



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

HIGHLIGHTS

1. OPTREX Calendar
2. Initial qualification information
3. Message from AUXLO ENS Rachel Jankelow
4. “Night Certification” QE Check-Rides
5. Qualification Check Ride Due Dates
6. BONUS MATERIAL – A boarding with a surprise

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.

It is not too early to schedule your 2024 OPTREX – get the dates on the District Calendar!

OPTREX CALENDAR - 2023

<u>Division</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
10	Lake Don Pedro	22-24 September
11	Lake Tahoe	29-30 September

OPTREX CALENDAR - 2024

<u>Division</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
6	Santa Cruz	06-08 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 forwarded to all SO-OPs & Coxswains on 08 September:

This is an important update from Sector SF regarding patrols for the balance of September.

1. Patrol orders that are already in "Approved" status in ADII will be reimbursed.
2. No patrol order "Requests" will be approved after 08 September unless the request is for the Active Shooter Drill on the 18th, the Alcatraz Invitational Marine Event on the 23rd, or AIROPS, or another specific Active-Duty request.
3. Orders must be "Completed" in ADII immediately upon completion of the patrol.
4. Approved patrols that are completed after 25 September may have to wait for reimbursement for some time depending on funding becoming available at FINCEN following government approval of a Continuing Resolution or 2024 Budget.

Our AUXLO, ENS Rachel Jankelow, apologizes for the short notice for moving the timeline up. She wants to ensure all the patrol orders are taken care of before the budget is swept.

4. "Night Certification" QE Check-Rides (repeated from August DSO-OP Report)

Per the following excerpt from the **Auxiliary Qualification Handbook (AQH)** for Crew:

- *For candidates wanting to be "Night Certified" Performance Criteria #7, #8, and #15 must be part of the check-ride conducted at night. (Reference 1)*
- From the **Auxiliary Qualification Handbook (AQH)** for Coxswain:
For candidates wanting to be "Night Certified" Performance Criteria #7 and #15 must be part of the check-ride conducted at night (Reference 2)

Thus "Night Certified" is an option on an initial check ride depending on whether or not the candidate wants to be night certified.

Regarding "Recertification", in checking the **Auxiliary Training Handbook (ATH)**, there is no requirement for a night check-ride for recertification on a third-year QE check-ride (Reference 3). If the recertification candidate has completed the prior year's Annual Task Tracker (Reference 4) with the optional night exercises signed off, that would certify them for night certification upon successful completion of a "day" check-ride. If the Annual Task Tracker sign-offs did not include the night exercises, then the candidate would be recertified for "day" operations only.

Important: It is necessary for OPTREX organizers to be notified well in advance if an initial qualification candidate(s) "wants" to be night certified so proper arrangements may be made by the QE(s).

References:

- (1) AQH - Underway Check Ride Pages 2-85 & 86
- (2) AQH - Underway Check Ride Pages 3-74 & 75



- (3) ATH - Underway Currency Maintenance / Recertification Check Ride Enclosure 1 (Crew Member) & Enclosure 2 (Coxswain)
- (4) ATH - Annual Currency Maintenance Task Tracker, Crewmember (Enclosure 3) and Coxswain (Enclosure 4)

Additionally, a current PPE annual certification will be required for all candidates and it must be entered in ADII.

5. An updated CHECK RIDES DUE DATES Report is posted on the District webpage ... go to "Response", then "Surface Operations". Currently due for requalifying are 13 members in 2023 (8 are in REYR/REWK status), 59 members due in 2024, 61 members due in 2025, and 7 members due in 2026 (requalified this year) for a total of 141 members. Please keep in mind that certification expires at the end of the year and not on the anniversary date of the last qualification/requalification check ride.
6. BONUS MATERIAL – at the end of the Report

Division Reports

(Includes some editing for accuracy & brevity)

