



**U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**  
**District Eleven North Region**  
**DIVISION COMMANDERS REPORT**



**To: Dean McFarren, Commodore**

**14 Dec. 2021**

**Cc: District Board and Staff**

**From : Lewis C Derfuss, Division Commander**

**Division: 5**

**HIGHLIGHTS/"3 UPS":**

1. Flotilla elections complete working on staff to complete ANSC 7007's
2. Division 5 Change of Watch a great success
3. Operations shut down for rest of year, working what programs we can but with holiday not much activity.

**DETAILS:**

1. Last Flotilla Election completed on 15 December. Working with Flotillas to appoint staff and complete ANSC 7007 for submission prior to 20 December.
2. Division 5 COW at TRACEN Petaluma a great success and well attended by Sector and Gold side. Feature guest speaker was Capt. Taylor Lam, Capt. of the Port of San Francisco. Other speakers included BMC Hollyfield USCG Station Vallejo, BMCS James Corbisiero USCG Station Bodega Bay, COMO Dean McFarren USCGAUX D11N and BOSN2 Dustin Finkelson USCG OTO/DIRAUX Also in attendance Capt BeSee pictures below.
3. We hope our program activities don't move backwards because on new Covid spikes. These activities include Patrols, Boat Crew Training, VE's, PV's, PA, and PE events. We encourage all members to take advantage of Webinars and live activities. FL 55 and FI 53 continue to have multiple approved patrols including crew and trainees from other flotillas as well as our flotillas. we rolled right into supporting Fleet Week with six Patrols on the Box. SAR DOG all four days with Derfuss as Coxswain and crews and trainees Tom Hurley, Ron Nathan, Curtis Wheeler, Dinia Paananen, Eric Paananen, Michael Gonzaga and KOKUA II on Sat and Sun with Coxswain McCormick and Crews and Trainees Stephen Kilgraiff, James Matthies, Curtis Morgan, John Albrecht. Another area we can address through PE classes on-line, PV's and VE's, which I refer to as Preventable SARs. I encourage those who are qualified and feel safe to do so to hit the boat ramps in the Delta and perform VE's—They save lives! by ensuring boat have proper safety equipment to deal with emergencies that may arrive as well as preventing them from happening in the first place.

FL 53 was invited to support a special mission critical tasking one of three AUXFACs on 24 Oct in Division 3 in support of the Ironman Competition on the American and Sacramento rivers. We choose KOKUA II to support this tasking due to swim platform that would have eased with rescue of distressed swimmers with Coxswain Randy McCormick, Crew Lew Derfuss, and Trainee Michael Gonzaga who is a MD. We showed up a Broadrick launch ramp at 0420 but found the ramp gate locked delaying our launch and departure until 0500. We attended a briefing minutes later and were just about to our assigned position at the North end on Sacramento River just upstream from the entrance of the American River when at 0630 we received radio message that the event was cancelled our of safety concerns due to severe winds and rain—That was the day Sacramento broke a 24 rain total record of 5.44 inch the most since before 1880. While we were disappointed the event was cancelled, we believe it was a good call to cancel as we were soaked to the bone—when I got home and took off my shoes, I had 1 inch of standing water in them. We look forward to supporting the event on 23 Oct 2022.

**PROJECTS:**

1. We are a go for scheduled 2021 COW for Division 5 for 5 Dec with a limit of 50 in attendance. Have been in communications with new TRACEN Leadership and working on details to plan another great event.
2. We are working on preparing members to take on positions of leadership as both elected and appointed staff officers as the election season for 2022 is rapidly approaching.

**CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES/OPPORTUNITIES:**

1. Time and funding constraints—We are again in an operation Stand Down due to funding and new software issues---So next possible patrols unless CG Critical needs arise will not be until December, if at all.
2. Focus on individual Flotilla strengths and combined and open up and communicate training opportunities among Flotilla's, using combined Flotilla efforts working together to achieve maximum results.

