



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

District Eleven North Region DISTRICT STAFF OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

September 5, 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. I am also in discussion with Mike Williams in Utah, as the trailer assigned to their division is also in need of tires etc.
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) has been placed near the HF radio work station. See attached photo
5. See attached report of recent PLB investigation.
6. A web meeting was held with LCDR. Jojola and CWO Werre regarding on-going communications programs, training and projects. The meeting was attended by 11N and 11S CM program managers. The meeting went well and I have attached a slide deck, created by Bill Scholz and Ray Montagne for the meeting. My thanks to them for the great work.
7. Training continues for the December exercise.
8. Member Desmond Thorsson has his fixed HF and VHF station recertified and his is now operational!
9. Weekly bay area and Sacramento Valley VHF net is active as well as the D11N HF and West Coast Region HF net. Our members also participating with the 11S HF net.

ADSO Reports:

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

ADSO-CC Scholz-

Regular work continues on preparations for the December 2021 D11 Command Center Exercise. The main focus is on bringing more HF stations on-line using

ALE and the new messaging software, Win link Express. Gratifying progress is being made in 11 North.

A new "transportable" radio facility has been established as a part of the Elk Grove flotilla and is available to support contingency comms throughout the District/

On 24 August a formal "in-brief" was held to welcome and educate the new B11 Telecommunications Branch Chief, LCDR Jennifer Jojola. Attendees were the two DSO-CM's (North and South), the ALE Network Coordinator for D11, the 11 North AUX ALE Coordinator, the Net Manager for the West Coast Region Net and an 11 South ADSO-CM who briefed on the "Open Mic" and transmitter location program.

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.

No Activity to report.

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: Report received

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Approximately 0845 local I was called out to locate a 406-MHz Personal Locator Beacon
The command center advised that satellites located it to the Santa Cruz Harbor area over land.

1100 local, after being delayed by a work commitment, I had my RDF equipment ready and responded to Santa Cruz Harbor with an automated Doppler-based radio direction finding array mounted in the car.

1220 Local. Checked in with CG Sector SF on arriving in Santa Cruz, I drove a few loops around the neighborhood to gain bearings on the 121.5 continuous beacon signal I was receiving. The vehicle based automated system took me to a building in the area at 365 Lake St.

I proceeded on foot with a handheld spectrum analyzer and a phased array antenna. Tuning the attenuator, I was able to locate the device in the possession of a couple parked in front of the address who had somehow found the device and activated it not knowing what it was.

The vehicle and its inhabitants were located directly in front of 365 Lake St, but were not associated with the address.

Device secured at 1400 local and taken into my possession without incident.



A few notes for reference:

365A Lake Street is a community access room used by a local CGAUX Flotilla for meetings. It is tempting to assume that a CGAUX registered PLB would be inside, but this was not the case. Near misses based on anecdotal knowledge are often very deceiving. Trust your gear.

"USCG Station Small Santa Cruz" is not located at 365A Lake Street. It is located across the harbor and doesn't appear to have a street address. The back fence is along Marine Parade St. Access is only available from the other side of the facility in the harbor complex. According to local sources, this is a stay-over station for small boat crews out of Station Monterey who stage here on weekends during the Summer season to be closer to Santa Cruz cases.

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

Projects:

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 report filed.

3-3-No report filed.

3-5 FSO-Harrison-

Highlights

* Pinned BM2 insignia on Katelyn Clifford at promotion ceremony at Station on the 2nd. Felt honored to be asked.

* Auxiliary are 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 required indoors when within 6 feet of another even with a completed COVID-19 vaccine.** Give me a call to arrange a group tour. Cell (707) 529-2152 or (707) 374-2871.

* The Station has 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.

* Division 3 conducted a successful OPTREX on the 14th at the Sacramento Yacht Club. 04 Coxns (Hardin, Fite, MacPherson and Van Koersel) and 01 Boat Crew (Larry Stanton) passed their re-certifications and 01 (Curtis from Div 5) passed her initial Boat Crew certification. **Hats off to John Hardin, Don Anderson, Greg VanKoersel and Doug MacPerson for their efforts in making this event happen during these difficult times.** See. Things can get done. Congrats to all participants.