Division 1

From Nancy Marion, SO-OP

Highlights

1. Surface Operations-AUGUST 2023
2. Crew Academy Planning

Details

1. **Surface Operations-AUGUST 2023:** COX Terry Blanchard on OPFAC SILVER CHARM had the following patrols in August:
 - August 05: PATON Patrol
 - August 10: Helo Ops
 - August 12: TASK Training, Night Ops & PATON checks
 - August 19: TASK Training & Night Ops
 - August 24: Helo Ops
 - August 26: Alcatraz Shark Swim-Perimeter patrol & Towing practice with OPFAC SERVANT.
2. **Crew Academy Planning:** An updated Crew Academy to include the changes reflected in the new Auxiliary Boat Crew Qualification Handbook is currently in the planning



stages. The updated series of classes will be offered to our new trainees and as a refresher for our currently qualified Crew Members who may wish to “brush up” on the new Crew Protocols before re-qualifying in 2024. Additional details and a schedule will be forwarded to our Division Crew Trainees and Qualified Crew Members as they become available.

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

We continue our training program to get 8 new members boat crew qualified and 1 member coxswain qualified. Most will be ready this spring for their QE. However, there is a possibility a few might be ready this fall. We monitor their progress and advise.

A Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) was conducted in the West Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. Both air and surface facilities participated in the search and recovery of numerous decoys staged around Franks Tract. During the SAREX, multiple assets honed skills working together as a coordinated force to accomplish the mission.

Division 4

From Paul Verveniotis, SO-OP

- Minimal activity going on in this Division.
- Facility MAVERICK has been sold to a North Bay Auxiliarist. Looking forward to seeing her out on the water again.
- Facility SEARCH ENGINE is in the process of changing to a documented vessel (and a name change). An updated ANSC-7003 will be submitted when COD is received from NVDC.

Division 5

From Lew Derfuss, SO-OP 5

Things looking up as AUXFAC maintenance issue have been corrected with 5 soon to be in service. Night Helo OPS has been a great success with support of all Division 5 crews 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.



Division 5 - Helo arrives at Sunset

Division 6

From Mark McLaughlin, SO-OP

There were three patrols out of Santa Cruz in August. The DOLPHIN DREAMS is scheduled to conduct “helo ops” out of Moss Landing twice a month, however, weather precluded the first opportunity and a couple of SAR cases out of AirSTA SF in the wee hours of the morning left the crews too tired for additional flight time for the next training opportunity so that was a ‘no go’ as well.

Division 7

From Paul Brown, SO-OP

6 Aug

Perimeter safety zone maintenance for Utah National Guard Special Forces air jumps (high altitude, medium altitude, & w/o parachute) into Deer Creek Reservoir.

11 & 12 August

OPTREX at Jordanelle Reservoir, including night ops and one SAR (tow of disabled vessel) (PO-275767). OTO Perez, Curtis Han & James Losi in attendance

Other SAR, per ADII:

- 5 Aug 24 Z BOAT SAR prosecution (PO-275533)
- 19 Aug 24 SAR prosecutions (2) (PO-277032) - Bear Lake
- 19 Aug 24 SAR prosecutions (2) (PO-277335) - Willard Bay
- 26 Aug 24 SAR prosecution (PO-277035)
- 27 Aug 24 SAR prosecution (2) (PO-277036)



Note from DSO-OP – Check out this next paragraph! BZ to Division 7!!!!

Pam Berger was kind enough to put together a link to a "Utah Assist Log" that groups all our SAR prosecutions into one convenient report. I am surprised that, since May 28, coxswains in Utah reported 89 SAR assists, 3 lives saved, 284 persons assisted, and property value saved of \$1,988,900. Venues were Willard Bay, Bear Lake, and Jordanelle Reservoir.

Division 8

From Dave Johnson, SO-OP

Redding: Activities were limited to 1 Moonlight Kayak patrol due to smoke and rain.

Crescent City: No report. Since they are no longer in existence, I will no longer include them in the OPS reports.

Mendocino/Ft. Bragg: No reports. I don't know if anyone is still manning the helo fuel depot at the lighthouse.

