United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

First Northern Navigation Systems
We verify the AtoNs and PATONs, check the Bridges, and update the Charts of First Northern

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

AUGUST NAVIGATION SYSTEMS NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to alleviating all of the confusion out there about what PATONs are left to be done in 2012.

Time is flying and we still have a long way to go. We really need to rise to this occasion this year and support the First Northern PATON and Bridge programs now. Check this status report for your Patrol Area. Note that these numbers are constantly changing as new reports are submitted.

The latest 161 Bridges To Do Schedule status is summarized below:

Southwest Harbor – **Division 1 – 4** to go.

PAT-1N	1 to go.
PAT-5	2 to go.
PAT-9	1 to go.

South Portland – **Division 2 – 40** to go.

SP-BH	14 to go. (013-02-05) Boothbay
SP-CB	10 to go. (013-02-01) Casco
SP-SB	**Completed** (013-02-04) Saco
SP-PH	16 to go. (013-02-08) Portsmouth

Boston – **Division 3 – 8** to go.

Boston – **Division 4 – 12** to go.

Boston **– Division 5 – 33** to go.

Boston - **Division 9 – 15** to go.

Boston – **Division 12 – 7** to go.

BOS-3	3 to go.
BOS-6	4 to go.

ANT Woods Hole – **Division 6 – 11** to go.

WH-D	4 to go. 013-06-03)
WH-F1	7 to go. (013-06-05)

Woods Hole – **Division 11 – 11** to go.

WH-AE	1 to go.	(013-11-01)
WH-BE	4 to go.	(013-11-08)
WH-CS1	3 to go.	(013-11-02)
WH-CS2	3 to go.	(013-11-02)

Bristol – **Division 7, 8 and 10** – **Completed**

There is a lot of bridge activity happening out there. We have a fair distance to go. Check out the balances left to go and offer your assistance where you are able. Many bridges can be done by private auto.

The latest 795 PATON To Do Schedule is summarized below.

Southwest Harbor – **Division 1 – 112** to go.

PAT-1N	**Completed**
PAT-2	3 to go
PAT-3	**Completed**
PAT-4	3 to go.
PAT-5	2 to go.
PAT-6	25 to go.
PAT-7	8 to go
PAT-8	22 to go.
PAT-10	49 to go

South Portland – **Division 2 – 92** to go.

SP-BH	42 to go. (013-02-05) Boothbay
SP-CB	28 to go. (013-02-01) Casco
SP-SB	**Completed** (013-02-04) Saco
SP-PH	22 to go. (013-02-08) Portsmouth

Boston – **Division 3 – 8** to go.

Boston – **Division 4 – 25** to go.

Boston **– Division 5 – 5** to go.

Boston - **Division 9 – 2** to go.

Boston – **Division 12 – 99** to go.

ANT Woods Hole – **Division 6 – 95** to go.

WH-D	54 to go. 013-06-03)
WH-E	23 to go. (013-06-05)
WH-F1	18 to go. (013-06-05)

Woods Hole – **Division 11 – 203** to go.

WH-AE	17 to go.	(013-11-01)
WH-AN1	11 to go.	(013-11-06)
WH-AN2	45 to go.	(013-11-01)
WH-AW	8 to go.	(013-11-01)
WH-BE	52 to go.	(013-11-08)
WH-CS1	33 to go.	(013-11-02)
WH-CS2	12 to go.	(013-11-02)
WH-CW	2 to go.	(013-11-06)
WH-MV	20 to go.	(013-11-02)
WH-NAN	3 to go.	(013-11-07)

Bristol – **Division 7, 8 and 10** – **154** to go.

CG ANT	2 to go.	(ANT Bristol)
CH-C	50 to go.	(Narragansett Bay Central)
CH-E	18 to go.	(Narragansett Bay East)
CH-W	11 to go	(Narragansett Bay West)
Foxtrot	13 to go	(Westport River)
PJ-O	72 to go	(Point Judith / Block Island)

That 795 PATON to go number scares me a little. But, we have a fair distance to go. Unfortunately, only a few productive AVs are doing the bulk of the work this year. Check out the balances left to go in your AOR and offer your assistance where you are able. Note that these numbers are changing daily as new reports are submitted.

In order to avoid duplication, check out the aids that you plan to verify in advance. You have a two week window to get your AV Reports submitted before your reservation is cancelled. Read the new Check Out feature news below for the details.

If you are having trouble entering your reports or have forgotten your access codes, contact the DSO-NS at once. He will do everything to fix the problem quickly.

READ THIS about the new "PATON Check Out" feature

When you log onto the PATON System as an AV today, you will see a new list of PATONs on the screen. **These are the PATONs that are scheduled for verification this year.** The PATONs are listed by Patrol Area by Aid Name.

