



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

District Eleven North Region DISTRICT STAFF OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

September 3, 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 Up:

1. LCDR Jojola is looking into replacement of Mt. Diablo repeater as we are unable to obtain proper programming software and cable for the out of date unit.
2. Special thank you to 11S team for covering our facility approvals.
3. Excellent AUX response for Sector SF request for assistance led by AWO Cassidy 8-20-22. See Summary in Div 12 report. Thanks to all who responded to the request.

Highlights/ DOWN:

1. Mt Diablo repeater is still down.

Outside Agency Contact: HF contact with SHARES Radio system on behalf of USCG D11 LCDR Jojola. Aux members participate in regularly scheduled nets.

ADSO Reports:

1. D-DSO-CM- Paz, see Div 1 report.
2. ADSO-ARMS-Firehock: No activity. Covering AWO shifts, program working well!

ADSO-ACV Busch- . To my knowledge, the ACV has not been used since the Division 12 Optrex in July. Bob Torio and I met at the ACV on August 17 to check on it and we worked on my signoffs inside. V/R Stephen Busch



3. ADSO-Simmons- No report received.

ADSO-CC Scholz- It has been a fairly quiet month and welcomed after all the activity during the previous 60 days.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Final approval by the Commodore of the formal "After Action Report" of the April 2022 Full Scale Exercise of the D11CCNET. It is available after logging in with your "member zone" password, going to the URL: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=113&category=communications>, then scrolling down to the Additional Communications Information section and clicking on the link that begins: "D11 2022 Exercise ...". This is the first of several changes and additions to the website.

Agreement with the organizers of the PCA Fair has created a situation where there will be two presentations that directly relate to contingency comms. One will address the important role that the AUX plays in maintaining quality of weather and other safety of life at sea radio broadcasts. The second will discuss both some past accomplishments and future plans for the D11 North AUX activities in contingency comms and the roles that you can play in supporting the USCG.

As a follow on to our actions supporting the D11 and PACAREA command center in Alameda ... we are moving on to becoming the interoperability tool for connections via radio between the D11/PACAREA Command Center and the Office of Emergency Services. This project is just getting underway and you will be hearing more of it soon.

NEED MORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

There are two areas where the contingency comms programs in D11N need to step up: One is to bring on board additional operators for our radio facilities. We need to be able to staff them for extended periods of time and deal with the logistics of doing so. Our comms assignments are not just for providing "standing guard" for regattas and OPTREXes, but now include providing 24/7 contingency comms services as well.

The second "NEED" is for more radio facilities, especially HF, but also including VHF, both voice and message handling (what we call "RTX" standing for "radio traffic exchange"). If you have an interest in filling in as an operator or if you would like to provide a seriously capable radio facility, please contact either me or Bill Scholz.

END OF REPORT.

ADSO-Farmer- We have yet to apply power to our very sophisticated HF radio. I plan on getting with COMO Williams and making sure we can power it up and operate it on the requisite frequencies.

We continue to hold the *US, Coast Guard Auxiliary Division Seven Ham net* every Wednesday evening on a set of linked Ham repeaters that allows our members located from Las Vegas to northern Idaho to participate

Bill Rouleau and I will be teaching Technician and General Ham license courses starting in September. Both classes run for 9 continuous weeks from 7 – 9 PM via ZOOM. The Technician course will start on September 12th and the General course will start on September 21st.

ADSO-CM-D7CC Williams- **Communications Trailer**

The trailer completed its first utilization during Division 7's OPTREX conducted 4-6 August 2022 at Jordanelle State Park. The communication platform performed its purpose in an outstanding manner while conducting AUXCOM duties. The trailer was especially useful for the assigned Qualification Examiners and our two OTO's to plan and resolve coordination issues, in a secluded setting.

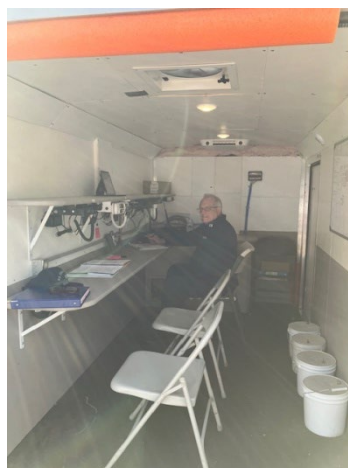
This was the initial deployment of the asset and those who assisted in the setup and utilization were pleased. Several issues that the operators noted have been addressed and a few remain to be resolved.

