

14 Feb 2024

TO: Board and Staff
FROM: Larry Olson, DSO-AV
SUBJECT: AuxAir Report for January 2024

A couple of our aircraft were going through annual inspections and service, which means we only conducted one patrol flight during the month. This mission was flown by Aircraft Commander and FC Pete Hnat from Sacramento, 03-01; and was at a request from the Coast Guard to provide R21 radio coverage while transceivers were getting software updates. Pete was accompanied by a Coast Guard Air Station Sacramento Pilot, which really benefits our relationship with the regular Coast Guard.

As indicated above, Pete Hnat is the FC for Flotilla 03-01 and he has already brought about 15 new members into the Auxiliary. Twelve (12) of these new members are interested in our aviation program and Pete has started an observer training course in Sacramento to help them get certified. Our previous ADSO-AVT, Stan Douglas, has resigned from this training position and Pete Hnat has volunteered to take on the responsibilities of ADSO-AVT. COMO Han has approved Pete Hnat as our new ADSO-AVT.

We are pleased to have a "first-in-the-Auxiliary" event and this occurred when auxiliarist Jeff Grave, Flotilla 12-91, obtained his USCG short range UAS Remote Pilot certification and became the only auxiliarist in the Nation to be active in all 3 of Surface Ops; Aviation Ops; and UAS. Jeff is currently one of only 4 auxiliarists to have this UAS certification. Jeff obtained his FAA Part 107 license and then went through extensive training with the Coast Guard, including personnel from Air Station Mobile, Alabama. Jeff is required to conduct regular UAS flights with Coast Guard drones and he is now available to be called out by the Coast Guard for UAS Missions.

Ron Darcey organized an excellent Squadron dinner/meeting on Tuesday, 30 January 2024, at the Holiday Inn, Dublin. We were pleased to have CDR Ryan Ramos, OPS Boss at Air Station San Francisco, and LTJG Rachael Davis from Sector SF as guests, who provided important information to our auxair members. We were also honored to have our DCOS Jim Losi in attendance, who always has good words and updated auxiliary information for our members. We are in the process of drafting Jim into our AuxAir Squadron !!!

We are also preparing for our AUX-17 Course, which will be given by National Instructors at CGI on 24-25 Feb 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Olson, DSO-AV