



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report
April 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 (and much more) for the month of April 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. OPTREX Calendar
- 2. Initial qualification information
- 3. Major additions to the District Operations Web Page
- 4. Updated “Mission Activity Codes and Descriptions”
- 5. New Addition: Rescue & Survival Systems (RSSO) Report
- 6. BONUS MATERIAL – Auxiliarist Bard Mansager earns “Cutterman”

DETAILS

1. OPTREX Calendar

Please reserve dates NOW for the 2023 OPTREX season. Upcoming OPTREXs currently listed on the District Calendar are below. Please keep in mind that “Mini-OPTREXs” are ‘on-the-table’ if and when warranted and practical.

OPTREX CALENDAR - 2023

<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

- 2. 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, the current PQS in the AQHB must be used.
- 3. Additions to the District 11N Operations Web Page: With all the recent “upgrades” to the qualification and requirements processes for coxswains, crew, and PWC operators, there has been a great deal of information added to the Operations Training website. It is now a “one-stop shop” for information & forms. To access the site, go to the D11N Home Page /



DIRAUX / Operations Training. Click on the subject topic and you will be linked to the document(s).

Information, additions & revisions include:

- OTO Chronicles
 - 1st Quarter 2023

- OTO User Guides
 - How to Request Patrol Orders in AUXDATA II Nov 2022
 - How to Complete Claims & Patrol Activity Logs in AUXDATA II Nov 2021
 - GAR 2.0
 - PEACE
 - PEACE Model
 - Line Handling Commands

- QE Resources
 - Pre QE Requirements 2023 Rev.B
 - QE Request Form Appendix F ATH 16974 series
 - ALAUX 003 23 Promulgation of Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification and Training Handbooks

- QE BCM Checklist
 - BCM Underway Check Ride BCM 08 04
 - Dockside Oral BCM 08 03
 - Dockside Reference
 - MOB Pointer Day and Night BCM 07 01 and 02
 - Navigation Piloting Day and Night BCM 02 02
 - Physical Fitness Eye Exam BCM 02 02

- QE Coxswain Checklist
 - Basic Engineering Casualty Control Exercise BECCE COXN 07 03
 - Burning Boat to Transfer Personnel COXN 07 02
 - COXN Dockside COXN 09 05
 - COXN Dockside References
 - COXN Underway Checkride COXN 09 06
 - MOB Direct Pickup COXN 07 01

- Boat Crew Operations Reading Assignment Resources
 - Auxiliary Training Handbook Boat Crew ATH 16794-51B
 - Auxiliary Qualification Handbook Boat Crewmember, Coxswain, PWC Operator ABQH 6115.52A
 - Boat Crew Handbook: Boat Operations BCH16114.1 December 2017
 - Boat Crew Handbook: Rescue and Survival Handbook: BCH 16114.2 December 2017
 - Boat Crew Handbook: Navigation and Piloting BCH 16114.3A August 2021
 - Boat Crew Handbook: Seamanship Fundamentals BCH 16114.4 December 2017



- Boat Crew Handbook: First Aid BCH16114.5 December 2017
- CG Navigation Standards Manual COMDTINST 3530.2E
- CG Boat Operations and Training Manual Vol.1 COMDTINST M16114.32E January 2020

4. Mission Activity Codes and Descriptions - There has been some apparent confusion as to which Mission Activity Code to use when entering operational and/or operational training hours in AUXDATA II. In **December 2022**, an updated Mission Activity Code list was posted on the National Website that included expanded and added codes. The new list can be found by going to the National Website / "Aux Members" / "Forms Warehouse" / "PDF Forms" / "7030 - Mission Codes and Descriptions".

The most often used surface operations codes are as follows:

- 01A – MARITIME OBSERVATION (MOM)
- 01B – TRAILERING
- 01C – PADDLECRAFT
- 01D – OPERATIONAL STANDBY

For a full description of the use of each code, refer to the "7030 – Mission Codes and Descriptions".

Three of the operational mission codes have sometimes been misused. A full description of each follows:

22A OPERATIONS TRAINING (QUALIFICATIONS) (A, B) – Hours spent underway on training missions involving surface/air operations, by coxswains, pilots, and crew, who are not IT qualified, which are not otherwise reportable as a Safety Patrol, CG Operational Support, or Member Training mission. (Ref. 01A, 06A, 06B, or CG Operational Support)

- Note – All 22A hours count towards the initial/currency maintenance requirement for underway hours, however per ALAUX 031/22 only up to 15 training hours for on-the-water surface operations and up to 8 training hours of airborne aviation operations while assigned to duty, count towards the Annual Operations Service Award "O" device.

22B OPERATIONS TRAINING (A, B, R, U) – Hours spent NOT underway on surface/air operations training by coxswains, pilots and crew, who are not IT qualified, which are not otherwise reportable under Member Training. Also for use by Land Mobile Operator or a Unit Mission.