It was readily apparent that when the asset is to be deployed those TCO qualified members must be proficient in the trailer's setup, preparation for operation, conduct of operations, takedown and preparation for movement to storage area. Additional opportunities should be approved to support community events where the asset may be deployed. Not only will this create an opportunity for TCO Trainees the opportunity to gain experience and become qualified and become familiar with the communications capability of the asset but also contribute to the technical competence, professionalism, teamwork, and increased ability of qualified TCO's to respond to emergency situations, should they develop.

The next phase in preparing the Comms Trailer for use is to focus on not only training of personnel but also bring the HF capability operational status. To accomplish this, we need to recruit current or new members who are familiar with HF operations to become part of the D11NR Communications team. This effort will be a work in progress and a lofty goal. We are fortunate that there are highly qualified District Communication Staff officers who are willing to assist in this major effort.

We are looking forward to accepting more opportunities to deploy this asset and train current and future members.

Michael L. Williams
ADSO-CM-D7CC



Division 1-SO-PAZ_

FSO Reports:

Flotilla 12:No Report received.

Flotilla 14: Report on file.

- Both land mobiles continue participating in the Monday Night Radio Net
- 2 members continue during the AWO for Sector communications

Flotilla 17: No report received.

Flotilla 19: Report on file.

1. Continue to check in on the Monday radio net at 1900 hours, channel 83A. Since the month of January, radio reception has been very poor and many times I cannot hear Net Control. On 01Aug22, I did not check into the Net.
2. No callouts.
3. Terry Blanchard's land mobile facility (Coyote Point Mobile 35) has not cleared the system yet and is still not recertified. There has been email communications with DSO-CM (Eleventh District Southern Region), but I have not been able to work on the issue due to my work and personal schedule. My land mobile facility was due in June, but I want to resolve the AuxData II issue(s) before I request for my inspection.

Projects:

Goals and Objectives:

Flotilla 14: Goal to add one more Radio Communicator

Flotilla 19: Goal to add one more Radio Communicator

Division 3 SO-STANTON

3-1 FSO Foster-No report filed.

3-3- No FSO-CM

3 Highlights

* **John Hardin** on **Sidekick** still accounts for 1/3rd of the Station's 2022 SAR cases. On the 27th, **John** and **Fred Black** rescued a PIW at Pioneer Bridge. This is definitely a life saved. Great job guys.

Activity Details

* CG Station Rio Vista conducted **17 SAR cases** during the last 30 days. The average August SARs over the last 15 years is 26. The most SARs conducted by the Station in one month was 70 in July 2009. The Station conducted **56 Vessel Boardings**. The average August boardings for the last 09 years is 38. The most boardings conducted in one month by the Station was 149 in September 2015.

* Participated in training 02 new Station personnel in Watchstanding duties and AOR.

* **Morgan Curtis, 5-3 VFC**, continues her quest for Watchstanding and Boatcrew duties at the Station. Due to her Texas DHS deployment, she could only be at the Station for one day this month.

* Stood 14 days of **Radio Watchstanding (20B)** at the Station for a total of 98 hours. Actively participated in 02 SAR cases.

Agency Interactions

* Participated as the Auxiliary representative in the Station's monthly **DOIT (Delta Officers Intelligence Team)** meeting on the 3rd. 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.

Current Projects:

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

* Working with **BMC Bennett** to have **Station personnel attend Flotilla meetings**, within Station's AOR, when the Flotillas have enough in person members to make the trip worthwhile.

* working with **Doug MacPherson** on another **Boating Season Kickoff for 2023**. Tentatively scheduled for early spring.

* Planning another **Station Day and BBQ** for early fall to include specific tasks like painting, cabinet repair, and window cleaning in addition to yard work.

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

* Seeking **Auxiliary flotillas** to visit the Station for a tour, BBQ and maybe a RBS 29 ride. A great way to get to know the crew. Call me at 707-529-2152 to set up a date.

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 Stockton 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**.

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 always 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, just call **BM1 Mike Swofford 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.

My Goal and Objective for the Month

* To enjoy what I have and not want more.

