



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

District Eleven North Region DISTRICT STAFF OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

May 2, 2022

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. D11-CCNET was held, over April 23 weekend. The event sites were: D11, Sector SF, Sta. Monterey, Sta. Tahoe, Sta. and Sector Humbolt Bay as well as relay stations in Boise ID and Southern California. The event was held from 0800 hrs to approximately 1500 hrs. I am happy to report the exercise was very successful with 100 percent of HF-VHF traffic passed to the addressed stations. Several lessons were learned and will be addressed in a detailed after action report. The exercise was observed by D11(dt) CDR Jojola and D11 Command Center Chief ***. The team received good evaluations as too our capabilities in support of the Coast Guard. We plan to hold quarterly exercises to build on our skills. I wish to thank all our the comms team for supporting this significant event.
2. In contact with TCO candidates. One is a returning member, active in HF programs and a former Watch Stander, Air Sta Sacramento.

Highlights/ DOWN:

1. Mt Diablo repeater is still down.

Outside Agency Contact: None

ADSO Reports:

1. D-DSO-CM- Paz, See Div 1 report.
2. ADSO-ARMS-Firehock: No activity. Covering AWO shifts.
3. ADSO-ACV Busch- The ACV was requested to participate during an open house on Coast Guard Island on the occasion of the retirement of the Chief of Staff. John Brandenburg positioned the ACV on Eagle Avenue on 21APR. At 0730, Bob Torio and Stephen Busch repositioned the ACV to a parking lot where the public could inspect it. We had planned to leave for Monterey for the CCNET at 1000, but were asked to remain until 1130. Upon commencing our drive to Monterey,

once on the freeway, the check engine light came on. We pulled off the freeway and proceeded to Ace Truck Repairs to have the warning checked out. The mechanic at Ace checked the codes and determined that it was the sensor for the turbo or the turbo itself, which would be a repair of over \$4,000. He said we could proceed without problem and address the issue at a later date.

We arrived at STA Monterey in the afternoon, and were let in the locked gate of the maintenance yard, and given the use of a large corner of the parking area with enough room to set up the 60 by 50 foot antennae. We put caution tape across the area secured to gun mounts and orange cones to keep people and vehicles away from the antennae.

Having secured the vehicle and the area, we stayed at a nearby Inn for the night and returned to the vehicle at 0800 on 23APR22 to prepare for the CCNET exercise. I will leave it to Bob Torio to describe the radio events and submit the log of the event.

As a TCO trainee, I was watching and learning the process and helping with the log notes. When released from the CCNET, we packed up the antennae, cleaned the ACV, said thank you to the tation personnel and returned to base at Coast Guard Island, after refueling with 33.6 gallons of Diesel. We secured the ACV at 2030, and ended our part of the mission.

4. ADSO-Simmons- Working on Armed Forces Day Radio program.
5. ADSO-CC Scholz- Held D11CC Exercise. Very successful event. Well received by Coast Guard observers. An in depth after action report will be published in the near future.
6. ADSO-CM-D7CC Williams- **Communications Trailer**

Awaiting funding for new tires and a rim and tire for a spare tire. Bid for the work has been submitted to OTO and Facility Manager for moving the process forward

Division 7 Activity

The local USCGAUX Division 7 net continues to be held every Wednesday night at 1815 local.

TCO and Facility update

One new member has received final approval and call sign NF11KW. Upon return from visiting family out of state will commence installing appropriate software programs to join HF and Ventrilo communication nets.

Two members have completed TCO qualification, their Land Mobile have been inspected and a waiting assignment of callsigns.

Personal Activity

I continue to join the HF and VHF nets weekly as atmospheric conditions permit.

Shirt and Hat update

Apparel firm for Communication Team shirts and hats with the District 11NR Communications logo, will be preparing an order form. To keep shipping costs reasonable they recommend shipping to two or three locations for distribution.

Michael L. Williams ADSO-CM-D7CC

Division 1-SO-PAZ – **Highlights/Topics:**

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Details:

The Mount Diablo Repeater continues to be down. It is being replaced in a few weeks as soon as some parts arrive to program and install a new one.

Division 3 SO-STANTON

3-1 FSO Foster-No report filed.

3-3- No FSO-CM

3-5- FSO-Harrison- Report for April 2022

Highlights

* **BM1 Montoya**, Station OPS, made Chief and will be stationed at Astoria on a 210. **MK1 Vandebos**, Chief Engineer at Station, made Chief and will be stationed in LA area on an 87. Both will leave early this summer and are happy with their new jobs. They are a great loss to the Station and to me. I've worked with both for almost 5 years.

