



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report
August 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 July 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. OPTREX Calendar
2. Initial qualification information
3. Two messages from AUXLO ENS Rachel Jankelow
4. Message from COMO Michelle Thornton, Division Chief - Surface Operations (DVC-RS)
5. “Eyes On Drowning 101” presentation
6. BONUS MATERIAL – Why we do what we do!

DETAILS

1. OPTREX Calendar

The OPTREX season is winding down. If anyone in the surface operations program is due for a check ride, now is the time to reserve a spot in an upcoming OPTREX. 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>
7	Jordanelle Reservoir	11-12 August
11	Lake Tahoe	25-26 August
6	Santa Cruz	08-09 September
10	Lake Don Pedro	22-24 September

2. Initial qualification information: Per ALAUX 003/23, Auxiliary members that have started the qualification process prior to the release of this ALAUX, as either a crewmember, coxswain, or PWC operator, are authorized to transfer applicable “TASKS” from the prior Qualification Handbook and continue the qualification process using the new Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification Handbook, ABQH 16794.52B.
3. Message from AUXLO ENS Rachel Jankelow received 24 July:
 I wanted to send a reminder about AUXDATAII Patrol Order Closeout. All orders for FY23 need to be “Approved” and/or “Completed” by 8 September. This is to ensure the last of the budget is finalized for FY23, before the budget for FY24 can begin. Since all patrols are due by 8 September, **please** begin arranging patrols for Labor Day Weekend soon.



Similarly, I have received orders that as of now, I **will not** approve patrol orders after 1 October until the FY24 Budget is set up. I understand that Fleet Week 2023 is after 1 October and the Active Duty will graciously need the Auxiliary's help. That being said, we will have paper orders set up for Fleet Week, then I will approve electronic orders on the back end. I appreciate your flexibility with this contingency plan. Unfortunately, the Coast Guard budget and the Navy's Fleet Week just don't coincide...

Message from AUXLO ENS Rachel Jankelow received 11 August:

I appreciate everyone's well wishes while I was on leave. It was just the break I needed and great to spend time with my parents in my home state!

Well, it's back to the weekly messages. I have a few more things to pass:

First, I want to send a few friendly reminders about AUXDATAII. I have been noticing that I'm receiving more and more emails asking for orders submitted weeks ago that I simply am not seeing in my "requested" queue. Before you "request" orders, please check under "status" to see that "New" is change to "Requested." If that "status" is "new," I will never see those orders. Also, please keep the schedule of completing orders no later than a week after you complete your mission. Part of what keeps the budget flowing is the timely completion and submission of orders.

Secondly, about the budget... I called the district budget officer and got some answers about our budget. When the Coast Guard did their "sweeps" of the budget, Auxiliary and energy (i.e., fuel) accounts were not included. Those accounts were left alone because District understands how important energy is for missions. What does this mean? We will have money in the pot for September! However, on that note, please submit your Labor Day patrol orders by **1 September**. I want to get an idea of how many patrols we will be approving. Remember, we do not get a new budget until FY24, which starts **1 October**. **So no patrol orders can be "requested" after that date and all "approved" orders need to be "completed" by that date.**

Thirdly, I want to send an unofficial request for Fleet Week assets. I want to get a rough number now to brief to future Fleet Week meetings coming soon. Please email Terry Blanchard if you are thinking of volunteering for Fleet Week. This will help keep us organized as we collect assets.

Fourth, I wanted to give a shout out to our Auxiliarists in Division 7. The weekend of 6 August, the 19th Special Forces Group, Utah Army National Guard called our Auxiliary last minute to support a High-Altitude Low Opening (HALO) parachute drop of approximately 120 Soldiers. Our Auxiliarists served as communications, operational surface facilities, and an unofficial public affairs center for spectators. As a former Soldier and now AUXLO, I want to thank Division 7 and everyone in our Auxiliary for the support they provide that keeps missions like this safe and successful. Thank you for your support and flexibility!



Lastly, I approved all orders for the rest of August because I will be at N-TRAIN/OIA School all next week. I will not have email capabilities, so I appreciate your flexibility if I do not reply for a week. This class should assist me, as well as our newest AUXLO, to better assist the Active Duty and the Auxiliary. Everyone have a great week and I will send another weekly email when I return from class!



Very Respectfully,
ENS Rachel E. Jankelow

4. Please do not enter patrol orders into AUXDATA II with patrol dates on or after Oct 1, 2023. The system is not configured for the new fiscal year. Once the system is configured a message will be sent to all advising entry is OK.

