

**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North  
 Operations Update  
 January 2020**



I'm so delighted to begin work as the District 11N Operations Staff Officer. I look forward to working with Division Commanders, OPTREX Coordinators, Qualification Examiners and all D11 members to ensure that we continue, and strengthen our excellent Surface Operations Program.

A great big Thank You to Bill Stolz for all of his help and mentoring over the past year to help provide me the information and support to do a good job in this position.

Thank you to our Operations Training Officer, BOSN2 Finkelson and Commodore Perata for their expertise and advice.

Welcome and thank you to Gary Kaplan and Michael Brown who have agreed to serve as Assistant Staff Officers.

**2020 OPTREX Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
April 23-25	8	Lake Shasta – Antlers Resort	TBD
June 26-27	12 and 1 (Victory)	Marina Bay, Richmond	TBD
July 18	3	Sacramento Yacht Club	Don Anderson
August 7-8	7	TBD	TBD
August 21-23	10	TBD	TBD
August 28-29	11	Station Lake Tahoe	Bruce Martin

September 25-26	Flotilla 5-5	Bodega Bay	TBD
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### Reminders for Division Commanders and OPTREX Coordinators

1. Send me the OPTREX Coordinator's name and contact information
2. Create an OPTREX flyer that can be posted on the D11N website (let me know if you need a sample flyer)
  - Dates, times, locations
  - Indicate if food is provided – list the cost of food
  - List nearby hotels, restaurants
  - Indicate deadlines for members to send in applications
  - Include any important information for facility owners
3. ***The list of members going for first time qualification or re-qualification is due to me 40 days prior to the OPTREX.*** This means that members need to get their information to you approximately ***two months*** prior to the OPTREX.
4. All members seeking qualification must complete all requirements prior to the OPTREX.

### Reminders for Boat Crew and Coxswain Candidates

1. You must complete all requirements prior to the OPTREX
2. First time Crew Qualification requirements:
  - Completed BQ II (if enrolled after 1FEB2018)
  - Completed Boating Safety Class (About Boating Safely)
  - Completed ICS 100 and 700
  - Completed the online Risk Management RM100202 and the 4-hour RM Refresher courses
  - Completed Core Value Training
  - Completed the current year Operations Workshop
3. To re-qualify as Boat Crew,
  - Cannot be in REYR for underway hours
  - Completed the online Risk Management RM100202 and the 4-hour RM Refresher courses
  - Completed Core Value Training – some classes need to be completed every five years
  - Completed the current year Operations Workshop

- In addition to the requirements for first time Boat Crew, you must complete:
  - 28 hours underway as qualified boat crew
  - Not be in REYR for underway hours
  - Completed ICS 200, 800, 210/300
  - Completed the online closed book proctored Navigation Rules test
  - Completed the online Operations Policy test

5. To re-qualify as Coxswain:

- Not be in REYR for underway hours
- Completed the online open book Navigation Rules test within last five years
- Completed the online Operations Policy test

### **New Boat Crew Handbooks**

If you're not already using the new Boat Crew Handbooks, make sure to go online and download all 5 volumes: Operations, Navigation & Piloting, First Aid, Rescue and Survival Procedures, Seamanship Fundamentals.

To get the Handbooks, go to <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=R-DEPT&category=telecomms-documents>. Log in with your user name and password, click on "surface documents". Scroll down to the Boat Crew Handbook section.

### **Risk Management Reminder**

All surface operation personnel must complete the Risk Management Refresher by March, 2020. If you are a crew trainee and plan to qualify this year, you must complete Risk Management Refresher before you register to attend an OPTREX.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requests**

If Crew Trainees need Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including PFD, survival vest and equipment, and Anti-Exposure Coveralls (AEC), they should contact their Flotilla Commander and their Flotilla Materials Staff Officer.

FC's/FSO-MA's will contact Michael Brown, our district PPE Manager. Michael coordinates all PPE requests. Flotilla Commanders and Staff Materials Officers, please remember our obligation to keep track of all PPE, ensure that the equipment is being inspected regularly and that the inspections are documented.

## Navigation Reminders from Qualification Examiner Paul Vervenoitis

During the winter season there is not as much activity on the water both by the public and by Aux crews. This is a perfect time to review your underway operations, particularly with respect to navigation. It's not uncommon for those nav skills to get rusty over time and compromise your safety and effectiveness.

The biggest threat to safety with respect to navigation is familiarity. You may have operated in the same area for years and "seaman's eye" has served you well. That's all great until that odd day when fog rolls in out of nowhere, or you get stuck out after dark due to an unplanned mechanical issue. Or you get called by your OPCON for a case which takes you into unfamiliar water.

Review your electronics - LEARN how to enter a waypoint and navigate to it safely. Make sure there are no hazards enroute. Calculate some intermediate ETAs to landmarks or nav aids to check your progress. Use the compass to check danger bearings. Be wary of tidal currents which will throw you off course.

And don't be too proud to ask others to help you with a nav refresher.

## Line Handling Commands

BOSN2 Finkleson asked me to include a reminder about line handling commands. When we are all speaking the same language and using the same terms, it makes communication during patrols much more efficient.

Here are a few of the more frequently used line handling commands:

Command	Action
Cast off (line number)	When undocking, this means to leave the dock or mooring lines at the dock.
Take in (line number)	Bring the line aboard. When undocking, this means to bring the dockline aboard. If you are involved in an alongside tow, "take in" means to ask someone on the boat being towed to ease the line so that you can bring the line aboard your boat.
Ease	Let the line out - "ease" the tension, but don't let the line go slack.

Slack	Let all tension off a line.
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