

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, First District, Northern Region

NAVIGATION SYSTEMS - 2017

FEBRUARY ALERT
AV TRAINING

Another GREAT job by the Aux AV staff.

Here are the final First District Navigation System numbers for 2016 Paton Verification Season

2016 PATON PROGRAM FINAL STATISTICS	TOTAL PATONS	QUANTITY VERIFIED	PERCENT VERIFIED
SECTOR NNE			
ANT Southwest Harbor AUX DIVISION 1 – Northern ME	283	89	32.0
ANT South Portland AUX DIVISION 2 – Southern ME	255	107	42.0
STA Burlington, Vermont	85	39	46.0
TOTAL SECTOR NNE	623	235	37.7

Sector BOSTON			
ANT BOSTON AUX DIVISION 3 – North Shore AUX DIVISION 4 – North Shore AUX DIVISION 5 – Boston Harbor AUX DIVISION 9 – Western MA AUX DIVISION 12 – South Shore MA	468	187	40.0
TOTAL SECTOR BOSTON	468	187	40.0

SECTOR SENE			
ANT WOODS HOLE	1,085	472	43.5
AUX Division 11 – Cape Cod AUX Division 6 – South Shore			
ANT BRISTOL	549	222	40.4
AUX Division 6 – Westport River AUX Division 7 – Rhode Island AUX Division 10 – Mass.			
TOTAL SECTOR SENE	1,634	694	42.4
TOTAL FIRST NORTHERN	2,725	1,116	40.9

These results don't reflect the number of PATON photos that were submitted, the number of bridges that were surveyed and reported and the number of rechecks that were performed that corrected the positions of many PATONs last year. Each of these 1,116 verifications were professionally performed by a group of dedicated Aid Verifiers in First Northern.

In 2017, we are expanding the PATON Program into the new world of working directly with the Harbormasters in First Northern is what is named, **HMRAP – Harbormaster Ride Along Program**. We have beta tested this program in various areas in 2016 with fantastic results. In effect, the AV rides along with the Harbormaster on the harbormaster's patrol boat and all of the PATONs are reviewed and verified together. This provides the ability to not only agree on the position of the aid but to advise the Harbormaster about any discrepancies, resolve missing aids and update any new information about any problematic aids that were previously reported. AVs use the newly developed PATON RUN Sheets to record the required data. The Harbormaster System is quickly corrected, positions are updated, LNM reports are issued, Light Lists are updated and NOAA charts are corrected. Most Runs take only a few hours to perform the field work.



This is one of the idyllic evening views that was experienced last summer on one of the PATON patrols in Narragansett Bay aboard the ADSO's facility, "QuinSea." What a wonderful sight.

We are always looking for special Auxiliarists who want to participate in the PATON and Bridge programs.

We especially need Aid Verifiers (AV's) in the following areas. We are also looking for AVs who would be willing to travel to these areas with their facilities to perform verifications.

Division 1 – Northern Maine

Division 2 – Portsmouth Harbor Area.

Division 3 – Hampton Harbor, NH, south to the Annisquam River in Gloucester MA. HMRAP events are being planned for the Parker, Essex, Ipswich and Annisquam Rivers.

Division 4 – Marblehead, Salem, Beverly and Danvers.

Division 6 – Buttermilk Bay down to the Westport River. HMRAP is established with the Wareham Harbormaster. Looking to expand HAMRAP to the Westport River.

Division 11 – Many HMRAPs projects being planned on Cape Cod. Also Buzzards Bay, Waquoit, West Bay, North Bay and Martha's Vineyard need assistance.

Division 12 – Quincy Bay, Hingham, Braintree and Weymouth need help. Also, Cohasset, Scituate, New Inlet, Duxbury, Kingston and Plymouth need help.

As part of our annual PATON Program planning process, we will be trying to get firm commitments from local AVs in all areas of First Northern during February and March. Our goal is to complete this planning phase in April so that our AVs will be ready to go in the MAY/June timeframe.

AID VERIFIER TRAINING WILL START ON TUESDAY EVENING, February 21st at 8:00 PM.

Log on at 7:45 PM and ask any questions you may have.

**Access the Training session by logging on to www.uscgaan.com,
click on the WebEx link and follow the instructions. Training
starts at 08:00 pm.**

This will be an hour and a half session where the Aid Verifier Qualification process will be explained. We will also present the 2017 Navigation Systems Goals and Objectives at this session. By attending this session, you will learn what readings are required and receive more information on future sessions.



Another pleasant moment was experienced as a Division 7 Navigation Systems Team surveys the lights on a Class A bridge in Narragansett Bay.

What to expect from the 2017 Navigation System's training program.

The design of this year's PATON and Bridge training will be to start with the field experience stage where the use of the PATON Run Sheet will be explained and the CG 5074 PATON Report will be demonstrated and, in follow-up support sessions, the necessary skills and knowledge will be presented, always referencing back to the performance of the ultimate final reports. Our plan is to prepare each AV for the final qualification event which will be verifying PATONs and surveying Bridges while underway. By attending this AV Training, you will learn how to prepare professional grade verification reports to the Coast Guard and aid owners.

*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. Contact the editor at **FrankJLarkin@verizon.net**.*