



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report
April 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 March 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. OPTREX Calendar
2. Qualification Check Ride Status
3. REYR Status
4. Note about Added Tasks
5. Message from AUXLO LT Abigail Hamman
6. New Assistant Qualification Examiner Coordinator (AQEC) & Revised Form
7. BONUS MATERIAL

DETAILS

1. OPTREX Calendar
 The OPTREX calendar has filled out nicely. Scheduled dates are listed below:

<u>OPTREX CALENDAR - 2024</u>		
<u>Division</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
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 dated 16 April will be posted on the District webpage within a few days... go to “Response”, then “Surface Operations” and enter your Member Zone for access. Currently due for requalifying are 27 members in 2024, 43 members due in 2025, 20 members due in 2026, and 11 due in 2027 (requalified this year) for a total of 101 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.

The number of recertification candidates does not include initial qualification candidates. Please let us know the number of total candidates ... including initial candidates and recertification candidates ... who will be vying for certification at your OPTREX. This will allow for the assignment of a proper number of Qualification Examiners (QEs).

3. As of 15 April, there are 83 members in “Required Yearly Not Met” (REYR), “Rework” (REWK), or “Not Certified – Trainee” status. This list is part of the Check Ride Tracker Report referred to in Item 2 above and includes members whose recertification check rides were due between 2019 and 2023; they are in the five-year window of not requiring a full redo of the qualification PQS. *Please review this list carefully and let DIRAUX know of anyone not intending to continue in the surface operations program so that their name can be deleted and 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. There have been a lot of comments lately about the addition of various tasks to maintain currency in surface operations. Next month’s OPS Report will include a deeper dive into the “Why’s”. For now ... **know that it is important that we train to the same standards as the Active Duty.**
5. LT Abigail (Abby) Hamann dated 04 April:
I don’t have too much for you all in terms of updates, but here are a few things!
 - I received great packages from folks for the COMO Robert Phifer Award. I’m waiting on a few pre-approved late submissions
 - Presentation will be 22JUN at DTRAIN by incoming Sector CO, CAPT Jordan Balduenza
 - Please continue to submit PO requests 10 business days in advance
 - Last week, our central accounting system crashed so the OIAs were unable to process orders for the weekend so on behalf of SSF, I do apologize to those who were unable to get underway
 - Along those same lines, we do try to approve orders one to two weeks ahead of time; however, if you see that we have not approved three days before the PO, please send all three AUXLOs/OIAs an email so we can address it promptly
 - Please submit Completed POs in ADII within two weeks of the patrol, so OIAs can get those routed for FINCEN for reimbursement
 - ENS Davila Gonzalez is working on getting a shared mailbox for the AUXLOs so that we can centralize communications. Once that gets set up, we’ll pass more info to you all
6. I’m pleased to announce that Paul Verveniotis has been given additional responsibilities as AQEC. Paul will be responsible for vetting initial and requalification candidates prior to their “formal” QE session, a “Vetting Form – 2024 Rev D”, completed for each candidate, is to be sent to Paul at least 30 days in advance. The revised form includes the following: FC (or



appointee) contacts CQEC COMO Wally Smith for OPTREX date approval. Once approved, FC contacts District Calendar Coordinator DCOS and requests the desired date, along with an alternate OPTREX date. Once a date is approved, names of candidates are sent to AQEC Paul Verveniotis. Please plan ahead and request 30 or more days prior to the event.

“Vetting Form – 2024 Rev D” is revised and can be found on the Surface Operations page on the District website. Please remember that there is an added check-off on the Form: “PPE Inspection in ADII”.

7. 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-MARCH 2024

Details

1. **Surface Operations-MARCH 2024:** COX Terry Blanchard on OPFAC SILVER CHARM conducted several patrols in March including:

- a. Silver Charm did six patrols in March for the USCG Standardization Team, on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th, and 13th.
- b. Silver Charm did a patrol on the 16th to practice for an upcoming 2-boat QE event. See attached photos.
- c. Silver Charm did two more Air Ops (Hoist & AST Training) patrols on the 21st and 28th, in support of Air Station San Francisco.

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.



March 16th in NAS/Alameda Boat Basin: Crew Member Cassie Mani (01-02) on OPFAC SILVER CHARM, stands clear of the snap back line while under tow by OPFAC SERVANT.

Division 3

From John Hardin, SO-OP
No report submitted.

Division 4

From Kristan Verveniotis, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Patrols
2. OPS Workshop
3. PPE Administration

DETAILS

1. Facility Scout conducted a patrol in support of Sequoia Yacht Club regatta on Wednesday, 3 April and is approved for another on Wednesday, 17 April.
2. The OPS Workshop will be presented at our Division 4 meeting on Wednesday, April 24 by instructor Paul Verveniotis
3. PPE Administrator has turned in 2 sets of surplus PPE from members to DIRAUX and is continuing inspections of PPE.



Division 5

From Lew Derfuss, SO-OP 5

No report submitted.

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

No report submitted.

Division 11

From Bill Stolz, SO-OP

No report submitted.

Division 12

From Jeff Grave, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Division 12 Operational Facilities (OPFACs)
SERVANT (241647) 24' Weldcraft Cuddy Cabin patrol boat
ODYSSEY (201386) 20' Fourwinds Open Bow power boat
2. March 2024 Surface Operations: Three (3) Surface Patrol Orders were Requested and Approved by OIA. SERVANT completed all three (3) patrol missions in support of Marine Observation Missions, coxswain and crew proficiency exercises, 2024 Annual Task Day/Nigh Signoffs, and practice for boat crewmember recertifications.
3. A Mini-OPTREX is scheduled for 06 APR to conduct 3-year recertification for several boat crewmembers on SERVANT and Div 1 SILVER CHARM.
4. Division 12 OPTREX is calendared and in the planning stages for 08 SEP 24.
5. As of 01 APR, Division 12 members conducted 86.95 hours of surface operation missions under orders.
6. As of 29 FEB, Division 12 has three (3) certified Coxswains, seven (7) certified BCMs, one (1) Coxswain-in-training, and 3 (three) BCMs-in-training.



On 15 MAR, after completing training evolutions the crew of SERVANT was assigned to a SAR call by Sector SF. SERVANT was tasked with assisting a sailing vessel in distress that had run aground near former NAS Alameda. The crew attempted several times to rescue the vessel, but shallow waters, rough waters, and gusting winds prevented successful solo rescue. Gold Side air and surface assets were dispatched, ultimately towing the vessel to a safe mooring.



** END OF REPORT **

Respectfully submitted,
COMO Wally Smith
DSO-OP

SEMPER GUMBY!



BONUS MATERIAL (see below)



CG Station Monterey's 47MLB training with OpFac 321322, a 1975 CG 32PWB, on Monterey Bay. Even Gumby enjoys a ride!

