



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

District Eleven North Region DISTRICT STAFF OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

August 1, 2021

To: Dean McFarren

Cc: Curtis Han

Cc: District Board and Staff, ADSO-SO CM

From: Larry Stanton DSO-CM

HIGHLIGHTS/"3 UPS":

1. Planned visit to CGI attempt to get vertical antenna operational. If that fails, we will have the ground mounted NVIS antenna that is functional. We are going to need to purchase a tuner for the ACV radio. The details will be passed to our DCAPT for discussion.
2. The batteries for the comms trailer are in need of replacement. They are sealed batteries. Kevin Sellstrom is working on the estimated costs. This unit will be used heavily for Fleet Week Activities.
3. Decals for the various comms trailers throughout the district have been ordered (new logo).
4. A memorial plaque has been purchased in honor of Peter Todebush (ADSO-CM), copy attached. It will be placed in a respectful location in the ACV, the vehicle he so diligently maintained.
5. 0600 hrs, July 30, I received a phone call from District 11 Command Center, indicating that a PLB that had been activated near Santa Cruz. A successful RDF mission was completed and the PLB recovered. Report pending.
6. See attached report from April RDF mission.
7. Attended the SHARES HF working group web meeting July 30.

ADSO Reports:

1. CM-Dep-Vanderhyde- Nothing to report.
2. ADSO-ARMS-Firehock: ARMS program functioning well.
3. ADSO-ACV Busch- Documentation submitted for reimbursement of costs for ACV maintenance.

ADSO-CC Scholz-

1. Continue the planning and initial steps for providing support to the CGDELEVEN Command Center in preparation for the D11CCNET exercise in December.
2. Started a five session training event (between now and November) to educate members in the use of Automatic Link Establishment for high frequency contingency communications. Sessions are being taught by myself and Ray Montagne of 11-01.

3. Continue to operate the D11 North HF net and to encourage participation in the West Coast Region Net. Also five members of D11N are participants in the weekly HF net operated by the Cal Office of Emergency Services.

ADSO-CM UTAH- WILLIAMS-

Participating in HF nets. Making good progress on repairs to comms trailer. Programming radios for redundancy with adjacent districts repeaters. MOU established with adjacent first responder agencies. Planning continues for support to local events.

Division 1- SO-PAZ

Highlights/Topics:

Details:

FSO Reports:

Flotilla 12: Report Received. Faustino FSO-CM has an approved land mobile (Sausalito Mobile 1 – NM11KS). He also has a Fixed station (San Francisco Radio 1 – NF11CU).

Flotilla 14: Report on file.

Central Marin Mobil 3 and Novato Mobile 1 participated in Monday Radio Nets.

Novato Mobile 1 continues to be the AWO on Saturdays and Central Marin Mobile 3

AWO on Tuesdays

Flotilla 17: No report received

Flotilla 19: Report received. Participated in Monday night Nets. No call outs.

Projects:

Optrex Oct 1 & 2. Paz and Luke are organizing the comms for the event. This will be an Opportunity for TCO's to get some radio time. Closer to time a sign up sheet will be sent out.

Goals and Objectives:

Flotilla 14: Goal to add one more Radio Communicator

Flotilla 19: Goal to add one more Radio Communicator

Division 3 SO-STANTON

3-1 No activity.

3-3- No report filed.

3-5 FSO-Harrison-

Highlights

* Coordinated CG Boat participation in two boat drills with 02 facilities from Div 5 (SARDog and Kokua 11) at Brannan Island on Sunday 11 July. Thanks to **Low Derfuss** for initiating the training opportunity. **A great step in getting AUX back to work.**

* Worked with BM1 Montoya (OPS for Station) to permanently schedule two days per month for two boat drills with the AUX facilities in Div 3, 5 and 10 in Station's AOR. **The days are the second Wednesday and the third Saturday.** These are now included on the Station's training calendar. Any facility owner or Coxn who wishes to participate, call BM1 Montoya at 707-374-2871 or me at 707-529-2152 a few days in advance to schedule a meeting time and place with the Station's boat.

* **John Hardin's** Sidekick participated in 03 SAR cases this month. Nothing unusual for Sidekick. **Tommy** on Aquasport participated in another SAR case on the 17th.

* **Tommy Holtzman** and crew on Shady Ladies assisted CG and local sheriff with Mandeville Island fireworks event on the fourth and found a disabled boat in Big Break at Station's request on the fifth for a SAR case. Thanks guys.

* **Tommy and Nancy Holtzman** restarted the monthly Food Service lunch for the Duty Crew on the 21st. BBQ ribs, baked beans, potato salad and cream puffs. Yummy!! These food preparations on the Station's Mess Deck will continue on the third Wednesday each month. **A great opportunity to mingle with the Coasties.** These will replace the weekly food delivery to the front gate.

