First Northern Navigation Systems Program

Private Aids to Navigation Program

The First District U.S. Coast Guard's Private Aid to Navigation program (**PATON)** encourages the verification of every scheduled Private Aid to Navigation by AV qualified Auxiliarists during time periods when these aids are established, and for submitting professional *on-line* reports to the Coast Guard.

ONE – *The Focus of the Web-Based Private Aid - PATON Verification program in First Northern.*

The emphasis on the AV-Aid Verifier's roll in this program is on **prevention**, **accuracy, credibility, professionalism and service to the Coast Guard.** Focus is directed toward building the recognition of each Auxiliary AV-Aid Verifier as a highly competent observer and reporter in the eyes of the Coast Guard. Guidelines for Aid Verifier qualification include the taking and reporting of fixes and depths, the pre-underway and on-scene evaluation of the electronic equipment being used, high quality on-scene observations, and professional on-line verification report preparation. Fixes are taken with GPS sets using WAAS, depths are corrected to the charted vertical datum, physical measurements, photographs, and the validation of observations to the Light List, the Coast Pilot and to the applicable NOAA Nautical Chart are all part of the verification process.

Navigation Systems Staff are always looking for detail-oriented individuals to train as AV-Aid Verifiers. The crux of the AV's job is prevention. By receiving professional Private Aid reports on a scheduled basis, the Coast Guard is able to alert aid owners to problems with their Private Aids. Through these efforts, the availability level

of the private aids in First Northern is raised, with more navigational aids watching properly which makes for a safer boating environment.

TWO – First Northern PATON training tools, forms and guides

are provided for download to your home computer from the NS web site at www.uscgaan.com.

NS-PN01 PATON PROGRAM HAND OUT (NEW)

Use this handout to promote the PATON - Private Aid to Navigation program with your Flotilla and Division members.

NS-PN02 33CFR-CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

A link is provided to this Code of Federal Regulations excerpt that is full of information about the various classes of Private Aids to Navigation and the Federal rules governing the permitting, operation and discontinuance of private aids to navigation.

NS-PN03A AUXILIARY AID TO NAVIGATION VERIFIER – PQS (NEW)

This is the official copy of the new Aids Verifier Performance Qualification Standard (AV PQS).

Please note that this AV PQS is a requirement for new applicants only. However, it is highly recommended that all current AV qualified Auxiliarists at least work through the PQS to familiarize themselves with its tasks. Since the Verifying Officers will be currently qualified as AV, they should be familiar with the training and requirements of this PQS.

There are a series of District Specific tasks that are required as part of the AV qualification. Both of these check off lists are available on the Aid Verifier AV web page at www.uscgaan.com.

Each task must be individually initialed and dated by a Verifying Officer(s) when the task is successfully completed. Boat Crew Program QEs must check off the assigned Boat Crew tasks. Once the entire PQS is completed, forward a signed off copy to the DSO-NS who will notify DIRAUX in accordance with District policy.

NS-PN03 FIRST DISTRICT AID VERIFIER QUALIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM (NEW)

This is a special AV Training Program web page on the PATON Web Page where you will find access to everything that you will need to become AV-Aid Verifier qualified.

NS-AN04 7054 AID TO NAVIGATION REPORT (EXCEL)

Download this manual form and keep copies in your Navigation Kit. This is the best tool to use for documenting and reporting stand-alone non-permitted private aids. *PATONs are not reported on-line until the owner registers on the PATON System and submits an on-line application to DPW 1.*

NS-PN05 PRIVATE AID TO NAVIGATION POWERPOINT TRAINING PRESENTATION dealing with the Physical characteristics of a PATON.

This presentation depicts the various physical discrepancies that are commonly observed on aids to navigation. Use it as an annual review for PATON Workshops, for self training and periodic review, and for training new AVC-Aid Verifier Candidates.

NS-PN06 WEB-BASED PATON SYSTEM AV TRAINING GUIDE dealing with the use of the PATON System when operating on-line. (NEW)

This guide provides the latest screen-by-screen information on the operation of the *Web-Based PATON System* used in the First District. It takes you through the initial system registration process; it shows you how to get assigned an access code; and it explains how to apply for a PATON permit, how to verify a private aid and transmit on-line verification reports to your CG ANT.

