



USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report January 2021

To: COMO Dean McFarren
Curtis Han, District Chief of Staff (DCOS)
District 11 North Board & Staff
From: COMO Wally Smith, District Staff Officer – Operations (DSO-OP)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Opening Comments
2. Procedure for Requests for Orders
3. REYR Status – Crew & Coxswains
4. OPTREXs 2021
5. Deputy & ADSO Appointments
6. OTO Report
7. ADSO-OP-PPE Report
8. Thanks Virginia!
9. 2020 – See Ya!

1. Opening Comments: This is my first DSO-OP Report! I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to work with COMO Dean McFarren and Curtis Han, DCOS, going forward into what I hope ... and believe ... will be a dynamic year moving out of COVID-19 constrictions and more towards the new normalcy whatever that may look like. I'm not new to "Operations" having served on the National level for the last two years and as a Qualification Examiner (QE) for about ten years.

To say that 2020 was "challenging" would be a gross understatement. Our District survived extraordinary wildfires, civil unrest, the introduction of AUXDATA II, and an unprecedented global pandemic that shut down most Auxiliary activities. Our members' resolve to continue to work through all of these trials and tribulations led to an also unprecedented use of online webinars for meetings and training.

2. Procedure for Requests for Orders: Only in the last couple of months have we seen surface patrols authorized that were not authorized since last March. This authorization requires some additional paperwork that is capsulized by ADSO John Hardin below: *At this time, we're allowed back out on patrol with some CV-19 restrictions. As you know, we're now using the new AD2 system to request and process patrol orders. New systems are almost always challenging. So let me know if you encounter problems and I'll try to assist you.*

Requests for orders must be submitted at least 7 days prior to the patrol date. Prior to submitting a request for orders in AD2, you must submit the following three forms to D11NORTHERN@uscg.mil:

1. **Bubble Request Form** *Coxswains submit this form and it is valid until the Bubble is changed. <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/dbbV1669i5TYw4>*



2. **High Risk Assessment Form** Each Bubble member submits this form and it is valid until the entries change. http://d113-cloud.d11nr.info/D11N-documentation/pdfs/AUX_COVID19_High-risk_Certification.pdf

3. **Assignment To Duty Request Form** Coxswains submit this form for each patrol. Please note that the “nature of the request” drop down box doesn’t include any phase 2 missions such as MOM patrols, so just select any other option. You’ll get an email from D11N confirming their receipt of your request. <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/apq47kOroc571fb>

NOTE: Quick Links to each of the required Forms can be found on the D11N web site under Surface Operations.

QUICK LINKS (Click Item Below)

- [Bubble Request Form](#)
- [High Risk Assessment Form](#)
- [Assignment to Duty Request Form](#)

3. **REYR Status – Crew & Coxswain:** In the ALAUX 032-20 dated 29 October 2020, the following was included regarding currency maintenance:
All annual currency maintenance requirements for CY 2020 (e.g., the two marine dealer visits required to maintain currency as a program visitor) and other-than-annual requirements that were due in CY 2020 (e.g., the 3-year check ride required to maintain currency as a coxswain if due in 2020) are waived except tests and workshops that can be completed online through the Auxiliary Learning Management System (AUXLMS) or Auxiliary National Classroom.

What does this mean for us? If a coxswain or crew member was due a checkride in 2020, they remain “current” through 2021 except that the “1-Hr. Ops Workshop” and “TCT Refresher” must have been completed in 2020. Going forward, twelve hours underway will be required to maintain currency.

NOTE: I’ll be presenting a segment during the “Virtual PCA Fair” on 16 January at 1115. It will cover “Operations – Certifications and REYR”. This should bring everyone up to speed and there will be some time set aside for Q & A.

4. **OPTREXs 2021:** Please ... if you are planning an OPTREX this year, check the District Calendar before you make any firm plans. If the selected date is open, send your request to reserve the date to Curtis Han, DCOS, and request that it be entered on the calendar. Please copy me with your date requests.

Based on AUXDATA II reports (see below), our District has 160 members that were or are due for requalification in 2020 or 2021. That number does not include new



candidates for initial qualification however we believe that will be very limited since there was little “on the water” time for sign-offs.

