



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report
February 2022**

To: COMO Dean McFarren, District Commodore
Curtis Han, District Chief of Staff
District 11 North Board & Staff
From: COMO Wally Smith, District Staff Officer – Operations (DSO-OP)

This report covers surface activities for the month of January which were minimal due to the Coast Guard’s software conversion and resultant lack of funding. There is little to report for last month because the resumption of patrol activities was not authorized until 26 January.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Patrol orders resume!
- 2. Boat crew on-the-water currency maintenance requirements waived for another year.
- 3. 2022 Operations Workshop is now available.
- 4. OPTREX Calendar
- 5. Great “New Beginning” for an “Experienced” Operational Facility!
- 6. Updated check ride due date report.
- 7. Looking forward to 2022.

DETAILS

- 1. FINALLY! Per ALAUX 005-22, patrol order processing has resumed as of 26 January. Relevant sections of the ALAUX are as follows:
 - 1. All testing and interfacing of AUXDATA II (ADII) and the Financial Systems Modernization Solution (FSMS) has been successful. ADII is resuming normal operations.
 - 2. Patrol orders with patrol dates **on or after 01 October 2021** that were entered in ADII or issued via paper copy should now be entered into ADII for approval, completion, claims processing, and cancellations. Do not enter cancelled paper patrol orders in ADII.
 - 3. In order to receive reimbursement for actual patrol expenses incurred during the FSMS cutover period, all corresponding patrol orders must be entered into ADII no later than 31 March 2022.
 - 4. Information will be provided later for processing patrols conducted prior to 01 October 2021. Order Issuing Authorities (OIA) shall not approve any patrols with a patrol date prior to 01 October 2021.
 - 5. When a patrol lead or facility owner requests patrol orders in ADII, they must include estimated reimbursable expenses. The OIA will perform a “Funds Check” during its approval process to ensure that funds are available to cover the estimated reimbursable expenses. When completing patrol orders, the patrol lead or facility owner must then



include the final actual reimbursable expense amount and comment if that amount exceeds the initial estimate by 10% or more.

6. "How to Guides" have been developed to help assist members and OIAs in the patrol request and approval process. To view/download these guides go to: AUXDATA II / Files / Libraries / USCG Auxiliary Guides.

Filenames:

1. Patrol Orders – How to Request in AUXDATA II Nov 2021 Patrol Orders, and
2. How To Complete Claim and Patrol Activity Logs in AUXDATA II Nov 2021.

From our OTO Dustin Finkelson on 27 January: *We are back in business. The whole requesting orders process has changed, attached are instructions on how to request and how to close claims. Additionally, members who had patrols from 01OCT21 – 17OCT21 those patrols are affected and those members have been emailed with instructions on how to resolve these issues. You will notice the "estimates" section, when entering estimates please enter 10% more than your original estimate. THIS IS DIRECTLY FROM BSX. If you go over your estimated amount FINCEN will require a statement of why and you and I would like to avoid that at all costs. For any issues with patrols, your first step will be to submit a service request from the home page. I have already received a handful of requests for orders that are incorrect, please use the attached guides.*

All fuel and fuel additives require a receipt, and fuel purchase over \$500 will automatically be audited.

Lastly, I am asking that each and every coxswain and crewmember (break ins too) stay extra cautious and vigilant these first few patrols back on the water. Let's look out for one another and safely knock some rust off and be the prudent and professional mariners we are.

2. Per ALAUX 004-22 issued 26 January, the following changes to Current Year (CY) 2021 currency maintenance requirements apply for CY 2022:

a. General Qualification and Currency Maintenance Requirements.

(1) All annual currency maintenance requirements for CY 2021 that were due in CY 2021 (e.g., the 3-year check ride required to maintain currency as a coxswain if due in 2021) are again waived *except* the tests and workshops that were able to be completed online through the Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS) or Auxiliary National Classroom.

(2) These waived currency maintenance requirements must now be completed by 31 December 2022. Currency maintenance requirements that were applicable for CY 2021 are cancelled

(3) If an Auxiliarist started CY 2020 in REYR status in a competency and was unable to fulfill the requirements to regain certification during CY 2020 and CY 2021, then the Auxiliarist will remain in REYR status in that competency and will have until 31 December 2022 to complete those same requirements in order to regain certification.



(4) All requirements for initial qualification/certification remain in effect and will not be waived.

- What does this mean?
- If your last check ride was in 2018, you are due to requalify in 2022
 - If your last check ride was in 2019, you are due to requalify in 2023
 - There were no check rides in 2020
 - If your last check ride was in 2021, you are due to requalify in 2024
 - If you qualify or requalify in 2022, you will be due to requalify in 2025

3. The 2022 Operations Workshop and TCT Refresher courses are NOT waived for 2022. The Ops Workshop is available on the RESPONSE Directorate page on the National website; however, both must be presented by an authorized Auxiliary TCT Facilitator. Training webinars will be offered online in the very near future.

