



## U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

### District Eleven North Region DISTRICT STAFF OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

February 4, 2021

To: Dean McFarren

Cc: Curtis Han

Cc: District Board and Staff, ADSO-SO CM

From: Larry Stanton DSO-CM

**Goals:** 1. Provide excellent contingency communications in support of Coast Guard District 11, Sectors and Stations through continuous training and education.

#### HIGHLIGHTS/"3 UPS":

1. AUX OP CM course is completed. Thank you Doug McPherson for leading the course and Chris Lay, Kevin Sellstrom for assisting.
2. Ventrilo VHF link is working well. I will send out invitations to SO-CM team in an attempt to have at least one member from each division participate in our weekly net.
3. On line training for the Vara HF/VHF modem went well. Over 50 members from several districts attended the repeated sessions. Thank you Bill Scholz and Ray Montagne for hosting the training.
4. I called all SO-CM and requested monthly reports and encouraged division specific training.
5. I attended the Quartzfest amateur radio event in Quartzite AZ and met with D11S member Gordon West who presented a summary of USCG-Aux Communications programs to attendees.



**Highlights/ DOWN:**

1. Mt Diablo repeater is still down. We are attempting to gain access to the security fencing around the repeater hut. This is CG controlled. The system failed following a restoration from CH 16 to normal mode. The radio gear is approximately 20 years old and the batteries are likely worn out. **Update:** I have been in contact with National Branch and have requested direction in obtaining a surplus Coast Guard radio gear. I also stressed our direct support of Sector San Francisco and VTS. Kevin Sellstrom is in process of scheduling a service call to the Diablo site to evaluate the current problem. Again, our repeaters are very old and in need of replacement.

**Outside Agency Contact:** I have been contacted by California State Guard rep James Lamb regarding joint communications exercises. More to follow.

**ADSO Reports:**

1. D-DSO-CM- Paz, decals placed on ACV with Stephen Bush. Attended on line VARA training. See photos.
2. ADSO-ARMS-Firehock: Supporting testing of Ventrilo system, no ARMS report. End of report.
3. ADSO-ACV Busch- Decals on truck....look good!



4. ADSO-Simmons- Working on possible training with Coast Guard telecommunications.
5. ADSO-CC Scholz- Continuing work on spring exercise.
6. ADSO-CM UTAH- WILLIAMS- Participating in HF net.
7. ADSO-MT Maddox- Planning on presenting TCO-Ops workshop at Dtrain.
8. ADSO-CM-AA Farmer- No report.
9. ADSO-CM CC/RDF Thorsson-No report

10. ADSO-CM-TK Sellstrom- Planned site visit to Diablo repeater set for second weekend in February.

**SO Reports/FSO Reports:**

Division 1-SO-PAZ\_– No staff report filed.

**Highlights/Topics:**

**Details:**

**FSO Reports:**

Flotilla 12:

Flotilla 14:

Flotilla 17:

Flotilla 19:.

**Projects:**

**Goals and Objectives:**

Division 3 SO-STANTON

3-1 FSO Foster-No report filed.

3-3- No FSO-CM

3-5 –\_FSO-Harrison-

**Highlights**

\* Station called out **John Hardin** and AUX vessel **Sidekick** with **Greg VanKoersel** on December 30<sup>th</sup> to provide security zone for recovery of vehicle in the water with deceased occupant near Clarksburg on the Sacramento River. Again on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January with **Don Anderson** for a partially sunken boat just south of Pioneer Bridge. Thanks again guys. Always ready and able.

\* **Flotilla 5-3**, in conjunction with the Park Rangers, installed a new and improved life jacket stand at Sandy Beach on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks folks. You may very well save some lives over the coming year.

### Activity Details:

\* CG Station Rio Vista conducted **06 SAR cases** during the last 30 days. The average January SARs over the last 15 years is 12. The most SARs conducted by the Station in one month was 70 in July 2009. The Station conducted **17 vessel boardings**. The average January boardings for the last 09 years is 12. The most boardings conducted in one month by the Station was 149 in September 2015.

\* In an effort to stay in front of further **governmental COVID requirements**, I provided a copy of my fully vaccinated and boosted COVID-19 record from Sutter Health, a signed Attestation Form for Certification of Vaccination, a copy of my COVID High Risk Assessment Form and a January 2022 completion report for Blood borne Pathogen Awareness to the Station's OIC **BMC Bennett** and **DIRAUX Office**. Let me know if any Auxiliary Official needs or wants copies. In addition, I have obtained an N95 mask to wear at the Station when within six feet of another person. Other suggestions anyone?