COMO Michelle Thornton
Division Chief - Surface Operations (DVC-RS)

5. There is an excellent PowerPoint presentation titled EYES ON DROWNING 101 posted on the Surface Operations web page. Drowning is not necessarily what it is portrayed to look like in the movies ... it is often much more subtle. Please review this presentation ... it also would make an excellent and reasonably concise offering at a training event or flotilla meeting.
6. BONUS MATERIAL – at the end of the Report

Division Reports
(Includes some editing for accuracy)

Division 1

From Nancy Marion, SO-OP

Highlights

1. Surface Operations-JULY 2023
2. OPEX at Station San Francisco, 29 July 2023: After Action Report & Photos

Details

1. Surface Operations:
In July COX Terry Blanchard on OPFAC SILVER CHARM participated in the five patrols:
 - July 11th - PATON Patrol with Pete Gorenberg as Coxswain of Record.



- July 13th, 20th, and 27th – Three HELO OPs patrols
- July 29th - Division 1 OPEX at STA SF on YBI. Pete Gorenberg as Coxswain of Record.

2. OPEX at STA SF - 29 July 2023: After Action Report & Photos:
On Saturday July 29th, Division 01 held its Annual OPEX at Station San Francisco (STA SF) on Yerba Buena Island. In preparation for the event, we met with BM1 Andrew Winn, who was our STA SF event liaison. The meeting included our AUC-STA SF, Alex Bennett, and the SO-OP, and was focused on confirming the event details and review of the Station docks, which sustained significant storm damage over the past winter. The meeting concluded with confirmation of the docking locations, limiting us to a maximum of three OPFACs, and participation by Active-Duty boats in our planned towing evolutions.

We were fortunate to have OPFAC participants from three different Divisions supporting this event:

- OPFAC SILVER CHARM, COX Terry Blanchard (113-01)
- OPFAC SERVANT, COX Jim Losi (113-12)
- OPFAC “76”, COX Bruce Martin (113-11)

In total we had 24 members participate, including four Coxswains, eight crew members (including three mentors), six crew trainees, three TCO's, two TCO trainees, and the event coordinator. Our Mentors, who provided guidance in refreshing skills and highlighting the new TASK protocols, rotated between OPFACs SILVER CHARM & 76 throughout the day. OPFAC SERVANT was fortunate to have a Coxswain who is also a QE for added guidance. A big thank you goes to our Mentors, VNACO Mary Kirkwood (01-04), Cassie Mani (01-02), FC Arne Gelb (01-09) and COX/QE Jim Losi for providing excellent guidance to our crew members and trainees throughout the day. Feedback following the event reflected appreciation for the calm, constructive and clear guidance the Mentors provided during the training evolutions.

Our SO-CM/TCO Carol Paz (01-04) organized radio communications for the event, supported by TCO's Kevin Luke (01-04) and Alfonso Faustino (01-02). AUXCOM was set up adjacent to the Station Quad, which, in addition to providing OPFAC radio communications monitoring and check-ins, also provided TCO training for two TCO Candidates.

Our OPFACs all arrived on time at 0930 with an event briefing including COMs protocols, crew assignments and the event schedule for the day following shortly after arrival. With ongoing challenges organizing two boat patrols, the primary focus of the event was to practice and secure signoffs for the new Annual TASK Training evolutions. By 1030 our COXs and Crews were on their assigned OPFACs to begin their crew briefings and get underway.



During the morning evolutions our OPFACs worked with the Active-Duty crew of RIB #29144, completing towing practice and signoffs. BZ to our Active-Duty crew for participating in this event.

The event was structured to assure we were able to enjoy some good fellowship during lunch and we were fortunate that the weather had cleared to a sunny warm day just in time for the midday break.

The afternoon session began at 1400 and was filled with other TASK training including MOB, anchoring, helmsmanship, navigation, and the other Annual TASK Training components.

A hearty Bravo Zulu goes to all our Coxswains, crews, mentors, support staff and our Active-Duty support. Event planning began in February of this year and was delayed primarily due to the dock damage at STA SF. Despite this our former AUXLO LT Natasha Kenney continued to push the event up the COC, and we were fortunate to eventually have BMI Andrew Winn assigned as our STA SF Event Liaison. This event would not have been possible without this collective effort. Thank you all!

SEE ATTACHED EVENT PHOTOS.