By clicking on the small box at the left, you can reserve a PATON for verification. When you click on the "Check Out" button at the top, the system will move the PATON(s) to an "Inspection (Verification) Schedule List" for reserved aids. Click on "Entire Inspection Schedule List" to view the PATONs that have been checked out. If you make an error, click on the "REMOVE" button and the aid will be returned to the original list.
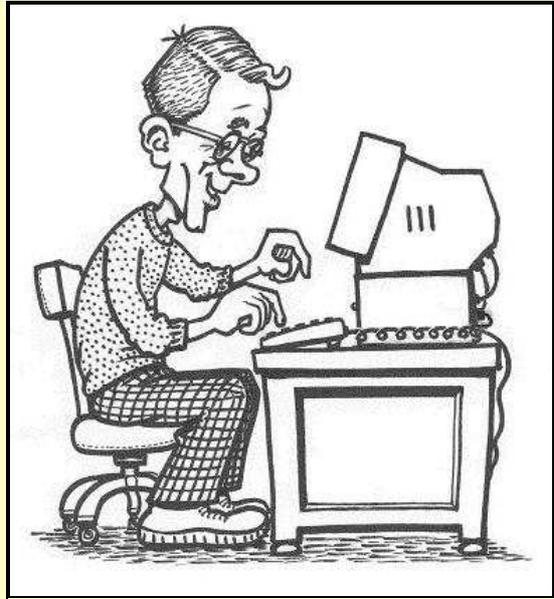
More on the PATON Check Out feature . . .

Use this 'Check Out' feature to reserve PATONs that you plan to verify on your next patrol. You are allowed a two-week window to submit a 7054 Verification Report. The PATON will be automatically returned to the original Check Out list after 14 days of inactivity. The system also removes the reserved entry when a 7054 AV Verification Report is submitted.

This is an example of the Check Out list as it appears when an AV logs on.

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PRIVATE AIDS TO NAVIGATION FOR - CG ANT WOODS HOLE

DATE          AID NAME              BY       UNIT    PATROL AREA
08/01/2012 FOREST BEACH ROCK BUOY A [LARKIN] 013-10-07  WH-CS1          [REMOVE]
Return to index page
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The above example shows a PATON that has been reserved. The "REMOVE" box is at the right. The entries are sorted by BY (AV's Name) who originally checked out the PATON and by PATON Name. This list also references AV's "Unit" (Flotilla) and "Patrol Area" of the aid.

This "Check Out" feature is in use to communicate the PATON verification schedule to the AVs throughout First Northern. Each AV is requested to "Check Out" the aids that they plan to verify. This will help to avoid duplicated verification reports and lets everyone know your verification plans.

When you are ready to print out the "One Page Verification Reports," **search** by Waterway Name. The system will present all of the aids on that waterway for your review. Click on the Aid Name to access the "**One Page Verification Report**." Note that you don't have to list all of the aids anymore to perform this search. This is a big time saver for every AV.

OUR PATON PLAN IS NOW DIFFERENT!

FIRST PRIORITY – **We are tasked to verify all of the aids that have never been verified before or were last verified before 2010**. The new PATON Check Out feature shows you all the PATONs in your Patrol Area that remain to be verified in 2012. You don't have to reference a spreadsheet for this information anymore.

The scheduled PATONs that remain to be verified are now listed when you logon to the PATON System. When these "check out" lists are empty, you have completed the annual PATON goal for your AOR. Use this "Check Out" feature to reserve PATONs and help avoid duplicated effort.

SECOND PRIORITY – **While transiting your AOR, check on the lateral PATONs that are not scheduled this year and only report any discrepancies that you observe**. Do not report any unscheduled aids that are observed as watching properly. This causes extra work for the CG ANT. However, always take AUXDATA credit for this activity.

UNDERSTANDING NEW PATON PLANNING AND SCHEDULING SYSTEM

With the recent programming completion on the "PATON Check Out" feature, the method for scheduling and communicating the annual verification plan for private aids to navigation in First Northern changed. Here is a brief explanation of the new planning process. Each AV and NS Staff Officer needs to be aware how this system works. All of their area planning will disseminate from this system now and in the future.

Developing the annual District PATON plan

1. The SOP for PATON planning is for AVs to verify each PATON once every three years. This amounts to one-third of the PATONs being scheduled for verification each year. DPW 1 may ask for special requirements within a given year. Usually, these special requirements are defined during the December review period each year.

2. Also, during December review period, the senior Navigation Systems Staff Officers will use the guidelines received from DPW 1 to develop a proposed PATON plan for the upcoming

year. This plan is forwarded to DPW 1, the Sectors and/or CG ANT or Station personnel for adjustment and final approval.

   a. Some Sectors and ANTs may have special requirements to meet some special situations within their AOR. These needs will be incorporated into their annual PATON Verification Plan.

