



1SR Navigation Systems NEWSLETTER

March 2010



New PATON & AV Qualification Program

As described in CMDR Zorman's district wide announcement on 12 February, the district's PATON program and the AV Qualification program were both recently updated. Responding to the request of D1 District Commander RADM Nimmich, Auxiliary districts 1SR and 1NR worked jointly to develop the new procedures that will govern the PATON program in both Auxiliary districts, as well as the new AV (Aids Verifier) qualification program.

The new PATON program is a major push by CG District 1 to ensure that all PATONS in the district are inspected by the Auxiliary this year, and will use a new on-line database system to track each PATON and all inspections and discrepancies that are found with each PATON. To accomplish this ambitious tasking, we will need a new crop of additional AVs. A new AV qualification policy was developed, along with a new training syllabus. A currency maintenance (CM) requirement was also added. All AVs must meet this CM requirement to maintain their AV qualification.

Details of the new programs can be found on the district NS web site at www.USCGAux1sr-ATON.org. The Navigation Systems session at the District Awards Conference in Mystic CT. on 20 March will go into detail on the changes to the PATON and AV programs. All members interested in the Navigation Systems programs are encouraged to attend this session at the conference to come up to date on all the happenings in the program.

As part of the new AV program, a series of AV training workshops is being held this spring around the district. The first was held at Sta. Jones Beach on 6 March, with 19 AV candidates passing the requiring training session and test. Upcoming sessions are planned in Sector NY South on 10 April in Metuchen NJ, and Sector NY North in Millbrook, New York on 17 April. DSO-NS Mullare is also planning a course at Station New Haven for Sector Long Island Sound, with a possible additional course for members on eastern Long Island.

Watch the [NS web site](#) for additional AV course announcements as they are scheduled.

SO-NSs & FSO-NSs: Please forward this newsletter down the chain to your Flotilla

1SR District Awards Conference – attend the Navigation Systems session at the 1SR district awards conference in Mystic CT on 20 March to hear all the details about the new PATON and AV Qualification programs. To sign up for the conference, see the special conference edition of **Over The Bow**, available on the District 1SR web site.

Notes From the DSO

The AtoN Team in C.G. District 1 has been on the move, working to make Admiral Nimmich's mandate a reality. The Admiral wants every private aid to Navigation in D1 verified this Patrol Season.

In order to achieve this goal, we have been setting up classes in all Sectors. The first class will be completed by the time this report is published as it is to be at Station Jones Beach on March 6th. This class should produce 25 new AV's. The class for Sector NY should have also been completed by the end of March - as soon as a venue can be set up. BM1 Lehansky of the AtoN office at Sector NY will be working with ADSO-NS Jim Reznik to bring this class about. There will be a class in Burlington in early April and another one in the Poughkeepsie, NY area on April 17th.

All of the SO's and FSO-NS's should be looking for members who want to become AV's this year and getting some of the people who are already AV's to get their interest back. I know that there are a lot of members who are AV qualified and no longer do any AV work in the District. Let's try to get them back working.

We are also designating AVQ's for taking new AV candidates out to do their qualifying Verifications of PAtON's. I have asked all of my ADSO's to check the records and give me the names of candidates for that job. We do not want a new verifier going out on the water with someone that is not well versed in the program and in the requirements to do the proper paperwork

One of the biggest problems with paperwork is the filling out of the 7030 forms. Some members think that the 7030 that is filled out by the Coxswain is all that is needed, but that form is only for the boat and the people on it. A 7030 with Individual checked is required for each person that is an AV and does a verification.

I have to say that I am blessed with the best team of ADSO's in the District and the Program owes all of its achievements to those ADSO's.

Richard Mullare
DSO-NS D1SR

Navigation Systems at Mystic

Be sure to attend the Navigation Systems sessions on Saturday morning 20 March at the Mystic Marriott. We will be presenting all the updates to the N.S. programs, especially the changes to the AV and PATON programs. Whether you are a long time Aids Verifier looking to get back into the program, or a new member looking to find out what Navigation Systems is all about, the Saturday morning session in Mystic should answer your questions.

For more information on the District Awards Conference, see the special conference edition of Over The Bow, available on the District 1SR web site.

You have the **knowledge**; You have the **tools**; You have the **experience**; You have the **lists**; Now let's have **fun** and get the job done - **safely** and **professionally**!

✦ **GO AtoN Team GO** ✦



"Use all your senses"

News From the 1SR Bridge Program

2009 again marked another new milestone in the district bridge program. The program saw the discrepancy and survey reports more than double in 2009, from a total of 99 in 2008, to 234 in 2009. Much of this increase came about by the major contribution of Flotilla 77 member Ken Jacobs. Ken's dedication to the program saw him not only getting pictures of all the bridges in the state of Connecticut so that each bridge had a picture in the on-line bridge database (this helps reduce reporting errors), but he also ranged from the southern sections of District 1NR, south through 1SR and out to Brooklyn. Ken is active in the Academy Introduction mission, and any time he was visiting a high school to present his program to students, he would also check out the local bridges, getting pictures of those that still needed pictures in the database, and then checking each one for discrepancies.



Between Ken's great contribution to the program in 2009, and the great work done by all the other members throughout the district, last year was a bang up year for the program. Our work allowed the Coast Guard bridge office to hold owners accountable for meeting the requirements of their C.G. bridge permit, and because of this, many discrepancies on area bridges were fixed, resulting in a safer marine environment for both commercial and recreational boaters.