NS-PN07 NON-PERMITTED PATON FIELD REPORT

Use this manual form to report *multiple* non-permitted private aids that are found grouped together on a waterway. Note, that without the owner's name and a means to make contact with the owner, the Coast Guard is at a loss to contact anyone to submit a permit application for the aid. Non-permitted aid problems cannot be resolved until the owner applies for a private aid permit.

NS-PN08 US COAST GUARD AID TO NAVIGATION MANUAL – CHAPTER 5 – Non Coast Guard Maintained Aids Read this information about private aids as excerpted from the Coast Guard Aid to Navigation Manual.

ONLINE 7030 ACTIVITY REPORT MISSION - INDIVIDUAL

Use this on-line form to report your mission activity to AUXDATA in order to receive Auxiliary recognition for your PATON work. Use mission category 31 for PATONs and e-mail your report to your IS Staff Officer. *Access to the 7030 AUXDATA Activity report is now programmed into the AV Verification Report screen on the Web-Based PATON Reporting System and from the Bridge Data Base.*

The overall impact of the Auxiliary Private Aid to Navigation Program depends on this input to the AUXDATA System. Please take the time to make these important reports.

THREE - *If the Private Aid to Navigation Program interests you*, talk to your FSO-NS or SO-NS about becoming AV-Aid Verifier qualified. Upon qualification as an AV, you will be assigned specific PATONs to verify. After you have registered on the Web-Based Paton System, you will be assigned an access code for the system for

reporting via the on-line PATON system. You could be providing vital PATON information to the Coast Guard in a short period of time.

> **EVERY AUXILIARIST, WHILE UNDERWAY ON AN AUXILIARY OPFAC SHOULD BE CHECKING AND REPORTING ALL DISCREPANCY(S) TO THEIR CG ANT OBSERVED ON EVERY FEDERAL AID, PRIVATE AID AND BRIDGE THAT THEY VIEW. ALSO, THEY SHOULD BE CHECKING THE SHORELINE FOR CHARTED ERRORS AND CHART OMISSIONS.**

Checking Private Aids to Navigation is a half seasonal and half annual activity in First Northern. Generally, you need an OPFAC-Operational Facility to verify the floating aids. However, any PATON designated with an "ANNUAL" duration may be verified all year.
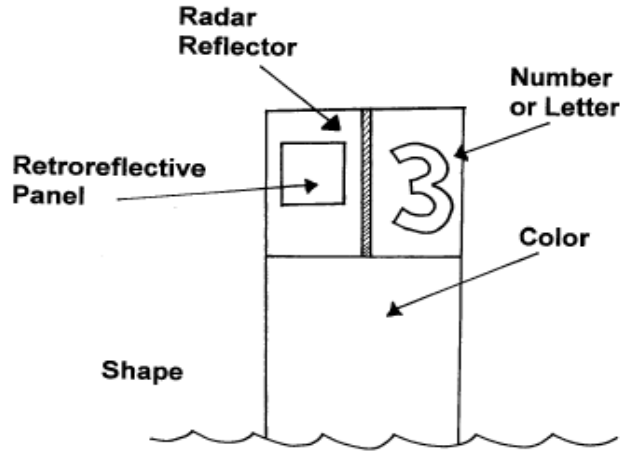Also, there are many PATONs that can be verified by land such as swim buoys and regulatory aids.

All Auxiliarists are encouraged to contact their Navigation Systems Staff Officers to join the Navigation Systems Team in their AOR. Learn how you can make a big difference in your local maritime environment. ***Did you know that there are over 4,700 Private Aids to Navigation within the First District and that this number is growing yearly?***

Here is one sample of the many training aids that are available.

Aids To Navigation ATONs

On Station?

Radar Reflector

Retroreflective Panel

Number or Letter

3

Color

Shape

Light List Narrative
Compare visual sighting to the chart symbols on the latest nautical chart to the data in the Light List. If there is a difference, report it.

Chart Symbol

C "3"

Sinking?

Submerged?

Paint Condition
Report it if it shows 25% deterioration or loss of lateral significance.

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