

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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SECTOR UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER INSTRUCTION 2014

Subj: SECTOR UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER AUXILIARY CONTINGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES

Ref: (a) Auxiliary Operations Policy Manual, COMDTINST M16798.3E

(b) Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1

(c) Coast Guard Auxiliary HF Telecommunications Program Policies and Procedures,
Department of Operations Telecommunications Division, dated 01 August 2006

(d) Memorandum dated 01 June 2006, Subj: CG Auxiliary HF Operation, From: L.L.
Ritter, CAPT CG-62, To: B. Smith, CAPT G-PCX

(e) Email- Updated Auxiliary HF Frequency Matrix dated 01 March 2008, From: Bill
Scholz, Chief, Telecommunications (DVC-OT) & PACAREA HF Coordinator &
Command AUX POC, USCG CAMSPAC

1. PURPOSE. This instruction provides policy guidance for the conduct of Coast Guard Auxiliary contingency communications operations under the order issuing authority of the Commander, Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River (UMR).
2. ACTION. All Commanding Officers, Marine Safety Detachment Supervisors, Officers in Charge and Auxiliarists shall utilize this instruction for all Sector UMR Auxiliary contingency communications activities.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None
4. DISCUSSION. The Auxiliary provides an invaluable communications resource that assists the Coast Guard in carrying out its mission. References (a) and (b) provide policy guidance for the conduct of Auxiliary communications and allows the Operational Commanders some discretion to apply, amplify or modify these regulations.
5. OVERVIEW. This instruction describes a contingency communications plan utilizing USCG Auxiliary radio assets and personnel to assist and support Sector UMR should a catastrophic loss of communications occur in the St. Louis area, a loss of USCG High Level Sites (HLS) within the Sector UMR Area of Responsibility (AOR) and/or to provide support communications to Coast Guard forces when deployed in remote areas beyond the HLS coverage area. Additionally, this instruction provides a plan for contingency communications training for USCG Auxiliary and Sector UMR personnel. This contingency communications plan will utilize radio spectrum in the High Frequency (HF) and the Very High Frequency (VHF) regions as appropriate to cover the Sector UMR AOR and to reach

other USCG and USCGAUX units as needed including USCG District Eight in New Orleans. A list of Auxiliary radio facilities and personnel making up the Sector UMR Contingency Communications Team will be maintained by the Auxiliary Sector Coordinator and made available for use by the Sector UMR Command Center.

6. AUXILIARY OPERATIONS POLICY. Auxiliary Operations policy for communications qualifications, radio facility approval, requirements for facility orders, uniforms when deployed, facility damage claims and personal injury claims are defined in ref (a). Auxiliary contingency communications personnel will be Auxiliary Communication qualified or Telecommunications Operator (TCO) qualified and their radio facilities will be accepted and approved by the Director of Auxiliary for the Auxiliary Eighth District Western Rivers Region. Additionally, Auxiliary HF radio facilities will be accepted, approved and have a unique HF radio Call Sign issued by the Auxiliary National Telecommunications Division of the Auxiliary National Operations Department. The Auxiliary HF telecommunications program policies and procedures are defined in ref (c). Auxiliary HF frequency assignment and authorization is provided by ref (d) and updated by ref (e). Auxiliary land mobile facility orders are processed and managed by the Patrol Order Management System (POMS) in accordance with ref (a). Auxiliary fixed land and transportable fixed land facility orders are issued and managed by Sector UMR (POMS currently only handles land mobile facilities).
7. SECTOR UMR PROCESS AND PROCEDURES FOR AUXILIARY CALL OUT. Upon detection of a communications failure, the Command Center watch shall coordinate with the Command Center Supervisor to evaluate the nature of the failure and determine if Auxiliary call out is the appropriate action. The decision to activate this contingency communications plan and Auxiliary call out will be by the Sector Commander. The Command Center Supervisor, upon approval, shall contact the Auxiliary Sector Coordinator to review the communication failure and determine the type of Auxiliary facility and personnel that are best suited for mitigating the failure. The Auxiliary Sector Coordinator will contact the Auxiliary personnel to determine availability and instruct the personnel to begin the process of obtaining orders for person and radio facility movement. Auxiliary land mobile facility orders are processed and managed through the Patrol Order Management System (POMS) in accordance with ref (a). Auxiliary fixed land and transportable fixed land facility orders are issued and managed by Sector UMR (POMS currently only handles land mobile facilities). Auxiliary personnel assigned to the failure will communicate with the Command Center Supervisor as soon as their orders are approved and they are ready to report to support the Sector UMR communications failure.
8. CATASTROPHIC LOSS OF SECTOR UMR ST. LOUIS COMMUNICATIONS. Catastrophic loss of Sector UMR St. Louis communications can consist of total or partial loss of telephone, VHF or HF communications between Sector Command in St. Louis, Sector Marine Safety Detachments and/or District Eight in New Orleans. Upon call out by Sector UMR, Auxiliary radio facilities and personnel will be dispatched to predefined and/or designated locations in support of the type of communications loss and to provide support to Sector UMR. Auxiliary assets can consist of fixed land facilities and land mobile facilities positioned to provide the best possible coverage for the area.


