

CHAPTER 12. TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A. Organization.

1. General. The Eighth District Telecommunications Branch (D8 (dt)), in cooperation with the Eighth District Coastal Region Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX), will develop Auxiliary Communications for maximum effectiveness. D8 (dt) will also coordinate communication matters wherein the use of Coast Guard equipment by the Auxiliary is involved. Plans for the installation of Coast Guard equipment at Auxiliary units must be approved by D8 (dt). The number of units equipped is limited to that which, in the opinion of the District Commander, is the optimum for potential emergency needs and the performance of specific duties. Refer to the Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series) for the basic guidelines for Auxiliary communications.
2. Operational Organization. Auxiliary communications are not bound into a rigidly structured operational system. Coastal stations **must** operate in close cooperation with their own and neighboring Group Commanders. Fixed-land, land-mobile, portables and vessels operate on an equal status with each other and with Group Commands. Coast Guard channel usage, however, must be closely coordinated with each Group Commander. Inland stations operate more independently. Direct landline communications with the Coast Guard Group Operations Center (OPC) or Stations are both prudent and required in cases of actual SAR. Administrative matters within the Auxiliary are routed through the Auxiliary communications chain. Communication Officers at the flotilla and division levels are a valuable source of technical and operational procedure assistance, and as such an excellent choice for communications training instructors.

B. Communication Inspections.

1. Communications Inspector (CI). **Individuals assigned the duties as a flotilla, division or district staff officer for communications may serve as Communications Inspectors provided they have completed the Communications Specialty Course.** CIs are authorized to inspect fixed-land and land-mobile radio facilities and may also initially inspect communications equipment on board radio-equipped vessel and aircraft facilities. A CI must certify that both the communication equipment and its installation meet the requirements for designation as set forth in the COMDTINST M16798.3 (series).
2. Radio Facility Inspections. Inspectors shall use the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Radio Facility Inspection and Offer for Use Form, CG-2736A for initial and tri-annual inspections of all radio facilities and in accordance with the following:
 - a. Fixed-land, land-mobile and VHF-DF radio facilities require renewal inspections every three years.

- b. Renewal inspection reports should usually be conducted between 1 October and 31 December to remain operational for the coming year. Initial inspections may be conducted at any time.
- c. All inspection reports are sent to DIRAUX as prescribed above.
- d. DIRAUX shall assign a Facility Identification Number to each fixed-land and land-mobile radio equipped unit. These numbers will consist of 7 digits, the first 2 digits will be prefix “NF” for Fixed Land or “NM” for Land Mobile. The third and fourth digits will be the numbers “81” to identify the district and region. The fifth, sixth and seventh digit will be the number sequenced (001-999) as accepted by DIRAUX (e. g. NM81001, NF81001). These numbers are for accounting purposes for facilities within the database and are not to be used as call signs.
- e. The Flotilla Commander shall notify DIRAUX when a facility is withdrawn from service.

C. Responsibilities.

1. Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX). With guidelines provided by D8 (dt), DIRAUX shall:
 - a. Upon receipt of a properly executed CG-2736A, grant authority to operate as a government station, issue operational decals and maintain files of all executed CG-2736A forms.
 - b. Maintain a list of geographical calls and unit numbers assigned by flotilla staff officers for communications by portable transceivers.
 - c. Screen all correspondence and forms relating to communications and coordinate the communications program with D8 (dt).
2. District Staff Officer - Communication (DSO-CM). DSO-CM shall:
 - a. Maintain close liaison with D8 (dt) and DIRAUX.
 - b. Coordinate communication drills and other activities with D8 (dt) and the District Staff Officer - Operations (DSO-OP).
 - c. Schedule and supervise drills on amateur frequencies and coordinate scheduling of drills conducted on Coast Guard frequencies.
 - d. Promulgate appropriate information regarding communications to the Auxiliary membership.
 - e. Develop training materials and workshops as required.

