



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report
February 2024**

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 January 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. OPTREX Calendar
2. Qualification Check Ride Status
3. REYR Status
4. Operational Excellence Award
5. Final “Weekly Wave” from Sector SF AUXLO LTjg Rachel Jankelow
6. Welcome Aboard – new AUXLO LT Abigail Hamman
7. Three new QE-ITs
8. BONUS MATERIAL

DETAILS

1. OPTREX Calendar

The OPTREX calendar is filling out nicely. Scheduled dates are listed below:

OPTREX CALENDAR - 2024

<u>Division</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1 & 12	Oakland Estuary (mini-OTREX – sold out)	10 February
3	Sacramento Yacht Club	01-02 June
5	Brannan Island	14-15 June
1	CGSTA San Francisco	19 - 20 July
11	Lake Tahoe	26-27 July
10	Lake Millerton	03-04 August
7	Jordanelle Reservoir	22-25 August
6	Santa Cruz	06-07 September
12	Oakland Estuary	08 September

2. An updated CHECK RIDE TRACKER Report is posted on the District webpage ... go to “Response”, then “Surface Operations”. Currently due for requalifying are 38 members in 2024, 54 members due in 2025, and 22 members due in 2026 (requalified in 2023) for a total of 114 members. Members with due dates beyond this year may request a check ride provided this does not impede those due this year. 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.

3. As of 14 February, there are 106 members in “Required Yearly Not Met” (REYR) status. Please review this list in AUXDATA II and let me know of anyone not intending to continue in the surface operations program so that we can maintain an accurate record. Please note that if anyone has a question on status i.e. why a member is in REYR, check with your IS officer.
4. Operational Excellence Program - Auxiliary Manual, Chapter 11.A.14.a.
The Operational Excellence Program provides Coast Guard Auxiliary boat crews with a challenging opportunity to highlight their proficiency and skills, foster teamwork, encourage offers for use of surface facilities, and promote fellowship among operational members. The program is neither mandatory nor meant to replace qualifications or certification requirements. All program participants shall follow the policies and procedures established in the Coast Guard Auxiliary Operational Excellence Program, COMDTINST 16794.4 (series), in order to earn this award.
5. “Weekly Wave – Farewell ” from former Sector SF AUXLO LTJG Rachel Jankelow dated 31 January.
“Well, this is my final Weekly Wave as your AUXLO/OIA.

Starting tomorrow, I am working for the Command Center full-time, and LT Abby Hamann will be taking over my duties. I have had the pleasure of working with her for a couple of months now. She is determined, squared away, and will make an amazing AUXLO/OIA for the D11 Auxiliary. Please monitor your emails, there will be some changes at the Sector-level for the Auxiliary program. As mentioned in previous weekly waves and Changes of Watch speeches, the Coast Guard is short staffed and overwhelmed on the Active-Duty level. I believe these changes will help the Auxiliary and Active-Duty to get what we both need. Please show her the same kindness and respect you showed me. I'm excited to see her lead!

You will still hear from me because I'll be at Sector for maybe another year. I am still waiting to hear if I am moving this summer, but until then, you'll still hear my voice at the Command Center.

Thank you. To all of you! Being your AUXLO has really been an adventure. You've welcomed me into your flotillas and onto your boats, and made me feel like part of the crew. Your selflessness to serve showed me the impact the Auxiliary has on the Coast Guard and its 11 missions, and reminded me why I joined the military. Keep up this amazing display of service! The Coast Guard is very grateful for your help.

Please stay safe out there and continue to look after each other and the AUXLOs/OIAs after me. I truly thank you for that you do! 😊”



6. On 01 February we welcomed our new AUXLO/OIA at Sector San Francisco. LT Abigail (Abby) Hamann has a great background in multiple CG missions. After enlisting and 'experiencing' eight weeks at Cape May, NJ, she has experience with Aids to Navigation, Team Machinery Technician, A.A. in Criminal Justice, B.S. in Corporate and Homeland Security, Officer Candidate School at New London, CTJourneyman Marine Inspector, and the Chief of Domestics, Sector San Francisco and she is currently in the Waterways Management Shop

From LT Hamann: "It's very important for me that you know me and that I'm not just a name that appears at the bottom of patrol orders or sends emails saying "get me your PO requests 10 business days in advance...or else". We're a team and I'd like you to feel like a part of that team and not just a means to make up the staffing issue the AD side is currently working through. You all are so much more than that so I hope to make sure you feel that way.

