

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



National Staff Response Directorate Telecommunications Division

NATIONAL TELECOMM BULLETIN

2 FEB 2024

**BULLETIN
24-01**

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 distribute this bulletin to your associates and down your chain of leadership. And, if you have material you would like included

In an upcoming bulletin, please send it to my attention.

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

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The FirstNet cellular system is managed by AT&T through a 25-year contract with the federal government.

Recently, AT&T offered FirstNet users a family discount called the “FirstNet Triple Play.” <http://firstnet.com/firstnetandfamily>. Auxiliarists who choose to participate in this family plan must understand that only the Auxiliarist in the family will be using FirstNet priority cellular service. The family members will be using AT&T’s regular cellular service.

AUXPTT

D8WR conducts a casual AUXPTT Push-to-Talk (“AUXPTT”) net on Sundays at 1900 Eastern. Any AUXPTT user is welcome and encouraged to join the net.

Listen for an announcement on NAT.1 that the net is about to start and follow instructions to switch to NAT.2 to join the net. On NAT.2 you will hear the net control station read the net’s preamble – follow those instructions to sign into the net.

You can get credit for your AUXPTT net activity on AUXDATA using the mission code 20C. This mission code may change in the future, but it is correct for now. TCOs must enter themselves as the “LEAD” while non-TCOs must enter themselves as “NON-LEAD”.

Typically, the net draws an average of 40 Auxiliarists from around the country.

For information contact David Rockwell, BC-RTC, at David.Rockwell@cgauxnet.us.

VHF Radio Inspections

Auxiliary radio owners and programmers are reminded that our seven Auxiliary VHF frequencies are sensitive and not to be released to unauthorized personnel. National Telecommunications password protects our sensitive HF frequencies, making them accessible only to HF radio station operators.

When programming a VHF transceiver, our seven VHF frequencies shall not appear on the radio’s display, but referred to as a channel name. Weather channels should be displayed as the actual frequency (such as 162.5500). Marine Channels should display as the channel’s name (CHAN 16) and not the frequency. The protection of our VHF and HF frequencies includes them not appearing on any public database, such as RadioReference.com. DSO-CMs must take steps to protect the VHF frequencies, including properly educating those who must have access to them for programming.

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2024 Telecommunications Workshop

With the start of the new year, the Telecommunications Workshop is no longer mandatory for TCOs, TCOs in training, pre-2009 AUXCOMs performing as TCOs, and CWSs, but is “highly recommended”.

Any qualified TCO who is also a qualified instructor (or who is teamed with an instructor) may deliver the telecommunications workshop. Information on how to present this Workshop can be found at <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=R-DEPT&category=operations-workshops>.

If a member is currently in “REYR” due to failing to take the 2023 Workshop, they must take the 2004 Workshop to regain currency.

If you are delivering this workshop and have questions regarding the material, please contact the DVC-RT or any member of the National Telecommunications Staff.

TCO PQS Training

One of the common misunderstandings about TCO PQS is that training must be delivered by a “TCO instructor.”

The fact is that there are no “TCO instructors.” The trainee is assigned a “mentor” as their primary instructor by the flotilla telecommunications staff officer, MT officer, or Flotilla Commander [PQS Standards B.1.].

Mentors must be qualified in telecommunications, preferably with at least 2 years’ experience as a station operator [B.2.].

All testing and training must be conducted under the supervision of a Telecommunications (CM) staff officer at any level in the District in which they are being qualified [C.1.3]. If training is supervised by a CM officer of a different District, the trainee will become certified in that District and not their “home” District.

The CM officer sending the final PQS to the DSO-CM and recommending the DSO’s signature, and the DSO-CM themselves, shall “test the candidate in an oral and practical demonstration of skills selected from among each task group” [B.3.a.7].

To transfer their certification to their home district or another district, the TCO must present their PQS completion and certification to that District’s DIRAUX via that District’s Telecommunications (CM) chain. The CM chain shall review the completed task list and test the candidate in an oral and practical demonstration of skills selected from among each task group [B.3.a.7]. The transferring TCO may be required to repeat certain tasks.

The above citations can be found at https://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads/wow/014-22-03/TC_PQS.pdf, Auxiliary Telecommunications Qualification Standard.

For additional information, contact Aaron Forste, BC-RTQ, at Aaron.Forste@cgauxnet.us.