



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report  
December 2021**

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

This report covers surface activities for the month of November which were non-existent due to the Coast Guard’s software conversion and resultant lack of funding. Since we continue to await resumption of operations activities, there is little to report for last month.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1. All patrol order requests remain on hold. See below for details.
- 2. OPTREX Calendar
- 3. Looking forward to 2022

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**DETAILS**

- 1. The following is an excerpt from an email (in italics) received from OTO Dustin Finkelson on 04 October: *All patrol orders and requests in ADII are to be denied regardless of status (requested or approved). There may be issues with accounting lines and future payment processing. Only “Critical Missions” will be approved and no requests should be entered into AD2 until further notice. For member who requesting orders the temporary work around is:*
  - *Fill out and complete the CG-5132 attached.*
  - *Forward to OTO for verification.*
  - *OTO will forward to the OIA’s for signature.*
  - *The OIA’s will forward back to the requesting member.*
  - *After the blackout period, you will enter in ADII as normal.*

*Any approved patrols after OCT 1<sup>st</sup> will need to follow the steps above as well. Please forward to your folks and as always, stay flexible as thing may change at a moment’s notice.*

*Addendum: Email received 07 October from OTO: After a conference call with BSX, all air/surface ops will not take place until after the blackout period 15NOV21. Unless the SECTOR/AIRSTA Commanding Officer is requesting Aux support, no orders will be issued and ADII should not be used.*

**The blackout period was to have ended on approximately 15 November; however, it is still in effect. A conclusion date of the blackout period continues to be unknown as of this writing.**



2. Upcoming OPEX / OPTREXs currently listed on the District Calendar are below:

<b><u>OPTREX CALENDAR - 2022</u></b>		
<u>Division(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
8	Lake Shasta, Antlers Resort	28-30 April
6	Santa Cruz	10 September

When the New Year’s dust settles, it is suggested to reserve a date on the District Calendar if your division is planning to hold an OPTREX.

3. 2022 will soon be upon us and all we can hope for at this time is a return to some degree of normalcy ... whatever that may look like! I appreciate Commodore McFarren reappointing me as District Staff Officer – Operations and I look forward to working with the Division Staff Officers – Operations whether they are new or have signed up for another term. Whichever the case, thank you! Prior to the due date of the January Ops reports, I will send out a reminder about the division report format.

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**Only one Division report was submitted due to lack of activity.**

**Division 3**

From John Hardin, SO-OP

Subject: Lighted Boat Parades

The decorated boat pictured below will soon be in a Christmas lighted boat parade. Unfortunately, decorating the bow of a boat with lights is typical. As you can see, the operator of this boat will have a difficult time maintaining a proper lookout as required in Rule 5. Furthermore Rule 20 requires that these lights not obscure or be mistaken for the boat’s navigation lights. Increasing your chances of a collision is a very bad idea. If found in violation of a Rule, one must prove the violation could not have possibly contributed to the mishap.

As this is a prevalent practice, please consider including this information in your public education courses. As always, your question and comments are

welcome at CaptainHardin@aol.com



Enjoy the Holidays ... stay safe and healthy!



\*\* END OF REPORT \*\*

Respectfully submitted,  
COMO Wally Smith, DSO-OP



**SEMPER GUMBY!**