3. Division Staff Officer - Communications (SO-CM). SO-CM shall:
 - a. Assist the DSO-CM as required.
 - b. Maintain a current list of stations and CI's within the division.
 - c. Schedule and supervise communication drills within the division.
 - d. Ensure tri-annual inspections are properly and expeditiously conducted for the division.
 - e. Plan, organize and implement, in cooperation with the DSO-CM and SO-MT, communication training in the division.
4. Flotilla Staff Officer - Communications (FSO-CM). FSO-CM shall:
 - a. Assist the SO-CM as required.
 - b. Maintain a list of stations within the flotilla.
 - c. Assist the SO-CM in scheduling communication drills for the flotilla.
 - d. Coordinate communications training programs within the flotilla using the Auxiliary Communications Operational Specialty Course as a text.
 - e. Ensure inspections are conducted expeditiously within the flotilla by a qualified inspector.
 - f. Assign unit numbers for portable transceivers and land-mobiles and assign geographical call signs for fixed-land stations. Such call signs may not be the same as or include the name of any Coast Guard unit unless co-located with the unit.
 - g. Inform DIRAUX of all call assignments. An annual summary of assignments is required by 1 April of each year.

D. Radio Interference or Other Irregularities.

1. Report interference or other problems with Coast Guard communications or frequencies to the DIRAUX for forwarding to D8 (dt). In coastal areas, provide the Group Commander a copy of all reports.

E. Auxiliary Communication Unit (ACU).

1. Operating Requirements. Auxiliarist shall operate on frequencies, designated by the Coast Guard, for Auxiliary use in the conduct of official Auxiliary or Coast Guard business. Radio facility and owner/operator must meet requirements stated in the COMDTINST M16798.3 (series). Radio equipment must be inspected according to current policy and found acceptable by a qualified CI. Such

inspection constitutes the required facility inspection for a fixed-land or land-mobile radio facility.

[**Note:** D8 (dt) may grant a waiver on crystallization or frequency requirements based on equipment limitations or additional frequencies authorized by Commandant.]

F. Operational and Emergency Communications and Drills.

1. Communications. Operational communications of the Auxiliary generally fall in two categories:
 - a. Communication with Coast Guard units. Direct communication with Coast Guard units during search and rescue (SAR), safety and regatta patrols or emergencies. Normally communications will be on VHF-FM with initial call up on channel 16 and working on channel 22A or the appropriate group working frequency. 2-3 MHz capability may be used on a secondary basis with initial contact on 2182 KHz.
 - b. Communication with Auxiliary units. Communication between Auxiliary units in support of authorized Auxiliary activities will normally be conducted on the group's VHF-FM working frequency, 2670 KHz, 2230 KHz or 27.980 MHz.
 - c. Operational Control. Auxiliary radio facilities shall operate in accordance with guidelines established by the Coast Guard Group Command for their area.
2. Communication Drills. Communication drills on Coast Guard frequencies should be held at least once each quarter for familiarization purposes. Operation on Coast Guard frequencies by Auxiliary stations must be conducted in accordance with the effective edition of the USCG Telecommunications Manual, COMDTINST M2000.3 (series) and current procedures concerning circuit discipline.
3. Drill Schedules. Drill scheduling will be held for the purpose of encouraging development of an active Auxiliary radio net, training operators in proper procedures and testing the capability of the net.
 - a. Time - 2000 local on the first Wednesday of February, May, August and November. Alternate times may be coordinated locally.
 - b. Net Control - Each Coast Guard group for their respective area.
 - c. Frequency - VHF-FM working frequency for the appropriate group.

4. Drill procedures.
 - a. Opening and closing the net. Procedures shall be in accordance with local group commander's operational policy.
 - b. Reports. Reports of Auxiliary net drills are not required. Local records must be retained indicating drill times, participants, and appropriate remarks (copy of abbreviated radio log, if maintained, will suffice).
5. Auxiliary Net Drills. Auxiliary net drills are encouraged at each level of Auxiliary organization. The VHF-FM working frequency for the appropriate group will be used after obtaining permission from the group. In inland regions 27.988 MHz may be used.
6. Amateur Frequency Drills. Drills on amateur frequencies are also encouraged since development of amateur nets permit the use of non-auxiliary radio stations and frequencies which might constitute a valuable supplement to Coast Guard channels in the event of emergency. For such drills, FCC rules and regulations apply. Drills conducted on amateur frequencies will be under supervision of the District Auxiliary Communications Officer. D8 (dt) and DIRAUX must be kept informed of the progress of these drills.
7. Emergency Activation of Auxiliary Radio Stations. Auxiliary radio stations may be activated in emergencies or when otherwise required for performance of particular operations. Notification will be by message or telephone from the District Commander or Group Commander requesting voluntary service. In cases of a bona fide emergency or disaster, Auxiliary radio stations may communicate with any Coast Guard station to report the emergency or to handle communications directly relating to the emergency. Operation on any Coast Guard frequency during emergency situations is authorized.
8. Operational Communication Training. Operational communication training is conducted to stimulate interest and provide a unique training opportunity for Auxiliarist in communications and operations. The Coast Guard has authorized Auxiliarist to augment the communications watch at selected SAR stations and group offices. During the watch, the Auxiliarist will serve as an assistant communication watch stander and depending on qualifications, may perform all functions of the normal watch stander. The Coast Guard communication watch stander will be present at all times while the Auxiliarist is on watch. Auxiliary flotilla commanders, Division Captains, or the SO-OP through the appropriate group officers will accomplish scheduling for augmented watches.

