



**Covering Aids to Navigation, Bridges, & Chart Updating Activity with
*Accuracy - Credibility – Professionalism and Service to the Coast Guard & NOAA***

Navigation Systems Plans for 2011

- **1. [Navigation Systems Team – 2011 e-mail list](#)** – Page 2. How to remove your name, make corrections and add more Auxiliarists to the list.
- **2. [Navigation Systems – AV REYR program](#)** – If you are AV Qualified and were inactive during 2010, you will be put into REYR. All is not lost. Check out this information on Page 2.
- **3. [2011 FSO-NS and SO-NS appointments](#)** – Page 3. Many FSO-NS and SO-NS staff appointments were not made in 2010. There is an important message for Flotilla and Division Commanders on page 3 of this Newsletter. Don't let your Flotilla miss out in 2011.
- **4. [Aid Verifier Workshop planned for January Conference](#)** – Page 4. An AVC- Aid Verifier Candidate Check-off Session is being planned for the District Conference. Pre-registration is required. Inactive AVs are also encouraged to attend and get updated to the new District guidelines. See page 4 for more information on this program.
- **5. [NAVIGATION SYSTEMS JANUARY WORKSHOP AGENDA](#)** – Page 5. This section will give you a clear idea of the training that is available at this workshop.
- **6. [An updated Web-Based PATON Reporting System is planned for release at the District Conference in January.](#)** – Starting on January 1, 2011, a series of system upgrades will appear on the PATON System. These are designed to make the system easier to use, provide more data sorts, standardize the data allowed into fields, and to minimize the data entry and time required to make verification reports. See page 6 for more details of this upgrade.
- **7. [On-line Training Sessions are being planned for the Spring of 2011.](#)** You will be able to attend PATON and Bridge training sessions from the comfort of your home easy chair this Spring. See page 7.
- **8. [AUX 06 C School Announcement.](#)** How to sign up for the Aid to Navigation C School. See page 7.



1. Navigation Systems Team – 2011 E-Mail List

The reason that you received this Newsletter is that you are on the 2011 Navigation Systems Mailing list. Much of the official NS communications will be sent in 2011 using this e-mail list. If you are a currently appointed NS Staff Officer or an AV, you cannot be removed for the list during the tenure of your staff office appointment.

- Other members may request to be removed from this list by e-mailing the DSO-NS at Frank.JLarkin@verizon.net.
- Also, if you do not plan to continue as a NS Staff Officer in 2011, email us right away. Also let us know who your replacement will be.
- If you know of any other Auxiliarists, AVs-Aid Verifiers, or potential AVCs-Aid Verifier Candidates who should be on this e-mail list, send it along right away.
- If you plan to be inactive as an AV in the future, let us know and we will get the AV Qualification removed from your personnel file.

2. An Important 2010 REYR Notice for AVs

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

If you haven't performed and reported a minimum of any *two* of the Navigation System activities listed below during 2010, you will be placed in a REYR condition in 2011. Remember that your reports must be made on-line both to the Coast Guard and to AUXDATA.

This restriction will be removed when you make up the two reports in 2011. Failure to complete these make up reports by July 15, 2011 will cause the loss of your access codes to the PATON Reporting System. You will have to re-register and make an additional two reports (a total of four) during 2011 to regain your currency as an AV in 2012. Non-activity for 5 years causes loss of your AV Qualification.



The acceptable AV reports can be any two of the following NS activities:

- **PATON Verification Report** Reported by AVs using the on-line *Web-Based PATON Reporting System* and with associated PATON activity being reported to AUXDATA as a Mission 31. Your PATON Verification Report can report a PATON as either watching properly or as a discrepancy.
- **Bridge Survey Report** Reported by AVs using the on-line *Bridge Reporting Database System* with associated bridge activity being reported to AUXDATA as a Mission 32. Note that access to AUXDATA is now available on the Bridge System. Your Bridge Survey can report a bridge as either watching properly or as a discrepancy.

