



**Homeland
Security**

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
District 11 Northern Region**

Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah



Date: February 2007
To: Mike Williams, VCO & District Board/Staff
From: D11N DSO-OP
Subject: District OPS Report

PEPIRBs:

Several members have called concerned about the Personal EPIRBs they have been assigned from DIRAUX. The yellow PEPIRBs are 406 MHz and are not effected by the below statement.

January 2007 - *** Important *** - New EPIRB regulations, please get the word out to the public during PV, VE, and boating classes. The monitoring of and support for 121.5/243 MHz EPIRBs is being phased out. It is recommended that surface vessels stop using EPIRB 121.5/243 MHz devices effective December 31, 2006 and upgrade to the 406 MHz devices. Full shutdown of support for the 121.5/243 MHz will not happen until February 1, 2009.

Please check the back of your PEPIRB for the due date on your battery. If due in 2007 please e/mail our OTO, Mr. Ken Frost as soon as possible and a new battery will be placed on order for you.

OPERATIONS WEB PAGE:

Please take a peek at the refreshed Operations WEB Page at:
<http://ops.d11nuscgaux.info/>

Great photos taken while on patrol can be seen on the OPS Photo page at:
<http://ops.d11nuscgaux.info/photo.html> The current ones were taken by George Knies.

Irene Wetzel has put her heart, soul and hundreds of hours into making the information current and easily attainable. Give her applause and thanks when you see her.

SO-REPORTS - REYRs

I receive reports from some of D11N's SO-Ops, but not all. They are read and appreciated. I did receive one from DIV 10 and want to share portions with you. The follow up that is done with this report is invaluable to the members. Much of the information that is included are items that I was going to include in this report so will only pass them on once. The SO-OP for DIV 10 sends the report to the Division Board, Staff, DSO-OP and EVERY COXSWAIN AND CREW MEMBER in Division 10. A good way to make certain the word gets to the deck plates.

Portions of the DIV 10 SO-OP February report included:

- a. Current information about Flotillas that give and do not give reports
- b. Included when Facilities are (were) due for inspection. The name of vessel, flotilla, owner and due date inspection were given.

COXSWAIN LEAD or NON-LEAD on 7030 FORM - From Marilyn McBain, DSO-IS -
Please inform your SO/FSO-IS officers NOT to report Coxswains as LEAD if they are serving as crew. On 30 January 2007 we had a work list committee meeting and decided to resend this. If any have already entered any Coxswains who served as crew as LEAD, please have them go in and change them back to NON-LEAD. OSC will reprogram AUXDATA to include Coxswain Operational Non-Lead hours to count toward the Coxswain's required 12 hours Annual Maintenance requirement.

SURFACE OPERATIONS POLICY EXAM - The Operations Policy Exam is now available and is required for all trainees working on their initial Coxswain or PWC Operator qualification. This exam must be successfully completed before the QE dockside oral exam and underway check ride can be performed. The exam, a 30 question open book exam, covers surface operations policies located the Operations Policy Manual COMDTINST M16798.3 (series) and Chapter 3 and 4 of the Coast Guard Addendum to the United States National Search and Rescue Supplement (NSS) COMDTINST M16130.2 (series). A score of 90% is required to pass the exam. The exam is available through the Auxiliary National Testing Center at:

<http://cgexams.info/testing/>. Upon completing the test, you will receive notice if you have either passed or not. If successful, your DIRAUX should get an electronic notification. Of course, it is always a good idea to print a copy of any electronic notice you receive in case the notice does not get to your DIRAUX for some reason and you will need that notice for your mentor to sign off on that task.

Note: *The on-line exams require that you are running Internet Explorer 5.0 or newer, Netscape 6.1 or newer or an equivalent release of AOL's browser. It requires that you have JavaScript installed and enabled and that you have your cookies enabled."*

End of DIV 10 Report

MANDATORY OPERATIONS AND TCT REFRESHER WORKSHOPS:

The workshops will be out soon, waiting for some answers from Headquarters on several items and soon as we receive the responses we will get the workshop out on a CD to every flotilla. This year you have until December 31st to complete the OPS and TCT Refresher workshops. This does not mean you should wait until December to take it but it does mean that this will give you time to pursue every member in you flotilla and make certain it gets done.

TCT REFRESHER WORKSHOP:

Good news, if you take your five-year required TCT Workshop you do not need to take the 1 hour TCT Refresher that same year.

REYR:

Our District had eighty-six qualified Coxswains and Crew become REYR. REYR means the member is overdue for the following:

- A. Did not do required hours
- B. Not current on TCT
- C. Not current on NAV RULES
- D. ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 (takes effect 31 Dec 2007). New candidates need to have the required ICS training done for the position they are qualifying for prior to being certified.

Time slips by and it is so easy to believe you just took your NAV Rules a couple of years ago when it was really five years ago. Please check your stats. This can be done by going into AUXINFO or asking your IS officer to check for you. This is one reason we have the OPS-8. The OPS-8 asks when all the above has been done or is due.

REYR (cont):

If you are REYR and do your hours, NAV RULES, TCT or what you are lacking in be to be current, be certain to pass the completion paper work on to Marilyn McBain or DIRAUX so you are taken off REYR. Just completing the task does not automatically take you off; it has to be done manually.

(IMPORTANT NOTE: Ask your IS Officer to check your records and run a "Training Status Individual Report" in AUXDATA. This report will give you the currency due dates of your competency)

DSAR:

Those of you that participated in last years District ISAR (International Search and Rescue) run offs at Coast Guard Station Vallejo recall the fun and hard competition that was experienced. On April the 21st there will be another run off for the D11N ISAR Teams. We shall refer to this as DSAR (District Search and Rescue), and then it gets even better. The scoring for D11N teams will be scored as well as each individual. The four top individual competitors from the Vallejo DSAR will be the ones chosen for the D11N Team to take the next step. Last year we had team members from divisions 3,4,7 & 12. The next event will be held June the 2nd on Coast Guard Island and the competition will be held between the five Districts that make up the PACAREA, D11N, D11S, D13, D14 and D17. The two top teams of the PSAR (PACAREA Search and Rescue) event will be heading to the final competition in Toronto, Canada this fall. Yes, this will be interesting. Two teams to be chosen out of five is excellent odds! We have a good chance of being one of the winners. We were in 2006!!!

Respectfully submitted, Gail Ramsey