



US Coast Guard Auxiliary

Marine Safety and Environmental Protection "M" Department

OPCOM Report for NACON 2004

The M Department has defined the following as "Prime Missions" for 2004/5:

1. Aggressively identifying and disseminating "Best Practices" and other key information items to all constituencies, and
2. Launching a follow-up "MSO Augmentation Survey" to build on the progress made in meeting the objectives defined in the first survey and to set priorities in M support for the next two years;
3. Dramatically improving the interaction and two-way communication with the sixteen DSOs-MS;
4. Aggressively "marketing" M and the Trident Program among the membership to enhance our capacity to support the USCG.

Work is underway on all the above right now.

We continued to reach new highs in our Performance Indicators - as of July'04:

- a. Total M hours volunteered = 61,476 vs. 92,299 in all of 2003;
- b. Total Commercial Fishing Vessel Examinations made = 1,017 vs. 1,430 in all of 2003
- c. Total courses passed = 652 vs. 1,747 in all of 2003. This reflects the leveling out of demand after the initial surge at the launch of the Trident Program.

Projects in progress (Estimated Completion Date):

2. In cooperation with the USCG M Directorate, the number of M missions reportable on the Form 7030 is being reviewed with the goal of simplification and reduction of missions reported to AUXDATA (**September 2004**);
3. CENTRA has been introduced to the senior officers of the Department and will be rolled out to the Division Chiefs for them to use to communicate with their Division members (**October 2004**);

4. The DSO-MS Position Description will be re-written in collaboration with the Districts, with a view to making it much more in line with current needs, policies and practices (**November 2004**);
5. Development of an MS/MEP AUXOP course is planned pending the results of the Training Summit (**TBD**);
6. Based on our experience with the last Boat US Clean Water Grant cycle, a primer and marketing plan on how to prepare applications for such grants will be prepared for the use of M officers (**October 2004**);
7. In coordination with USCG HQ, draft MOAs/MOUs for using with key Marine Environmental Protection stakeholders (**October 2004**);
8. A Study Guide is to be developed for the AUX-MEES PQS (**September 2004**);
9. A Marine Living Resources PowerPoint presentation is to be developed for uses in MEP educational training (**August 2004**);
10. A plan to replace the Protected Species training program is being developed which will result in an up-dated and current new training program (**September 2004**);
11. A plan is being developed to use the public appeal of the "green" movement to enhance recruiting of members who might not otherwise be attracted to the Auxiliary (**October/November 2004**);
12. We have named a Departmental POC to arrange for M articles to be written and published in the O-Department's MDA Newsletter (**Quarterly**);
13. Agreement has been reached with the USCG's G-MOS-4 to assist in bringing the Auxiliary's resources to the implementation of their Five Year Plan and a plan is now being developed to that end, to include recommendations for funding (**October 2004**);
14. Conversations with the USCG Sea Grant Program team have begun to develop a Five Year Plan for the Auxiliary's support for their activities (**October 2004**);
15. Contacts have been initiated with the E-Department to increase MEP as part of the Auxiliary's PE program, with notable initial success (**TBD**);
16. A "C" School will be organized for the Gulf or Northeast similar to the successful one done last year for the Northwest (**December 2004**);
17. A plan to improve the level of training of all Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiners in order to ensure top-flight professional performance is now being prepared once new Guidelines and Policies approved by USCG HQ (**TBD**);
18. Tentative agreements have been reached with three additional Captains of the Port (COTP) to initiate the Auxiliary Waterway Management/Security Coordinators (AWMSC) program, which would bring the total number of COTPs participating in this pilot project to six nationwide (**December 2004**);
19. A new page on the Departmental web site is being developed to include MTSA, America's Waterway Watch and the new Florida-based

- pilot program of collaboration with the federal program, Citizen Corps **(September 2004)**;
20. A pollution endorsement is in preparation for the O-Department's HARM program pending input from O. **(TBD)**;
 21. The AUXPAL PowerPoint presentation is being converted to an M-specific presentation for use by the Auxiliary and the MSOs in recruiting members for M support **(October 2004)**;

Projects Completed Since the Last OPCOM Meeting:

1. AUXPAL was presented to key USCG HQ staff as a method for recruiting members with specific skills;
2. The Strategic Plan for the Department was re-written and made current;
3. The Department's travel policies were re-written in coordination with the USCG M Directorate in order to minimize costs while maximizing travel capabilities;
4. The M Department List Server was implemented for nation-wide and District-wide use in communicating with M officers and others;
5. The Department responded to the Caribbean Volunteer Initiative with recommendations re: M-related activities;
6. On the first anniversary of the Trident Program, an article was written and published in the Navigator outlining the progress made in the first year since launching;
7. Major efforts were undertaken to assist the Districts in organizing support for the MSOs in executing their MTSA missions, including writing and distributing summaries of the Act and specific opportunities and actions that would lend themselves to Auxiliary support;
8. MTSA Best Practice Bulletins were written and published at 6 week intervals describing what various Auxiliary and USCG units were doing in the MTSA field as "Best Practices" suggestions and were distributed to all interested constituencies;
9. The February AUXWEB banner was used to promote and market the Trident Program to the membership on the occasion of the first anniversary of its launch;
10. A HARPAT endorsement has been completed and submitted to the O-Department for their HARM project;
11. Following USCG policies, approval was obtained for a "Conditional Award" of the Trident badge for those members who had obtained all necessary qualifications and were in the midst of completing the "time in service" requirement – thus giving an important tool to USCG unit commanders in motivating Auxiliarists who are actively supporting their units;
12. The monthly newsletter, Safety Lines, was re-designed and made to focus more closely on the dissemination of "Best M Practices";

13. Several Emergency Response scenarios were reviewed and re-written as part of the OPR III project;
14. Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Program "Guidelines for Action" were drafted in coordination with USCG HQ G-MOC-3, and are now circulating for formal approval;
15. A new Position Description for the BC-ORP has been agreed between O and M and candidates for this important liaison position are now being sought;
16. Measures to improve the critical interaction and communication with the DSOs-MS have been identified and are now being put into practice;
17. Five new Auxiliary Personal Qualification Standards (PQs) have been completed, based on MSO and field input, and are in USCG HQ for review and approval for implementation. This would increase the number of Auxiliary PQs by 50% from the current 10 to 15;
18. A policy was developed in order to meet the needs of USCG field units for Personal Qualification Standards to meet specific local needs.

The Staff of the Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Department continues to:

- meet the changing needs of Coast Guard Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Field Units within the Regional and Sector Command Structure.
- provide members of the Auxiliary with targeted training and information to respond efficiently to customer needs
- improve communications with CG Program Managers and Auxiliary Leadership as well as members
- be proactive to meet the challenges and explore the opportunities of the future

Respectfully submitted,

Helmut Hertle, DC-M