* **Doug MacPerson's 2022 Boating Season Kick Off** was held on the 9th. Had 21 participants from Division 3, 5 and 10. Great training provided by **BMC Bennett, BOSN2 Finkelson, BM2 Karina Hansen, Jim Duncan, Jeff Fite, Tommy Holtzman, John Hardin** and me. A terrific lunch was provided by **Nancy Holtzman, Linda Haynes, Pat McSwain, and Darci Kauer**. Tip Jar for AUX's lunches provided \$150 for Station's Morale Fund. Good fun in person. No Zoom! Fam ride in Station's RBS-29 was cancelled due to high winds. Bummer. **Tommy** fixed the Station's coffee Maker. We really needed that!

Activity Details

* CG Station Rio Vista conducted **13 SAR cases, 05 by AUX Hardin**, during the last 30 days. The average April SARs over the last 15 years is 13. The most SARs conducted by the Station in one month was 70 in July 2009. The Station conducted **21 vessel boardings** with 04 terminations. The average April boardings for the last 09 years is 33. The most boardings conducted in one month by the Station was 149 in September 2015.

* Attended the Division 3 Awards Dinner on the 14th. Good group and good food.

* **Lisa Curtis**, Flotilla 5-3 VFC, spent half of the 13th and 20th at the Station learning the AOR, organization and procedures for becoming Watchstander and RBS Boat Crew. Tall order but she's going to attempt it. Come and join her. Its fun and helps the Station.

* Stood 14 days of **Radio Watchstanding (20B)** at the Station for a total of 99 hours. Participated in 02 SAR cases.

Continuing Notices and comments

* **Auxiliary members are always permitted on the Station in uniform (ODUs or Trops) but must be fully vaccinated.** Masks are not mandatory. (See Auxiliary COVID-19 Reconstitution Guidance Version 3 for details). **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 is available for two boat drills with AUX facilities in Div 3, 5 and 10 in Station's AOR.** Any facility owner or Coxn who wishes to participate, call **BM2 Karina Hansen**

at **707-374-2871** or me at 707-529-2152 in advance to schedule a meeting date, 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 Watchstanding is a recommended approach I've used over the past 14 years. Yard work, paint touchup or minor repairs all contribute and will pay big dividends for the Station and yourself.

* **Tired of Zoom meetings?** Personal interaction has always been a major contributor to the Auxiliary success. Being part of a **group** dedicated to a common goal is the attraction for many of us. Zoom meetings, while fine for training, are hindering this by isolating folks, interfering with personal interaction and destroying group cohesion. They are time consuming and disruptive. They will lead to lower active membership and unit effectiveness. Stop it before its too late. We all have taken steps to be as safe as possible. Let's get on with real life and hold in person meetings without zoom. Get off your butt, out of your house and back into the active world of human contact.

Current Projects:

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

* Helping **train 03 new Coasties** right out of Boot Camp in AOR and watch duties.

* Working with **Kit Galvin**, FC of Flotilla 5-3, to hold a **Boat America training class** at the Station on Saturday the 7th of May.

* Working with **Fred Black**, FC of Flotilla 3-10, to hold a **Flotilla Day** at the Station on 28th of May. Open to all Division AUX members. A little work and a lot of good fun.

* Seeking **Auxiliary Radio Watchstanders** for the Station. Come on. Its not that hard.

* Seeking **Auxiliary folks** to work at the Station doing anything to improve its appearance and functionality. A great way to get to know the crew.

* Working with Station **OIC and OPS** to have **CG personnel attend Flotilla meetings** when they have enough in person members to make the effort worthwhile.

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 Watchstanders** at Station Rio Vista.

* To get AUX members out of the house and back to **active unit participation**.

Agency Interactions:

* Station OIC, **BMC Bennett**, at the helm of RBS-29 led the **Tour of the Delta, Including Commercial Abandon and Derelict Vessels** on the 6th. Attendees at the Station included staff from offices of House of Representatives Garamendi and Matsui, Governor Newsom's Office of External Affairs, and 15 officers from Sacramento, Solano, Contra Costa and Yolo counties Sheriffs Marine Divisions with their boats.

My Goal and Objective for the Month:

- To live long and prosper.

Steve Harrison FSO/AUC

113-03-05 Sacramento 707-529-2152

3-10 FSO-Sellstrom- Participated in D11 CC Exercise, Sector Sf.

Division 5- SO-Wheeler- No report filed.

Division 6-SO- No SO-CM

Division 7- SO-Farmer –Weekly VHF division net. No report filed. See Williams report.

