



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report  
October 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 D11N surface activities for the month of September.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

1. Check Ride Due Dates – Updated
2. OPTREX Calendar
3. ‘QE Corner’

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**DETAILS**

1. ***Updated Information & Statistics:*** Boat crew and coxswains that last qualified in 2017 & 2018 are due for check rides this year (2022). There was some confusion in many Districts around when check rides completed in 2019 would be due. We were informed last year that those check rides would also be due this year which caused some previously discussed major consternation. Clarification of several “ALAUxS” regarding this subject was very recently offered that corrected the due date for check rides completed in 2019 to 2023. This alleviated pressure on many to get those check rides done this year. As of 30 September 2022, the number of members still due for check rides this year stands at 61 not including initial qualifiers. Of the 197 total of crew & coxswains, 44 (or 22%) are in REYR / REWK status and may not be seeking requalification. Please see the “QE Checkride Due Dates Report” as of 30 September posted on the Response / Surface page on the District website. ***If a member will not be seeking requalification, please let me know as soon as possible so that the Report may be kept accurate.***
2. It’s not too early to reserve dates for the 2023 OPTREX season. Upcoming OPTREXs currently listed on the District Calendar are below:

**OPTREX CALENDAR - 2023**

<u>Division</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
6	Santa Cruz	08-09 September



## QE Corner

3. The Qualification Examiner Corner (Q.E. Corner) contains various tips on best practices that will be featured monthly (hopefully). Please send me your best tips / suggestions for an on-the-water evolution and ... maybe ... your write-up will show up here.

### From the OTO:

#### A.3. Effective Communications

Effective communication is essential to the success of the boat crew and their missions. Communications between the coxswain and boat crew members helps to form highly efficient teams, mitigates unnecessary risk, and promotes collaboration between members. A boat crew that works together achieves high productivity, safe and effective boat operations, and, most importantly, a successful mission outcome. Additional communications between the boat crew, Sector Command Center, on-scene coordinators, and other key partners can provide proper coordination and continuous mission progression.

**Boat crews should always communicate their observations and concerns or ask questions to the others on board, and repeat-backs should be used to ensure understanding.**

Everyone on the crew has a role in the decision-making process and must be allowed and encouraged to communicate openly and to provide recommendations regardless of their position, pay grade, or individual tasking.

## Division Reports

### Division 1

From Nancy Marion, SO-OP

#### Highlights

1. Surface Operations-September 2022
2. Fleet Week Preparations-October 2022
3. Air Station SF Support-Schedule Change
4. Fiscal Year Orders Changes

#### Details

1. **Surface Operations-September 2022:**
  - a. COX Peter Shamray on OPFAC SEAHORSE participated in PATON checks.
  - b. COX Terry Blanchard on OPFAC SILVER CHARM conducted the following surface operations in September:



- i. Helo Ops patrols in support of Air Station SF on the 7th and 28th.
- ii. Perimeter control for the Alcatraz swim event on the 24<sup>th</sup>
- iii. A combined PATON mission and served as a static display at a Sierra Point YC open house at the Brisbane Marina on the 25th.

## 2. Fleet Week Preparations: 06-09 October 2022

- a. OPFAC SEAHORSE will be participating in all four days of Fleet Week (Oct 6-9) and September was filed with preparations for that event.
  - b. OPFAC SILVER CHARM will be out for all four days of Fleet Week. COX Terry Blanchard is the Fleet Week Surface Operations POC and has confirmed that seven OPFACs that will be out this year, including Peter Shamray's SEAHORSE and Tommy Holtzman's SHADY LADY as the two tarp boats.
3. **AIR STATION SF SUPPORT-Schedule Change:** After several years on a Wednesday training schedule with an on-scene time of 0915, OPFAC SILVER CHARM'S work with the air station has been switched to Thursdays with an on-scene time of 0900. Changes in the day/time always come at the request of the air station. SILVER CHARM will participate in HELO Training patrols, the last three Thursdays of October.
4. **Fiscal Year Orders Changes:** The transition to the new federal fiscal year means for now, all patrols for the month of October will be under verbal orders. Once the accounting strings are loaded, we will be asked to go into ADII and request orders for the patrols already completed, they will be approved, and then we will go back in as usual and enter our claims. This is a temporary delay due to the change in federal fiscal year and is not expected to be lengthy.

### 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

Preparations are underway for the second annual Sacramento Ironman Race. The race is scheduled for Sunday October 23, 2022. Last year's race, which drew over three thousand competitors, was canceled due to high winds and torrential rains.

The race involves running, biking, and swimming. The swimming competition will be held on the Sacramento and American Rivers. It will require the closure of portions of these rivers from 0600 to 0900. Local fire, police, and sheriffs' agencies as well as the Coast Guard and Auxiliary will assist in the river closures.



