Memorandum of Understanding

and

Joint Action Plan

for

Employment of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

in Support of the

Coast Guard

Short-Range Aids to Navigation Program

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Coast Guard Short Range Aids to Navigation Program

OBJECTIVE: Through mutual involvement and commitment, expand the involvement of the Coast Guard Auxiliary in a dynamic "Team Coast Guard" approach which actively engages Auxiliarists as "full partners" in aggressively supporting the Coast Guard's Short Range Aids to Navigation program.

DISCUSSION: The strategic goals of the Short Range Aids to Navigation program are to establish, maintain, and operate short range aids to navigation systems for the safety of marine activities, transportation, and commerce on the navigable waters of the United States and in support of national defense, environmental, economic, and social needs. To accomplish these goals, the principles of quality management require us to leverage resources, detect and respond to problems proactively, and take a more balanced approach to supporting the Short Range Aids to Navigation program. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Business Description and Direction (ABD&D) requires identification of non-traditional areas in which trained Auxiliarists may participate directly in support of Coast Guard missions. The business plan for the Office of Aids to Navigation and Commandant Instruction 16500.16A, Coast Guard Auxiliary Aids to Navigation Program, have identified key areas in which Auxiliarists can contribute significantly to the Short Range Aids to Navigation program.

STRATEGIC DRIVING FORCES & THE CUSTOMER

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC POLITICS - Competition between ports attempting to attract a larger share of commerce will generate demand for improved ATON systems to accommodate increased port activity and larger platforms.

SOCIETAL TRENDS- Continued population shift from the heartland to the coasts will increase the number of recreational users on the waterways. This user group will continue to rely on traditional "hardware intensive" ATON systems to facilitate their "buoy hopping" manner of navigation vice shifting to electronics due to costs. Additional ATON will be requested on current minimally or unmarked waterways to accommodate waterfront development/new marinas and the attendant increased traffic.

ENVIRONMENTAL - Increased numbers/intensity of concerned citizens will drive port authorities and industry to continually seek safer ways to navigate within coastal/harbor/harbor approach areas. Public demand for designated traffic separation schemes will increase.

EDUCATION

Education plays a significant role in the implementation of a balanced strategy to effectively support a short range aids to navigation program. Education's role is to raise the overall standard of care by affecting human behavior. Education provides essential knowledge of standards and requirements to Auxiliarists for servicing private and federal aid systems. By integrating the Aids to Navigation (ATON) message into existing Auxiliary education programs, member training courses, and publications, the Auxiliary has the opportunity to affect the behavior of a large number of recreational boaters and take a leading role in preventing loss of life and damage to property.

FIELD SUPPORT

Auxiliary augmentation of field operations supports the "Team Coast Guard" concept and will significantly enhance the achievement of joint program goals. As outlined in COMDTINST 16500.16A, the Auxiliary can act as a significant force multiplier in support of the administrative and operational needs of the Short Range Aids to Navigation (SRA) activities of field units. The Auxiliary can add to response planning by participating in local and regional contingency emergency preparedness planning. The Auxiliary can be a key administrative and operational force multiplier during surge activities and major contingencies such as natural disasters and significant catastrophic events that affect safety and navigation on the nation's waterways.

PERSONNEL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The importance of sound personnel and fiscal management cannot be overemphasized. District (oan) should identify opportunities in which Auxiliary augmentation will enhance efficiencies in the overall management and prosecution of the Short Range Aids to Navigation (SRA) program. District (oan) can then work with the director of Auxiliary to train and qualify a <u>sufficient</u> number of Auxiliarists to complement the active duty/full-time serving force.

EFFECTIVENESS MEASUREMENT

To determine if efforts are meeting the objective of improving waterway's safety and navigation, we must support plans to implement accurate effectiveness measurement strategies.

Effectiveness measurement will indicate if intended outcomes are occurring, and will help us adjust program strategies. The Auxiliary can contribute significantly to effectiveness measurement efforts by focusing on the parameters set by the SRA program to monitor customer needs and expectations.

(1) **A SAFE WATERWAY:** Minimize loss of life, property damage, and pollution on the waters subject to U.S. jurisdiction.

(2) **AN EFFECTIVE WATERWAY:** Facilitate marine transportation in support of national economic, scientific, defense, environmental, and social needs.

(3) **AN EFFICIENT WATERWAY:** Maximize the number of vessels (and tonnage) in the waterway consistent with safe marine practice.

FUNDING

The Chief Director, Auxiliary has overall funding responsibility for the administrative management and basic organizational support of the Auxiliary program to include overall policy development, maintenance of administrative and IRM functions, new member acquisition, and basic organizational support and entry level training for the Auxiliary. The benefiting program manager and/or its district counterpart is expected to provide additional incremental funding for program specific administrative, operational, and training requirements.