Clear Lake: No report. I don't think they have an FSO OPS.

Sorry for the lack of participation. The Redding flotilla will be losing 4 key members next year. Carl Pierce COX, Dave Johnson COX, Cheryl Shepard Crew, Mike Maddox will not be in operations and will be moving Huntington Beach. That will leave only Wayne Pero COX and Bill Hale Crew for the operations duties in Redding.

Division 10

From Doc Pierce, SO-OP

- **FLOTILLA REPORTS:**
 1. **MODESTO:** SPRING CREW TRAINING AND PATROLS, MANDEVILLE AND DON PEDRO FIREWORKS PATROL. WORKSHOPS, YEARLY STANDARD REQUIREMENTS. MOM PATROL ON DELTA.
 2. **FRESNO AND VISALIA:** PATROLS LAKE MILLERTON ASSISTING SHERIFF AND PARK RANGERS, WORKSHOPS AND YEARLY STANDARD REQUIREMENTS. LABOR DAY PATROLS (4 DAYS). MISHAP MONDAY AFTER PATROL ON LAND. PROPERLY REPORTED.
 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 KEPT READY 2 ON PATROL

DETAILS:

SAREX 18 JULY canceled, no AUX Facilities available to participate. Future Date being Planned 7 SEP, NO REPORT SEEN.

1. CREW: 6 TRAINEES BEING MENTORED. COX'N: 1 COX'N TRAINEE NEAR COMPLETION, WORKING ON ALL TO BE CURRENT.



2. VERIFYING QE CANDIDATES FOR DIVISION 10 OPTREX 23 SEPT WHICH IS CANCELLED.
3. ORDER COMPLETION BEING PROCESSED.

Division 11

From Bill Stolz, SO-OP

Highlights

1. Recap for July and August
2. OPTREX schedule

DETAILS

We have had a very challenging year at Lake Tahoe. Between having very few qualified crew members available and having mechanical issues with one of our 3 active facilities we have still participated in a number of patrols.

On July 4th we had one facility for the South Lake Tahoe fireworks show.

On July 15th we had two facilities work the Trans Tahoe Swim event.

On August 26th we had one facility work along with the station boat for the Lake Tahoe Triathlon.

On August 27th we had one facility work along with the station boat and North Lake Tahoe Fire for the Lake Tahoe Open Water Swim.

We have had our facilities out on a number of occasions for training and Navigation Aid verification.

AGENCY INTERACTIONS

Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe
North Lake Tahoe Fire

UPCOMING EVENTS, DATES AND LOCATIONS

Div-11 OPTREX

Due to the President coming to Lake Tahoe, our original OPTREX was cancelled for security reasons. The new date is September 29th and 30th.

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
 - A. Div 12 OPFACS* are:
 - (a) SERVANT
 - (b) OPFAC SERVANT has conducted three patrols during the month of August.
 - (c) Morgan Swiggett is in the process of procuring a boat and rendering it an OPFAXC.
 - B. 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
- Only Greg Olsen and Jim Losi have been active coxswains.

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
Chase Vanderveer, Boat Crew Trainee
Adrienne Kuehneman, Boat Crew Trainee

- We are tentatively scheduling a miniOPTREX during the month of January for two coxswain check rides and two initial check rides of boat crew.

- 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

Occasionally, we work with the Active Duty performing some valuable and often interesting exercises. Recently we were asked to act as a recreational vessel that was to be boarded for inspection by a Boarding Officer Trainee. Imagine their surprise when they found a firearm on board that is an old paintball gun painted pink that had the shape of a .45! Kept on board from a



previous boarding training exercise. It was a real eye-opener and a great learning/training exercise for both the trainer and the trainee.



Santa Cruz Harbor Fuel Dock – on OpFac 301219, Wally Smith and Lou Sarto. Aft of the 301219 is OpFac 231815 and the RBS29. On the dock, the Boarding Team with Aux Marius Landaeur in the background.