



**Homeland
Security**

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
District 11 Northern Region**
Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah



Date: October 2015
To: EXCOM, District Board/Staff
From: D11N RESPONSE TEAM (ASC, DSO-AV, DSO-CM, DSO-OP)
Subject: D11N RESPONSE Report/ Respectfully Submitted

HIGHLIGHTS:

CWO Thomas Moore

CWO Matthew D. James (OTO REPORT)

AUX STAFF OFFICER REPORTS:

ASC-SECTOR SAN FRANCISCO REPORT – COMO V. CONNELL

ASC-SECTOR HUMBOLDT REPORT – CARL PIERCE

DSO-AV REPORT- LARRY OLSON

DSO-CM REPORT-COMO M. WILLIAMS

DSO-OP REPORT-DCAPT MIKE THOMPSON

2015 OPERATIONS EVENT CALENDAR

CWO Colin D. Langeslay, AUXLO, SECTOR SAN FRANCISCO:

No Report for this month

CWO Thomas Moore, AUXLO, SECTOR HUMBOLDT:

Welcome CWO Thomas J. Moore. He is now on station and we are excited to work with him!

CWO Matthew D. James (OTO REPORT)

Happy new fiscal year shipmates! We managed to weather another government shutdown threat this week and are now in “business as usual” mode for another 90 days. I know many of you are gearing up for Fleet Week in SF Bay. Linda Vetter, Rob Firehock, and Gary Kaplan have done an outstanding job organizing and coordinating assets and resources. It looks like everything is all set, but don’t hesitate to reach out to them if you want to help out...there’s always next year as well.

DSO-OP/CQEC Responsibilities

All of you know we absorbed a tremendous blow to our staff with Gail Ramsey’s untimely passing. I’m still wading through my day to day duties with a heavy heart and find myself in awe of how many tasks Gail was handling herself. I have absorbed many of her duties, with Mike Thompson and others stepping up to cover the rest. The EXCOM will be meeting soon to appoint a new DSO-OP. I’d like to add my plug for anyone considering the position. Gail set a very high bar for the position of DSO-OP. She put in regular 40-hours

weeks, but much of that work was DIRAUX admin support. If you are considering the DSO-OP position, know that we do not expect such an effort on your part. The Commodore recognizes that it may take a few people to perform all the duties Gail tackled singlehandedly. As for the duties of Chief QE Coordinator (CQEC), the Boat Crew Advisory board will need to be convened in November and the Commodore and I will meet and appoint a new CQEC before the end of the calendar year. In the meantime, I am covering the CQEC duties. If you find yourself in need of a QE check ride before the end of the currency cycle, please contact me via the d11auxnorthern@uscg.mil inbox. Mike Thompson, DCAPT-R, will handle consolidating and publishing the monthly Response Report.

Electronic Navigation Proficiency

This past summer, the QE staff paid increased attention to navigation proficiency. We crafted a series of exams that incorporated chart work with demonstrating piloting skills during the underway check ride. For the most part, the chart work has been pretty solid. However, nearly all of the coxswain candidates struggled with demonstrating proficiency operating GPS/Radar and relating them to any piloting skills beyond seaman's eye. These issues can be complicated by the fact that many coxswains are not facility owners and had to learn the systems in a short time prior to their check rides. This focus on navigational proficiency will continue into the next QE season. I strongly recommend you work with your crews to learn the ins and outs of the facilities' installed systems in the coming months. To draw the parallel between Auxiliary and Active Duty operations, AD crews regularly run waypoints and routes on patrol. You can make these runs challenging and entertaining for your crews. I'd also recommend taking the GPS for Mariners course if you are looking to improve your skills. For those of you that are not facility owners or do not own GPS-equipped facilities, please consider purchasing a handheld GPS or a marine navigation application for your smart phone or tablet. I use a Garmin GPS 72H handheld on the water. It retails for less than \$150 at most marine dealers and is very simple to operate. I'm also experimenting with a Bluetooth GPS and associated application on my iPad, more info to follow on that as I test it this winter. The bottom line is that future revisions of the Auxiliary Boat Crew Training Manual are likely going to reflect the active duty standards for navigation proficiency. It's best to start boning up your skills now.

