We've made private aids very simple and easy to verify.

The whole verification process may seem overwhelming at first. There is a lot to remember, and then, there is the new on-line system to contend with. Most AVs still have to "break the ice" this year. You may have to do a few verifications to get comfortable with the process. Perhaps this review will help get you started. Start by logging onto the PATON System at **www.uscgaan.com**.

First of all, AVs are not expected to perform a position check as sophisticated as the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard understands that the Auxiliary is often limited by the nature of the electronic instruments they use but not by the skill and accuracy that an AV can achieve with the use of their instruments. As with any member of the Coast Guard, we must report what electronic instruments we use and state how we checked that they were operating accurately. This is required as evidence and for our credibility as an AV.

Task 1 – **Prepare an Accuracy Statement** that shows the name and model number of your GPS and Echo Sounder and indicates how they were checked before getting underway. (Use another GPS, a fixed position, a lead line, etc.) Keep the check simple. From your personal aspect, you have to insure that you have set up your GPS correctly so you must indicate whether WAAS was enabled and the set was operating in 3D Differential. These are simple read outs from your GPS.

When on scene, record the EPE- Estimated Position Error from your GPS set and indicate whether it was operating in 3D. This data defines the accuracy of the fix that you are reporting. Report the HOT-Height of Tide and the Substation being reflected by your echo Sounder – also available from the Almanac screen on your GPS. This data provides the Coast Guard with evidence of the accuracy of your report. And, all you have to do is record data that is provided by your GPS. A sample Accuracy Statement is shown below. Download this statement to your desktop and cut and past it to your verification reports, making the necessary changes for each fix that you take.

ACCURACY STATEMENT:

1. A *Garmin GPS 76* GPS with *WAAS enabled*, operating in *3D Differential* was used to fix the aid. On-scene *EPE* was *9.2* feet. Pre-underway accuracy was checked *at the dock against a known location*.

2. A *Hummingbird Wide 100* echo sounder was used to take the depth. Pre-underway accuracy was checked *at the dock with a hand-held echo sounder*. Correction for the transducer is *0.8 feet*. The on-scene Substation was *Neponset River* on *Boston*.

3. The reported fix and depth were taken approximately *12* feet up wind and upstream from the PATON to offset the effect of the aid's watch circle.

Yellow highlights – Change this data to reflect the instruments and methods you use.
Green highlights – Correct this data for each PATON that you verify.
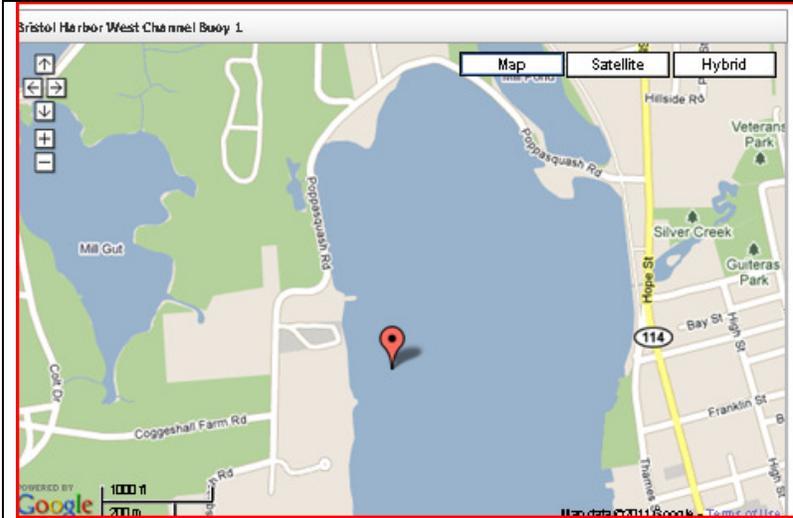
Task 2 – **Compare your on-scene observations with the aid's specifications shown on the One Page Verification Report.** It is a good practice to reference this report while on scene. If there are discrepancies with the aid, photograph them. A sample One Page Verification Report is shown below. Everything that you need to know about the PATON is listed on the first page of this report.

A Google section is provided to help Avs find the aid or to determine if it is positioned correctly. This Google system uses the permitted latitude and longitude that is shown on the One Page Verification Report. It can tell you whether the aid is off station. Since land mass on NOAA charts are often not updated in areas where some private aids are located, this is a good tool to check whether an aid is actually plotting on land or in water.

The Official Image photo of the PATON is provided by the AV. When submitted, it appears on page two of the One Page Verification Report. This is important backup evidence for the Coast Guard as to what is actually deployed by the aid owner. Send your photos to the **DSO-NS 013** who will insert them into the PATON's record. A sample photo is shown on page 3. Invite an Auxiliarist camera bug on your patrol. They usually take great photos and can digitize them for you. These Auxiliarists are great assets to our program.

