

11 Feb 2020

TO: Board and Staff
FROM: Larry Olson, DSO-AV
SUBJECT: AuxAir Report for January 2020

AuxAir continues to fly four to six missions a week in support of the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary, and our allied agencies. We are supporting NOAA with regular photo flights over the CEMEX plant at Monterey Bay and conducting photo flights at the two land slide locations south of Carmel. We are also assisting San Francisco Air Station with logistics flights to FOB Pt. Mugu. Next month we expect to start new Delta flights to locate and identify disabled and abandoned vessels for Wil Sumner.

We had a very productive Squadron Dinner/Meeting on 28 January at the Holiday Inn, Dublin. From the Air Station, we had the OPS Boss, CDR Blake McKinney, and our new AUXLO, LT David Lee. Both provided us with updated information on aviation activities and programs. We also had updates on the maintenance and currency of our aircraft; along with a demonstration of the new life rafts and survival vests that are being utilized by our flight crews. As always, we appreciate Ron Darcey organizing and coordinating our bi-monthly dinner meetings.

We are looking forward to DTRAIN coming up in late March and preparing for our auxair presentation. This will be a review of how auxair supports other units and will illustrate some of our actual cases and assignments. We, also, expect to have a physical display of auxair equipment and photos and this is a good recruiting opportunity for auxiliarists who may be interested in joining our aviation program.

We are also very pleased to have a second helicopter join our fleet of aircraft. Gabrielle Adelman is our newest Aircraft Commander, who lives in the Watsonville area, and she brings a Robinson R-44 helicopter to D11N. This is a 4-place helicopter and we look forward to being able to conduct more specialized missions that are particularly suited to the unique abilities of rotorcraft. Our first and long time helicopter is a two-place, Bell-47, owned and operated by Doug Kerr.

AuxAir is going through an update of our PPE and Peter Todebush, ADSO-AV-PPE, is the lead person for this task. We are now acquiring new survival vests that contain our flotation devices and related survival equipment. We also are receiving new single-person life rafts. The vests and rafts are the same as, or similar to, the survival equipment used by the regular Coast Guard aviators. This is partly a standardization process that is going on nation-wide with other auxair squadrons.

Finally, our DFSO-AV, Hal Seibert, is preparing for our next Aviation Safety Workshop, egress training, and swim qualification scheduled for Saturday, 11 April 2020 at CGI. As always, the swim qualification will be open to auxiliarists who need this activity for their boat crew certification.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Olson
DSO-AV