**AGENCY INTERACTION:**

1. Looking forward to again working closely with Sta Vallejo, Sta Rio Vista and Sta Bodega Bay staff in providing Operational Support with Joint Patrols to support both CG Station and Division Boat Crew Training, Qualification, and Currency by providing AUXFAC's and Crews upon request as well as routine support to AOR as allowed.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

**Most have been previously highlighted in this report: To summarize: Retain, attract, train members. Increase support to CG Missions by use of increased qualified members working toward some focused goals. Have Fun in doing the above and Fellowship. Addressing and working towards breaking down the barriers working against our success. Lead Division 5 to be the Premier Division. Strive to win NACO 5 Star award across the Division—achieved 4 of 5 Flotilla submitted and approved**

**PHOTOS: Wil and Rachel Sumner going away potluck**



Bob Smith, Wil Sumner, Lew Derfuss, Frank Capurro

Mary Smith, Bob Smith, Wil Sumner, Lew Derfuss





Multiple Guest

John Teague, Therese Vanwiele, Frank Cappurro, Rachael Sumner



Jim and Maria Matthies, John and Karen Teague, Kathy Culver

Doug Twitchell, Larry Kubo, Bob Galvin





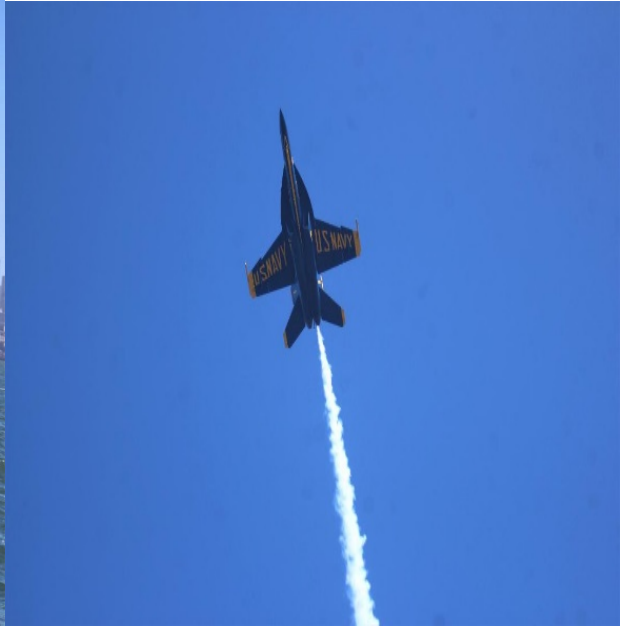
Wil Sumner receives plaque in appreciation for his service and contribution to D11N and Division 5 from DCDR 5 Lew Derfuss

Fleet Week Photos

KOKUA II on SF Bay



Blue Angles Perform



President Roosevelt Ship USS Potomac

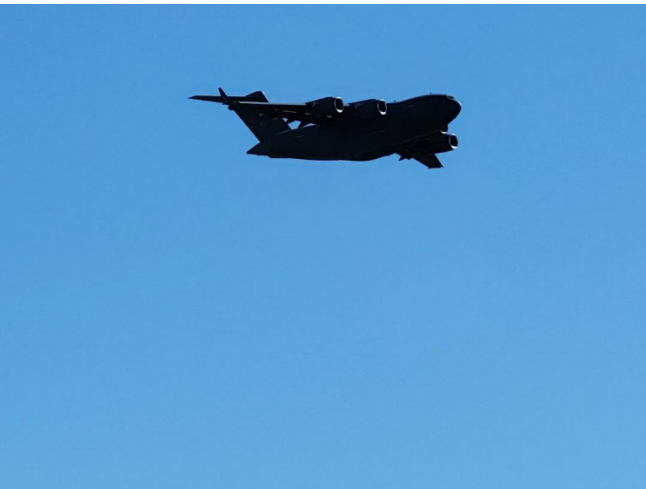




Blue Angles with Bay Bridge in background



United Airlines 787 Flyover



Travis AFB C-17 Flyover



2021 Fleet Week Parade of Ships coming under Golden Gate Bridge