



A NS STAFF OFFICER WORKSHOP IS BEING PLANNED FOR THE JANUARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Winter Training Conference – January 7 and 8, 2012

All Navigation Systems Staff Officers should plan to attend this important training opportunity so that you will fully understand what is required of you during the 2012 season. Here is what is planned for the weekend.

Saturday, January 7, 2010 – Navigation Systems Kiosk

Senior Navigation Systems Staff will be available all day Saturday to:

- Answer your questions.
- Explain the new AV/PQS program, testing and check offs.
- To provide answers for your PATON and Bridge System computer problems. We will have on-line computers available on site.
- To get your computer upgraded with the free CPN (Chart Plotter / Navigator) on-line chart system. Bring your Laptop computer with you.

Look for the lighted aid to navigation display.

Sunday, January 8, 2010 10:30 to 1300 – Navigation Systems Officers Workshop.

All Navigation Systems Staff Officers are urged to attend this important workshop that will outline and briefly explain what is expected of them during 2012. All five Navigation System programs will be included – ATONs, PATONs, Bridges, Chart Updating and Small Craft System Updating. *If you are a newly appointed NS Staff Officer, this session is a must for you.*

DID YOU KNOW?

During 2011, **46%** of the appointed Navigation Systems Staff Officers in First Northern did not perform any activity or submit any reports. This is a disgrace. Come to the January Conference and find out that you have been assigned to an important job and that the Coast Guard is depending on you for information and support. **Don't let the Coast Guard down in 2012!** Just imagine what the results could have been with their assistance.

Staff Function	Available Positions	Active Officers	Inactive Staff	Percent Inactive
DSO-NS	1	1	0	0.0%
ADSO-NS	4	3	1	25.0%
SO-NS	12	9	3	25.0%
FSO-NS	46	21	25	55.5%
TOTAL	63	34	29	46.0%

If you are stepping down as a Navigation Systems Staff Officer in 2012, please be sure to pass this Newsletter on to your replacement so they can get a head start on their NS Program.



THE FINAL RESULTS ARE IN FOR THE 2011 AUXILIARY PATON PROGRAM

The 2011 PATON goal was the verification of one-third of the aids. Great job!

PATON Program Status as of 11/03/2011

Sector	Total Aids	Total Verified on system	Missed Must be Verified	Estimated Percent Complete In 2011
Boston	494	337	49	68.2%
SENE	1,690	706	241	41.8%
Woods Hole	1,250	512	199	45.8%
Bristol	440	194	42	44.3%
NENE	410	144	158	35.1%
Southwest Harbor	183	57	125	31.1%
South Portland	227	87	33	38.3%
TOTAL	2,594	1,187	448	45.8%

NON-PERMITTED PROGRAM RESULTS

<u>AOR</u>	<u>Open Aids</u>
<u>SECTOR NNE</u>	144
Southwest Harbor	99
South Portland	45
<u>SECTOR BOSTON</u>	31
<u>SECTOR SENE</u>	35
Woods Hole	0
Bristol	35
<u>TOTAL FIRST NORTHERN</u>	210

We are not tracking the adds, deletes and conversions for Non-Permitted aids. However, we started with 271 items on this list back in January and ended with 210. A lot of new items were added. The trend is downward. South Portland just identified their 44 aids and have plans in place to get them converted. Boston and Bristol are constantly working on their lists and have most of their aid conversions in process.

We will be discussing the non-permitted PATON program problem at the January Conference. Come on down and find out how to get your non-permitted program in gear from the experts.

NEW AV PQS Approved by National

National has issued an AV PQS recently. Any Auxiliarist who now wants to become AV Qualified must comply with this instruction as well as First District requirements focused on using the On-Line PATON System. There will be a full day Aid Verifier Qualification Workshop at the [April District Awards Workshop](#). Download a copy of the AV PQS and the D1 requirements. Use the information provided on the D1 NR Navigation Systems web site at www.uscgaan.com for self training and orientation on the PATON and Bridge program requirements. Sign on a PATON Patrol to get some underway practical experience.

GET YOUR PATON VERIFICATION REPORTS TRANSMITTED!

If you are sitting on any PATON verification reports that have not yet been transmitted, please get them done as soon as possible. If you don't time to process them, stick them in an envelop and mail them to the DSO at "[Frank Larkin, 107 Concord Road, Acton, MA 01720](#)" and we will get them entered on the PATON System for you. The important goal is that they get recorded and any discrepancies get acted upon by the PATON owners before next Spring before the boating season starts.

If you participated in the 2011 PATON and BRIDGE program, be sure to get your 7030 AUXDATA Activity reports to your SO-IS ASAP!

There is a possibility of an AV activity award this year and you don't want to miss out. Don't wait for the last minute and overload your IS Officer. Reporting our activity to AUXDATA is the main method that we get recognition for our Navigation Systems activity by the Coast Guard. By withholding this information, you are actually hurting our program.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL NEW AID VERIFIERS:

The New AV-PQS involves a new competency that requires all **NEW** Aid Verifiers (AV) to have the 8 Hr TCT every 5 years and the 1 Hr TCT in between to maintain annual AV Certification.

AUXDATA will be tracking this requirement. This requirement is not required for grandfathered AV's at this time.

AV's who are not Boat Crew or Coxswain qualified, you may want think about taking the 8 Hr TCT and do the 1 Hr TCT in between. This TCT requirement can change at any time for all AVs.