* **John Hardin's Sidekick** participated in 03 SAR cases this month. **Tommy Holtzman's Aqua Sport participated in 03 (count them) SAR cases in one afternoon.** The location must have been a target rich environment. Can you guest where? He did another later in the month.

Activity Details:

* CG Station Rio Vista conducted 17 SAR cases during the last 30 days. The average August SARs over the last 15 years is 27. The most SARs conducted by the Station in one month was 70 in July 2009. The Station conducted 23 vessel boardings. **Vast majority of citations are for no PFDs or fire extinguisher and no documentation on board.** The average July boardings for the last 09 years is 38 with 2016 seeing 62. The most boardings conducted in one month by the Station was 149 in September 2015.

* Conducted a retraining of a Coastie in Station's Radio Watchstanding duties.

* The Station is 90 to 95% vaccinated for COVID-19

* Stood 14 days of Radio Watchstanding (20B) at the Station for a total of 91 hours and participated in 01 SAR case.

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.
- * Having Station call out AUX facilities to patrol potential trouble spots i.e. Ski Beach, American River and Stockton over summer weekends
- * 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 when enough members show up in person to make the trip worthwhile.

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 on the 11th. 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: Vessel Assist temporarily not responding to calls in Station's AOR due to Covid-19 outbreak among staff; An 80 boat Poker Run scheduled for weekend of 14th from Discovery Bay to Stockton and return according to CoCo Sheriff; Weekends seem busiest in Walnut Grove according to Sac Sheriff; and a joint Task Group (Station, SAC Sheriff, Fish & Game and Sector) in Mayberry Slough on the 24th to clean up derelicts.

My Goal and Objective for the month:

- * To be an oak to my generation.

Steve H

3-10 Sellstrom- Receiving materials for Vaca repeater site. We will soon replace fire damaged equipment. We will again attempt to get ACV antenna operational.

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 –Nothing to report.

Division 7- SO-Farmer –

Thanks to the yeoman work of Bill Rouleau and COMO Mike Williams the COMMS trailer is 98% complete and could be used except for the lack of signs. Mike and I are working this issue.

I am teaching Technician, the introductory Ham license level, course online on Monday evenings from 7-9 PM for 9 consecutive Monday evenings.

I am also teaching the General (intermediate) license course online on 9 consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7-9 PM starting on September 15th. Times are MDT

If interested in either course, contact me by email. Remember that a Ham license will be required to use the full capabilities of the COMMS trailer.

Morris Farmer ADSO-CM-Admin

Division 8-No report filed.

Division 10- No report filed.

Division 11- Nothing to report. Little activity due to COVID.

Division 12- Rob Torio-

1. We are starting our AUXCOM planning for the upcoming Division 12 VICTORY OPTREX on October 15 and 16, 2021 at the Marina Bay Yacht Harbor in Richmond. For the people who have participated in our past OPTREX events, I think we can agree that there was great training, camaraderie, and a lot of fun. Again we have been asked to provide Communications support and radio guards for all the boat facilities in the water during the exercises. We plan to use the ACV as our AUXCOM station, so we will have a very comfortable setting. We are starting our AUXCOM planning for the upcoming Division 12 VICTORY OPTREX on October 15 and 16, 2021 at the Marina Bay Yacht Harbor in Richmond. For the people who have participated in our past OPTREX events, I think we can agree that there was great training, camaraderie, and a lot of fun. Again we have been asked to provide Communications support and radio guards for all the boat facilities in the water during the exercises. We plan to use the ACV as our AUXCOM station, so we will have a very comfortable setting. I am reaching out to our TCO's, TCO trainees, and anyone interested in becoming a TCO to come out and pitch in.

2. Met with Stephen Busch and John Brandenburg at ACV to review recent maintenance and work.

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:

ACV photo Todebush plaque

