



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

District Eleven North Region DISTRICT STAFF OFFICER COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

December 2, 2021

To: Dean McFarren

Cc: Curtis Han

Cc: District Board and Staff, ADSO-SO CM

From: Larry Stanton DSO-CM

HIGHLIGHTS/"3 UPS":

1. Happy Holidays to all!
2. 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.
3. We have held our first on-line AUX OP Comm. Specialty Course. Well attended. Thank you to Doug McPherson for leading and Chris Lay and Kevin Sellstrom for assisting.
4. D11N continues to support VTS with the Diablo site. We have been fortunate to have use of the site for our Monday evening net.
5. The Ventrilo link to the Vaca site is working. We will continue to test it for the month of December then it will be available for use by our members to check into the net and as a link for operations.
6. Decals have arrived for ACV and trailers. The new logo will be featured.

ADSO Reports:

1. CM-Dep-Vanderhyde- (Rob will be leaving the Auxiliary at the end of December. I wish him well and thank him for his never ending support).
2. ADSO-ARMS-Firehock: Ops normal in the AWO world. Shift coverage continues as a seamless team effort, an important element as we bridge into the holidays and pent-up desire for people to undertake postponed travel grows. 2022 (yikes!) will see two efforts-- (1) continued attempts to recruit more ARMS land mobiles, particularly in under-served areas like Carquinez Straights and the San Mateo Coast; and (2) if permitted, a return to providing an annual program briefing for Sector Command Center staff.

End of report.

3. ADSO-ACV Busch- No activity. Attending Aux Op Cm course.
4. ADSO-Simmons- No activity
5. ADSO-CC Scholz

ADSO-CM-Contingency Report November 2021

Most of the effort over the past 30 days has been a continuation of the work during the preceding months as the objectives of that work are substantial and take a significant amount of time. A few of the newer items:

Continued joint effort with the D11 Dt to advance our objectives for the D11CCNET exercise now scheduled for March of 2022.

Based on the results of a six month experiment with "district" HF nets, we are returning to a more formal and expanded region net beginning at the start of November. It will function as both a training net and a contingency net, and will provide an opportunity weekly for district level sessions if needed.

Major progress is being made in the implementation of digital text messaging using our VHF radio assets, but in simplex modes and as repeaters. More details at the January training session.

v/r,

Bill Scholz

6. ADSO-CM UTAH- WILLIAMS- Participating in HF net.

SO Reports/FSO Reports:

Division 1-SO-PAZ_-No report filed.

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

Division 3 SO-STANTON

3-1 No report filed. Attending Aux Op Cm course.

3-3- No report filed.

3-5 – **Highlights**

* **Ensign Cavanaugh**, a recent graduate of **CG Officers Candidate School**, gave me the honor of being the first person to salute him as a Commissioned Officer. I had given a letter of

recommendation to the OCS Selection Board when he was an enlisted man at the Station earlier this year. **He will be a fine officer.**

* Station had a **Ready for Operations (RFO) Inspection** by a team from Sector SF on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th. An event occurring every three or four years. All PPE equipment, vehicles, boats, facilities, weapons and tools inspected. The crew were given written tests on their current ratings i.e. Coxn, Boarding Officer, Boat crew, etc. Supervisory personnel activities and crew relationships reviewed. All personnel conducted underway and law enforcement scenario tests. Station passed with flying colors. **A really BIG DEAL. BZ to the Station's personnel.**

* Began assisting 05 newly assigned personnel in AOR and Watch duties. Busy next two months.

* Nice **Veterans Day** articles in **Fairfield's Daily Republic newspaper**. They focused on the Coast Guard and Auxiliary in Vallejo and Rio Vista. About the hell time.

* **Summary of FY21 SAR cases in Sector SF:** 23% disabled vessels, 21% persons in the water, 13% distress alert/mayday broadcast, 9% unmanned adrift, 7% weather related, 5% aground, 5% capsized vessel, 5% taking on water, 2% vessel fire, 1% vehicle in water. Not much different from previous years.

Activity Details:

* CG Station Rio Vista conducted 08 SAR cases during the last 30 days. The average November SARs over the last 15 years is 26. The most SARs conducted by the Station in one month was 70 in July 2009. The Station conducted 11 vessel boardings with 02 terminations for no PFDs or fire extinguisher and no documentation on board. **The usual suspects!** The average November boardings for the last 09 years is 44. The most boardings conducted in one month by the Station was 149 in September 2015.

* Stood 12 days of Radio Watchstanding (20B) at the Station for a total of 78 hours. My lower than normal activity due to Thanksgiving leave.

Continuing Notices

* **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.

* **Auxiliary are still 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. I'd love to show you around. Cell (707) 529-2152 or Station (707) 374-2871.**

* **Onsite interactions with CG Station personnel** are highly recommended and sought for any excuse you can think of. Radio Watchstanding is a recommended approach I've used over the past 14 years. It will pay big dividends for the Station and yourself.

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.

* 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 obtain more active AUX facilities in the Station's area of responsibility.

* To get AUX members certified as Radio Watchstanders at Station Rio Vista.

Agency Interactions:

* Participated as the AUX representative in the Station's monthly **DOIT (Delta Officers Intelligence Team)** meeting on the 3rd. 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: Duck season opened 23 Oct until end of January. Frank's Tract has 20 duck blinds and **Fish & Wildlife** expect another 20. **Each blind must be anchored, have a visible number and be lighted with flashing white light at night.** If it does not meet these requirements call **State Parks** at 925-890-4403 and report it. It was reported

that a duck blind was taken from Sherman Lake without owner's permission and towed to Holland Tract. It was noted as the first report of "**Grand Theft Duck Blind**". Sturgeon fishing is picking up between Rio Vista and Bay Point. Numerous boats anchored. **Contra Costa County Sheriff** reported numerous abandoned vessels in Dutch Slough they are trying to clear.

My Goal and Objective for the month:

* To find happiness in just doing nothing Ops normal in the AWO world. Shift coverage continues as a seamless team effort, an important element as we bridge into the holidays and pent-up desire for people to undertake postponed travel grows.

2022 (yikes!) will see two efforts--(1) continued attempts to recruit more ARMS land mobiles, particularly in under-served areas like Carquinez Straights and the San Mateo Coast; and (2) if permitted, a return to providing an annual program briefing for Sector Command Center staff.

End of report.

3-10 Sellstrom- Assisting in teaching Aux Op CM course.

Division 5- SO-Sumner- No report filed.

Division 6-SO- Wormington – No report filed.

Division 7- SO-Farmer –No report filed.

Division 8-No report filed.

Division 10- No report filed.

Division 11- No report filed.

Division 12- Rob Torio-Nothing to report.

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.
3. Holding web based TCO course in November. Planning with SO-MT Doug McPherson (Div-3). Working with DSO-MT to schedule events.

PHOTO GALLERY:

None.