- **ATON (Federal Aid) Discrepancy Report** prepared manually and forwarded to the local CG ANT via your local Auxiliary Liaison. *Note that reports for ATONs (Federal Aids) observed as watching properly should never be reported to the Coast Guard, and no credit should be taken in AUXDATA for these checks.* All ATONs reported as watching properly will be ignored for REYR, District Awards, and any Coast Guard awards.

ATONS reported as watching properly only causes extra work for the Coast Guard
The only exception is when the Coast Guard specifically directs you to check a Federal Aid.

- **AVs who have been working directly in support of CG ANTs in 2010 who have no reported activity will not be placed in REYR.** However, all AVs are always encouraged to record any PATON and Bridge Activity on the standard on-line reporting systems.

3. ATTN: Flotilla Commanders making FSO-NS and SO-NS Staff appointments for 2011.

We need the assistance of all Flotilla Commanders and Division Captains concerning the annual appointment of qualified FSO-NS and SO-NS Staff Officers in 2011. Our statistics show that many NS Staff Officer positions were not appointed in 2010 and that many appointed NS Staff Officers show no record of any activity reports in AUXDATA or on the PATON and/or Bridge Systems.

The First Northern Bridge has made a serious commitment to the senior First District Coast Guard leadership to verify the PATONs and survey the bridges in our AOR. As AVs, we can only meet that commitment with the proper appointments being made to Navigation Systems Staff positions throughout the District. As the Flotilla and Division leadership, you play a critical role in defining the Navigation Systems organization that has to make this program work for the Coast Guard.

We urgently request that active, certified and qualified AVs be appointed to these NS staff positions in 2011.

In 2011, the PATON System will have the capability for assigning PATONs to specific Flotillas. ***2011 PATON assignments can only be made to Flotillas that have qualified and current AVs with adequate OPFAC support.*** The Bridge reporting system currently groups bridges by Auxiliary Division.

Many of our reliable and active AVs are aging. These are the AVs who perform the bulk of the PATON verifications and bridge surveys each year. Without these dedicated AVs, the 2010 program would have been a disaster. Please encourage your Flotilla members to participate in the Navigation Systems 2011 program. We are planning many conference call training sessions for you during the springtime. Note that much of the NS work can be performed as part of the regularly scheduled Auxiliary patrols.

Please make a resolution to support the Navigation Systems Programs in 2011.

4. Aid Verifier Qualification Workshop planned for Saturday morning at the January District Conference.

Who should attend?

- Auxiliarists who want to become AV qualified.
- Inactive AVs who want to get updated on the new PATON and Bridge on-line reporting systems.
- Newly appointed FSO and SO-NS Staff officers who want to understand their new responsibilities.

AVC-Aid Verifier Candidates.

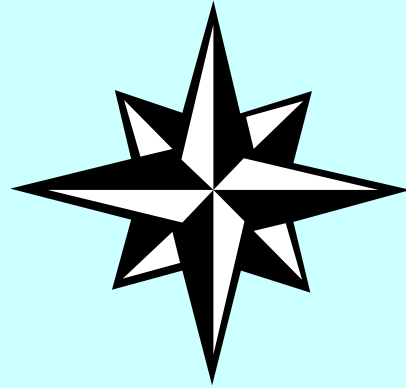
- You will learn how to find and use the AUX Training Guidelines.
- Readings are required.
- Required testing will be provided at a later date.
- Actual PATON verifications will be performed with an AV Mentor at a later date.
- Live presentations on the guidelines for taking fixes and reporting depths will be presented.
- An on-line live presentation of the new PATON and Bridges Systems will be made.

When the AVC or AV performs the readings and is able to verify the PATONs and submit the Bridge Report on-line at this session, they will be provided access codes to the PATON System and will have their personal record updated with the AV qualification. *New AVCs should pay special attention to the required Boat Crew Tasks and ICS System requirements. You cannot receive an AV Qualification until these tasks are completed.*

Currently, there is enough room. E-mail DSO-NS Frank Larkin at FrankJLarkin@verizon.net if you want to attend.

