



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report
March 2023**

To: COMO Curtis Han, District Commodore
Jim Losi, 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 March 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Patrol Orders Update
- 2. OPTREX Calendar
- 3. Initial qualification information
- 4. Pre-underway Checklist

DETAILS

- 1. Patrol Orders Update from LT Natasha Kenney, Sector SF

Auxiliary Facility Patrol Orders – updated 4/1/23

Patrol Closeout: All patrols MUST be closed out within TWO weeks of patrol completion. If they are not, they will be canceled, and you will not receive reimbursement or hours for that patrol. First violation we will send an email, if it is a reoccurring theme, we will not send emails, we will just cancel. If you request a patrol and do not complete the patrol, you must follow up with an email stating that so we can cancel that patrol.

- All orders that are approved pull money and hold that money until the
- order is closed out. This is impacting all members as our funds are not
- accurate with falsely held funds.

Updates to patrols:

- If you request patrols inside of the 7-day requirement, you must follow up with an email/phone call and receive approval, verbal or in ADII. **DO NOT get underway without approved orders.** If you do, these orders will not be approved. If something happens on a patrol that hasn't been approved, the CG holds no liability, and you will be fully responsible, we will not approve after the fact, especially if an incident happens.



- If you request a patrol and the OIA approves it, and you go back and cancel it, you need to send your OIA an email stating that you canceled. The OIAs do not receive notifications stating that you canceled, and this will save every OIA a lot of time and frustration. If it continues to happen there will be a discussion with leadership for a COA.

GOOD NEWS!

- Patrols have been increased to 4 a month. If you are requesting more than the allowed amount, you must follow up with an email stating your priority list. We will not approve orders until we know your priorities. First time we will send an email reminding you to send us your priorities, if it continues to happen, orders will not be approved until an email is received.
- I am going to state again, if we approve a patrol and you conduct it, you must close out in 2 weeks, or we will cancel it. If you don't complete, you must notify us requesting that we cancel it.
- If we approve a patrol and you cancel it, you must notify us.
- All previous requirements for patrol requests and Sector priorities still remains in place to help us budget successfully for this summer/busy season to get us through to the end of FY23.

Thank you.

2. OPTREX Calendar

Please reserve dates NOW for the 2023 OPTREX season. Upcoming OPTREXs currently listed on the District Calendar are below:

<u>OPTREX CALENDAR - 2023</u>		
<u>Division</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
5	Station Vallejo	02-03 June
7	Jordanelle Reservoir	11-12 August
11	Lake Tahoe	25-26 August
6	Santa Cruz	08-09 September
10	TBD	22-24 September

3. Initial qualification information: Members who started the old PQS process prior to the release of Auxiliary Qualification Handbook (AQHB) Version A have until 31 Dec 2023 to complete and certify under the old PQS. Starting on 31 Jan 2024 they must start the most current PQS in the AQHB.



4. Pre-underway Checklist: A pre-underway checklist is essential for conducting a thorough pre-underway briefing. Below is a sample checklist that covers most items and can be modified to meet your vessel's needs.

PRE-UNDERWAY CHECKLIST			
Date			MMSI # :
	Start of Day Engine Hours:	End of Day Engine Hours	
<u>Assesment of Vessel Capability</u>			
✓	Max Sea / Wind		Fire Extinguishers
✓	Fuel Capacity / Fuel on Board		Sound Producing Device(s)
✓	Maximum Speed		Blanket
✓	Cruising Speed		Spare Navigation Light Bulbs
✓	Fuel Consumption @ Cruising		PFDs & Throwable Device
✓	Fuel Reserve		Dock Lines
✓	Max Distance Offshore		Knife
<u>Crew Briefing</u>			
	Intended Activities		Boat Hook
	Special Circumstances (if any)		Tow lines - stern & side tow
	Expected Weather & Sea Conditions		Tools and Spare Parts
	Assess Physical Cond. Of Crew & Boat		Fenders
	Risk Assessment (GAR 2.0)		Boarding Ladder
	Working Radio Frequency		Anchor and Rode
	Other Frequencies Monitored	<u>Installed Equipment Operational</u>	
	Crew Assignments		Navigation Lights
	Helm		Chartplotter
	Lookouts		Depth Sounder
	Deck "Boss"		VHF-FM Radio
	Radio	<u>Mechanical / Fuel Level Checks</u>	
<u>Equipment</u>			
	Searchlight / Flashlight		Bilge Clean / Pumps Operational
	Binoculars		Batteries
	First Aid Kit		Circuit Breakers
	Visual Distress Signals		Oil Level
			Run blower 4 to 5 minutes
			Test Engine Controls
			Secure All Equipment

