



US Coast Guard Auxiliary National Response and Prevention Group

To: DSOs - NS, OP, AV, CM, IS; District COS; DCO -

The attached documents provide guidance for Auxiliary support of the Coast Guard's effort to photograph all of their fixed navigation aids. This large project needs to be an "all hands" evolution and can involve members from many AUX programs including Prevention (NS, Aids Verifiers) and Response (Surface Ops, Mobile Radio facilities and AUXAIR).

The Auxiliary must coordinate this project in an orderly, organized manner to avoid confusion in tasking and duplicated effort. The last thing we want is to have a hundred Auxiliarists with cameras showing up on the ANT's doorstep asking for their orders and assignments. Accordingly, there needs to be one Auxiliary Point of Contact (POC) designated to collect the tasking from the active duty command and pass it to the Auxiliary.

It's envisioned that, in most areas, specific tasking will flow from the ANT through the Sectors to the Auxiliary. In this case, the Auxiliary Sector Coordinator (ASC) should be the POC unless assigned to another specific officer. The ASC will pass the tasking through the normal channels for their District to the project officers assigned.

In areas where this model does not work, the DCO should designate an individual (DSO-NS or other appropriate person) to serve as the Point of Contact with the command for receiving tasking and passing it on to the appropriate Auxiliary unit.

At the Division, the SO-NS, or other person(s) designated by the DCDR, will coordinate the tasking requests, assigning them to appropriate flotillas or individuals. Because every area is different and each list of ATON to be photographed will be different, local improvisation will be necessary. Local knowledge will be essential to ensure that the tasking is assigned to appropriate units for execution.

For on-water ATON, it is expected that tasking would be to the Surface Ops chain, so that members on the water can photograph their assigned ATON. Some tasking may be passed via the Telecommunications chain to members with Mobile Radio units, so they may drive to ATON that may be reached by land. Other tasking may be passed via the DSO-AV or ADSO-AV to AUXAIR, so aerial photographs may be taken of ATON, as appropriate.

It's important that this chain be followed in reverse after the photographs have been taken and it's time for the photographs (on DVDs or CDs) to be passed back up to the ANT. The photos collected should be checked against the tasking list to insure that all assigned ATON were photographed. This is also the appropriate step to check the quality of the photos and to insure that the labeling of the photos is correct.

It is recommended that at least one Aids Verifier (AV) qualified Auxiliarist be present on each patrol or ATON photography mission. They are the best trained to know what an ATON is supposed to look like.

To the greatest extent possible, AUX Surface and Air Missions should be “multi-mission” patrols with ATON photography being one of the missions accomplished during the patrol. When a dedicated ATON photography mission is needed, this must be coordinated with the appropriate Order Issuing Authority. Auxiliarists should not go out on their own to photograph ATON. All ATON photography should be conducted under appropriate orders, and Auxiliarists must be in proper uniform when executing this mission.

As with all missions, safety is paramount. No photographs are worth any one being hurt. Risk assessment and management techniques such as the GAR model should be used on all photo missions. It’s better to say “No” and not photograph a particular ATON, then to take an unreasonable risk of harming yourself or your crew.

This is a unique opportunity for the Auxiliary to assist the Coast Guard. Let do our best to get the job done safely.

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