

Waypoints

DIVISION 15, 8TH WESTERN RIVERS REGION
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Division 15 Comes Together for Operational Exercise in North Little Rock

On September 23rd several dozen members of Division 15 started their morning responding to a report of a boat with smoke billowing from it downriver from the I-30 bridge.



The "victim" of a simulated airplane crash is treated on the shore of the Arkansas River by Coast Guard Auxiliary and Metropolitan Emergency Services personnel. Photo by Blake Sasse

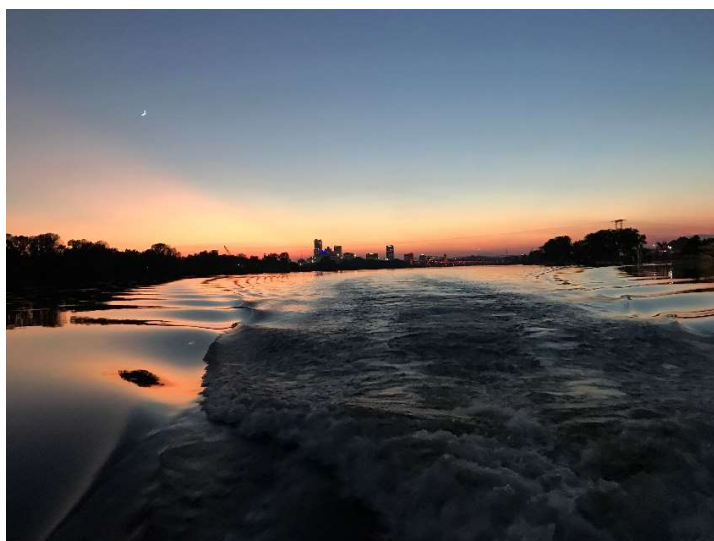
This was just the first scenario faced by those participating in the operational exercise that morning, including the crash of a small airplane, a PWC accident, and several inebriated people that were quite reluctant to be rescued from the river.

Metropolitan Emergency Services (MEMS), the organization that operates ambulance services for several Central Arkansas cities, planned the training evolutions with the goal of presenting Auxiliary boatcrews with situations that they could expect to face during a routine patrol on the Arkansas River. MEMS also and arranged for



A Coast Guard Auxiliary boatcrew takes a PWC in tow. Photo by Blake Sasse.

"extras" to play the part of victims and added to the realism of the airplane crash scenario by placing several large sections of airplane wing along the river bank.



Sunset during the Aids to Navigation Patrol. Photo by David Keyser.

William Woodell, IPFC of 15-8, served as the Incident Commander at the Auxiliary station in North Little Rock while Dan Turner, Division 15 Commander, oversaw communications activities with the four Auxiliary facilities that took part in the event. MEMS staff and one of their boats also participated in responding to the airplane crash scenario.



The "victim" of a simulated airplane crash on the Arkansas River is transported to safety by a Coast Guard Auxiliary boatcrew with the assistance of a medic from Metropolitan Emergency Services. Photo by Blake Sasse.

On the night prior to the exercise several Auxiliary facilities took members from around the Division on an Aid to Navigation patrol on the Arkansas River which was made difficult by the moonless



Coast Guard Auxiliary boatcrew members throw a line to assist persons in the water. Metropolitan Emergency Services personnel served in the role of victims and increased the difficulty of the task by simulating being highly intoxicated. Photo by Blake Sasse.

night and medical situation, which turned out to be minor, involving one of the participants.

Life Jacket Loaner Station Established on Lake Hamilton

In May, Flotilla 15-7 became the latest flotilla in Division 15 to establish a life jacket loaner station in cooperation with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.



Drew Fram (left) and David Keyser at the new life jacket loaner station. Photo by Alex Hinton, AGFC.

The station, placed at the Fish Hatchery ramp at Lake Hamilton, features free life jackets that can be borrowed by anyone using the ramp. Auxiliary members monitor the status of the station and replacing any jackets that aren't returned.

Division 15 Fall Staff Meeting

Following the conclusion of the Operational Exercise Saturday afternoon, staff and officers of division met at the North Little Rock Auxiliary Station. Among the topics discussed were the 2019 D-Train, which Division 15 will be hosting, review of the division standing rules and plans for 2018. Dan Turner and Kevin Rardin were re-elected to serve as Division Commander and Division Vice Commander for 2018. David Keyser was presented with a certificate for completing Telecommunications Operator training.

Flotilla 15-3 September Report

Discussions are underway with Bass Pro Shop for a joint effort of combining the Auxiliary and state boaters course for Bass Pro customers. Flotilla members continue to attend the monthly MS meetings in Memphis. One member has requested to transfer to the Little Rock Flotilla. We have submitted three new applications to DirAux. Two more prospective members attended the August flotilla meeting and have been given applications. Several more interested candidates have been contacted by Patricia Lewis. We had a booth at the MidSouth Hunting and Fishing Extravaganza in Memphis from August 11th – August 13th. The flotilla is looking to represent the Auxiliary at several Veterans Day events in the Memphis area. Aaron Mohundro has completed his supervised boat inspections and accepted appointment as FSO VE, which has been vacant. We have continued to work on completing Mandated Training with current completion around 75%. Members continue to travel to take part in operations training when possible and the help is much appreciated. We are looking to schedule a Crew Academy and BS&S class during the winter months. One member is taking part in a Mass Casualty Exercise in Memphis on 10/11/17.

Flotilla 15-8 September Report

The Flotilla continues to participate in the District 8 HF net on a weekly basis. We have five new members so far this year. During July and August, we performed 10 patrols with 122 underway crew hours. ATON patrols have covered all of Pools 1,5, 6, and 7, and the lower part of Pool 2 and the lower White River below Lock 1. We had a booth at the Saline County Preparedness Fair at the Benton Expo Center on 14 September and will be represented at the Independent Schools College Fair on 25 September. One Arkansas State Boating Education class was completed on 27 and 29 June for 43 students and one was conducted 24 July for 27 students.

Division Change of Watch

The Division 15 Change of Watch will take place on November 11, 2017 at the Red Apple Inn at 1000 Club Road in Heber Springs. The staff meeting will begin at 1430. The evening events will begin with fellowship at 1700, Change of Watch at 1745 and Dinner at 1800.

2018 Division Meeting Dates

January 27	Location to be determined
April 14	Russellville
July 14	Possibly by WEBEX
October 13	Location to be determined

2017 Officers and Staff

DCDR	Dan Turner
VCDR	Kevin Rardin
IPDCR	Pat Lewis
SO-CS	Blake Sasse
SO-CM	William Flanagan
SO-DV	Kevin McDonald
SO-FN	Clara Myer
SO-HR	Pat Lewis
SO-IS	Phil Hunkins
SO-MA	Joe Zehler
SO-MS	Misty Jezierski
SO-MT	Morris Butcher
SO-NS	Frank Wilson
SO-OP	Michael Strobel
SO-PA	David Mason
SO-PB	Blake Sasse
SO-PE	Greg Deen
SO-PV	Greg Deen
SO-SR	Pat Lewis
SO-VE	Jodie Haralson

Waypoints is the official quarterly newsletter of Division 15, 8th Western Rivers Region of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Photos and articles may be submitted by January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th.

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