



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

District Eleven North Region

DISTRICT STAFF OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

March, 2024

To: Commodore Curtis Han

Cc: COS Losi

Cc: District Board and Staff, ADSO-SO CM

From: Larry Stanton DSO-CM

Goals: 1. Provide excellent contingency communications in support of Coast Guard District 11, Sectors and Stations through continuous training and education.

2. Recruit members who will actively participate in our exciting communications programs.
3. Train with our communications partners.
4. Increase Division level communications programs.

Highlights Up:

1. Received estimate for Air Station Comms Trailer service. Passed to OTO for review.
2. Working on DTrain HF event with all District participation,
3. Plans are set for removal/replacement of Vaca site. Then relocate to Diablo.
4. Ventrilo is again operational. Will get members plugged back into the VIOP system for Monday nets.

Highlights/ DOWN:

ADSO Reports:

D-DSO-CM Paz: See SO report.

ADSO-ARMS: Torio: No report filed.

1. Training member Zarich to assume one of two shifts DDSO- Paz has covered for many months. Thank you Carol and Victor.

ADSO-ACV- Busch: No report filed. Unit transferred to the care of CHP.

ADSO-CM-ICC (Incident and Contingency Comms)-SCHOLZ:

1. Some activities and happenings in JAN and FEB prompted an evaluation of the state of performance of the "WESTNET" (D11 Command Center Net -- D11CCNET). As a result there has been a refocusing of attention beginning in March:

1A. A revision of the training program on-air and on-line is being undertaken with the intent of improving the day to day performance of traffic handling in the contingency communications arena. The revision is expected to continue on for the foreseeable future with quarterly exercises as test and evaluation vehicles.

1B. A schedule of exercises involving both the northern and southern regions and the new D11ACT (Eleventh District Auxiliary Communications Team) is being developed and will be released in mid-April.

1C. In mid-March, I was invited to provide a training event for some 10 senior leaders (DCO, DCOS, DDC-R, DSO-CM, DSO-OP, DSO-EM and others) in the use of radios in support of a AUX "virtual emergency operations center" that might be activated in response to an unplanned event in cooperation with active duty EM personnel. It was well received and as a

result is currently being revised to suit it for use with the D11 North Senior Leadership. It will be presented for review in mid-April.

2. As time has gone by, there has been relatively little progress in enhancing the VHF repeater network in D11 North. The lack of progress has caused a lack of interest and performance in the use of VHF as a tool for contingency comms. It is recommended that there be a virtual conference organized to evaluate and re-examine the usefulness and value of continued investment in the system and to explore alternative approaches that should be considered.

3. The "logjam" that has caused the inability to establish a formal USCGAUX Radio Facility on CG Island in Alameda has been eliminated. This fact plus the availability of radio equipment from the previous mobile radio facility has made it possible to move forward with the establishment and tasking of a new facility to be housed on CGI. That is expected to be completed by end of May Of 2024.

4. Member Raymond Montagne (North Lake Tahoe flotilla) is deeply involved in creating a software tool that will automate the process of creating a communications resource list (ICS-217) and the two Communications Plans for incidents (ICS-205 and ICS-205A) as well as automating part of the radio logging process (using ICS-309). It is expected to be available by the end of April fir distribution.

ADSO-CM Utah-Williams: ADSO-CM-D7CC:

Division 7 continues to host a weekly Amateur Band Radio Net. Currently eleven members participate in the weekly rostered net.

We are encouraging our members to not only become TCO Qualified but also as FCC Technician license holders.

The Division has received 10 Motorola XTL 5000 radios for our use. Donated by the Wyoming Department of Transportation, as these radios were replaced by upgraded digital radios. Included in the donation were mounting brackets, external speakers, as well as required power cables. These donations were to qualified non-profit organizations in adjacent States.

These radios will be programmed with the same frequencies, if possible, as the Powerwerx radios that are in the Division Seven Communications trailer.

Members who achieved AUXOP status and completed the Communications Course will commence completing the TCO qualification process as their grandfathered TCO status will expire.

We will continue to offer members the opportunity to train as operators in the Communications program, look forward to working with current TCO qualified members to acquire facility status for appropriate UHF/VHF equipment.

This year we will have opportunities to be involved in many USCGAUX and Community events requiring Qualified Radio Operators.

ADSO-RDF- Thorrson:

1. DF has no activity to report. No missions or training opportunities during the reporting

ADSO-CM-TK-Sellstrom:

1. Replacement radios delivered to members.

DSO-AUX MON- Flores-

1. AUXMON report to DSO-CM 11N for Mar = 41 1/2 hours of monitoring with 26 missions.

Give me a call if you have any questions.

ADSO-CM-ALE-Montagne- Assisting with training on digital mode.

ADSO-Spectrum Management: Simmons-

Transferred VHF repeater equipment to Kevin Sellstrom for a location TBD.

1.Submitted paperwork for our participation in the Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test scheduled this year for May 11, 2024. This will be a fellowship event at CG Island. All Aux CMs and Auxiliarists in general are encouraged to come check us out and maybe even participate on the air.