I'm coming in with a little bit of a disadvantage since I was supposed to have an entire year with LTJG Jankelow before I came in as primary; as well as I was also supposed to enter this role with an extra person to help me out. Unfortunately, that did not happen so it's just little ol' me for the immediate future. This isn't going to negatively affect you all- I just wish to be transparent in what's happening with the AUXLO program at the Sector level. The only change I have made that will affect you all for the immediate future is the 10 business day request for POs. I understand that this is a change from the rather previous guidance that came out, but with this is the way that I can ensure that you all receive the POs in time to execute missions. On the plus side, I did have a meeting with senior leadership and I am receiving not one, but two AUXLOs/OIAs! There is going to be a bit of a transition period and I don't expect them to be full-fledged AUXLOs for about a month.

I'm working through a couple FORAC items that will hopefully streamline a few things that I know have been a little wonky. Please standby for additional guidance in the future.

A couple housekeeping items:

- Please continue to submit patrol orders as early as you can
- As well as remembering to upload receipts and correct to actual cost for reimbursements
- Keep an eye on Chatter in ADII
- Ensure the PPE is up-to-date in ADII because I cannot issue orders if PPE is not in the green
- CR runs out on 08MAR so standby for what that means for POs and if we'll have funding available

P.P.S. As a bonus, I have included a photo of FN Hamann living her best life and absolutely elated that the boys finally smiled after the PA3 took this photo for the 5th time."



LT Abigail Hamann (far right) with her ANT Team.

7. With the retirement from the Qualification Examiner (QE) corps of five of last year's twelve QE's, three "Qualification Examiner – In Training (QE-IT) have been appointed. I am please to announce that Chuck Cobery, Randy McCormick, and Mike Thompson have been added to the team. We an eager to get them trained and part of the QE team.
8. 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-JANUARY 2024

Details

1. **Surface Operations-JANUARY 2024:** OPFAC SILVER CHARM did three air ops patrols in January 2024, one Paton patrol, and one training patrol in preparation for a three-boat QE event on February 10th.

SILVER CHARM will conduct two HELO Ops in February on the 1st and 8th, then a Recertification QE Check Ride on the 10th. After that she will head to the boat yard to be hauled out for normal maintenance on the 13th. It isn't known yet how long this might take. No other patrols were scheduled for the month of February.



The Standardization Team will visit the air station from March 4^h through March 15th. Air ops would only take place on weekdays, and it isn't known yet exactly which days Silver Charm might be needed.

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 Kristan Verveniotis, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Requalification
2. Division Facilities
3. Patrols and Training
4. PPE Administration

DETAILS

1. Continuing to try to make contact with personnel who are in REWK or REYR to assess their intentions. Of those who have been contacted, only 3 have responded. Working with QE, Paul Verveniotis to develop a document that outlines steps and requirements for requal process.
2. Facility Scout is inspected and running, ready for patrols. Facility Sense the Moment is inspected and has 3 Coxswains approved to run it. Status of Willy Willy and Cheers are unknown assumed unable to be in service.
3. Patrol orders for Scout are being approved and training has begun for 2-3 qualified members, including annual quals. Efforts are being made to do two-boat training in the coming months.
4. PPE Administrator, Paul Verveniotis has been contacting members who have PPE and trying to assess their current inspection processes and procedures.

Division 5

From Lew Derfuss, SO-OP 5

HIGHLIGHTS/"UPS":

1. We currently have limited funds available in OPS Budget



2. Planning continues for resuming HELO OPS
3. Planning continues for Crew/Coxswain Academy/ Division 5 OPTREX

DETAILS:

1. Limited patrol request being approved under CR
2. Pending allowable water and air temperatures HELO OPS to resume in February.
3. We have a list of interesting candidates, working on start dates and locations. Division 5 OPTREX will be 14-15 June at Brannon Island Park located on Three Mile Slough, Roi Vista AOR. We have negotiated Free launching and overnight mooring and use of two of launch ramps, as well as limited FREE camping to include DRY Camping (No power, sewer) for RV Campers-- More to follow as planning continues