SAMPLE ONE PAGE VERIFICATION REPORT

ONE PAGE PATON VERIFICATION REPORT		
Edit Record ❓		Access this report by clicking on the PATON's name.
Discrepancy report		
PATON NAME:	**Bristol Harbor West Channel Buoy 1**	Is the description right?
LLNR:	**18196.00**	
AID NUMBER:	**100116783502**	
CLASS:	2	
ANNUAL VERIFICATION:	Yes	
OPFAC ASSIGNMENT:	41951	
Location, Depth and PATON Type.........................		
LATITUDE:	41° 40' 29.760" N	Take and report a fix.
LONGITUDE:	71° 17' 13.680" W	
GENERAL LOCALITY:	13221 - Bristol Harbor, West Channel	Is the location correct?
PATON TYPE:	Floating ,Unlighted	Is the PATON Type correct?
PATON PURPOSE:	MARKS A CHANNEL	Review the purpose of the aid.
PATON CATEGORY:	Unlighted Buoy	Is the category correct?
AID COLOR:	GREEN	Is the color of the aid right?
DEPTH AT DATUM:	21.0	Report the recorded depth corrected for the Height of Tide and the location of the transducer.
Floating PATON...............................		
BUOY MATERIAL:	FOAM	What is the aid made of?
SOUND SIGNAL TYPE:		Does the aid have a sound signal?
ACTION REQUESTED:	Seasonal	Is the deployment correct?
AID DURATION:	Set: 04/01 - Pull: 11/01	Are the set and pull dates correct?
DATE LAST VERIFIED:	6/22/2011	
DISTRICT/DIVISION/FLOTILLA:	013/07/00	
PATROL AREA:	CH-C	
PERMITTED COMMENTS:	Green Can	Are the Permitted comments correct?

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SAMPLE GOOGLE FEATURE   **OFFICIAL IMAGE PHOTO**

Task 3 – **Check your observations against the Light List and NOAA ch**art and report any differences that you observe in the AV Observation section and espond to the questions on the 7054 AV Verification Report.

Tasks 4 - **Discrepancy Photos are great supporting evidence for your verification report.** Use the browser below to add discrepancy photos. You will find it at the bottom of the 7054 Verification Report. Discrepancy reports get quick action from the Coast Guard because it is clear evidence of the AV's actual observation.

Task 5 – **Prepare and submit a 7054 AV Verification Report**.   This is the easiest part. It's simply a matter of filling in the blanks, checking a box or using a drop-down menu.   Only report any PATON specifications that are discrepant. Click on the column, "Submit Discrepancy Report" to start preparing your report. This report is shown on the next page.

PRIVATE AIDS TO NAVIGATION FOR - CG ANT BOSTON

USCG AUXILIARY AV PATON REPORT 7054

Leave fields blank if the data is correct.

Click on the question marks for information about the field.

Note that the latest permitted specifications are shown on this report.

SECTION I - PATON SPECIFICATION and OBSERVER'S INFORMATION

BRISTOL HARBOR WEST CHANNEL BUOY 1

PATON SYSTEM CONTROL NUMBER: 27517

GENERAL LOCALITY: 13221 - Bristol Harbor, West Channel

Correct the location by entering new location.

....Permitted..

OPFAC NUMBER   01-41951 - ANT Bristol
LLNR: 18196.00
AID NUMBER: 100116783502
CLASS: 2

	PERMITTED	OBSERVED
PATON PURPOSE:	MARKS A CHANNEL	... select one ...
PATON CATEGORY:	Unlighted Buoy	... select one ....
AID COLOR	GREEN	... select one ...
PATON TYPE:	Floating Un-lighted	
LATITUDE	41° 40' 29.760" N	Latitude ▪ N
LONGITUDE	71° 17' 13.680" W	Longitude ▪ W
FIX VERIFIED BY:		... select one ...
DEPTH AT DATUM:	21.0 FT.	ft.
HEIGHT OF TIDE:		ft.

Correct by menu as needed. Indicate correction in the AV Observation field.

Always enter a LAT/LONG.

Indicate by menu.

Enter corrected depth.
Enter the HOT.

When the PATON is permitted as FLOATING

Floating PATON..

BUOY MATERIAL   FOAM   ☐ Wood ☐ Metal ☐ Plastic ☐ Foam   Other

Check off or enter the aid's material if it is incorrect.

When the PATON is permitted as FIXED.

Fixed PATON..

| AID STRUCTURE | SINGLE PILE | ... select one ... |
| STRUCTURE MATERIAL | WOOD | Select...   Other |

Check off or enter the aid's material if it is incorrect.

When the PATON is permitted as LIGHTED

Lighted PATON..

LIGHT CHARACTERISTIC:	F	... select one ...
LIGHT PERIOD		seconds
LIGHT COLOR	GREEN	
HEIGHT OF LIGHT	6 feet	(feet)

Check off or enter the light characteristics if these specifications are incorrect.

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ESTABLISHMENT..

ACTION REQUESTED	Seasonal
AID DURATION:	Set: 04/01 Pull: 11/01

Dates and Times..