Man Overboard Procedures

The procedures for recovering a man overboard have changed in recent years. Despite our efforts to socialize these changes throughout the field, we are still seeing crews deviating or following "old" procedures. Please follow this procedure which has been adapted and summarized from the Boat Forces Standardization Team Standard U/W Drill:

1. The QE will deploy the simulated MOB and announce you have "lost sight of the man overboard". The report of MOB must be passed to the coxswain.
2. The coxswain will designate and position a pointer/lookout. This may be the same person if only running a three-person crew with one of those three in the water (simulated).

3. The coxswain must mark the position of the MOB on GPS, if installed, and sound the appropriate sound signal. If at night, the coxswain should energize installed lighting and spotlight.
4. Since the QE announced “lost sight”, the lookout/pointer must deploy a type-IV throwable PFD or life ring. Once the type-IV is deployed, the QE will announce the “man overboard is in sight”.
5. The coxswain must announce when he/she has the man in sight and brief the crew on the planned recovery method. This will always be a direct pick-up during a check ride.
6. The pointer must pass correct information to the coxswain as the approach to recover is made.
7. The coxswain must safely approach the MOB with careful consideration of speed and heading at recovery. The facility should be stopped, square to the element, and in optimum position before recovery is made.
8. The MOB should be recovered within three (3) minutes.
9. The crew will need to demonstrate appropriate first aid.
10. The coxswain must describe the actions to be taken if MOB cannot be immediately located: e.g. marking datum, search pattern selection, PAN PAN, notifying controlling station, etc.
11. The crew must reassess GAR based on condition of MOB and notify the controlling station.
12. Throughout the evolution, the coxswain and crew must demonstrate good TCT skills and maintain control of the facility and complete all tasks without jeopardizing safety.

We will update the Coxswain and Boat Crewmember check ride performance standards in the spring with the new procedure. Practice makes perfect...

Line Handling Commands

I have been very happy with the effort and emphasis placed on getting the line handling commands correct during the QE sessions this summer. Please keep it up and drill these commands. I still hear things like, “release the bow line” when the coxswain actually wants the bow line “brought in”. One pet peeve of mine...I keep hearing these commands referred to as “my” line handling commands; I did not make these up, they come directly out of the Commandant’s Navigation Standards. They are Admiral Zukunft’s line handling commands, which means they are your line handling commands. Please refrain from calling them “my commands” in the future.

Thanks you for your time and effort this summer. I am happy that we pulled off a mishap-free patrol and OPTREX season. Hoping to see you all at changes of watch this winter.

ASC-SECTOR SAN FRANCISCO REPORT – COMO V. CONNELL:

A total of 11 Coast Guard Auxiliary boats (and dozens of Auxiliarist Crew) put in the equivalent of three dozen patrol days on the water in support of San Francisco's 2015 Fleet Week, Thursday – Sunday, October 8-11.

Besides assisting the Coast Guard and many other government agencies in consistently maintaining a safety box for the daily Air Show and Friday's Parade of Ships, the Auxiliary facilities also provided transportation for FAA reps, "tarp" boats to mark strategic positions in the Air Show area for aerobatic performances, and other duties to help ensure another safe and smooth Fleet Week.

In addition, Auxiliarists provided operations comms support and shore side support to tours of Navy and CG vessels for the general public.

Bravo Zulu to all who helped.

ASC-SECTOR HUMBOLDT REPORT – CARL PIERCE:

Division 8: Continues to support Coast Guard, Sector Humboldt.

Flotilla 8-6: Continues to support the Coast Guard Station Humboldt Bay.

Flotilla 8-7: Continues to support the Noyo Coast Guard Station in the following areas:

1. Maintains the Helo Fuel Dump; stands ready to fuel the Helo when needed. For an example of the Auxiliarists assisting the US Coast Guard Sector Humboldt Air Station, see attached report, information, and photos.
2. Complete monthly inspection of PPEs at Noyo River Coast Guard Boat Station and provide ongoing boat training for the station.
3. Continue to provide the Coast Guard with weekly maintenance of the exterior glass enclosure of the lens at the Pt. Cabrillo Lighthouse as well as quarterly maintenance of lens.
4. Assist Coast Guard in Helo training exercises.

Flotilla 8-11: Continues to support the Coast Guard station at Crescent City by:

1. Continuing to provide SAR coverage 24 hours, four days a week and availability 24/7 for call outs on a variety of assists on non-scheduled days.

