

## Routine Patrol Radio Procedures

**Introduction:** This document is designed to provide additional mentoring guidance for OPFAC crew members who are assigned radio operator duties, when on patrol. The material presented is intended to fill an experiential gap as relates to the more routine radio techniques inherent in every safety patrol. The preferred method of delivery is mentoring because it is an effective means of supporting and even accelerating professional growth. Those individuals, who share knowledge, experience, and skills to benefit someone else, provide valuable leadership. Mentoring may be suggested by a coxswain and assigned by the Member Training (MT) Officer or Flotilla Telecommunications Officer (FSO-CM). The member also has the option of requesting a specific mentor such as an Auxiliary Telecommunications Operator. Mentoring sessions may be made more realistic, and effective, with the use of Family Radio Service (FRS) walkie talkies for on shore practice. Keep these points in mind:

- It is often not what you say, but how you say it, that demonstrates professionalism
- While brevity of message is important, accuracy of communication always trumps speed.
- Remember that during a patrol, when you are on the radio, the boating public hears you as the voice of the US Coast Guard.

### **Reporting: Responsibility**

While on patrol, an OPFAC must have two-way communications with their Unit Commander/Order Issuing Authority (Sector or Station). Proper reports keep boaters and the Coast Guard informed about boat patrols and local boating conditions. The scenarios presented in this document deal with the most routine of these communications to include: Initial underway call, Ops and Position reports, permission to break for lunch/fuel, and permission to secure.

### **Pre Underway**

Prior to getting underway the coxswain should conduct a crew brief, GAR assessments, and have called the station via landline or cell phone and provided the below listed information:

- The Order Number
- Number of people on board (POB)
- If requested: Names/Member numbers of coxswain/crew
- Area of patrol
- Approximate time to get underway
- Provide the GAR value
- Provide on-board cell phone number if so equipped.

### **Getting Underway**

Call the Station via VHF assigned channel and follow the standard hailing procedure. Since this is your initial VHF underway

communication, you should say the Station's name twice and your call sign once.

*Example:* "Coast Guard Station Nassau Point, Coast Guard Station Nassau Point, this is Auxiliary Vessel 2159637\* on 21A, Over."\*\*  
"Auxiliary Vessel 9637, this is Station Nassau Point, Over."  
"Station, 9637 is underway from home dock, for Patrol with 04 (spoken as 0 4) POBs. Our patrol area is North side of Noodle Island, Over."  
"9637, Station, Roger, Out."

Ops and Position *Example:* "Coast Guard Station Nassau Point, Coast Guard Station Nassau Point, this is Auxiliary Vessel 9637 on 21A, Over."  
"9637 this is Station Nassau Point, Over."  
"Station, 9637, Ops normal, west bound at marker 27, Turtle Cove, Over."  
"9637, Station, Roger, Out."

NOTE THAT IN SOME CASES, THE CG UNIT MAY INITIATE THE OPS AND POSITION REPORT EXCHANGE.

Lunch or Fuel Break *Example:* "Coast Guard Station Nassau Point, Coast Guard Station Nassau Point, this is Auxiliary Vessel 9637 on 21A, Over."  
"9637, this is Station Nassau Point, Over."  
"Station, we are moored at Turtle Cove Marina, requesting permission to break for Lunch (Take on Fuel). Over."  
"9637, Station, Roger, Out."

Resume Patrol *Example:* "Coast Guard Station Nassau Point, Coast Guard Station Nassau Point, this is Auxiliary Vessel 9637 on 21A."  
"9637, this is Station Nassau Point, Over."  
"Station, 9637 is underway from Turtle Cove Marina and resuming patrol with 04 POBs. Our GAR is in the green at 17"  
"9637, Station, Roger, Out."

Request Permission to Secure *Example:* "Coast Guard Station Nassau Point, Coast Guard Station Nassau Point, this is Auxiliary Vessel 9637 on 21A, Over."  
"9637, this is Station Nassau Point, Over."  
"Station, 9637 at home dock requesting permission to secure".  
"9637, permission to secure granted. Thanks for you help and have a good evening. Station Out."

NOTES: \* NOTE THAT SECTORS AND STATIONS VARY IN THEIR REQUIREMENTS FOR AUXILIARY VESSEL CALLSIGNS. YOU SHOULD RECEIVE SPECIFIC DIRECTION FOR THE

CALLSIGN FROM YOUR DISTRICT STAFF OFFICER FOR  
OPERATIONS (DSO-OP)

\*\* CG Unit Commander (Sector or Station may) direct use of vessel name rather than OPFAC number. In addition, the CG Unit Commander may direct that OPFAC number, for communication purposes, be further abbreviated to the last three digits.

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