

**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
America's Volunteer Lifesavers





# ***Duties and Responsibilities***

- The duties and responsibilities of the Navigation Systems (NS) department are spelled out in several places
- How do these duties translate to actions in 5NR?



# ***Duties and Responsibilities***

- **In a very broad view, NS consists of two types of duties:**
  - **Administrative (staff officers)**
  - **Operational (aid verifiers)**
- **NS professionals in both of these duties must be thoroughly familiar with language of ATON and the various publications associated with aids to navigation (ATON)**



# ***Definitions***

- **ATON: Aids to Navigation**
- **PATON: Private Aids to Navigation**
- **WP: Watching Properly (FWP/LWP)**
- **Discrepant: Does not match description in light list or on chart**
- **AP: Assigned Position**
- **Buoy: Floating**
- **Beacon: Fixed**



# *References*

- **CCGD5 Private Aids to Navigation Information Handout**
- **5NR Auxiliary Policy Manual, Chapter 7, ATON, PATON and Chart Updating Program**



# ***Publications***

- **Charts**

- **Both paper and electronic**
- **NS professionals must maintain updated charts covering their area of responsibility (AOR)**
- **They must be aware of all ATON and private aids (PATON) in the AOR**



# ***Publications***

- **Light List**

- **List of all Federal and Class I and II Private aids in the AOR**

- **Description of each aid**

- **Assigned Position (AP)**
- **Color**
- **Light characteristic**
- **Physical description**
- **Seasonal**
- **Private**



# ***Publications***

- **Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNM)**
  - Issued by local CG command
  - Advise mariners on hazards to navigation not yet in the Local Notice to Mariners
  - Broadcast hourly
  - Canceled when in LNM





# ***Publications***

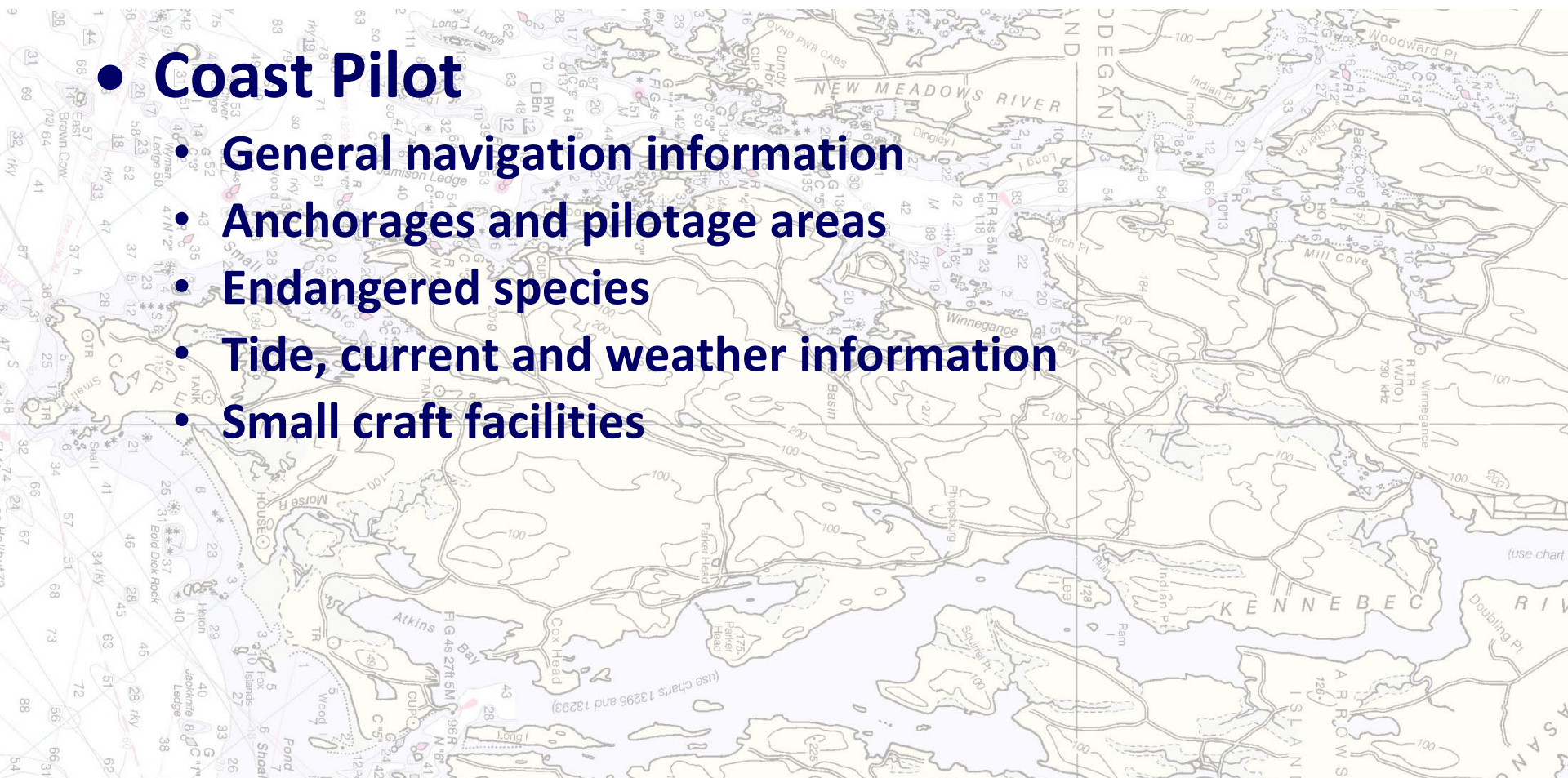
- **Local Notice to Mariners (LNM)**
  - Existing ATON/PATON discrepancies
  - ATON and PATON discrepancies that have been corrected
  - Temporary changes in ATON
  - Chart corrections
  - Advanced notice of upcoming changes in ATON
  - Proposed changes in ATON
  - Noticed of specific events such as military exercises, marine events, dredging, etc.



