

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary



National Staff Response Directorate Telecommunications Division

NATIONAL TELECOMM BULLETIN

25 MAR 2024

BULLETIN
24-02

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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Replacement of the Auxiliary Operation Policy Manual

The recently released Auxiliary Operations Process Guide, Volume III: Telecommunications (16798.33A, August 2023) cancels the Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3D. CM officers should obtain a copy of this new Guide and become familiar with its contents.

The Guide is available at https://www.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/BX-GROUP/Auxiliary_Operations_Process_Guide_Volume_III-Telecommunications.pdf.

VHF and HF Radio Inspections

According to the Auxiliary Operations Process Guide, Volume III: Telecommunications (16798.33A, August 2023), which canceled the Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3D, members who are AUXCOM qualified prior to 01AUG2028 may not perform initial or tri-annual radio inspections.

The actual citation is B.4., page 3-6, "Only a Flotilla, Division, District, or National Communications Staff Officer who has successfully completed the requisite Auxiliary Telecommunications Operator (TCO) qualification, or a member completing such qualification and specially designated by the Director, may conduct an inspection." Accordingly, DSO-CMs are not permitted to process inspections performed by an AUXCOM.

Clearly, TCO is the preferred qualification for Auxiliary radio operators. The allowance for AUXCOMs to operate with TCO privileges was temporary and designed for only the time it took for AUXCOM Auxiliaries to obtain the TCO designation.

As stated before, DSO-CMs should be assessing their staffs to determine how many legacy AUXCOM operators are in their District and making plans to provide them with training for the TCO qualification.

2024 Telecommunications Workshop

A typographical error appeared in Bulletin 24-01. It read "If a member is currently in "REYR" due to failing to take the 2023 Workshop, they must take the 2004 Workshop to regain currency."

It should be obvious that the correct reference is the 2024 Workshop.

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HF Digital Operation

Many of our district and regional High Frequency (HF) radio networks have adopted digital modes for their single sideband (SSB) operations. Digital operation is strongly encouraged since it significantly improves both the speed and accuracy of message traffic. We have standardized MT-63 1000 Long (IKL) centered at 1.5 KHZ above the dial frequency as the common mode for all HF radio text (RTX)

stations.

MT-63 1KL is our interoperability mode (some may view that as the mode of last resort). U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary HF stations are approved to use any RTX modes that conform to the NTIA specified 2.7 kHz channel width for HF SSB communications. This includes Winlink using either PACTOR or VARA modulation schemes. Net managers may specify modes for standard operations and experimentation.

Our goal for HF training nets is maximum participation by authorized stations. Establishment and operation of Winlink Remote Mail Servers is authorized but only during the net times listed for your net in the National HF Schedule (contact BC-RTC for the interim schedule of approved nets). This ensures our frequencies are available to all outside of approved net times. All nets are encouraged to share their trials, tribulations, and successes with fellow net managers. For further information contact Dave Rockwell, BC-RTC, david.rockwell@cgauxnet.us.