The Aid Verifier Qualification Guide is available on the Aid Verifier Web Page on the Navigation Systems Web Site at www.uscgqaan.com. All of the prerequisites for becoming Aid Verifier Qualified are in this guide. New members should pay attention to the Boat Crew requirements and the ICS Programs tests that must be completed as part of this qualification.

5. NAVIGATION SYSTEMS JANUARY WORKSHOP AGENDA



Here is a list of subjects being covered at the Navigation Systems Workshop on Saturday morning, January 8, at the Marriott in Braintree, MA.

1. How to find everything you need to know about the Navigation Systems Programs—a quick tour of the Navigation Systems Web Site.
2. A quick review of the 2011 REYR list.
3. A review of the 2010 PATON and Bridge Performance.
4. A review of the more frequent problems that were observed in 2010.
5. Understanding how to take and report a fix to a government agency.
6. Understanding how to take and report a depth to a government agency.
7. Review of the features of the upgraded Web-Based PATON System.
 - User Registration.
 - Access Code Approval.
 - PATON 2554 PATON Permit Application Screen and Edit.
 - AV 7054 Verification Report.
 - CG ANT 7054 Report.
 - Review of new sorting capability.
 - AUXDATA reporting.
8. On-line review of how to effectively use the Bridge Reporting System to report bridges.
 - Showing details.
 - Annual surveys.
 - Reporting of updates.
 - Reporting of discrepancies.
 - Resolution of discrepancies.
 - Use of system flags.
 - AUXDATA reporting.

COME ON DOWN AND GET READY FOR THE 2011 NAVIGATION SYSTEMS SEASON.

6. An upgraded version of the WEB-BASED PATON SYSTEM is due out in January, 2011

We have been working on developing a new system redesign for the past two years and are currently dealing with a programmer to upgrade the Web-Based PATON System in order to make the data more uniform and the system more user friendly. The new PATON system was reviewed at a recent meeting and all systems are “Go” for the first of the year. Hopefully, we have addressed all of your complaints and suggestions. At the meeting, it was exciting to see all the planning coming together and viewing the new screens. Many new sort features have been added and the need to “*View all PATON Records*” in order to call up a PATON Record will be added. This alone is a big time saver.

The PATON System is designed to minimize the need to enter data. Here are a few of the new features.

- For floating aids, you will only be shown the specifications for a buoy.
- For fixed aids, you will only see the specifications for structures.
- For lighted aids, you will see the specifications for a light.
- You only need to enter data (usually from a menu) when your observation does not agree with the aid’s specification. Each data entry is treated as a discrepancy and will be reported to the CGANT.
- Data is pre-entered by the system from fields from the registration record.
- You will be able to submit 7030 AUXDATA Activity Reports from the system. Most of the data fields on the report will be system updated.
- Most of the fields now have a sorting capability.
- When you indicate the aid is watching properly, the Discrepancy fields will not appear on the AV screen.
- Field descriptions have been standardized.
- And, much more . . .

We will be conducting orientation training during this Spring with each Division and we will also be using on-line “*Conference Training*” with “*Go-To-Meeting*” software. AVs will be asked to sign up and log onto scheduled training sessions from their home PC.

A new training guide is being prepared that will be available in January and will also be available on the District NS Web Site at www.uscgaan.com.

Re-orientation training on the upgraded systems will be provided in 2011.



6. On-line Training Conference Call Sessions are being planned for the Spring using “Go-To-Meeting” software.

We are planning to introduce *on-line orientation training* sessions this Spring. There are some limitations for being able to use this training technique. For acceptable results you must have *high speed internet* and a *head set and microphone with a USB connector*. The on-line presentation will be transmitted to your PC and you will be able to view and hear the live presentation as well as interact with the instructor. Each session will be about an hour in length. Participants are limited to about 20 AV sites per session.