* Auxiliary are now permitted on the Station in uniform. An updated, approved Risk Assessment Form (ANSC-7101 rev02-21) on file at DIRAUX is all that's required. A mask on Station is not required with a completed COVID-19 vaccine. **Give me a call to arrange a group tour. Cell (707) 529-2152 or (707) 374-2871.**

* Stood 14 days of Radio Watchstanding (20B) at the Station for a total of 91 hours and participated in 02 SAR cases.

Activity Details:

* CG Station Rio Vista conducted 18 SAR cases during the last 30 days. The average July SARs over the last 15 years is 31. The most SARs conducted by the Station in one month was 70 in July 2009. The Station conducted 59 vessel boardings. **Vast majority of citations are for insufficient PFDs, no fire extinguisher and no documentation on board.** The average July boardings for the last 09 years is 31 with 2016 seeing 62. The most boardings conducted in one month by the Station was 149 in September 2015.

* I interact onsite with Station's **OIC (BMC Bennett), XPO (BM1 Reagan), OPS (BM1 Montoya), EPO (MK1 Vandenbos)** and Duty Section personnel at least three times per week.

* CGS Rio Vista conducted a reorganization on 05 July to better balance workload, crew qualifications and future crew status. This only involved the two Duty Sections (Port & Starboard). **A Duty Section is at the Station 24/7.** The Sections change every Mon, Wed, Fri thus allowing each to be off every other weekend and getting some time off during the week. Change over is one reason I'm on duty each Mon, Wed and Fri from 0600 to 1200. Much to do.

- * Participated in training a new Coastie in Station's AOR and Radio Watchstanding duties.
- * CG Reserves assigned to the Station completed their annual two week active duty assignment by living and working on the Station.

Current Projects:

- * Auxiliary Unit Coordinator (AUC) for CG Station Rio Vista for D11
- * Training CG personnel new to the Station in the AOR and Watchstanding duties.
- * Getting Auxiliary and Station personnel interacting in joint projects i.e. two boat training or ride-alongs.
- * Securing AUX member interest in Watchstanding at CGS Rio Vista.
- * Supporting Division 3 by attending Staff Meetings and reporting on CGS Rio Vista activities.
- * Getting CG personnel from CGS Rio Vista to occasionally attend Division 3 and Flotilla 35 monthly meetings.

Challenges:

- * To continue to be optimistic about the future of the Auxiliary in the Delta.
- * To get AUX Coxswains to submit CG4612 Report to the Station when they tow a disabled boat or provide assistance. BMC Bennett prefers the report for the Station records but it's not required.
- * **To obtain more active AUX facilities in the Station's area of responsibility.**
- * **To get AUX members certified as Radio Watchstanders at Station Rio Vista.**
- * To remain mentally sharp and physically functional at my advanced age.

Agency Interactions:

*Participated as the AUX representative in the Station's monthly DOIT (Delta Officers Intelligence Team) meeting via teleconference on 07 July. Invited participants include; Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Yolo and Contra Costa county sheriff marine divisions, Port of Stockton and Port of West Sacramento PDs, Fish and Wildlife, CG Sector San Francisco Command Center and Sector Intelligence, Cal Boating and Waterways, Cal Guard, Delta Protection Commission, Assemblyman Jim Frasier's office.

*Among Items discussed were: Operation Dry Water over the Fourth weekend at the Station resulted in 17 hours U/W with 72 boats stopped with 136 POB. The 24 subsequent Boardings resulted in 02 terminations for insufficient PFDs; Contra Costa County Marine Division reported no accidents or injuries over the Fourth with fireworks at Antioch and Mandeville Island; State Parks reported the vagrant camp on the island across from the Dutra plant has been cleared.

*The next DOIT will be in person at the Station on 11 Aug. due to 04 Aug being Coast Guard Day. Subsequent DOITs back to regular first Wednesday of each month.

My Goal and Objective for the month:

* To remember those who came before me.

Steve

3-10 participating in VHF and HF nets. Working on HF radio in ACV.

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On Friday morning, 2 April 2021 I was contacted as the AWO for the day by PO Robb at the SECSF Command Center. We were requested to attempt to locate a stuck "hot" microphone on VHF Channel 16 that was blocking the Sector San Francisco and Station Rio Vista Rescue 21 systems from receiving other signals in the area. The Sector staff had attempted to DF it using the Rescue 21 system but were only able to locate it as "somewhere South of Walnut Grove and East of Antioch."

I contacted Auxiliarist Larry Stanton, also in Elk Grove, and within 30 minutes we were underway to Walnut Grove with RDF equipment in place to attempt to identify the location of the signal.

