

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



National Staff Response Directorate Telecommunications Division

NATIONAL TELECOMM BULLETIN 13 DEC 2023

**BULLETIN
23-01**

Items chosen for this bulletin come from questions recently asked of the Telecommunications Division, are reminders to our telecommunications personnel, or are invitations for discussion. Bulletin items are not changes or modifications to existing policy. Please feel free to distribute this bulletin to your associates. And, if you have items you would like included in an

upcoming bulletin, please send them to my attention.

This Bulletin is published as needed and does not follow a schedule.

Andrew Ely, DVC-RT
Chief, National Telecommunications Division
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FirstNet is the nationwide wireless broadband network for first responders

operated by the federal government. Auxiliarists are recognized as first responders for the purpose of obtaining FirstNet service, and hundreds currently use the system as their source for cellular service.

Up to now, FirstNet users were limited to being able to use only one device (cell phone). Recently, this has changed to where up to four devices (cell phone,

smart watch, hotspot, and/or tablet computer) can be added to an account. These other devices can be added to the account only after our member is approved for their initial service.

Auxiliarists interested in FirstNet priority cellular service should apply by email to DVC-RT. Requests received through any other source will not be approved.

A slide presentation explaining FirstNet to Districts, divisions, and flotillas is available by contacting DVC-RT.

AUXPTT

Auxiliary Push-to-Talk ("AUXPTT") brings worldwide encrypted voice

and real-time mapping to Auxiliary members and is currently serving 249 members.

For security and encryption reasons, AUXPTT is linked to the electronic serial number of the member's cellular telephone, tablet, or desktop/laptop

computer. For this reason, AUXPTT will not "automatically" work on a replacement device.

Auxiliarists who purchase a new cellular or computer device will need to contact National TELECOMM staff to switch AUXPTT service to the new equipment. This can be done by email to DVC-RT.

**National VHF
Channel Plan**

We are in the final stages of the release of the National VHF Channel Plan. Each DSO-CM has been contacted by members of

National Staff and has provided unanimous support for the project.

Currently, Bill Walter (BC-RTI, Inspections and Compliance) is developing a matrix of existing VHF repeaters to determine the Plan's impact on each.

DSO-CMs should be alerted that many repeaters are operating outside of policy – repeaters are operating without National Legal approved leases (licenses), and 7004 inspections have not been performed. Bill will be contacting each DSO-CM to discuss these issues and offering assistance including providing you with approved lease agreements.

Bill can be reached at
William.T.Walter@cgauxnet.us.

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“Grandfathered” AUXCOM

We’ve been asked to reference policy which allows Auxiliarists who completed AUXCOM prior to 01 AUG 2008 to operate as would a member who is TCO certified. This is contained in “Coast Guard Auxiliary VHF Telecommunications Program Policies and Procedures” (part of Auxiliary Communications Program Standard Operating Procedures (21 March 2016), C.1 VHF Facility Acceptance, which states: “The District Director’s office is the acceptance authority for all VHF radio facilities. Members who meet the criteria listed below may submit an Offer for Use Form (ANSC-7004) to their CM Officer for

inspection and subsequent review by the District Director’s office.

- Successfully completed the TCO/PQS or completed AUXCOM prior to 1 AUG 2008”

There is a major difference between AUXCOM and TCO certifications. AUXCOM is an academic course and does not provide the operational and Watchstander-specific training offered by TCO.

There will be a time in the near future when the TCO privilege offered to pre-2008 AUXCOM Auxiliarists will expire. DSO-CMs should evaluate this and plan accordingly for TCO training for these legacy operators.

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