2. Maintaining trained crews, by Coast Guard Standards, to operate the RB S11.
3. When requested, provide coverage for helo/swimmer training every month, weather permitting.
4. Maintain Coast Guard PPEs assigned to 8-11's use.

Flotilla 3-9, Division 3: Continues to support Sector Humboldt Air Station Helo program:

1. Flotilla 3-9 provided a facility as a platform for training with Sector Humboldt helicopters. The scheduled exercises will be September 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, at Whiskeytown Lake.

Use of Auxiliary: The use of Auxiliary air and surface assets for MDA patrols and targeted operations in support of the LMR mission is strongly encouraged. They are particularly well suited to target the Salmon Fishing Fleet due to the near shore operation of this fishery. Other encouraged patrols include CLOSED fishing areas and National Marine Sanctuaries, patrols to determine fleet locations, and outreach/education efforts for fishery or Sanctuary specific regulations. Any observed non-compliance shall be immediately reported to TACON. LMR efforts by the Auxiliary shall be reported in the monthly LMR enforcement summaries. The Auxiliary shall not be involved in direct enforcement as per ref (b). This information is provided by BMC Joshua A. Mann, USCG Sector Humboldt Bay to Flotilla 8-7.

End of Report:

Submitted by Carl J. Pierce, DCDR Division 8
October 2015

DSO-AV REPORT:

Aux Air continues to fly missions in support of the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, NOAA, and our allied agencies. Included in these missions are flights in support of Living Marine Resources activities.

We had an excellent auxair dinner/training meeting on Tuesday, September 29th. Our new AUXLO, LT Neil Penso, from Air Station San Francisco attended and discussed future operations and programs with us. We were very pleased to meet with LT Penso and we were impressed with his past experience as a Navy Pilot and current assignments in the Coast Guard. Additionally, we were honored and pleased to have LT Lucy Love attend and discuss a number of subjects important to auxair. Among her many duties, LT Love is an instructor in ICS (Incident Command System) and she will return to provide us with additional information on how ICS is used in the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary. Auxair receives a number of requests from the Coast Guard to assist and participate in specific operations. We have now learned to ask for the ICS 201 and 204 documents, both of which provide us with essential information on how these operations are to be conducted and, specifically, what the role of auxair is in carrying out these missions.

We are preparing for our next Aviation Safety Workshop, which is scheduled for Saturday, 31 October 2015, at Air Station Sacramento. All auxiliaries are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Olson
DSO-AV

DSO-COMS REPORT:

CM Support for Fleet Week

Nine Auxiliary Telecommunications Operators worked as a team to provide Auxiliary Communications support for Fleet Week through all four days of the Air Show. They were Jack Leth, Jerry McAlwee, Carol Paz, Michael Rafatti, Kevin Sellstrom, Fred Sellstrom, Peter Thorner, Carrie Van De Boom and Rob Firehock, unit leader.

Two TCOs stood watch each day at the Sector Command Center, sitting in second chair and providing a radio guard for Auxiliary Surface Facilities transiting to and from the box. This relieved Sector active duty watchstanders from having to handle that Auxiliary traffic while providing valuable experience for our members. Initial reports indicate the experience was positive on all sides, notwithstanding some limitations of the Rescue 21 system. Once full debriefs are complete and deltas analyzed, we will be in a position to suggest training appropriate to continued improved performance.

Our Auxiliary Communications Trailer, Elk Grove Mobile 1, was provided and staffed by Fred Sellstrom and Kevin Sellstrom each day with the support of a Coast Guard watchstander and one or two additional Auxiliary TCOs. Located on Muni Pier in line with the center point of the box, that unit provided the key link between PATCOM and the Air Boss, FAA and Blue Angel ground team directing the Air Show. All reports on this aspect of the operation were positive as well. Rotating supporting TCOs through the Pier assignment allowed us to introduce more members to that aspect of the operation while providing valuable support to the entire Muni Pier team.

BZ to the entire Fleet Week TCO Team for jobs well done!

Looking Ahead

Auxiliary Communications was asked to participate in and support Sector San Francisco's San Andreas 2015 full scale exercise later this month.

