

Department of Homeland Security  
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
Communications Department

Routine 220400Z April 2004

TO: All SO-CM's, All ADSO-CM's, DCO, VCO, DSO-OPS

INFO: DVC-OT, BC-OTT, BC-OTU, CGD11s-OTO

FROM: Bill Scholz, DSO-CM, CGD11s.

**BT**

TO ALL ADSO-CM's, ALL SO-CM's, DCO, Acting VCO, DSO-OPS, DVC-OT, BC-OTT, BC-OTU

21 April 2004

Colleagues,

Here are the instructions for the communications exercise to be held on May 1 and May 2. PLEASE COMMUNICATE THE DETAILS BELOW TO ALL FSO-CM'S and to anyone else you believe appropriate.

The drill period will run from 1200 local on 1 May (1900Z 1 May) through 1200 local on 2 May (1900Z 2 May) 2004.

The drill will consist of three parts or components: A test of the alert capability for all members in D11s; a test of Digital Selective calling; and experiments with direction finding by land and sea based units.

**ALERT TEST**

The purpose of this part of the drill is to determine the effectiveness of the alerting capability that the DSO-CM requested be set up through the Division Comms Officers as a part of preparation for Operation Patriot Readiness.

Some time between 1300 local time and 1600 local time on Saturday 1 May, the incident command station will broadcast an alert message on the AUXNET Repeater, on the Charlie Two repeater, on Marine VHF Channel 82A, and on HF frequencies 4281 kHz (USB) and 5255 kHz (USB).

This message will require that all receiving stations contact their SO-CM, or in the

case of the SO-CM's receiving the message, that the SO-CM's activate their alerting mechanism. The goal of the drill is to contact each and every member of the AUX in D11s. When contacted, each member shall receive the message that a communications drill for the district is in progress. No further action is required of the individual member, but they should be aware that further traffic may be forthcoming via the alerting mechanism.

Beginning 60 minutes after the completion of the initial transmission of the alert message, the incident command station will initiate a net call up on the AUXNET repeater and on 5255 kHz. The purpose of the net will be to receive a count of the number of members contacted in the preceding 60 minutes. This count should be listed by Flotilla number and for each Flotilla should indicate whether or not the FC and VFC have been contacted.

**PLEASE NOTE:** "Contacted" means that an actual conversation took place. Leaving a message on an answering machine or voice mail, DOES NOT COUNT.

At the end of 120 minutes, 180 minutes, and 240 minutes (that is 2, 3, and 4 hours) after the initial transmission, the same net call up will be made on the same frequencies. For these sessions, the count will be the number of members contacted in the immediately preceding 60 minutes. For example, if the initial alert transmission is made at 1400 local, then the Division Y SO-CM would report at 1500 that X members had been contacted. At 1600 local time that SO-CM would report that Z members had been contacted where Z is the number of members contacted between 1500 and 1600.

The same call up will be repeated at 0830 local time on 2 May.

Note that further requests by the Incident Command Station may be made at any of the net sessions, and that additional instructions may be given at any time.

IT IS CRITICAL THAT ALL DIVISIONS BE REPRESENTED! IF YOU CANNOT BE AVAILABLE FOR THE INITIAL ALERT MESSAGE OR FOR THE NET SESSIONS, THEN IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU APPOINT A DEPUTY.

The results of this portion of the drill will be compiled and published on the communications website so that we can all have a sense of how well our Flotilla and Division alerting mechanism worked.

As a result of earlier emails, website announcements, and AUXNET broadcasts, **the SO-CM for each Division is the "point-person" for making our emergency communications and alerting mechanisms work.** There has been enough time for the Flotilla level telephone trees or other comms tools to be set up and they should all be running without a hitch.

## DIGITAL SELECTIVE CALLING tests

As a result of efforts by the SO-CM's a list of vessels and ACU's with DSC radios has been compiled. That list includes the MMSI number of the vessel in question. During the period of the drill, Incident Command, and other stations, will use DSC to "poll" the vessels we know about. Such polling will in most cases be requests for the current position of the vessel (its longitude and latitude).

Little or no action on the part of facility owners or coxswains should be required.

HOWEVER, in order for this part of test to work and provide us with meaningful information, the radios must be turned on and if a GPS is interfaced to the radio, then it too must be powered up. Please contact those owners that you identified who have DSC radios and request that they leave the radios and GPS's turned on for the duration of the drill, regardless of whether the facility is otherwise in use.

## DIRECTION FINDING TESTS

Originally it was planned to use some practice Emergency Locator Transmitters as a source of "targets" for direction finding. However, because of some events outside of our control, that will not be possible.

Instead, we will do some "ad hoc" testing of DF tools using transmissions on MARINE VHF Channel 82A.

The details of those transmissions will be announced before the drill and also via broadcasts during the drill period.

## FREQUENCY PLAN:

The channels/frequencies we will use for this drill (and their purposes) are:

AUXNET REPEATER	Main drill coordination channel
CHARLIE 2 REPEATER	Secondary Coordination channel
BRAVO SIMPLEX	primary Division level simplex
CHARLIE SIMPLEX	secondary Division level simplex
VHF MARINE 82A	Division level simplex (no AUX Comms Capability)
HF Primary	5.255 MHz same none (USB) HF Link to Division 9 and 10
HF Secondary	4.281 MHz same none (USB) HF Link to Division 9 and 10

**Details of frequencies are available from your FSO-CM or SO-CM.**

Please direct any questions to me. I will be out of town from Friday AM (23 April) through Sunday afternoon (25 April)

**BT**

**DSO-CM, CGD11s** sends

Bill Scholz, **USCGAUX**

DSO-CM, CGD11s

(Voice) 909-608-9181, (FAX) 909-985-2563, (Cell) 714-292-4271

AUXNET = "Echo Echo", CGHF = WWJ40AAX, Ham = W1HIJ

"It's amazing what you can accomplish when you don't care who gets the credit"