



**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
District 11 Northern Region  
*Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah*



---

*District 113*  
*Communications Department*

---

Date: November 12, 2008

To: Mike Williams, VCO D113

From: Jeff C. Price – DSO-CM 113

Cc: Victor Connell DCO, Eric Jacobson IPDCO, ALL RCO's, DIRAUX, All ADSO-CM's, AWO, All DCP's, SO-CM and DSO-SR Robin Stewart

---

Subject: District 11N Communications Report September through November 2008

Hello all,

Here is the Communications report from the past few months.

1. I would like to thank DCO (e) Mike Williams for allowing me to continue the communications journey through the next two years. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done especially in the repeater field. I have made contact with the owner of the Mt. Umminum site. We are moving forward with ideas about his mountain top as well as the other mountain tops that he owns. All of these mountain tops will improve our District communications as well as augmenting the Coast Guards sites. We are also waiting for the arrival of the new Direction Finding machines that the Sector has approved and paid for. These additional D/F machines will be placed in the hands of those who really want to make a difference with hoax mayday calls, open microphones and EPIRBS. I have also met with the person involved with the Rescue 21 process. The new communications platform will arrive sometime in 2010. The Coast Guard has investigated several locations in the area of responsibility that they will be putting new high sites. Some of the locations are owned by the Coast Guard and some are shared with other companies. I have been guaranteed that we will have access to these locations in the event that we decide to install repeater systems. The idea of installing a repeater system along the coast is very likely when this all comes together. I thank the incoming DCO again and I am looking forward to next year.
2. I alluded to this in a previous report but I was unable to get into details based on the severity of the issue. Sector San Francisco has given permission for me to send the following information out in direct regards to the mission that this Districts Mobile Team was involved with. I was contacted by Sector San Francisco during the middle of August. They asked me to get involved with a hoax mayday caller that has been transmitting since July. The hoaxer was only transmitting over the Mt. Umminum high site and he would only transmit for seconds at a time. My task was to directionally find him and the locations he was transmitting from. The problem was that the amount of miles that needed to be covered over land exceeded 350 miles. This transmitter transmits up through the middle of the Bay Area as well as the coastal communities of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. I started this tracking through the east bay area and asked for help from Division 12, Division 4 and Division 6. Divisions 4 and 6 responded with great enthusiasm and I never

heard anything from Division 12. I employed mobile responders from Division 4 who had machines as well as portable marine radios to try and get some kind of voice heard. The search lasted almost 2 full weeks as we descended on several communities as far down as Morgan Hill and as far up as Alameda. All areas were exhausted so then I sent Mike Nolan up to the top of Mt. Hamilton so he could set up and hear this person when he transmits. The hoaxer transmitted and Mike was unable to hear him so it was determined at that time that the mission needed to be moved to the Santa Cruz area. There were several days that this person did not transmit and then he would come in like wildfire. During the afternoon of 03OCT08, Mike Nolan was dispatched to the top of the HWY 17 summit to try and D/F this person as he had been transmitting for 30 minutes non-stop. Mike arrived on location with Jeff Wilcox and they were able to hear the hoaxer enough to get a bearing on 135 magnetic from the top of the summit. Needless to say, this was a huge break in this mission. The Mobile Communicators from Division 6 came out and helped with this under the direction of Dave Wormington. Dave drafted up some maps of the area and struck a line as to the coverage and then deployed his mobile staff to various parts of his area. We set up our operation during that entire weekend and the hoaxer never transmitted. On 05OCT08 at 0030, Sector San Francisco called me and advised that the hoaxer was back at it again. I quickly got dressed and headed to the Santa Cruz area. While enroute, I called Mike Nolan and had him get going as well. I arrived at the top of HWY 17 and I was unable to hear anything mostly due to the heavy fog. I then departed that location and headed south on HWY 1 through Santa Cruz and into Monterey County. A quick thinking Sector Watch Stander asked the hoaxer to call the Sector and the hoaxer did. He called from his cell which also turned out to be his home phone number. We did a cross reference of the phone number and his address came up. I went to this guy's street and then had Sector call him on the radio and ask him to give a 10 count over the radio and he complied. By doing this, I was able to get a 100% accurate direction find on this guy thus closing this case. The amount of money that was spent on the initial search of this hoaxer was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The amount saved by using the Auxiliary, likely the same. This was HUGE for our Auxiliary. The hoaxer is being prosecuted for his hoax mayday calls which totaled 45. I could not have done this by myself so I owe a huge THANK YOU to the following people: Fred Sellstrom, Kevin Sellstrom, Bill Kinsey, Joe Love, Paul Zahra, Mark Mushet, Jeff Wilcox, Leon Artac, Dave Wormington, Ryan Dimeo, Rod Collins, Chris Doutre, Dudley Clark, Ray Burch, Tony Budlong, Peter Kryll, Steve Ward, Jerry Mcalwee, Darren Nolan and last but certainly not least Mr. Mike Nolan who actually heard the guy transmitting. All of these folks made a HUGE difference and I would not be doing my job if I did not recognize their efforts. These guys are truly the very best of what this Auxiliary has to offer and I was, and still am extremely honored to work with them.