Planning meetings continue for this one-day event in which we anticipate that 2-3 Land Mobile units will be deployed to provide 'emergency' communications in support of Sector's contingency plan operations.

It is imperative that we as the Communications Team provide members the opportunity to become competent and highly qualified Telecommunication Operators. To that end we must insure that our training is top notch, that we guide our members to select and secure the approved equipment and that it is properly installed and maintained. We have as a guiding principal all members, as they become qualified be afforded volunteer mission opportunities to serve consistent with their knowledge, skill, ability and mission tasking requirement.

The task ahead is challenging, We need to increase the number of Land Mobile communicators, HF operators, offer additional training opportunities, insure volunteer service tasking's are available, equipment employed for use is authorized, well maintained, used in a safe manner and that above all we have fun and enjoy this service. Additional staff will be added, policy and procedure will change and our goal is roll out through the Communications Chain in a timely manner.

A very special thanks to all who participated and to Deputy District Staff Officer Rob Firehock who has devoted hundreds of hours preparing for this most significant event as well as providing his feedback on the success of Fleet week.

CONCLUSION

For those members who aspire to become TCO qualified remember that you must complete the TCO Qualification Guide and have your mentor as well as the appropriate FSO or SO CM sign off as to your successful completing and mastery of the required tasks. The signoff document is found on page 36 of the qualification guide. Complete and have your Division or Flotilla CM scan or snail mail the form to me for my recommended approval and submission to DIRAUX.

Thanks for your continued support.

COMO Michael L. Williams
DSO-CM

DSO-OPS Report:

Thank you for reading the Response report. This is where you find information that is needed to get out or be reminded of for the up coming month. Please encourage all your members to read it. You can also read past issues at <http://ops.d11nuscgaux.info/operations/archive.html> and find good information that is still relevant such as "How to determine Crew Fatigue" which is in the June 2015 issue.

We will be adding in the Auxdata hours report next month. Remember that it is only as good as the data reported so please turn in your hours. All hours reported in AOM will show in Auxdata with in a week after the orders have been sent to FinCen. As the end of year

approaches, so does the need to turn in hours so they can be counted towards awards for your Flotilla and Division awards. Any hours turned in after the end of the year will be recorded and you will get credit for them but they will not be considered for awards. Do not leave it until the end of the year to turn them in, you IS officer may not have the time to enter them and surely will not be very happy with the added work load.

AOM orders: Please completed them as soon as possible. After a month, they may be deleted and no credit or reimbursements can be made. Also as the end of year approaches fast, so does the need to turn in hours so they can be counted towards awards for your Flotilla and Division. Do not leave it until the end of the year to turn them in, you IS officer may not have the time to enter them and surely will not be very happy with the added work load.

PPE: Continue to keep the maintance records on it. If your OPS season is coming to an end, inspect your gear and then take it out of service until the next boating season. Now is the time to note if any will need to be replaced so you can get it for next year.

Calendar for the rest of the Year, No OPS events

DATE	EVENT 2015	DETAILS
NOV 1	ANSC-7035 - Deadline to DIRAUX	
NOV 1	COMO Charles S. Greanoff Leadership Award Deadline - National	
NOV 7	Division 11 COW	Location: TBD
NOV 8	Division 4 COW	Location: TBD Contact: Bill Tsai, DCDR
NOV 14	Division 6 COW - Flyer	Location: Seascapes Club, Aptos CA Contact: Jane Smith, DCDR
NOV 20	EXCOM Meeting	1800 - Executive Inn, Alameda CA
NOV 21	District Board & Staff Meeting	0830 - CG Island, Alameda CA
NOV 21	Elected Officers' Training (EOT)	1245 - CG Island, Alameda CA
NOV 22	EOT (Continued)	0800 - CG Island, Alameda CA
DEC 5	Division 8 COW	Location: 1100 - Benbow RV Resort Contact: Carl Pierce
DEC 6	Division 5 COW	Location: 1200 - CG Tracen Petaluma Contact: Wil Sumner
DEC 12	Division 7 COW	Location: TBD Contact: Ann Zocchi
DEC 12	Division 3 COW - Flyer	Location: 1300 - Black Bear Diner, W. Sacramento CA Contact: Carla Rose
DEC 12	Division 12 COW	Location: Pier 29 Alameda CA Contact: Stu Langs