06A OPERATIONAL TRAINING – Hours spent as a qualified instructor for any Operational Member Training activity including boat crew mentoring and presenting the Operations/Air Workshop.



As noted above, the updated “Auxiliary Mission Activity Codes and Descriptions” has been updated and expanded. The list of codes includes one or more codes ... sometimes many ... for each of the following Mission groups:

- AUXILIARY ADMINISTRATIVE/RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS), PREP AND TRAVEL - 99 codes
- AUXILIARY MARITIME PATROLS
- CG ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
- CG OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
- GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
- HEALTH SERVICES
- ICE RECON
- INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
- LEGAL SERVICES
- LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH
- MARINE SAFETY AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
- MEMBER TRAINING INSTRUCTOR
- NAVIGATION SYSTEMS
- PE INCLUDING STATE/YOUTH
- PUBLIC RELATIONS MISSIONS (PUBLIC AFFAIRS, HISTORIAN AND AUX MUSICIAN)
- RBS PROGRAM VISITS
- RECRUITING ASSISTANCE
- SEARCH AND RESCUE
- VESSEL EXAMINATIONS

Refer to the “7030 - Mission Codes and Descriptions” for questions regarding which code to use for surface operations and training thereof. Should questions persist, please refer to your IS Officer.

5.

Rescue & Survival Systems (RSSO) Report

From: Michael Brown, Rescue & Survival Systems Officer

Members returning unused Boat Crew gear and kits (kits=complete gear bags) has become a steady stream over the last month. That’s the good news. The only problem so far is that in several cases, the gear is returned in very dirty or otherwise poor condition. Occasionally, some wearables are unusable given their condition and have been necessarily destroyed. We have



had several kits returned in unused condition as well. Several kits have been turned in with various items and paperwork missing.

Due to budgetary shortfalls, PLBs are frequently not in inventory. Members should check the battery expiration date, as this can be before the unit expiration date. Members are requested to give the RSSO a four to six-month “heads up” on when the battery expires to facilitate a timely replacement. In the past, D11S’s RSSO (William Shakespeare) has been able to loan us some of their PLB inventory, but this should not be counted on, as they also have a limited supply.

As of 09 MAY, our current inventory of PLBs is 13 units. Our OTO, BOSN2 Perez is researching a new system to register and account for PLBs. John Fortner (1-4) is tasked with entering all PPE in AD2. All members will have their equipment entered, and the flotilla still needs to inspect gear and maintain individual maintenance records.

The PPE ordering page is scheduled to go operational by mid-June. It will be linked to the District main web page for FCs, MAs, and/or OPs to access to request boat crew or helo ops gear. Dan Glenn (5-2) has agreed to join the RSSO team and has already done a shift in training with me.

Over the last several years, I issued several LED light bars to several facility owners. Recently, Paul Verveniotis discovered that this light bar type is not waterproof—there are no seals in place at any seam and even gaps where water can get into the unit from heavy spray or when washing with a hose. He has a solution involving silicon caulking that should prevent any shorting-out issues. If you have one of these light bars, please contact Paul ASAP for advisement.

Division Reports

(Includes some editing for accuracy)

Division 1

From Nancy Marion, SO-OP

Highlights

1. Surface Operations-APRIL
2. Division 1 OPEX Planning and Annual TASK Completion



Details

1. Surface Operations:

In April, COX Terry Blanchard on OPFAC SILVER CHARM participated in two Helo Ops patrols in support of USCG Air Station San Francisco on April 6th and 13th. Additionally, COX Peter Shamray on OPFAC SEAHORSE participated in Opening Day on the Bay events on April 30th.

2. Division 1 OPEX Planning and Annual TASK Completion

- OPEX Planning: Division 1 continues to work with Sector SF to confirm available dates at Station SF for our 2023 OPEX. For the convenience of our members, we will hold the event over two or more weekend days.
- Annual TASK Completion: The TASK TRACKER form and directions to the updated study materials are being distributed to our Surface Operations members. Division OPs Staff is working with our Coxswains and FSO-OPs to determine the best path for completion of the new annual surface operations TASKS. At this writing, we anticipate setting up at least one classroom refresher event covering several of these components, prior to our members undertaking the on-the-water component check. As with the COVID Shutdown, this new annual training requirement will take some flexibility and thinking outside the box to assure all Operational members are able to complete the tasks by year's end.

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 5

Glenn Hunter and I are finishing compiling names for QE Request and making plans for a Division 5 OPTREX for Fri-Sat 2-3 June 2023 out of Station Vallejo. We are also planning a Division 5 BBQ with Station Vallejo on Sat 3 June.