3. Fleet Week 2008 was a big success for the Communications Department. We had our AUXCOMM at VTS again and that has been proven to be a big success. Mark Mushet has really done a GREAT job for the past 2 years and the response to his professionalism has been noted. Bob Peterson and Mike Nolan teamed up at the Muni Pier and worked along with the FAA and did a great job in keeping PATCOMM advised of all the activity. Mr. Chuck Elliott assisted us at Crissy Field with eyes on from shore. Things are going to change again next year as many of the folks from the Coast Guard will be leaving prior to the event.
4. During the month of October, the repeater team installed 2 brand new dipole antennas high on top of Mt. Diablo. The installs went perfect and the coverage is 100% better. We are able to get our Auxiliary Fixed Land Station in Bodega Bay in very clear now which is very good in the event of an emergency. I have been in contact with the Coast Guard about obtaining some new items for some new key locations. This will be moving forward as things become more available. Many thanks for Fred and Kevin for taking this task on. They did an AWESOME job!

5. **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SECTOR SAN FRANCISCO:**

LCDR Lusk – Sector Command Center Chief has asked ALL members of this Auxiliary (radio operator or not) that have marine radios either in their home or vehicle to listen in whenever possible on VHF CH16. There have been a BIG number of FALSE MAYDAYS that have come in. If the member happens to hear the MAYDAY call then the member is requested to call the Sector Command Center at 415-399-3530. The Member can really make a difference because he or she can narrow the search field down dramatically if he or she gives either his or her LAT/LONG or geographic location and how strong he or she heard the transmission.

---

Here are the offices of the ADSO-CM: All of their email addresses have been updated on the Districts web site under Departments. As always, PLEASE START YOUR QUESTIONS AT THE DIVISION LEVEL FIRST. Please let the SO-CM have the first crack at helping you out. If you have no SO-CM then please feel free to contact one of my Officers. This just keeps with the tradition of Leadership and Management.

**ADSO-CM/IT:** The CM/IT and I will be working to update the District Comms web page. We hope to include some pictures and event items that we can look forward to in 2008. We will also be researching some needed upgrades to the ARMS system. More of this is sure to unfold as the year progresses.

**ADSO-CM/R:** You have questions about this Districts Repeater(s). Mr. Sellstrom is here to help you out and give you the guidance that you will need to be successful in transmitting to the system.

**ADSO-CM/HF:** Mr. Farmer can help you out and educate you on how the HF radio works and how you fit into this program. He will explain how to get in and what you need to start talking.

**ADSO-CM/MT:** Please send any Comms related questions in regards to future testing or proctoring to the CM/MT. He will be happy to assist if possible and I will assist him as needed.

**ADSO-CM/LM:** If the members have any Mobile related issues on how to get out on patrol or what type of patrol is authorized then please have them contact Joe Love. He has the answers!

**ADSO-CM/W:** I have created a new style for this position to be more interactive with the local Stations AUXLO. There is a very large desire to have Auxiliary Communications professionals stand a watch or two at the local Stations.

**AUX RADIO NET:** All Communications units are encouraged to check in and if nothing else test their equipment to see if it all works both on the VHF marine channels as well as the repeater frequency. The net is being held at 2000 local time each Monday evening on VHF CH83A. If for some reason CH 83A is occupied then we will switch our VHF Marine remote to transmit on VHF CH 06A. The Sector Command has approved this.

**AWO (AUXILIARY WATCH OFFICER):** We currently have all positions filled. I will be updating the comms page on the District site when this position comes available.

**ARMS (Auxiliary Resource Management System):** This interactive site is fully controlled by the DSO-CM and the Auxiliary Watch Officers under the direct Supervision of the OTO, DIRAUX and the CDO at Sector SF. This site that has been established contains several Mobile responders that have stated that they want to be apart of the emergency call out process. The old style of utilizing the 11 N/R roster to make call outs has been replaced by this site. This site emails the communicator with his or her availability for the next 24 hours. These members are only viewed by the DSO-CM and Watch Officer to insure the privacy of the person that has signed up. We are always looking to add more communicators so if you are interested please let me know and I will get you online with this process. I cannot promise that you will be called out for the SAR but I can tell you that your services can and will be utilized should the need

arise. This service has provided Sector SF with several comms related incidents from D/F to SAR and everything in between. All SO-CM and FSO-CM are encouraged to pass this information along to their membership. This site is the only one of its kind in the entire Coast Guard Auxiliary. We are currently experiencing some ISP issues with the following providers: Comcast, Yahoo and AOL. We are working to get these UNSPAMMED!