4. Upcoming OPEX / OPTREXs currently listed on the District Calendar are below:

<u>OPTREX CALENDAR - 2022</u>		
<u>Division</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
8	Lake Shasta, Antlers Resort	28-30 April
5	CG STA Vallejo	24-25 June
12	TBD	25-26 June
1	CG Station San Francisco	16 July
7	Jordanelle Reservoir	5-6 August
6	Santa Cruz	09-10 September
10	Millerton Lake	24-25 September

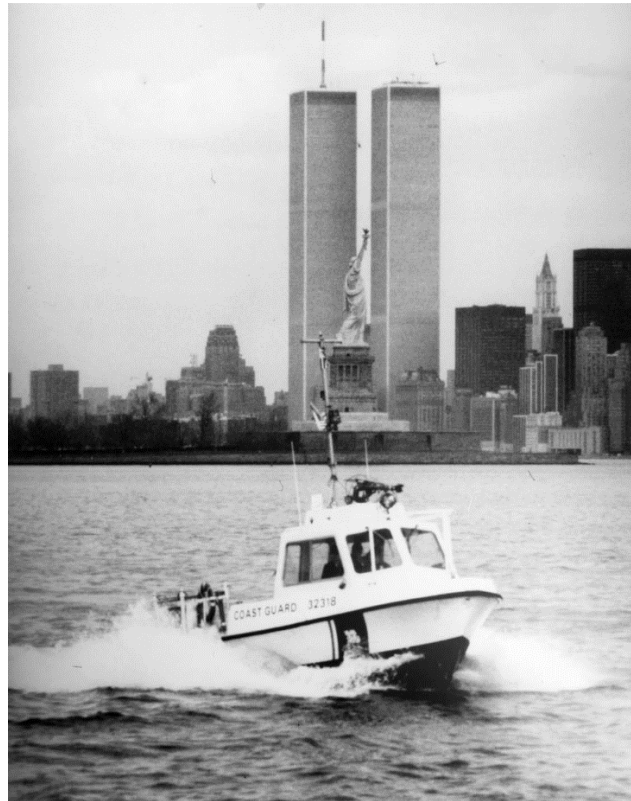
If a Division has not already done so, it is suggested to reserve a date on the District Calendar if you are planning to hold an OPTREX in 2022.

5. The String O’Pearls arrived in Santa Cruz on 07 February. Bob Gallup generously donated this wonderful vessel to the Santa Cruz Sea Scout Ship 669. The Scouts are eagerly looking forward to many great adventures on this venerable lady of the sea! There are two operational facilities in Santa Cruz and the skippers of both are eager to begin working with the Sea Scouts and their new “ship” String O’Pearls. Bob Gallup is to be commended for his generosity. Again ... A heartfelt Thank You, Bob!

Last year the Santa Cruz Fire Department donated their fire boat, an ex-Coast Guard 32’ Ports and Waterways Boat (CG 32PWB) to the Santa Cruz Sea Scouts. While a great boat, it has no head and no berthing which made it impractical for the Scouts for overnight excursions. So, with the arrival of String O’Pearls, the Sea Scouts put it up for sale and, if all goes according to current plans, the boat will end up being an Auxiliary Operational Facility residing in Moss Landing Harbor.



07 February, Santa Cruz Harbor: The “new” Sea Scouts vessel STRING O’PEARLS moored aft of the “old” Sea Scouts vessel BOSSO.



Vintage photo of a CG 32PWB

6. See the “QE Check Ride Due Dates – Including Re-Qualifications and REYR / REWK” report that is included with this report. For any questions regarding REYR / REWK status, please refer to your IS Officer.

7. 2022 is in full swing and we have returned to *some* degree of normalcy with the resumption of patrol activities and the adjustments to some currency requirements. We’ve still got some hurdles to cross before we get back to full normalcy but we are a resilient bunch and it won’t take us long to get back up to speed!

BONUS MATERIAL



DCAPT Alan Stanton sharing a tube of Pringles with Oscar who is enjoying a Diet Coke and bag of chips!



Division Reports

Division 1

From Nancy Marion, SO-OP

Highlights

1. Administrative Year Contact with FSO's Complete
2. Operational Activities Update
3. Division 1 OPTREX Planning Update

Details

1. **Administrative Year Contact with FSO's Complete:** The SO-OP has been in contact with our four FSO-OPs to review the tentative OPTREX date, Crew Competency Requirements, and interest in Virtual Crew Qualification/Refresher Training.
2. **Operational Activities Update:** As stated in the OTO's January 27th communication, **"We're back in business"**. The blackout is over, and orders may be requested for all activities. The OTO has sent out updated Instructions for the new order issuing system.
3. **Division 1 OPTREX Planning Update & Restructuring:** The Division Board has approved tentative dates of Saturday July 9th and 16th for our 2022 OPTREX and the event dates have been placed on the D11NR Calendar. The restructuring of the event to two consecutive Saturdays is to increase Member participation and reduce transit time. July 9th will be a Training Day and July 16th will be for QE Check Rides only. The event will be held at Station San Francisco, subject to approval by the Station and Sector SF. Requests to confirm the dates with StSF and Sector SF have been forwarded by our ASC Sue Fry and AUC StSF Jim Losi.