If you have a PowerPoint projector, a screen and speakers on your PC, you will be able to invite other AVs over and hold a training session for a group of AVs. We provide the on-line instructor and transmit the presentation to your location. We save wear and tear on the instructor and the instructor’s car. The Coast Guard saves a lot of travel expense and, a lot of AVC and AVs get trained by experienced AVs who are up to date on the latest information.

This technique may also be used to make short system update presentations at Division meetings.

We hope to provide most of the upgrade training on the new PATON and Bridge Systems using this training technique. You will be hearing a lot more about this training in January.



AUX 06 C-School “Aids to Navigation and Chart Updating”
Coast Guard Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia on 17-19 June 2011.

About the Course: This school is designed to provide training in all five Auxiliary Navigation Systems Programs - **ATON** - Federal Aids, **PATON** - Private Aids, **BAP** -

the Bridge Administration Program, **CU** – Chart Updating Program and **SCF** - Small Craft Facility Program.

New Navigation Systems Form & PowerPoint training aids for most Navigation Systems programs will be introduced. The aim of the Navigation Systems –C School is to train a cadre of Auxiliary leaders who will promote the Navigation Systems programs in their District and develop new and lasting programs and relationships with the Coast Guard & NOAA-National Ocean Service in support of the goals and objectives of the Auxiliary Aid to Navigation, Bridges, & Chart Updating Program.

Who May Attend: Candidates must be recently assigned as a FSO-NS (Flotilla Staff Officer – Navigation Systems), SO-NS (Division Staff Officer - Navigation Systems), or a DSO or ADSO-NS (District Staff Officer - Navigation Systems). This training is not refresher training. Alternative training is available through your District Navigation Systems program managers. COMDT (CG-5421) must approve all waivers. Only one class is scheduled per year – usually in June. Applicants **MUST** have an internet e-mail account capable of receiving and downloading attachments to order and to benefit most from this training. Therefore, the candidate’s e-mail address must be included in Block #22 of the Short-Term Resident Training Request prior to approval. No civilian contractors are authorized to attend.

Get your application to DIRAUX ASAP. The website below provides the CG-5223 form and all the information that you need to apply for the 2011 - AUX 06 Course. <http://cschool.auxservices.org/>

Follow these simple steps:

1. Complete a “*School Short Term Training Request Form CG-5223*” available from the above web-site.
2. Send your completed CG-5223 form to your District DIRAUX (Director of Auxiliary) via your Flotilla Commander. *Your Flotilla Commander must sign this form.*
3. Keep a copy of the CG-5223 form for your records.
4. Expect to receive travel and information about orders.

The AUX- 06 C- School “Aids to Navigation & Chart Updating”, POC-Person of Contact is Mike Quinn, Home Phone: 401-413-8671 – E-mail Address: michaelsquinn@gmail.com

Any member who wants to become an Aid Verifier (AV) must qualify by completing *DI Aid Verifier Qualification Course & Exam*. Information on the required training is available on the *AV Web Page* at **www.uscgaan.com**. For more information contact your ADSO-NS.

A Qualified Aid Verifier as stated in “Chapter 11 in the Auxiliary Manual A.13.a. Operations Program” states that this ribbon recognizes qualifications in the various operations program areas and a qualify Aid Verifier, may wear the Operations Program Ribbon. Also, the AN C-School is now part of the AUXOP Qualification.



Attention all AV Staff Officers:

REPORT THE INFORMATION IN THIS ISSUE AS PART OF YOUR MONTHLY REPORT TO YOUR FLOTILLA AND DIVISION COMMANDERS AND BE SURE TO PASS IT ON TO YOUR MEMBERS.



“As an active member of the Navigation Systems Team, you actually prevent boating accidents before they can happen.”

Under the Privacy Act of 1974, all information in this newsletter may only be used for official purposes. Any other use is a violation of law. This newsletter was prepared and published by the First Northern Navigation Systems Team. FrankJLarkin@verizon.net

Distribution is encouraged to other members of the Coast Guard and CG Auxiliary.