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 51 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 as we are limited to 4 patrols a month at this time

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 on-the-water operations; Facility Eagle One received a full service, oil and filters, new canvas top, and new batteries. Other non-operational activities included an inventory of CG-issued PPE at Lowell Fletcher's house early in the month.

Division 10

From Doc 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, Completed and submitted
2. ATTENDED BOATING SEASON KICK-OFF RIO VISTA, planning to participate SAREX 18 July.
3. CREW: 6 TRAINEES BEING MENTORED. Under Way Patrols requested 20 May and Memorial Day weekend.
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

Highlights

1. PPE info
2. Lake Tahoe conditions
3. Qualification and Maintenance changes for 2023
4. OPS Workshop
5. OPTREX schedule

DETAILS

1. All operations personnel should perform an inspection of their issued PPE prior to our boating season. Pay special attention to the PLB and check to see the expiration date. If the battery is close to expiring or your unit fails a test it should be replaced as soon as possible.

The OTO has requested that members that have issued PPE and don't plan on being active this season or plan on dropping their quals to please return their PPE so that it can be re-issued.

2. The good news is we have plenty of water this year. The downside is the water temperature today is 44 degrees. That still puts it in Dry Suit conditions. It does look like with the warming trend, even with the water under 50 degrees, the air temperature will be well above 50 degrees and that puts us into Mustangs
3. There are a number of changes that include annual check rides for coxswain, crew and PWC Operators that will be done during scheduled patrols. This doesn't change the 3-year check ride done by a QE. There is also a nighttime element for those members that want to qualify to patrol at night. To see the new sign-off sheets GOTO: Forms Warehouse Home Page. GOTO: Boat Force Forms. Look at: Enclosure 4 and 5. We will discuss this more during the OPS Workshop in a couple weeks.
4. I will be holding an OPS Workshop via ZOOM on May 10, 1900 hours. Log-in information will come out the first week of May.
5. I would encourage any member that is ready for their 3-year check ride to take advantage of any OPTREX in our district.



AGENCY INTERACTIONS

None

UPCOMING EVENTS, DATES AND LOCATIONS

Trans Tahoe Swim, July 15. The AUX has not yet been requested

Operation GOALS

1. Provide support to the station when requested.
2. Assist surface operation members in maintaining and/or regaining out of date certifications.
3. Encourage members to get involved in surface operations.
4. Keep the Division up to date on all special events.

Division 12

From Jim Losi, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS

- DIV12 Surface Operational OPFACS & STATUS
 - (1) Div 12 OPFACS are:
 - (a) AQUAMARINE
 - (b) SERVANT
 - (c) ODYSSEY
 - (2) Div 12 April Patrols
 - (a) OPFAC ODYSSEY
 - (i) OPFAC ODYSSEY had a patrol in the Oakland Estuary on 23 April as part of the Alameda regatta.
 - (b) OPFAC SERVANT
 - (i) 1 April patrol was a MOM patrol that ended in a SAR case off the northern shoreline of CGI. Sailboat CHUBBY ran aground. Both the owner and the crew member sent Adam Kovalevsky thank you note for the crew's effort in making sure CHUBBY occupants were safe.
 - (3) Coxswains in Div 12 are as follows:
 - (a) Greg Gleeson, 113-12-91
 - (b) Greg Olsen, 113-12-91
 - (c) Virginia Luchetti, 112-12-91
 - Continued ongoing discussions for the possibility of procuring an obsolesced USCG small boat to serve as a roving OPFAC for District 11NR coxswains who don't have an OPFAC to use regularly.
- 2) 2023 Goals and Objectives
- a) Terry Blanchard and I have discussed and started planning regularly scheduled two-boat training. We would like to have at least one patrol per month where training takes place.



- b) We would like 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
 8. Joint training with the small boats attached to the PACAREA Cutter Forces group.

Projects

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

Future Activities

- Running maintenance on OPFAC SERVANT

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!

6. BONUS MATERIAL – See below



17 April 2023 – Auxiliarist Bard Mansager, Flotilla 64, is awarded the well-earned “Cutterman” Certificate and Insignia aboard the CGC Hawksbill in Monterey, California. **BZ Bard!**



From left to right: LT Matt Peryea, C.O. CG Station Monterey, Auxiliarist Bard Manager, CWO2 ‘BOSN’ Thomas Perez. All three have proudly earned the Cutterman designation.



The crew of the Hawksbill along with several Cutterman who attended the ceremony. Mansager is the tall guy in the middle of the second row.



The Cutterman Certificate and a photo of the Hawksbill signed by the crew members. Partially pictured at the top (l. to r.) are D11N OTO Mr. Perez, Auxiliarist Cutterman Gary Kaplan, Auxiliarist Cutterman Bard Mansager, and Mrs. Mansager's left arm holding the Award Folder.