**Some issues have come up in the recent past as to the exact call out process and who controls that platform. It needs to be noted that the CALL OUT is in direct response to what SECTOR SF wants and therefore they can make advisements as to who they feel can respond to their calls. I strongly encourage all communicators that wish to be called out to be in and active in this system because there is NO OTHER WAY TO GET CALLED OUT. This position is a dispatching port therefore all AWO's have been instructed to utilize the availability list AT ALL TIMES. Bottom line is that if you are not on this list or you are and not active on the daily list then you will not be activated, period! ALL MOBILES THAT WORK UNDER ORDERS WOULD NEED TO BE IN THIS SYSTEM.**

---

**Individual reports by Division:**

**Division 1: NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Division 3: NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Division 4: NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Division 5: NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Division 6: NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Division 7: NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Division 8: September: 1,905 Patrol Miles, 50.4 Hours, 0 SAR, 0 Assist.**

October: 1,909 Patrol Miles, 47.9 Hours, 0 SAR, 1 Assist.

Year to date 2008 (Jan - October): 19,693 Patrol Miles, 543.4 Hours, 12 SAR, 7 Assists.

Merchant Mariner packets processed: 6

**Division 10: NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Division 11: NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**Division 12: NO REPORT SUBMITTED**

**End of report!**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Jeff C. Price - DSO-CM 113**

**Please see the information below. These are questions and issues that the members of this District have continually asked to know about.**

**NOTE FOR LAND MOBILE OPERATORS:**

When requesting orders in POMS, please use the drop down box for "Select Station" and select "Land Mobile". This choice is between Sector SF Prevention and Station Rio Vista. Then in the comments section, at the very bottom of the order request page, state which Area, Station or other unit you will be working with and your intentions while on patrol.

It should also be noted that the ADSO-OP/PAC/LM is activating all POMS related Mobile missions. This will help in the reporting of all missions in this reporting as well and the active District spread sheet that has been created. All SO-CM and FSO-CM should encourage each and every mobile to get involved with some kind of patrol with in their own Division to get familiar with there area of responsibility. Currently there is no need for mobiles during the week unless approved by the ADSO-OP/PAC/LM. Most of the patrol work should be directed towards the weekend. Please note that the patrols will be looked at very carefully to assure that vehicles are not over saturating areas listed in POMS. Summer is here and this would be the time to get out there and patrol. Please submit through POMS and notify me in advance of the patrol date so I can activate

---

**This is being resent with a quote of current policy below**

**Who can inspect my radio facility?**

Your **FSO -CM** or anyone in the **CM** Chain can inspect your Radio's.

The [Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual](#) M16789.3E states:

Annex 4, Sec. D.1. Initial Inspection

The **facility** owner must arrange to conduct an initial inspection of each fixed land, land mobile, and RDF **facility** and, thereafter, a reinspection every three years from the date of acceptance. Only a flotilla, division, district, or National communications Staff officer who has successfully completed the requisite Auxiliary communications inspection qualification (AUXCOM or replacement course), or a member completing such qualification and specially designated by the Director, may conduct an inspection. The inspector must report the results on the Radio **Facility** Inspection and Offer for Use Form (**CG -2736A/ANSC-7004**) to the Director. The Auxiliary must complete all inspections following the initial inspection before the expiration date of the **facility**'s acceptance for use.

-----  
-----



In the [Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual](#), states in Annex 4:

#### **B.4. Decal Display**

Auxiliarists may display the miniature decal and wreath on the exterior or interior of the building in which the radio equipment is housed, on any legal place on a motor vehicle containing the radio equipment, or on the radio itself. Radio facilities must not use the large size **facility** decal.

**If you are interested in participating in the Auxiliary HIGH FREQUENCY Network the please fill out the information below and send it to the ADSO-CM/HF or the email address below for processing. National is currently looking for more H/F station from District Eleven North. The assigned frequencies WILL NOT be distributed unless the proper paperwork is received. This is a National policy not a local policy.**

**District 11 N/R H/F Application for AUXMON and H/F related nets:**

**Please note that I will need the following information for those interested in this program as discussed at the top of the page:**

1. Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Member ID: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Radio Call Sign – Mobile and or Fixed Land or both: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Radio ID: Mobile NM11?? / Fixed Land NF11??: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Members address: City,State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Lat/Long of the address (even if mobile): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
7. Phone number:  
home/office/cell: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill this out and send it back to me at [oysterpointmobile3@yahoo.com](mailto:oysterpointmobile3@yahoo.com)