\* Stood 12 days of **Radio Watchstanding (20B)** at the Station for a total of 84 hours and participated in 03 SAR cases. Missed a couple additional days due to eye surgery.

### Continuing Notices

\* **Auxiliary members are always permitted on the Station in uniform (ODUs or Trops) but must be fully vaccinated.** (See Auxiliary COVID-19 Reconstitution Guidance Version 3 for details). A mask on Station is required indoors when within 6 feet of another even with a completed COVID-19 vaccine. **Give me a call to arrange a group tour. I'd love to show you around. Cell (707) 529-2152 or Station (707) 374-2871.**

\* **The Station has permanently schedule two days per month for two boat drills with the AUX facilities in Div 3, 5 and 10 in Station's AOR.** The days are the second Wednesday and the third Saturday. These are now included on the Station's training calendar. Any facility owner or Coxn who wishes to participate, call **BM1 Montoya at 707-374-2871** or me at 707-529-2152 a few days in advance to schedule a meeting time and place with the Station's boat.

\* **Onsite interactions with CG Station personnel** are highly recommended and sought for any excuse you can think of. Radio Watch standing is a recommended approach I've used over the past 14 years. It will pay big dividends for the Station and yourself.

### Current Projects:

\* **Auxiliary Unit Coordinator (AUC)** for CG Station Rio Vista for D11

\* Working with **Lisa Curtis** of Flotilla 5-3 on **Flotilla Station tour** and lunch scheduled for Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup>.

\* Working with **Doug MacPherson** on **CGS Rio Vista 2022 Boating Season Kick-off Event** currently scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>.

\* Establishing a working relationship with **newly elected and appointed leadership** for Flotillas in Station's area of responsibility.

\* Updating Station's **Auxiliary Contact List**. See a copy for review, comment and/or correction attached to this report's e-mail.

\* Seeking **Auxiliary Radio Watch standers** for the Station.

### **Challenges:**

\* To continue to be optimistic about the **future of the Auxiliary** in the Delta.

\* To obtain more active **AUX facilities** in the Station's area of responsibility.

\* To get AUX members certified as **Radio Watch standers** at Station Rio Vista.

\* To continue my Auxiliary activities in the face of ongoing **COVID restrictions** and age.

### **Agency Interactions:**

\* Participated as the Auxiliary representative in the Station's monthly **DOIT (Delta Officers Intelligence Team)** meeting on the 5th. Invited participants include; Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Yolo and Contra Costa county sheriff marine divisions, Port of Stockton and Port of West Sacramento PDs, Fish and Wildlife, CG Sector San Francisco Command Center and Sector Intelligence, Cal Boating and Waterways, Cal Guard, Delta Protection Commission, Assemblyman Jim Frasier's office and numerous county and city fire departments.

### **My Goal and Objective for the month**

\* To continue supporting Coast Guard operations as a Radio Watchstander at CGS Rio Vista.

3-10 FSO-Sellstrom- Sellstrom, Lay and Stanton Assisting in teaching Aux Op CM course.

Division 5- SO-Wheeler- Phone contact. New to position. Interested in assisting with repeater maintenance.

Division 6-SO- No SO-CM

Division 7- SO-Farmer –Weekly VHF division net.

Division 8 SO-Hale- Phone contact. Interested in training event with D11CCNET. Will assist with contacting Sector Humbolt Bay for location to set up gear.

Division 10- SO-Rafatti- No report filed.

Division 11- SO-Leinan – No report filed.

Division 12- Rob Torio-No report filed. Attended on line VARA training event.

**CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES/OPPORTUNITIES:**

1. Meet all SO-Cm members.
2. Increase TCO operators.
3. Get Diablo and south bay systems back on air.

**Goals:**

Promote a high level of reliable communications services to the Coast Guard and USCG-AUX using VHF, HF and digital modes (fixed and mobile). This goal can be achieved by doing the following:

1. Complete establishment of trained “Radio Direction Finding Teams” to assist with locating ELT-PLB and Open Microphone issues.
2. Encourage members to achieve TCO status and become HF operators. D11N is in need of additional operators.
3. Hold large and small scale communications exercises to enhance training of members.
4. Train with gold side communications team. Planned training includes Radio Direction Finding, HF and VHF field training exercises within next 8 months.
5. Maximize available training opportunity at D-Train.

**PHOTO GALLERY:**

See above