9. PARTIAL OR TOTAL LOSS OF SECTOR UMR HLS COMMUNICATIONS. Partial or total loss of Sector UMR HLS VHF communications can occur as a result of natural disasters or equipment failures to one or more HLS(s) within the Sector UMR AOR. Upon call out, the Auxiliary radio facilities and personnel will be dispatched to predetermined or designated locations in the vicinity of the failed HLS to provide back-up communications for the lost HLS(s). Auxiliary assets can consist of fixed land facilities and land mobile facilities positioned to provide the best possible coverage of the lost HLS area. Predetermined locations may include operations from the nearest Lock and Dam, high locations along the river which could provide better coverage of the lost HLS coverage area or from Auxiliary fixed land stations that have good coverage of a particular section of the river.

10. BEYOND SECTOR UMR HLS COMMUNICATIONS. When Coast Guard forces are deployed to areas outside the range of a HLS, an Auxiliary transportable fixed land or land mobile facility located on high ground with an elevated antenna system is sometimes needed to maintain and aid communications with the deployed forces. An example of this need is upon deployment of Disaster Response Teams (DARTs) to remote area of the Sector UMR AOR. Upon call out by Sector, Auxiliary radio facilities and personnel will be dispatched to provide such communications support to the deployed Coast Guard forces. The Auxiliary facilities will be located as close as practical to the deployed forces to provide communications support as needed.

11. CONTINGENCY COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING. In order to maintain a state of readiness for contingency communications, a regular training program will be maintained between the Auxiliary and Sector UMR Command Center personnel. Whenever training activities require facility movement, orders will be obtained as described in paragraph 6 and paragraph 7 above. Auxiliary VHF facilities are encouraged to establish local area nets to practice communications protocols and determine their range of coverage within their local areas. Where stations are close enough to Sector UMR HLS, training activities should include periodic check-ins to Sector to exchange signal reports and provide training between the Auxiliary and Sector Command Center personnel. Auxiliary facilities will periodically deploy to predetermined locations near HLS to evaluate the locations suitability for operation in times of HLS failure. Predetermined locations shall take into consideration attributes such as lighting, facilities, safety, public or private access, etc. If necessary, memorandums of understanding will be established with the location owner for use of the location during times when contingency communications are needed. Auxiliary HF facilities are encouraged to establish nets to practice communications protocols and determine the best HF frequency for different times of day that will provide the best communications path throughout the Sector UMR AOR and to District Eight. Auxiliary HF net policy and procedures are defined in ref (c). All such nets will operate as directed nets. Potential "net control stations" (NECOS) will be identified in advance of time of need and the list of those net control stations shall be provided to the OPS Deck supervisor at CAMSLANT Chesapeake and CAMSPAC Point Reyes. Periodic deployment of Auxiliary transportable fixed land and land mobile facilities is encouraged to practice setting up the antenna structures to evaluate the achieved HF and or VHF coverage area and determine if communications can be established with the Sector UMR Command Center. Any movement of Auxiliary facilities requires authorization and orders as described in paragraph 6 and paragraph 7 above.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. Environmental Consideration was examined in the development of this instruction and has been determined to be not applicable.

13. FORMS AVAILABILITY. The following Coast Guard forms are available from the Sector UMR Command Center and the Auxiliary Sector Coordinator: CG-2614A, ICS-213, Radio Guard Sheet, Standard Initial Radio Report and Initial Marine Incident Report.


S. J. HUDSON
Sector Commander