DATE LAST REPORTED:	20-Jul-2009
DATE OBSERVED:	7/3/2011
DATE REPORTED:	7/3/2011
TIME WHEN VERIFIED: (HHMM)	2242

Auxiliary Unit Assignment...

DISTRICT/DIVISION/FLOTILLA:
013/07/00   PATROL AREA: CH-C

SECTION II - DESCRIPTION OF DEFICIENCY DOCUMENTATION OF DISCREPANCIES

The observations of this PATON match the entry in the light list, the PATON's permitted record, and the entry for this PATON on its nautical chart.:*   ○ YES ○ NO

PATON with the IALA-B ATON System?*   ○ COMPLIES ○ DOES NOT COMPLY ○ NOT A LATERAL AID

This PATON is watching properly?*   ○ YES ○ NO

Check the Action requested and the proper Set and Pull dates.

Enter the date when the Aid was observed.

System enters the date when the aid is submitted.

Enter the time of day when the aid was verified

Check whether the permitted data, the Light List and NOAA chart are matching. Explain in the AV Observation field.

Indicate the condition of the aid versus the IALA-B system.

Read the Web-Based PATON Training Guide to determine when to select whether an aid is watching properly.

When you select NO, the discrepancy field will appear.

These are special comments about the PATON.

SECTION III - COMMENTS

PERMITTED COMMENTS (Description information about specific PATON):

Green Can

Any special comments regarding to the PATON's specification will be shown here. Indicate any corrections or additions in the AV Observations section below.

Enter any special observations and your Accuracy Statement in these fields.

AV OBSERVATIONS (For AV Special remarks and observations.):

Enter any observations that will enhance your report.

ACCURACY STATEMENT (For AV to support accuracy of electronic equipment) :

Paste your Accuracy Statement here.

When you report that an aid is not watching properly, a list of discrepancies will appear here.

Check off discrepancy list:

Location discrepancies ❓

- ☐ PATON is off station.
- ☐ PATON is adrift.
- ☐ PATON is missing.
- ☐ PATON is not marking the best water.

Check all discrepancies that apply.

Condition discrepancies ❓

- ☐ PATON is sinking. (Photo)
- ☐ PATON is stranded (Photo)
- ☐ PATON is capsized (Photo)
- ☐ PATON is submerged (Photo)
- ☐ PATON is damaged by vessel collision (Photo)
- ☐ PATON has been vandalized (Photo)
- ☐ Extensive bird fouling is compromising the color of a lateral PATON (Photo)
- ☐ Peeling or rust is compromising the color of a lateral PATON (Photo)
- ☐ Retro material is missing, peeling or inadequate (Photo)
- ☐ Numbers are missing on a lateral PATON (Photo)
- ☐ Numbers are damaged or the wrong color - explain in Comments.
- ☐ Structure is leaning more that 15 degrees (Photo)
- ☐ Extensive deterioration and/or rotting members on a structure (Photo).

Lighted discrepancies ❓

- ☐ Improper light characteristics on a lighted PATON - explain in Comments.
- ☐ Light is obscured or extinguished on a lateral PATON
- ☐ Light is burning dim or showing reduced intensity.
- ☐ Light is obscured by a dayboard (Photo).
- ☐ Lantern is damaged (Photo)
- ☐ Lantern is missing. (Photo)
- ☐ Solar panel is damaged or incorrectly oriented. (Photo)
- ☐ Battery pack is damaged or missing. (Photo)
- ☐ Missing vent valve on a lighted PATON (Photo)

Check all discrepancies that apply.

Dayboard discrepancies ❓

- ☐ Dayboard is missing or damaged (Photo)
- ☐ Dayboards are faded so that the official color is compromised. (Photo)
- ☐ Dayboards are delaminating (Photo)
- ☐ Dayboards are obscured by foliage or other object. (Photo)
- ☐ Improper dayboards per data permit specification or Light List (Photo)

Check all discrepancies that apply.

Other discrepancies ❓

- ☐ Sound Signal discrepancy, see Comments. (Photo)
- ☐ Radio Beacon is off the aid or emitting the wrong signal, see Comments.
- ☐ RACON is off the air.

Check all discrepancies that apply.

You can submit a 7030 AUXdata activity report with your 7043 AV Verification Report.

SECTION IV - AV SECTION	
Submitted by ◆	Frank Larkin
Division - Flotilla ◆	00
Email Address ◆	FrankJLarkin@verizon.net
PREPARE A 7030 AUXDATA ACTIVITY REPORT ❓	○ YES ● NO

Enter your Division and Flotilla Numbers in DD-FF format.

If you want to submit a 7030 report as part of your Verification Report, click YES.

When you click on Yes, the following 7030 data fields will appear:

Enter the data in the fields.

The system will fill in the missing data fields from your registration record.

Click the question marks to get a better understanding of the data required in each field.

Use this browser to add your Discrepancy photos:

Click the submit button and you are finished.

Review the attached PATON Problem Solving Matrix to understand what happens to the discrepancies that you report.