

07 July 2019

TO: District Board and Staff
FROM: Larry Olson, DSO-AV
SUBJECT: AuxAir Monthly Report, June 2019.

AuxAir continues to fly between four and seven missions each week in support of the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary, and our allied agencies, such as NOAA.

SAR CASE: On Saturday, 8 June, Rich Conti and Gordon Evans were flying a Charlie Patrol when they monitored a PAN PAN on Channel 16 from Station Monterey requesting assistance for a missing person in the water off Monastery Beach in Carmel. They were abeam Cypress Point and immediately turned around and headed to Monastery Beach. They arrived on scene in about 5 minutes and began orbiting the area in a search pattern. They established radio contact with Station Monterey, Sector, NORCAL, and Monterey Airport Tower. They were receiving update information from Station Monterey and were adjusting their search patterns accordingly. They were the only radio search facility on scene and functioned as the IC until Monterey Fire arrived and established an IC on the ground. From this point on AuxAir assisted as requested. A CG helo was dispatched from ASSF and other assets, such as a Monterey Fire Boat, were also dispatched to the scene. Unfortunately, the adult father was deceased, however, his son was rescued.

A number of lessons were learned from this involved SAR case as it included multiple agencies; complicated communications; coordination with several agencies and organizations; the use of CRM (Crew Resource Management); aviation operations in the controlled airspace of a busy airport; rough seas for the water vessels; and important information being relayed a little at a time over the duration of the search. This case illustrated the importance of the Incident Command (IC) system and the necessity of understanding how IC works in real situations; as well as the importance of CRM. We are considering putting together a presentation, with photos, of this SAR case and asking Rich and Gordon to lead a discussion for the benefit of aux personnel.

UPDATED AVIATION WEBSITE: Doug Kerr has been working with BK Barr on our Aviation Page and this is now almost complete and up-to-date. We greatly appreciate the help provided by BK Barr and his team. The site contains current auxair information, including a listing of the training and manual references related to auxair positions. Members interested in auxair will be able to go to this site and obtain all the information needed to become an observer, aircrew, or pilot.

AUX-17 CLASS: On June 8-9, we had an AUX-17 class in the Vice Admiral Johnson Training Room at CGI. This is a mandatory class on CRM for all observers, aircrew, and pilots and must be repeated very five years. We had two outstanding instructors from Districts 1 and 5 present this course and it was very informative and valuable for our aviation members.

TRAINING: Glen Marshall, ADSO for training is continuing to train new members for positions in auxair. Glen is establishing lead mentors in each geographic area of D11N so they can train new observers and aircrew members who live in outlying areas. We currently have nine people in the training program, with three doing actual flight training, and two others who are nearly finished with their training program.

PPE: Changes and new requirements for PPE are occurring and we are responding to these. National has gone to single person life rafts for off shore flights, rather than the 4 or 6 person rafts that have been used up to now. We are preparing to acquire these rafts. We are also preparing to acquire equipment and flotation vests similar to those worn by the regular CG helo crews. Additionally, we are beginning the process of fitting and acquiring our off-shore flight crews with the required dry suits.

ENCRYPTED RADIOS: We have obtained the final authorization and instructions for the use of encrypted radios for our aux aircraft. We are now setting up training dates and locations where we will be issuing these radios and instructing our flight crews on the use of them.

30 JULY SQUADRON DINNER/MEETING: Our next Squadron Dinner/Meeting will be on Tuesday, 30 July 2019, at the Holiday Inn, Dublin. The primary program for this bi-monthly dinner/meeting will be a presentation by the Bird Protection Group that works on protecting bird nesting sites along our coast in the D11N AOR and how auxair can assist in protecting these birds and their nesting locations. Auxiliarists are welcome to attend and reservations are required so the hotel knows how many to prepare for. Trops are the uniform for these dinner/meetings and reservations are made by email to: rdarcey@pacbell.net. We have also been advised that the new Air Station Commander, CAPT Tom Cooper, plans on attending this meeting if his schedule permits.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Olson
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