Division 8 SO-Hale- Observed D11 CC Exercise at Sector Humboldt.

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Division 8: Continues to support Sector Humboldt through members' activities.

Flotilla 08-07, continues to maintain the fuel farm located at Point Arena Lighthouse which is critical to the Helo OPTs. The Flotilla also continues the cleaning the lamp room at Point Cabrillo Lighthouse.

Flotilla 08-08,Working on events for NSBW 2022.

Flotilla 08-11,Is a locating a new facility to hold their monthly meetings.

Flotilla 08-39, The OPTREX at Antlers Resort/Whiskeytown Lake is being worked on at this time. HELO OPS with Sector Humboldt are in the planning stages.

Sector/Air Station Humboldt has informed about the upcoming D11 Command Center Contingency HF Net – 2022 exercise.

End Of Report

Division 10- SO-Rafatti- No report filed.

Division 11- SO-Leinan – Participated in D11CC Exercise, Sector SF. Planning for Pyramid Lake exercise.

Division 12- Rob Torio-

| Item | 2022 Goal | Progress to Date |
|-------|--|---|
| SO-CM | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase Division TCO's by two• Recruit Flotilla 12-01 member to take FSO-CM position | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment effort discussion with FC of Flotilla 12-01 |

Accomplishments this month:

Use of Auxiliary Communications Vehicle (ACV) for static display during the public service and recruiting event at Coast Guard Island on April 22, 2022 per the request of LCDR Ruth Sadowitz, USCG District 11.

Deployment of Auxiliary Communications Vehicle to Station Monterey as part of the major District Wide (North and South) D11CCNET exercise. (see details below)

Performed weekly 24 hour Auxiliary Watch Officer duties in support of Sector San Francisco Communications Center

Report Details:

The ACV was requested to be on display during a large open house event on Coast Guard Island, which was attended by potential USCG candidates, dignitaries, and various other service personnel. The ACV was on display on April 22, 2022, from 0700-1130 hours. LCDR Ruth Sadowitz expressed her sincere gratitude for the participation of the Auxiliary. The ACV team was FC Stephen Busch, 113-12-91, and Bob Torio, FSO-CM, SO-CM, 113-12-01.

After the event, the ACV and team immediately deployed to Station Monterey in preparation for a major communication exercise and test on April 23, 2022. Other Auxiliary communications facilities were deployed to Coast Guard Island (exercise Command Center), Sector San Francisco, Station Lake Tahoe, Sector Humboldt Bay, Station Humboldt Bay, Station Lake Tahoe, along with relay stations in Cascade, Idaho and Upland, CA.

The objective of the exercise was to test the ability to communicate and pass strategic information in the event of a significant seismic and weather events, where normal communication lines between Coast Guard Sectors and Stations on the West Coast are seriously degraded or inoperative. The exercise was closely watched by the "Gold Side", to possibly include AUXCOM in a more active role in their contingency plans.

End of Report

CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES/OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Meet all SO-Cm members.
2. Increase TCO operators. Three new members!
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.

PHOTO GALLERY:

D11CC Exercise, April 23

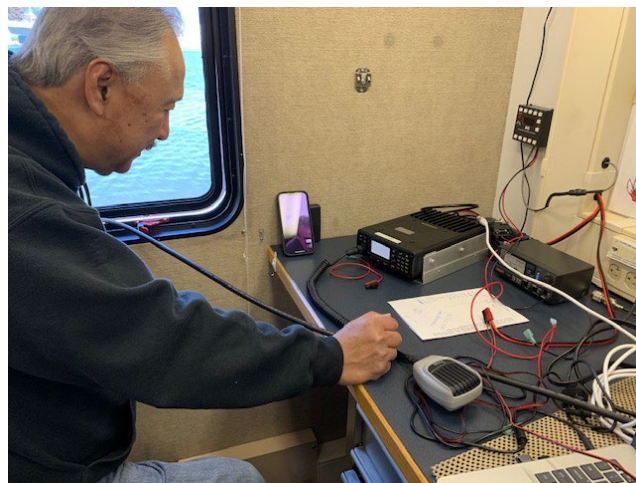
Sector Humbolt Bay-warm day!

COMO Maddox, John Brandenburg, Bill Hale, Larry Stanton



Sta. Monterey

Robert Torio, Stephen Busch



Station Humbolt Bay-Picture not available.

Carol Paz, John Felton

Sector San Francisco

Kevin Sellstrom, Bryce Leinan



D11CC-photo not available

Bill Scholz, Desmond Thorsson, Eric Simmons