AGREEMENT

The Chief, Office of Auxiliary (G-OCX), the Chief, Office of Aids to Navigation (G-OPN), and the National Vice Commodore Coast Guard/Support Services (NAVCO-CG/SS) hereby establish this **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** and **Joint Action Plan** which institutionalizes Auxiliary involvement in the Coast Guard Short Range Aids to Navigation Program. The Chief, Short Range Aids to Navigation Division (G-OPN-2) and the Chief, Auxiliary Operations Division (G-OCX-2), and the Chief, Auxiliary Department Of Operations (DC-O) are designated action officers for the purposes of coordinating and implementing the action plan and the "COAST GUARD AIDS TO NAVIGATION PROGRAM" as outlined in Commandant Instruction 16500.16A. The action plan and instruction establish a dynamic framework by which both programs identify joint macro level objectives and identify priorities and responsibilities for achieving the objectives. Action officers shall treat the action plan and instruction as living documents, reviewing and updating them to reflect changing priorities and initiatives. The action plan and instruction are binding elements joining program resources and supporting agencies in actions to improve safety and navigation on the Nation's waterways. Action officers shall jointly identify processes and set action agenda priorities. Action officers shall maintain an up-to-date copy of the Joint Action Plan and COMDTINST 16500.16A for division reference and review. Action officers shall keep office chiefs and appropriate Auxiliary and ATON offices advised of progress.

This memorandum of understanding will remain in effect, and will be reviewed every two years, unless canceled in writing by either party.

G-OCX

APPROVED

G. E. JEANDHEUR
National Vice Commodore, USCGAUX

Date: 10 February 1997

G-OPN

APPROVED

T. J. MEYERS
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Chief, Office of Aids to Navigation

Date: 3 Feb97

G-OCX

APPROVED

A. D. SUMMY
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Chief, Office of Auxiliary

Date: 2 Feb, 1997

ACTION ITEMS

1. Identify shortfalls in Short Range Aids to Navigation billet structure and the number of Auxiliarists needed to fill/augment those shortfalls.

2. Identify training requirements for Auxiliary participation in the Short Range Aids to Navigation Program.

3. Train and qualify Auxiliarists to support the Short Range Aids to Navigation Program.

Action Item # 1

- Identify shortfalls in Short Range Aids to Navigation billet structure and the number of Auxiliarists needed to fill/augment those shortfalls.

Discussion: Commandant (G-OPN) shall work with each district (oan) and director of Auxiliary to identify billet shortfalls and the desired numbers of Auxiliarists needed to fill/augment those billets. The force level of Auxiliarists should reflect the proper balance that optimizes program goals and manpower.
Lead: District (oan), District (oax)
Contributing: Commandant (G-OPN)
Funding: District (oan)
Target Dates: Continuous process.

Action Item # 2

- Identify training requirements for Auxiliary participation in the Short Range Aids to Navigation Program.

Discussion: District (oan) should identify training requirements to qualify the force level of Auxiliarists to support their district ATON program. The use of District Aids To Navigation Training Teams should be considered to meet these needs. Commandant (G-OPN) allocate funds for the Auxiliary Aids to Navigation Division Chief (DVC-ON) to attend the annual Senior Officer ATON workshop. In addition, District Commanders (oan) are encouraged to fund, if resources permit, participation by Auxiliary District Staff Officers (DSO-ON) conference to attend their respective district ATON conferences.

Lead: Commandant (G-OPN), District (oan)
Contributing: District (oax)
Funding: Commandant (G-OPN), District (oan)
Target Dates: Continuous process

Action Item # 3

- Train and qualify Auxiliarists to support the Short Range Aids to Navigation Program.

Discussion: As outlined in COMDTINST 16500.16A, Auxiliarists shall be trained to specific standards. Directors of Auxiliary shall work with district (oan) to establish appropriate training programs using the most convenient Coast Guard training available.

In support of COMDTINST 16500.16A Auxiliarists are currently authorized to attend training at the Coast Guard National ATON School at Yorktown, VA. Current manpower and budgetary restrictions often preclude such assignment in favor of active duty personnel, but it is ultimately the District or Groups that decide how they use their billets for the NATON school. As "TEAM COAST GUARD" continues to refine its force structure throughout the coming years, it is incumbent upon the program manager, Commandant (G-OPN), and the Auxiliary to strive toward inclusion of Auxiliarists in that training. As funding permits, the Chief, Office of Auxiliary (G-OCX) will conduct the Auxiliary's National ATON/Chart Update school at Yorktown, VA. Utilizing the teaching staff of the Auxiliary Aids to Navigation Division Chief (DVC-ON) this training supports the Aid verifier and NOAA chart update programs.

Lead: District (oan), District (oax)
Contributing: Commandant (G-OPN) and (G-OCX)
Funding: District (oan), Commandant (G-OPN) (Yorktown Training - if/when available).
Target Dates: Continuous process.