4 Auxiliary facilities from Division 3 and 5 will be on duty. We are very much looking forward to this event as it provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen our multi agency response capabilities.

#### **Division 4**

From Paul Verveniotis, SO-OP

Nothing to report. Not much going on here.

#### **Division 5**

From Lew Derfuss, SO-OPSO-OP 5

During the Division 5 OPTREX 29-30 July Station Vallejo moved into the new Station Vallejo. I have sent out multiple emails to those on the list of Requals due this year. Some Requals where completed at Division 5 OPTREX. Others may have or plan on QE check rides at other OPTREX's, if you have or plan on completing check rides please advise me so I can update my list. We will work to set up a mini OPTREX after Fleet Week to help as many as possible to requal.

We also plan on starting training of new members interested in Boat Crew Program with hopes of getting some of them ready for QE check rides along with addition Requals after Fleet Week or next Spring. We are losing several Boat Crew Program Members and are seeking to train replacements. Job Security in OPS Training!!

Anyone interested in Boat Crew Operations or getting patrol time please advise Lew Derfuss SO-OP 5 with your contact information and I will try to find slots on upcoming patrols as space allows. Additionally, Tom Hurley FL 52 has been conducting patrols on Audrey L -so more opportunities. With our Operational Fleet of AUXFAC's Coxswains and Crews we need to work together to maximize opportunities and fill our AUXFAC on as many patrols as possible. Flotilla 53 sometimes have some open opportunities for crew and trainees. Take advantage of these opportunities. The OPTREX will be here before you know it so it is important for trainees to participate in as many patrols as possible when they are offered so you will be successful during QE check rides.

Fleet Week—It is that time again 6-9 October—Crews have been formed and Div 5 will provide 3 of 7 AUXFACs SAR DOG II, KOKUA II, and Great White

We currently are schedule on 23 Oct to support IRONMAN TRIATHLON on Sacramento River in support of Division 3. This is an early morning start time about 0400 and we have been tasked to supply 2 AUXFACs SAR DOG II and KOKUA II so we are looking for crews to support Minimum of 3 desired 5 or more. If you want to be part of this great event contact Lew Derfuss



The "new" AUXFAC SAR DOG II

### **Division 6**

From Mark McLaughlin, SO-OP  
No report submitted

### **Division 7**

From Mike Thompson, SO-OP

### **Highlights**

1. Mini OPTREX September 24th
2. No orders being approved until further notice
3. Clean, Service and Check your PPE
4. Get Facilities Inspected now
5. The District Operations report

### **Details:**

1. Mini OPTREX on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Jordanelle. One coxswain and one crew member will have a qualification session with Como Mike Williams as the QE and Kevin Woodruff as our AuxComm; Z-Boat and Challenger 76 will be the facilities.
2. No order will be approved until further notice due to changing over to new Federal fiscal year which starts October 1<sup>st</sup> (taken from ALAUX 032/22 dated 15 SEP 2022). You will be notified when order can be taken out but for us, most likely after our season is over. All open FY22 orders will be cancelled if not closed out by September 29<sup>th</sup> (ALAUX



028/22). So don't lose your credit and reimbursement for a patrol because you didn't finish your orders.

3. When you are finished surface operation for this season, inspect and do any maintenance on your PPE. Then let your materials officer know what have and that you want it taken out of service. Then next spring you can do the same and bring it back into service.
4. Our boating season is almost done. Those with facilities, take this opportunity to do get your facility inspection done now so there will be no issues in the spring when we are anxious to get on the water. Take pictures of the facility from all four corners. These will need to be attached to the facility request in ADII.
5. Please go out to the District website and read the current District Operations report. It is always full of important information on all things pertaining to operations in our District. [Here](#) is the link to the current and the past reports.

### **Division 8**

From Dave Johnson, SO-OP

Redding F39: The flotilla conducted 3 moonlight kayak support patrols on Whiskeytown Lake at the request of the US Park Service.

### **Division 10**

From Rod Rollins, SO-OP

OPTREX at Millerton, 6 of 7 passed. Two new crew members. Multiple divisions were there. Nothing to add at this time.

### **Division 11**

From Tom Henderson, SO-OP

No report submitted

### **Division 12**

From Jim Losi, SO-OP

No report submitted

**\*\* END OF REPORT \*\*\***

Respectfully submitted,  
COMO Wally Smith, DSO-OP



**SEMPER GUMBY!**

**BONUS MATERIAL BELOW**



MH-65 Dolphin helicopter from AIRSTA SF trains in San Francisco Bay supported by Auxiliary facility SILVER CHARM