Div-113-01 OPEX 7-29-23 STA SF Dock: From Left - OPFACs SILVER CHARM, SERVANT AND "76"



Div-113-01 OPEX 7-29-23 STA SF: OPFAC "76" - From LF: Chris Armbrust (01-04), Crew Mentor, Cassie Mani (01-02), Catherine Cornejo and Jose Rossi (01-04) and COX Bruce Martin (11-01)



Div-113-01 OPEX 7-29-23 STA SF: OPFAC SILVER CHARM – Adrienne Kuehneman (12-01), Nancy Peterson, COMO Dale Fajardo, FC & Crew Mentor, Arne Gelb (All 01-09)



Div-113-01 OPEX 7-29-23 STA SF: OPFAC SILVER CHARM from LF - COX Terry Blanchard (01-09) & COX of Record Pete Gorenberg (01-02)



Div-113-01 OPEX 7-29-23 STA SF: AUXCOM Team & Trainees: From Left – TCO Kevin Luke (01-04), TCO Trainees John Foley (01-02) & Jason Sloan (01-04) and DDCO-CM/SO-CM Carol Paz.



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
SO-OP 5

So we were challenged with 3 of 6 Div 5 AUXFAC's going out of service for maintenance issues leaving AUXFAC Audrey L left to support Delta Operations including Helo OPS 2 AUXFAC's out of FL 55 supporting Sta Bodega Bay operations. Hoping for all AUXFAC's to be back in service by mid Aug. 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.





Night Helo OPS with Station Vallejo - 6/22

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 Doc Pierce, SO-OP

FLOTILLA REPORTS:

1. MODESTO: SPRING CREW TRAINING AND PATROLS, MANDEVILLE AND DON PEDRO FIRE WORKS PATROL. WORKSHOPS, YEARLY STANDARD REQUIREMENTS.
2. FRESNO AND VISALIA: PATROLS LAKE MILLERTON ASSISTING SHERIFF AND PARK RANGERS, WORKSHOPS AND YEARLY STANDARD REQUIREMENTS.
3. STOCKTON: NOTHING REPORTED
4. CREW/COX'N: TRAINEES ARE BEING INCLUDED WITH ALL OPERATION ACTIVITIES. NEW STANDARD REQUIREMENTS ARE BEING USED TO READY EVERYONE FOR QUALITY AND CERTIFICATIONS.

FACILITIES: 3 FACILITIES FOR THE DIVISION ARE AVAILABLE, BEING KEEP READY

DETAILS:

1. SAREX 18 JULY canceled, no AUX Facilities available to participate. Future Date being Planned



2. CREW: 6 TRAINEES BEING MENTORED. COX'N: 1 COX'N TRAINEE NEAR COMPLETION, WORKING ON ALL TO BE CURRENT.
3. VARIIFYING QE CANDIDATES FOR DIVISION 10 OPTREX 23 SEPT.

Division 11

From Bill Stolz, SO-OP
No report submitted

Division 12

From Jim Losi, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS

- **DIV12 Surface Operational OPFACS & STATUS**

(1) Div 12 OPFACS* are:

(a) SERVANT

(b) ODYSSEY

(i) Virginia Luchetti has withdrawn from the boat crew program and will not recertify as a coxswain once her current rating expires. Additionally, she will not be offering her OPFAC for use. Lastly, Mark Evans has decided to withdraw from the Auxiliary along with the offer to use his OPFAC.

(c) OPFAC SERVANT has conducted eight patrols during the month of July.

(2) Coxswains in Div 12 are as follows:

(a) Greg Gleeson, 113-12-91

(b) Greg Olsen, 113-12-91

(c) Jim Losi, 112-12-91

(d) Morgan Swiggett, Coxswain in Training

The following is a list of the current trainees working towards their qualifications aboard SERVANT:

Tiffany Townsend, Coxswain In Training

Morgan Swiggett, Coxswain In Training

Jeff Grave, Boat Crew Trainee

Jean-Pierre Carjuzza, Boat Crew Trainee

Robert Torio, Boat Crew Trainee

Sangkhom Sayphrarath, Boat Crew Trainee

Robert Boboc, Boat Crew Trainee

Ben Harrison, Boat Crew Trainee

Adrienne Kuehneman, Boat Crew Trainee



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!





BONUS MATERIAL

Why we do what we do!

At approximately 1500, SERVANT received a distress call on channel 16 from a windsurfer in distress at approximately half a mile East of the Golden Gate Bridge even with the center span. At the direction of the order issuing authority, STATION GOLDEN GATE, SERVANT proceeded at the fastest possible speed maintaining safety for the conditions.

At approximately 1503, channel 16 traffic from Blue & Gold Fleet's tour boat GOLDEN BEAR had the windsurfer in sight. SERVANT arrived approximately 5 minutes later to recover the windsurfer. The windsurfer and his board were brought on board. The windsurfer had suffered equipment failure and lost his wing in the wind and thus had no propulsion to return to shore. He was in good physical condition with no injuries or evident hypothermia. The windsurfer was transported to Saint Francis Yacht Club at 1514 for disembarkation.



This SAR case with subsequent kite surfer saved represents the 10th successful SAR case with a person saved.