G. Joint Communications and Operations with the Civil Air Patrol.

1. General. A national Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCG AUX) and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) was signed in 1995 by the USCG AUX, CAP, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Air Force.

This MOU defined the procedures and practices for cooperation between the USCG AUX and the CAP. In summary, the MOU provides for the following:

a. Areas of cooperation:

- (1) Joint training in SAR, disaster relief and other mission related activities.
- (2) Communicate on radio frequencies approved and agreed to by U.S. Coast Guard or U.S. Air Force authorities.
- (3) Appoint liaison officers and committees and national and other organizational levels for direct coordination.
- (4) Attend meetings of the other organizations to encourage mutual education and exchange of information on mission related activities.
- (5) Provide supplemental mission support to the other organization, as requested by appropriate authority with prime responsibility for the mission. This mission support will be provided as authorized by the appropriate authority of the parent service.

b. Mutual assistance. Mutual assistance is assistance by either organization to the other for SAR missions or other operations in accordance with the National SAR Plan or other appropriate authority. The assisting organization will comply with the regulations and operating procedures of its parent service.

c. Funding. Funding and expense reimbursement for mission support will be the responsibility of the respective parent service of the supporting organization in accordance with their established funding directives.

d. Liability. Liability for third party claims will be adjudicated by the respective uniformed services under the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA). Each parent service will be responsible for any Federal Compensation Act (FECA) claims of the volunteer members in accordance with established regulations. They will also be responsible for the maintenance and repairs of equipment of their volunteer organization in accordance with their established regulations.

e. Implementation of this MOU.

- a. SAR: The callout authority for a SAR can obtain assistance in SAR cases by contacting AFRCC and requesting that the appropriate CAP wing (State) provide assistance.
- b. Other Missions: The detailed procedures to implement this MOU in other areas, such as training, disaster relief and other mission related activities, have not been completed at the time of this printing.

H. Frequencies available to Eighth District Coastal Region Auxiliary Communications.

<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Emission</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
2183.4(2182)KHz		100W	Distress, Safety & Calling
2231.4(2230)KHz	2K8DJ3E/SK8DH3E	100W	D8 Aux. Ops & training
2671.4(26710)KHz	2K80J3E	100W	CG Common & Non-Govt. liaison Aux. Ops & Training
2684.4(2683)KHz	2K80J3E	100W	D8 SSB(Prim)
2700.4(2699)KHz	2K80J3E	100W	D8 SSB Sec.
5321.4(5320)KHz	2K80J3E	100W	D8 SSB Sec. (daytime use only)
27.980 MHz	6K00A3E	5W	CC Aux. (inland only)
122.9 MHz	6K00A3E	10W	CG Aux. Aircraft & Land Mobile Stations SAR Training
123.1 MHz	6K00A3E	10W	CG Aux. Aircraft & Land Mobile Stations (SAR ONLY)
143.28 MHz	6K00A3E/16K0F3E	25W	CG Aux. Operations & Training
156.450 MHz(CH 9)	16K0F3E	25W	Calling frequency
156.300 MHz(CH 6)	16K0F3E	25W	Intership Safety
156.800 MHz(CH 16)	16K0F3E	25W	Distress, Safety & Calling
157.05 MHz(CH 21A)	16K0F3E	25W	Intra-CG working simplex Groups Galveston & NOLA working freq.
157.10 MHz(CH 22A)	16K0F3E	25W	CG/Non-CG Liaison & Broadcast

157.15 MHz(CH 23A)	16K0F3E	25W	Intra-CG working simplex Groups Corpus Christi & Mobile working frequency
157.075 MHz(CH 81A)	16K13F3E	25W	Marine Safety Offices working and Pollution operations
157.175 MHz(CH 83A)	16K13F3E	25W	Intra-CG working simplex General authorization for Aux. ships/aircraft & shore stations command and control