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26 April 2013

MEMORANDUM

Eighth Coast Guard District Coastal Region, Auxiliary Policy Directive ADM-13-03

Subj: HAND HELD RADIO POLICY

Ref: (a) Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3 (series)
(b) Underway Call Signs, D8CR Directive OPS-11-01

1. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this directive is to state the policy for accepting hand held VFM-FM radios as facilities within Eighth District Coastal Region (D8CR).
2. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.** None.
3. **DISCUSSION.** A hand held radio is a valuable tool, and often a necessary one, which Auxiliarists use to complete or enhance authorized missions. Unlike some other portable radios and fixed radio configurations, these systems are easy to use and easy to deploy. Hand held radio often serve as a facility's main external communication source such as on personal water craft. However, as seemingly essential a piece of communication systems equipment hand held radios are, they do not meet the requirements of an independent facility in D8CR.
4. **DEFINITION.** For the purposes of this directive, a hand held radio is a low wattage stand alone communications device capable of transmitting and receiving voice plain language messages operated by a self contained power source (battery) and antenna system.
5. **POLICY.** The following is D8CR's policy regarding hand held radios
 - a. Hand held radios are authorized for use by Auxiliarists performing appropriate and authorized mission while assigned to duty. As such, hand held radios are covered against loss or damage as would any other piece of equipment, material or gear used under the same conditions. The process for recovering costs for damage and/or loss would be the same, including an investigation, as it would be for any other authorized equipment, material or gear.
 - b. The Director will no longer accept hand held radios as facilities. Hand held radios with current and valid ANSC 7004, Radio Facility Inspection and Offer for Use form, received by the Director prior to this date will remain as facilities until the inspection's expiration date. Renewals for these hand held radios, however, will not be accepted.
 - c. Calls signs and decals will no longer be assigned nor issued for hand held radios. Members and/or flotilla are responsible for assigning call sign for hand held radios that are appropriate and do not create confusion. Typically, such call signs are Auxiliary Mobile 1 or similar variations.

- d. Hand held radios that are part of a facility shall use the facility's call sign. For example a personal water craft's or a small vessel's call sign would be the vessel's registration numbers/document numbers as set forth in reference (b).
 - e. Though a hand held radio does not need to be inspected, it shall comply with any applicable Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations.
 - f. Hand held radios are authorized as backup systems for portable and fixed primary communication systems.
6. **QUESTIONS**. Any and all questions, concerns and/or recommendations regarding this policy should be addressed through the chain of leadership to the DSO-CM.



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