3. During each January, PATONs scheduled for verification will be flagged for verification by changing the "**Annual Verification**" field to "YES." PATONs that are not scheduled to be verified are flagged with a "NO." This activity will be handled by the senior Navigation Systems Staff Officers.

4. PATONs, flagged as "YES" for annual verification, will show on the "Check Out" list that appears when an AV logs onto the PATON System.

   a. This becomes the Annual PATON Verification Plan for the current year.

   b. The record updating process should be completed by February 1 each year.

   c. The plan can be adjusted during the year as needed for situations, such as:
      • New PATONs being added to the PATON System.
      • Major changes or updates to unscheduled PATONs that need to be confirmed.
      • Special problems noted on specific waterways that require the check of all of the aids in the area.
      • Alerts from the field indicating problems with specific aids.
      • Deleted PATONs are automatically dropped off the plan by the system.

Aid Verifier PATON Verification Implementation Plan

1. As each AV logs onto the PATON System, the PATONs scheduled for verification for the year appear on the "Check Out List" on the AV Logon Screen.

   a. This list is sorted by "PATROL AREA" by "AID NAME."

   b. Note that each AV is assigned to a specific CG ANT in their PATON System registration record which gives them access to the PATONs managed by that ANT or Sector.

      • If an AV works for two different CG ANTs, they need two registration records—one for each ANT.

   c. AV can quickly drill down to the Patrol Area(s) where they normally operate to view the PATONs assigned to that patrol area. This is a big time saver for every AV.

2. As part of the preparation for a patrol, AVs should reserve the PATONs that they plan to verify in advance of the patrol as follows:

   a. Enter a check in the small box to the left of a PATON entry on the "Check Out List."

   b. When all the desired PATONS have been checked, click on the "CHECK OUT" button at the top of the Check Out List.

   c. All of the selected PATONS are moved to the "Inspection (Verification) Schedule List." This takes a very short time to complete.

   d. The "Inspection (Verification) Schedule List" indicates the PATONs that are planned for verification showing the Last Name, Flotilla Number and Patrol Area of the originating AV.

   e. PATONs are reserved to the originating AV for a period of two weeks (14 days).

   f. Note, even though you have reserved a PATON, another AV can submit a "7054 AV Verification Report" for the aid and the system will remove it from the schedule list.

      • It is important to view the "**INSPECTED**" date for each PATON before you call it up for reporting. This date appears at the left-hand end of each PATON's listing. Try to keep report duplication to a minimum.

3. When an AV submits a "7054 AV Verification Report" for a PATON, the PATON is drops off the schedule for the year.

   a. In effect, the PATON schedule is satisfied for the current year.

   b. Once verified, a PATON cannot be flagged for additional verification in the current year.

   c. The "Check Out List" becomes the AV's "To Do List" and 'Status Report' in each Patrol Area. Each entry shows the "Aid Name" and the "Patrol Area" where it is located.

4. **When the "Check Out List" and the "Inspection Schedule List" are empty, you have met their PATON Verification Goal for the current year.**

We have tried to make the PATON planning and implementation process simple for our AVs and Navigation Systems Staff. I believe these new updates accomplish this goal. We now have all of the necessary communication paths programmed on-line into the system. Once the annual plan is defined and the data is entered, the system is able run itself throughout the year. As PATON reports are submitted on-line, the system updates itself and always shows the very latest status.

And, the best part, there will be no need for those pesky EXCEL spreadsheets schedules that you have been getting recently.
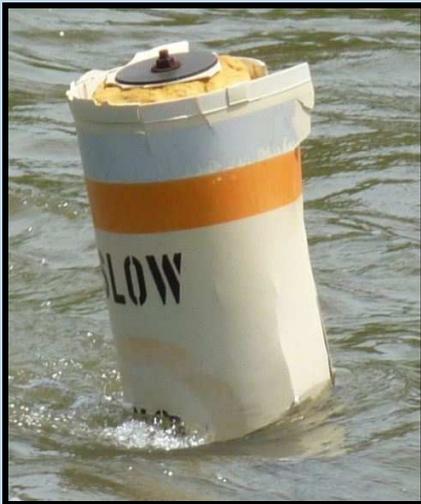
Send us photos of your AVs in action and we will publish them in our newsletter. Don't forget the send along a list of the names of AVs in the photo.

We don't give out any prizes but it's always nice to show the other AVs how much fun you are having verifying PATONs, surveying Bridges or updating charts. Funny situations are great as long as they don't embarrass anyone.

"It's always a lot easier to respond to a boating accident that has already been prevented." **This is your job as a member of the First Northern Navigation System Team.**