To all those who helped make this a banner year for the program, BZ!

Kevin Redden
ADSO-NS - Bridge

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Divisions 6, 20

AV Currency Maintenance

Part of the new changes to the AV program include a requirement for annual currency maintenance. To maintain currency as an AV, existing AVs must simply file two reports per year. Any of the following reports will qualify:

- Federal ATON discrepancy report,
- A PATON discrepancy report,
- A PATON verification,
- A bridge discrepancy report
- A bridge annual survey report.

PATON DataBase System

The C.G. D1 Waterways Management office in Boston (dpw) has mandated the use of the PATON Database System (aka the HarborMaster system) for tracking all PATONs in the district. PATON owners will get logins to the system, and will file their applications for new PATONs on-line.

The C.G. Sectors and ANTs (Aids to Navigation Teams) will use the database to track owner activity as well as to monitor verifications by the Auxiliary. The database will automatically flag each PATON record when the aid requires Auxiliary verification, and will be used by SO-NSs to identify what aids are due for verification. It will also be used to track discrepancies, and the owners response to a C.G. discrepancy notification.

Logins to the database system will be given to experienced AVs with a demonstrated record of filing correct PATON reports, and who have been given training on how to use the system. The intent is to get several AVs per division with database logins so these AVs can enter reports submitted by others in their Flotillas/Divisions.

AVs who do not have database logins will still use the paper discrepancy/verification forms available on the district NS web site, and these completed forms will be used as the basis for data entry by the designated person for that flotilla.

Division SO-NSs will be working with the district NS staff to identify AVs for training on the system. All others will continue to submit PATON discrepancy and verification reports as directed by the SO-NS.

New AV Training

As part of the new PATON program, we will need additional Aids Verifiers (AVs) to help with the expanded program. To help meet this need, the district NS staff has embarked on an aggressive AV training program. The qualification process for gaining the AV qualification is detailed on the district NS web site, on the AV Qualification page.

The first of the new AV training sessions took place on Saturday 6 March at Station Jones Beach. 19 AV candidates passed the test and now only need to do their three supervised PATON verifications to complete the qualification process.

The AV training sessions currently scheduled are:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
6 March	Sta. Jones Beach	SO-MT Stu Cohen
10 April	Metuchen NJ	ADSO-NS Jim Reznik
17 April	Poughkeepsie area	SO-MT Larry Bruck
24-25 Apr	Sta. Burlington	BM1 Miller
TBD	Sta. New Haven	

Reporting NS Activity

All members should remember that all NS activity requires two reports. The discrepancy or verification reports gets your information over to the gold side for action, but does not get your activity credit in AuxData.

To get credit in AuxData for your work, you need to submit a 7030 (Unit/Individual), mission 30, 31 or 32 (ATON, PATON or Bridge), to let AuxData know how many aids you reported on.

The N.S. activity is never reported on the boat's 7030. The 7030 (Boat) is used to get the whole crew credit for their on-the-water time. It is the 7030 (Unit/Individual) that is used to give the one person who filed the aid discrepancy report to the gold side, AuxData credit for that report.

Remember: no double dipping – only the member who filed the discrepancy or verification report takes credit in AuxData by filing a 7030 (Unit/Individual).

Remember the 1SR District Awards Conference

19 – 21 March – Mystic Marriott
See **Over The Bow** on the 1SR district web site for details.

How to Take Quality Photographs of Aids

by Jim Reznik, ADSO-NS - Sector NY South

A picture says a thousand words, and pictures really help show the Coast Guard was it is that you observed in the field. Here are some hints on how to take good shots of ATONs.

1. Survey the aid before taking the picture.
2. Find the best angle, side and lighting.
3. Take many photos-you can sort out the better photos to submit.
4. Make sure the photos depicts what you are observing and trying to relay.
5. Use a color digital camera.
6. Include all identifying markings.
7. If needed, use a photo shop program or draw on the photo to highlight hard to see details.
8. Send photos along with report.



Photo 1: Show general location from a distance.



Photo 2: Show an overall close up of aid



Photo3: Show close up of markings& condition.

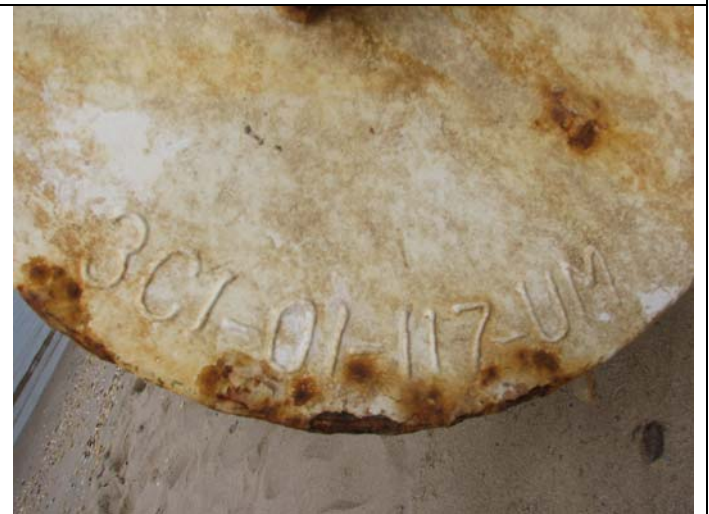


Photo 4: Show close up other identifying marks

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Distribution of this Newsletter to other members of the Coast Guard and Auxiliary is encouraged.