	DIV 7	OPTREX	JORDANELLE STATE PARK
SEPT 6	DIV 10	OPTREX	MILLERTON LAKE ROD ROLLINS svalleyrod@aol.com
SEPT 14	DIV 11	OPTREX	LAKE TAHOE DEE DEE KINCADE 775-831-7192
OCT 4,5,6	FLT 5-5	OPTREX	BODEGA BAY WILL SUMNER 707-763-1565
OCT, 26, 27	FLT 3-10	OPTREX	DELTA DEAN LACHPELLE 916-686-6065

**2013 OPERATIONAL
HOURS AS OF MAR
2013**

Mission Hours as values		11N R - Div 01	11N R - Div 03	11N R - Div 04	11N R - Div 05	11N R - Div 06	11N R - Div 08	11N R - Div 11	11N R - Div 12	Sector San Francis co
AUXMP - Marine Patrols (01a,01b,02,03,22a,54a, 55a)	OPS	135.1 0	44.5 0	28.5 0	304.4 0	29.2 0	89.7 0	88.6 0	15.1 0	735.10
	U/W - Underw ay	135.1 0	44.5 0	28.5 0	304.4 0	29.2 0	89.7 0	88.6 0	15.1 0	735.10
SAR - Search And Rescue (23,24)	OPS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	6.00
	U/W - Underw ay	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	6.00
All Missions		135.1 0	44.5 0	28.5 0	304.4 0	29.2 0	95.7 0	88.6 0	15.1 0	741.10

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Ramsey, DSO-OP