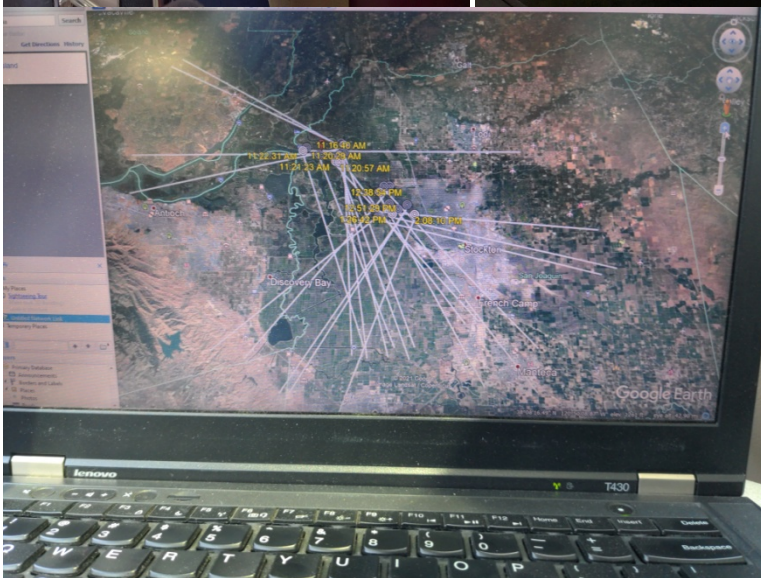
We began to pick up a weak and unreadable signal in sporadic locations South of Walnut Grove, and proceeded to attempt to locate the origin for the remainder of the day. After 6 hours and over 150 miles we were able to identify it as somewhere approximately South of Bouldin Island and East of Owl Harbor Marina in the Sacramento River Delta area. We had run to our limit of fuel and alerted Sector SF we would resume DF operations at first light the next day.

Beginning at 0630 on Saturday 3 April I resumed RDF operations from the farm roads on Bouldin Island. After 6 more hours of chasing extremely weak signals I was able to narrow down the lines of bearing and locate the source of the signal as a stuck marine radio located in a private cabin cruiser berthed at RiverPoint Landing Marina in Stockton.

With the assistance of the harbormaster's staff we isolated the vessel, with the registration CF 5053 KU. The harbormasters staff, lead by Jason White, boarded the vessel and located a very old VHF marine radio that was stuck on transmit. The radio was extremely hot and impossible to touch after transmitting on "high" power for 48+ hours. The antenna was folded down and the boat was located in the middle of a steel boat shed, in the middle of the marina, making DF'ing difficult at best. The harbormasters staff removed the microphone and unplugged the battery power to the radio, and I was able to confirm with Station Rio Vista and Sector San Francisco watchstanders that the signal of the past 36 hours had been eliminated. The harbormasters staff promised to contact the owner of the vessel and inform her of the incident, and assist her in repairing the issue before she got underway again.

Larry Stanton and I spent over 21 hours and more than 300 miles traveling Delta roads and levees over two full days to successfully locate and extinguish this signal, using personally owned DF equipment on loan from Peter Todebush.

I've attached photos of the moored vessel, the radio on the vessel, and of the 2nd day of LOB's that eventually lead us to the marina in Stockton.



Kevin Sellstrom

ummary of April RDF mission:

Division 5- SO-Sumner
Flotilla 51 No FSO CM
Flotilla 52 No FSO CM
Flotilla 53, No report.
Flotilla 55 No FSO CM,
Flotilla 57 No FSO-CM

Division 6-SO- Wormington -No report filed.

Division 7- SO-Farmer –

Working on completing the AUX COMMS trailer, should finish by mid-August. We still don't know how to get the decals to identify it as a USCG AUX COMMS trailer.

Continuing to run a net every Wednesday evening.

Will be teaching Ham Technician and General license courses beginning in September.

Morris Farmer Div 7

Division 8-No report

Division 10- No report filed.

Division 11- No report filed.

Division 12-No report filed.

DETAILS:

1. None

PROJECTS:

1. Complete ACV and Trailer recert. Changed AD2 documents per OTO. In process of review.

CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES/OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Meet all SO-Cm members.
2. Increase TCO operators.

Goals:

Promote a high level of reliable communications services to the Coast Guard and USCG-AUX using VHF, HF and digital modes (fixed and mobile). This goal can be achieved by doing the following:

Long term:

1. Increase number of HF stations in D11N. PCA Fair demonstrations.
2. Promote VHF nets in each division, voice and digital modes. When realistic, each division should initiate VHF net utilizing available frequencies.

Short term:

1. Hold large and small scale communications exercises to enhance training of members.
2. Train with gold side communications team. Planned training includes Radio Direction Finding, HF and VHF field training exercises within next 8 months.

PHOTO GALLERY:

