



Department of Marine Safety and Environmental Protection

Best Practices

Bulletin Number 3 - MSO San Francisco Bay Assessing the Situation

Immediately after 9/11, RADM Hereth, then Captain of the Port for MSO San Francisco Bay, realized there was more work to be done than personnel to accomplish it. He called on the Coast Guard Auxiliary for assistance. That call continued, and expanded, after CAPT Gerald Swanson relieved him. LT Doug Ebbers was assigned as liaison between the Auxiliary and the MSO and directed to see where the Auxiliary could be of assistance.

The Approach Taken

Initially, Coast Guard Auxiliarists were called upon to act as drivers to transport Sea Marshals to and from their assigned vessels. Auxiliarists were also trained to stand special communications watches for the Sea Marshals. This relieved regular watchstanders to continue their normal duties.

LT Ebbers worked with Auxiliary MS staff members to determine where the Auxiliary could be of most immediate help and also where, with additional training, they could gain the specialized skills to be of assistance.

The most immediate need was for assistance with infrastructure patrols. MSO San Francisco Bay's Area of Responsibility covers an area from Monterey Bay to the Oregon border and from the Pacific coast to the western Colorado border. Auxiliarists reside in many of the outlying areas and are able to provide these patrols, thus eliminating the need to send Active Duty or Reserve members out from Alameda. Classroom training was provided to an additional 32 Auxiliarists in Harbor Safety Patrols in July 2004 and On the Job training continues. Several Auxiliarists have completed the Auxiliary Assistant Harbor Safety Specialist PQS and others continue to work on their qualification.

Additionally, it was determined that assistance was needed in the area of Port State Dispatcher. This position helps determine which foreign flagged vessels need to be boarded for safety and/or security needs. Training is provided on an individual basis to those Auxiliarists interested. Currently, 2 Auxiliarists are working as Port State Control dispatchers.

Auxiliarists are also assisting the Facilities Branch with both safety and security inspections. On the Job training is provided on an individual basis. One Auxiliarist has completed the Assistant Facility Security Inspector PQS and 7 more are in the process. Auxiliarists also are working with the Container Inspection Branch as part of Container Inspection Teams.

Next Steps

Staff from the MSO and District 11 North MS Staff Officers will continue to work together to assess the needs of the MSO to find where the interests and abilities of members of the Auxiliary can fill those needs. Training will continue to be provided by the MSO as needed.