2.12 hours monitoring NAVTEX for COMMCOM. Continued planning for Armed Forces Day Cross Band Test event on May 11th. Please remember to mention getting repeater to you guys.

1. SO REPORTS BY DIVISION:

Division 1- DDSO-CM PAZ-

Division 1 report:

F-12: No report filed.

F-14:

1. 2 members continue to provide AWO shifts.
2. Check in on Monday radio net.
3. No calls for service.

F-17:

1. No activity.
2. Check in on Monday evening net.
3. No calls for service.
4. Working on restoring facility.

Goals:

1. F-14: Add one additional communicator.
2. F-19: Add one additional communicator

Division 3- SO-Stanton:

3-5: AUX FSO-CM / AUC Harrison:

Highlights

* Captain Lam approved the Station's new Area of Responsibility (AOR) effective 30 April. It will extend from just north of the I Street Bridge at the water intake in Sacramento to the town of Tracy in the south and from the Port of Stockton in the east to and including the Napa River to the town of Napa in the west. All the areas of the Suisun and Montezuma Sloughs are included. This action is in response to the change in operational status of CGS Vallejo from 24-7 to part time. They will be operational 0800 to 1600 Monday thru Friday. Auxiliary facilities will still be able to patrol north of the I Street Bridge and request radio guard from the station per CGS Rio Vista OIC BMCS Bennett. This is the biggest change in operations in the 16 years I've been associated with the Station. Lots to learn! Stand by for changes.

* The Station will soon acquire all CGS Vallejo's Reservists. Date to be determined.

* Station conducted a week long (25 th – 29 th) training entitled "Boat Crew College" to prepare the crew for the summer boating season. It consisted of an in-depth review of all activities involved in boating and SAR. Emphasis was on underway actions like MOB, radar navigation, night transit, pump passing, towing, etc. The students (Station Boatcrew members) were the instructors each specializing in a specific subject. This will be followed by check rides 08 to 12 April. Serious business!

Activity Details

* All four Non Rates and a new BM3 have passed their Radio Watch Boards with flying colors.

Good work guys. I could use a break.

* All Station Coxswains got day long AOR Familiarization rides by CGS Vallejo personnel in preparation for the changes coming end of April.

* BMCS Bennett, BM1 Burkett, XPO; BM1 Swofford, OPS and MK1 Mercer,EPO took a lengthy boat ride

on the 19 th all the way to the town of Napa to check out our new AOR. Consensus is it's a lot of water but no great shakes. Hope so. Long way.

* CG Station Rio Vista conducted 04 SAR case during the last 30 days. Two involved a total of 03 deceased PIW. The average March SARs over the last 10 years is 10. The most SARs in one month was 70 in July 2009. The Station conducted 14 Vessel Boardings. The average March Boardings for the last 10 years is 32. The most monthly Boardings conducted in one month was 149 in September 2015.

* Station trailered a RBS-29 to the Sacramento Boat Show at Cal Expo the 6 th to the 11 th in support of the Auxiliary display thanks to AUX Don Anderson, BM2 A Hansen and MK3 White.

* Morgan Curtis stood 14 hours of Radio Watchstanding (20B) over 03 days.

* I stood 13 days of Radio Watchstanding (20B) at the Station for a total of 91 hours.

Current Projects:

* Working with new AUX, Gary Arnold, Flotilla 5-3 to become a Watchstander at the Station. He is retired, lives close by in Fairfield and is young. Just in mid 60's. He is BQ and began Watchstander training at the Station.

* Working with Doug MacPherson, Don Anderson, John Hardin, Jeff Fite, BMCS Bennett, and BM1 Swofford on the 2024 Boating Season Kickoff event scheduled for 13 April.

* Working with Doug MacPherson, John Hardin, Pete Gnat, Russ Kaiser, Jeff Fite and Larry Stanton on Division 3 OPTREX scheduled for 01 and 02 June at the Sacramento Yacht Club. Coordinating the Station's participation.

* Working with Lew Derfuss on Station's participation in Division 5 OPTREX scheduled for 14 and 15 June at Brannon Island State Park.

* Working with Doug MacPherson to get a ride along on Station's boat for night bridge check on lower Sacramento river.

* Working with Don Anderson on the SAREX tentatively scheduled in September.

.Challenges:

- * To become familiar with the new AOR.
- * To get AUX members certified as Radio Watchstanders at Station Rio Vista.
- * To have AUX members come to the Station and interface with the crew.
- * To get AUX boats training with CG RBS-29s.
- * To remain an active and contributing member of the AUX.

My Goal and Objective:

- *To see beauty in a somewhat ugly world.

3-10- FSO-Stanton:

1. Weekly HF net continues.o Ventrilo VOIP restored.

Division 4-SO-Cooley- Nothing to report.

Division 5- Gleason- No report filed.

Division 6- Huynh-No report filed.

Division 7- Farmer-No report filed.

Division 8- Felton- No report filed.

Division 10-Rollins- New SO-CM

Division 11- Leinan- No activity,

e.