PROJECTS:

- Boat Crew Academy, OPTREX
- USCG Aux Operational Excellence Program

EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES:

- Division 5 OPTREX Brannon Island 14-15 June
- NSBW 18-24 May
- Bodega Bay Fish Festival 4-5 May
- Steel Head Festival 10 Feb FL 55
- OPS and All Annual Workshops Due 30 June

CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES (“Downs”):

1. Uncertain OPS Funding as we go from one CR to the next
2. Limited available OPFACS, Coxswains and Crews

AGENCY INTERACTION:

1. Work to support Station Bodega Bay, Station Rio Vista, Station Vallejo and Sector San Francisco needs.

Goals/Progress::

- Get season patrols and training started
- Conduct a successful OPTRX
- Initially qualify and requalify Crew and Coxswains

Division 6

From Mark McLaughlin, SO-OP

No report submitted.



Division 7

From Paul Brown, SO-OP
No report submitted.

Division 8

SO-OP - Vacant
No report submitted.

Division 10

From Doc Pierce, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS

5. OPTREX
6. PPE
7. MEMBER TRAINING
8. FACILITYS

DETAILS

5. DIVISION 10 OPTREX: 2-5 AUGUST 2024, MILLERTON LAKE. Will be great opportunity to develop mitigating actions for challenging conditions. Developing plans of action. This change is becoming welcomed by the Division. Lemon-aid will be served on the Fantail.
6. PPE INSPECTIONS WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION BEING CONDUCTED. Inspections planned ASAP to enable all ready for Service. Forms for recording and entering into ADII being used.
7. OPERATIONAL MEMBER TRAINING: CHANGES, REQUIREMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERWAY HOURS FOR CURRENT AND TRAINEE MEMBERS BEING CONDUCTED.
8. FACILITIES COMPLYING WITH INSPECTIONS, OFFERS FOR USE, NEW AND CONTINUING OFFERS.

Division 11

From Bill Stolz, SO-OP
No report submitted.

Division 12

From Jeff Grave, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS

- Division 12 Operational Facilities (OPFACs)
SERVANT (241647) 24' Weldcraft Cuddy Cabin patrol boat
ODYSSEY (201386) 20' Fourwinds Open Bow power boat
- Two Flotilla 12-91 members have acquired surface vessels we anticipate bringing online as inspected and offered OPFACs later this year.



- January 2024 Surface Operations: Five (5) Surface Patrol Orders were Requested and Approved by OIA. SERVANT completed two (2) and ODYSSEY completed two (2) patrol missions; to include MOMs, crew training evolutions, Annual Task Certifications, and Nighttime operations. One (1) approved patrol was canceled.
- 27 JAN, ODYSSEY conducted a daytime patrol to include training evolutions for an upcoming coxswain recertification.
- 27 JAN, SERVANT conducted Nighttime navigation and MOB certification signoffs.
- 28 DEC, SERVANT and ODYSSEY conducted two boat towing and training exercises to prepare for upcoming initial boat crewmember check rides. SERVANT also met Div 1 OPFAC SILVER CHARM near Yerba Buena Island to conduct towing training.
- Flotilla 12-91 will hold a Mini-OPTEX for recertification of two current coxswains and Initial Check Rides for a coxswain and two boat crew trainees for 10 FEB.
- A Division 12 Surface OPTEX is in the planning stages for September 8, 2024.
- As of 31 JAN, Division 12 members conducted 81.5 hours of surface operations missions under orders.
- As of 31 JAN, Division 12 has four (4) certified Coxswains, six (6) certified BCMs, one (1) Coxswain-in-training, and 4 (four) BCMs-in-training.



ODYSSEY training evolutions near Coast Guard Island. Photo by Jeff Grave of Flotilla 113-12-91



SILVER CHARM preparing for towing operations near Yerba Buena Island. Photo by Jeff Grave of Flotilla 113-12-91.

*** END OF REPORT ***

Respectfully submitted,
COMO Wally Smith
DSO-OP

SEMPER GUMBY!



BONUS MATERIAL (see below)



From OpFac SILVER CHARM supporting Helo 6538 doing AST training 1.8 nm north of Treasure Island.