The below chart shows the number of checkrides due per year that were due in 2020 and will be due in 2021 broken down by Division. It includes the number of QEs per Division. It’s going to be a busy season ... once it gets going!

District	Division	Check Rides Scheduled for 2020	Check Rides Scheduled for 2021	Number of QEs	Total Check Rides to be Given in 2021	Total Check Rides to be Given per QE in 2021
District 113	01	2	14		16	No QEs
	03	6	3		9	No QEs
	04	7	10	1	17	17
	05	6	23	1	29	29
	06	8	8	3	16	5.3
	07	12	11	1	23	23
	08	12	7	3	19	6.3
	10	4	6	0	10	No QEs
	11	3	5	2	8	4
	12	4	9		13	No QEs
District 113 Total		64	96	11	160	14.5

Bottom line: In order to provide requalification opportunities for everyone needing a checkride, coordination amongst all Divisions will be necessary. PLEASE schedule your 2021 OPTREX as soon as possible and please be aware that the “Bubble” requirement for operational facilities may extend for several months so schedule accordingly. As of this writing, the following OPTREXs are listed on the District Calendar:

Dates	Unit
August 6 - 7	Div. 7
September 11 - 12	Div. 6
September 24 - 26	Flt 55

5. Deputy and Assistant District Staff Officers – Operations (ADSO-OP): I’m very pleased that the surface operations arm will have a strong contingent of support staff. The following individuals have stepped up to fill important positions within the Operations Team.

Deputy DSO-OP	Mike Thompson
ADSO-OP-CQEC	COMO Angelo Perata
ADSO-OP-SF	Terry Blanchard
ADSO-OP-PPE	Michael Brown
ADSO-OP	John Hardin



My thanks go to our Operations Training Officer (OTO) Dustin Finkelson, BOSN2. He is a great supporter of the Auxiliary and our efforts in operations. I look forward to working with him in my roles of DSO-OP and QE. He has been and I hope will continue to be a regular contributor to the monthly Operations Report.

I also look forward to additional contributions to this report by Gary Kaplan who has provided articles under the "Cutterman's Corner" banner, and Paul Verveniotis who writes under "Paul's Tips". Both Gary and Paul have contributed greatly over the past many months and I trust ... and hope ... they will continue. There hasn't been much activity over the past few months so we eagerly await articles from Gary & Paul for next month's edition.

6.

**Operations Training Officer (OTO)
Dustin Finkelson, BOSN2**

Nothing to add for this month's report other than can we make sure this gets out to the fleet?

7.

**Boat Crew and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Michael Brown, ADSO-OP-PPE**

I am continuing on as the ADSO-OP-PPE. PPE orders should be made to me by email. All I need is the following:

- First/Last name of the member needing PPE
- Flotilla name or number
- Whether or not they are Crew or Trainee
- Item(s) requested
- What size Anti Exposure Coverall a.k.a. Mustang (AEC)/Type III (S-M-L-XL-XXL-XXXL)

When I am allowed back on base (CGI is still in Phase I), my usual hours are Wednesdays ~0700-1400 and PCA Fairs, district events, etc. Members are responsible for picking up any item at DIRAUX within 30 days or items will be returned to inventory.

PPE inspections should continue as scheduled. Please make sure the corresponding paperwork is kept up-to-date, as record-keeping and inspections are critical safety and liability concerns.

PLBs: Last year, our OTO and I reviewed some of our PPE policies. It was agreed to issue facilities with an additional PLB for a second trainee should that situation occur. Also,



please give me 4-6 months heads up on when your PLB expires so I can get you a new one. No more keeping them past the date as stamped on the side of your PLB.

8. Thanks Virginia! Virginia Luchetti has served as DSO-OP for the past couple of years and has done an excellent job steering the ship through some difficult pandemic waters. She was elected District Captain and is now serving in that role and I know she will excel there as well. Thank you, Virginia, for the job you did as DSO-OP! I'm honored to follow in your wake.
9. 2020 – See Ya!



Leaving 2020 in our wake ... finally!

Respectfully submitted,
COMO Wally Smith
District Staff Officer – Operations



SEMPER GUMBY!