

Welcome to the

NS - Navigation Systems

First Northern

ATON - Short Range

Aids to Navigation Program



The Navigation Systems ATON program encourages the checking of every Federal Aid to Navigation by any Auxiliarist at any time. Nothing prevents Auxiliary member from checking a Federal Aid and reporting any observed discrepancies to the Coast Guard. *“Qualified Auxiliarists and their facilities are authorized assignment to duty to support and augment the Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Program. Auxiliarist may assist and support CG ANT Units in servicing Federal Aids after receiving proper Coast Guard training.”* (Excerpted from Chapter 2, Section B.3 Aids to Navigation of the Auxiliary Manual.)

1. Our focus for this Navigation System program is on prevention, accuracy, credibility, professionalism and service to the Coast Guard. Our goals are directed toward building the competency level and professional view of each Auxiliary member in the eyes of Coast Guard. Guidelines are provided for accurately taking and reporting fixes and depths. These guidelines explain how to handle the prescribed pre-underway checking and the on-scene validation of all the electronic measuring equipment that used; how to perform credible high quality on-scene observations and measurements; and for professional report preparation. This activity takes the form of fixes taken with GPS sets using WAAS, depths corrected to the charted vertical datum, physical measurements, photographs and drawings and the validation of all observations to the Light List, the Coast Pilot and on the NOAA Nautical Chart. The results required by the ATON Training Guide can by no means be achieved by a cursory glance of an aid.

2. Many Aid to Navigation tools are provided. Below is a list of the tools that are available for download to your home PC. These tools are available on the ATON web page at the D1NR Navigation System Web Site - www.uscgaan.com.

NS-AN01 - ATON PROGRAM HAND OUT - Reference this document or print it out as a handout for promoting the Federal Short Range Aid to Navigation program with your members.

NS-AN02 - FEDERAL SHORT RANGE AID TO NAVIGATION TRAINING GUIDE
This guide is full of illustrations and photos of the various Aids to Navigation that are found on a nautical chart. The IALA-B Aids to Navigations are depicted along with non-lateral and special aids. Guidelines for taking and reporting fixes and depths are explained in detail, as well as the reporting of NS-Navigation Systems activity to AUXDATA. Use this guide as a self-training tool and for introducing new members to the Navigation Systems Team. This document is also used as part of the AV-Aid Verification program. Included in this guide are the 33 Federal Code of Regulations, Part 66 for the Private Aid Program (PATON).

NS-AN03 - ATON KIT – Encourage members in your flotilla and division to download and carry this kit aboard their OPFACs. It is a great on-scene reference and training tool for the IALA-B Aid to Navigation System and provides a series of drawings that illustrate the

typical discrepancies that are normally found on aids to navigation. Add this tool to your own *navigation kit*.

NS-AN04 – 7054 AID TO NAVIGATION REPORT – Use this EXCEL format to report any discrepancies observed on Federal aids to navigation to the Coast Guard in a professional manner. Each field has a pop-up instruction or a drop-down menu to help you to prepare this form correctly. You will not need to reference any other documents. NS-AN04a 7054 Aid to Navigation Report Field Explanation is also available on this web page.

NS-AN05 - BASIC ATON TRAINING PRESENTATION – This is a 79-slide presentation about the basics of the IALA-B System. It is a great self-learning tool or can be used as the basis of an ATON Training Workshop. Use this ATON tool for training volunteers for your Navigation Systems Program and for AV-Aid Verifier training programs.

NS-AN06 - ATON DISCREPANCY REVIEW PRESENTATION – This great training tool is designed for annual reviews of the ATON Program. Include it as part of annual ATON workshops and for AV training programs. Every potential discrepancy found on an Aid to Navigation is explained.

NS-AN07 - ALL ABOUT BUOYS – This is an advanced presentation that builds upon the AN05 - Basic ATON Training Presentation above. Use this training tool to fill in additional details about Aids to Navigation that will help your members become more conversant with Coast Guard terminology. This presentation is designed as a self-training tool or can be used as a quick Flotilla orientation session at your monthly meetings.

NS-AN08 - EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BEACONS PRESENTATION – Use this presentation to expand your knowledge of beacons. Normally, this presentation is used as a self-learning tool.

NS-AN10 AID OBSERVATION WORKSHEET – This worksheet is designed to be used by an observer while on-scene for collecting data about an aid. Data fields are provided for all of the necessary pre-underway and on-scene reviews. The observer can simply check off any observed discrepancies. This worksheet has direct reference to the data fields on the ***NS-AN04 7054 Aid to Navigation Report***. Print out copies of this form and keep them in your navigation kit to use on-scene for reporting discrepancies on an aid to navigation.

3. FEDERAL AIDS WATCHING PROPERLY - Unlike other Navigation Systems Programs, do not report ATON-Federal Aids observed as “watching properly” to the Coast Guard or AUXDATA. Report only discrepancies. The only exception is when you are specifically directed to check a Federal Aid(s) by the Coast Guard.

4. If the Short Range Aid to Navigation Program interests you, talk to your NS Staff Officers. Each Auxiliarist is encouraged to check each Federal Aid to Navigation that they pass while underway on an OPFAC. Credit for your underway time and for your activity is available in AUXDATA. Checking aids to navigation is a seasonal in First Northern. Generally, you need access to an OPFAC to order to participate in this program. New members are encouraged to join their local Auxiliary Navigation Systems Team. Your skill, knowledge, and desire to make a contribution to a worthy endeavor are all that is needed. We always stand ready to train you. Everything that you need to know about the ATON – Federal Aid to Navigation Program is available on the comprehensive AN web page at **www.uscgaan.com**. **Check it out, today!**