-5- FSO-Harrison-

3-10 FSO-Sellstrom- No report filed. Working with LCDR Jojola on replacement repeater.

Division 5- SO-Wheeler- No report filed.

Division 6-SO- No SO-CM

Division 7- SO-Farmer –Weekly VHF division net. See ADSO report.

Division 8: ADSO-Hale-(Sector report) **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,Nothing to report at this time.

Flotilla 08-11,Working on recruiting new member in Crescent City and Eureka areas.

Flotilla 08-39,Scheduling and conducting HELO OPS with Sector Humboldt. Performing safety patrols for moonlight kayak events at Whiskey town Lake.

Sector/Air Station Humboldt continues to conduct and schedule HELO OPS with Flotilla 08-39. Sector is working with the Auxiliary to establish a Flotilla in Eureka.

Division 11- SO-Leinan – No report filed.

Future Activities

- Sector SF sent over a request for AUXFACs for the Tahoe Triathlon on August 27th, looking for two facilities, plus station support. Will provide an AUXCOM as well.

Challenges

- Rebounding post COVID to become a more effective partner with Station.
- Shallow waters at Lake Tahoe present challenges for personnel transiting near shore and into the docks/ramps that remain open.

Goals and Objectives

- Assimilation of new duties as AUC

Division 12- Rob Torio-

> 20 August 2022 – Saturday

> SITREP One and Final

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> 1. Just after 0400 PDT this morning I received a call from PO Archer at Sector San Francisco. He conveyed that, due to a large SAR case overnight, both Stations SF and Golden Gate had exhausted (or nearly) their available crew hours, and so were very short of SAR resources in these two AOR's for the next 10-12 hours. He asked if we could mobilize some boats and crews to possibly fill in.

> I explained that his request was beyond what the AWOs usually do, but given the seriousness of the situation I would attempt to find some assets. (I had been the AWO earlier in the day, but had been relieved by Kevin Sellstrom. However, knowing that he had small children, I did not think that calling him around 0415 was a good idea. I would brief him later about my activities. Apparently there was some breakdown in the protocols at Sector when Kevin assumed the watch.)

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> 2. Called Rob Firehock to discuss options, possible course(s) of action.

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> 3. At approx. 0445, placed call to Larry Stanton, DSO-CM, left a message on his answering machine.

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> 4. At 0450, went to computer to research some item – coxswains, boats, phone numbers, other contacts, etc. In the process, I touched base again with Sector twice, once for more information and once just to update them on our situation.

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> 5. By 0800, I had researched some people and phone numbers, and made calls/left messages to/with:

> -

> - Larry Stanton

> - Jim Losi (925) 699-1638. Servant

> - Sue Fry (510)847-4792

> - Tom Holzman (916) 487-0298 (trailer boat)

> - Wally Smith (msg)

> - Terry Blanchard (650) 454-4483 Silver Charm

> - Paul Verveniotis (650) 454-6469

> - Kevin Sellstrom

> - Peter Shamray (415) 302-9211. Sea Horse

> - Doug Beckstein (FC 12-1) (510) 295-7430

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> 6. Miscellaneous Other Information Acquired

> - Lou Derfus (Vallejo/Vacaville area) (707) 592-9040

> - USCG Liaison Officer to CGAUX: LT. Kenny (Ms.)

> - J. Hardin (916)798-5241 (small trailerable skiff)

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> 7. By 0900, the situation is as follows:

> - Terry Blanchard and crew are on patrol in Central Bay, monitoring an Alcatraz swim event. They will stay in the Bay, probably on standby after their event, until approximately 1300, when Tom Holzman and crew are expected to arrive from Sacramento.

> - Jim Lost is assembling crew for his boat Servant, docked in Alameda, and will make himself available.

> - I still have a call pending with Peter Shamray. It is possible that his boat Sea Horse may also be available.

> - There is a query in to Doug Beckstein about a boat called Glorianna, which may be an available facility.

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> 8. I have briefed the official AWO, Kevin Sellstrom, about this situation, and he is ready to brief his relief.

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> 9. Sector SF has been reminded that we also have Mobile Radio Units available should they be needed.

>

> Respectfully submitted,

> Michael J. Cassidy, USCGAUX, AWO

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.