Notes:



Division Reports

(Includes some editing for accuracy)

Division 1

From Nancy Marion, SO-OP

Highlights

1. Surface Operations-March
2. Division 1 OPTREX Planning Update

Details

1. Surface Operations:

In March, COX Terry Blanchard on OPFAC SILVER CHARM participated in eight STAN patrols and one Helo Ops patrol in support of USCG Air Station San Francisco.

2. Division 1 OPTREX Planning Update:

Division 1 continues to work with Sector SF to confirm available dates at Station SF for our 2023 OPTREX/OPEX. For the convenience of our members, we will again hold the event over two consecutive Saturdays, as we did last year.

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

Division 04 –

- Patrols begin next week for support of Wednesday evening sailboat races in Redwood City.
- Have pinged all OPS members of Div 04 regarding status and PPE. Two sets of PPE are being turned in this week.
- All new engine instrumentation purchased for installation in SEARCH ENGINE!



Division 5

From Lew Derfuss, SO-OP 5

Glenn Hunter and I are compiling names and making plans for a Division 5 OPTREX for Fri-Sat 2-3 June 2023 out of Station Vallejo, so get as much of your training completed. We also have had our second OPTREX Planning Meeting on 4 Apr via Zoom and are working out plans to meet new training guidelines that include initial and three-year Requalification night certification to be completed by a QE along with regular daytime check ride requirements. Coxswains can self-certify after completing required tasks and can certify crew members after the same to meet new annual requirements. All Coxswains and crew that are currently qualified will be considered night certified until end of 2023.

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.

Division 6

From Mark McLaughlin, SO-OP

No report submitted.

Division 7

From Paul Brown, SO-OP

No report submitted

Division 8

From Dave Johnson, SO-OP

No report submitted

Division 10

From Dock Pierce, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. FLOTILLA MEMBER PPEs
2. SPRING CREW TRAINING
3. CREW/COX'N
4. FACILITIES
5. WORKSHOPS



DETAILS:

1. PPEs BEING INVENTORIED AND INSPECTED, trying to meet end of April deadline
2. ATTENDED BOATING SEASON KICK-OFF RIO VISTA
3. CREW: 6 TRAINEES BEING MENTORED
COX'N: 1 COX'N TRAINEE NEAR COMPLETION, WORKING ON ALL TO BE CURRENT.
4. NEW FACILITY BEING UPGRADED AND USED HEAVILY FOR TRAINING, OTHERS BEING READIED FOR THE SEASON.
5. OPERATION AND COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS WILL BE ATTENDED WHEN PRESENTED.

Division 11

From Bill Stolz, 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 – See below



The SS Palo Alto, a.k.a. the 'Cement Ship' off of Seacliff Beach took a beating in the recent storms. Remnants of the Seacliff Pier are visible off her stern.



09 April 2023 - On patrol on Monterey Bay on OpFac 301219. From left to right, Alan Stanton on Port Watch, Marius Landauer on Comms Watch, COMO Mary Kirkwood at the helm, Ingelise Rowe on Starboard Watch, and 'Semper Gumby' on Dashboard Watch!