Subject to availability, we also intend to utilize the ACV for event OPCOM and TCO/COMs training participants. Our SO-CM Carol Paz will be heading up the Comms component.

Goals:

Rotating members into training patrols for OPTREX preparation and building underway hours. Providing training opportunities for our current crew members and initial qualification candidates.

Division 3

From John Hardin, SO-OP



No report submitted.

Division 4

From Paul Verveniotis, SO-OP

No report submitted.

Division 5

From Lew Derfuss, SO-OP

As we get ready for a busy patrol season, I am working with Glenn Hunter SO-MT 5, Randy McCormick FSO-MT 53 and Station Vallejo to put on either one or two boat crew academies as we have 15 candidates that indicated interest in becoming Boat Crew Qualified. We are also working on scheduling a Division 5 OPTREX sometime in June at the new Station Vallejo—the date will; hopefully be finalized and put on District calendar in the next week

Bad news, good news we are really starting to hurt in the area of available AUXFACs as we lost String O’Pearls and Trigger from 57 and Margarita and Sea Scum from 55. I thought we had a deal worked out to transfer String O’Pearls to a 55 member but it wasn’t approved by EXCOM so we lost it as an asset to Division 5. The good news looks like it is going to a Sea Scout Unit in Monterey and will be available for use of the Monterey CG AUX unit.

Division 6

From Mark McLaughlin, SO-OP

No report submitted.

Division 7

From Mike Thompson, SO-OP

Water is still frozen, encouraging operations members to get all their workshops done now, ice fishing pretty good.

Division 8

From Dave Johnson, SO-OP

Redding F39: No activity, nothing to report

Mendocino F87: No report. I assume the refueling station has been maintained.

Clear Lake F88: No report. I have been notified they do not have an OPS officer.

Crescent City F11: No report. Last contact indicated they have assumed control of the abandoned Coast Guard station in the harbor with permission of the Harbor District. Someone is working on the details of that occupancy. The flotilla is a mere skeleton of its former self so this work has basically fallen on one person. They have had no meetings that I know of and there are



no staff officers. There has been some progress on obtaining a facility but the status of that is unknown.

Division 10

From Rod Rollins, SO-OP

No report submitted.

Division 11

From Tom Henderson, SO-OP

No report submitted.

Division 12

From Jim Losi, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS

• DIV12 Surface Operational OPFACS & STATUS

- a) AQUAMARINE – Operational
- b) SERVANT – Operational
- c) ODYSSEY* – Nonoperational
 - 1. Greg Gleeson of Flotilla 12-91 has stated that he wants to renew his OPFACs status to operational.

2) 2022 Goals and Objectives

- a) We have started the process of planning check rides utilizing the miniOPTREX model for members in Div. 12 and Div. 1. As of today, we have four members, two in each Division who wish to become coxswains and seven members who wish to have boat crew check rides.
- b) We are hoping to have guest rides for prospective new members to the Auxiliary and for existing members who wish to join boat crew operations.
- c) Operational Activities:
 - 1. PATON Patrols
 - 2. Fleet Week – West TARP Boat
 - 3. Kite Surfer Safety Patrol with Station Golden Gate
 - 4. Training – Div. 12 members with a focus on new boat crew members
 - 5. Joint Training with Station Golden Gate and Station San Francisco
 - 6. Joint training with Active Duty Reserve (May)
 - 7. Engage in general MOM/Training patrols on a regular basis

• AQUAMARINE – AIR STATION SAN FRANCISCO (Black Out Period)

- a) OPFAC AQUAMARINE has been working with the rescue swimmers from Air Station San Francisco @ YBI providing them with essential training on sailboat platforms in rescue situations. Virginia Luchetti even taught the rescue swimmers how to sail the boat in the event the rescue swimmers had to operate a sailboat in certain rescue situations. Active Duty crews have expressed their appreciation to Virginia and her crew for this essential and important training.



Projects

- Check Ride Program for coxswains and boat crew members and trainees
- Recruiting members with prospective OPFACs

Challenges

- Allocation of time with only one OPFAC and many requests
- Demands from members requesting check rides earlier in the year rather than the 4Q21.

Goals and Objectives

- Get as many members as possible ready for their check rides.
- Training excellence and mission excellence.

** END OF REPORT **

Respectfully submitted,
COMO Wally Smith, DSO-OP



SEMPER GUMBY!