**“All Auxiliarists
when underway should be checking all
Aids to Navigations
for any type of **Discrepancy**
and should be checking the
Charts, Coast Pilot & Shoreline
for any type of **Charting Errors**
as well as providing update reports on
Charts, Small Crafts Facilities & Coast Pilots.”**



Seasons Greetings

Navigation System Training Programs will be offered on “WebEX” during 2012.

WebEx is a web-based service, that can be used from any computer (Windows, Mac, Linux, or Solaris) – as well as your iPhone, BlackBerry, or any other Wi-Fi or 3G-enabled mobile device. There's no complicated installation. You just log into your WebEx account to start or schedule a session. AVs don't need to be WebEx subscribers to join the online training sessions.

Some of the planned training topics will be:

- Using the PATON System
 - Logging on.
 - Registering.
 - PATON applications.
 - AV system orientation.
 - One Page Verification Report orientation.
 - Preparing and transmitting an AV Verification Reports.
- Using the Bridge System.
- Chart Updating.
- Small Craft Facility Updating.
- Checking ATONs.

The training process will be conducted on line on your home computer from the comfort of your home.

- The various training sessions will be published in this Newsletter on the First Northern Web Site.
- Participants will sign up for specific sessions and will be given passwords for the specific sessions.
- At the scheduled time, participants will log-on to the session.

Participants can view the training presentations on their home computer. The remote instructors will make the presentation from their home.

This training approach will save wear and tear on the NS instructors and provide training to Auxiliarists throughout the District. There will be more on this program at the January Conference. In the meantime we will be learning more about the system.





2012 Navigation Systems Program Goals and Objectives

PATONS:

First Priority – Coordinate and verify all of the PATONs that have never been verified before in your AOR.

- At the end of the 2012 verification season EVERY Paton should have been verified at least once in the previous 3 years.

Second Priority – Coordinate and verify all "seasonal" lateral aids. (Aids that are pulled and reset each year).

- This is an ANT specific priority.

Third Priority – Coordinate and verify those PATONs that have not been verified prior to 2010.

- ALL PATON ownership data should be filled on each PATON record, there should be ZERO blanks.
- Along with filling in the ownership info, each owner should be assigned Local Authority and be able to log on and see/update/change their online permit.
 - a. This is a DPW 1 project with the information being provided by the field.
 - b. We have a ways to go for that I know, but part of the verification process needs to check this owner usage function (by verifying via phone and email).

The overall PATON goal is to verify one-third of the PATONs in your AOR each year. Therefore in 2012, you may have to verify more than one-third of the PATONs in a particular area in order to achieve the priorities delineated above.

BRIDGES:

First Priority - Survey all Class 1, 2 and 3 bridges that have never been surveyed before.

- If a bridge is not navigable from the sea, let the DSO-NS know and the Class Code will be changed to 4.
- *Do not survey Class 4 Bridges unless specifically requested by the Coast Guard.*

Second Priority - Recheck and report the current status on all bridges that are showing a discrepancy on the Bridge System.

- If a bridge is not being corrected in a timely manner, make a report to that effect so that follow up with the Bridge Branch is initiated.

- Bridges showing discrepancies should be rechecked monthly to verify whether any discrepancies were corrected.

Third Priority - Survey the rest of the bridges.

- At the end of 2012, every bridge in your AOR should have a survey or a discrepancy report.

CHART UPDATING

1. Encourage members to participate in Chart Updating WebEX Training and live workshop programs.
2. Prepare and publish a list of Chart Updating opportunities for your AOR.
3. Plan and facilitate some Chart Updating events and submit CU reports to NOAA.

SMALL CRAFT FACILITY UPDATING

1. Identify and publish a list of Small Craft Facilities within your AOR that meet the criteria for inclusion on a Small Craft Chart.
 - Review existing charted and listed entries for accuracy.
2. Encourage members to participate in the Small Craft Facility WebEX Training programs.
3. Plan and facilitate some Small Craft Facility events and submit SCF reports to NOAA.

ATONS

1. Encourage OPFAC owners to check every Federal Aid to Navigation that they pass while underway on a CG AUX patrol.
2. Encourage members to participate in the Federal ATON WebEX Training programs.
3. Encourage OPFAC owners to make discrepancy reports to the Coast Guard.

OVERALL NAVIGATION SYSTEMS PLANNING

It is the ADSO, SO and FSO's responsibility in each AOR to formulate a plan of execution to accomplish these goals. This planning should include items such as:

1. Forming a Navigation Systems Team of NS Staff Officers for your AOR.
2. Preparing and publishing a list of AVs and members who are committed to execute the work required to meet each Goal and Objective listed above.

3. Preparing and publishing a list of OPFACs that are committed to support the work plan defined in (1) above. [OPFAC owners do not have to be AV trained.]
4. Tracking and reporting the performance throughout the year.
5. Following up and re-planning for success when schedules are not met.
6. Constant communication and feedback to your volunteers.

Note The specific PATON plans will be developed at the DSO and ADSO levels. Various options are available for assigning responsibility in the field.
PATONs may be assigned to Division, Flotilla or Patrol Areas.
BRIDGES may be assigned to Division.

If any **Staff Officer** doesn't make a detailed plan for achieving their assigned annual goals and objectives, usually, nothing gets accomplished in their AOR during the year.

Good planning is the most essential element of every great success.

PLEASE PASS OR E-MAIL THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER AND BE SURE TO USE THE INFORMATION AS PART OF YOUR NS MONTHLY DIVISION OR FLOTILLA REPORT.

*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.

Wishing you all



*Happy
Holidays*



*. . . from the District
Navigation Systems Staff.*