# ***Publications***

- **Coast Pilot**

- General navigation information
- Anchorages and pilotage areas
- Endangered species
- Tide, current and weather information
- Small craft facilities





# ***Staff Officers***

- **Exercise staff supervision and responsibility of NS activities in their AOR**
- **Three broad duties**
  - **Work closely with Operations staff officers to assure coxswains have the most current navigation information in the AOR**
    - **Discrepant aids**
    - **Dredging**
    - **Shoaling**
    - **Marine events**
    - **Other**



# ***Staff Officers***

- **Three broad duties**
  - **Supervise AVs**
    - **Assign AVs to visit PATON in the AOR**
    - **Receive CG7054 reports from AVs, verify accuracy, forward up COLM**
    - **Maintain statistics on percent of PATON visited, found discrepant and LWP and report monthly to your FC and up the COLM**
  - **Keep statistics on Federal aids reported discrepant and report monthly to FC and up the COLM**



# ***Staff Officer Reports***

- **Status of PATON visitations**
  - We had 20 aids to visit, we have visited 10, 8 LWP, 2 Discrepant
  - Request DSO follow up on discrepancies
- **Federal Aid discrepancies reported**
- **Number of AVs in training (if none, say none)**
- **Members routinely advised of navigation issues in AOR**
- **Future plans**
- **Other**
  - NS training given to members



# ***FSO-NS Duties***

## • **FSO-NS - Navigation Services (Aids to Navigation):**

- **Exercise staff supervision and responsibility** for chart updating patrols, verification of private aids to navigation and the prompt reporting of discrepancies in aids to navigation (ATON) using Aids to Navigation Report (ANSC 7054), chart discrepancies and chart updating information using NOAA Form-77 (ANSC 7037), **and to inform flotilla members of all developments.**
- Unless otherwise directed, you are to **schedule qualified Auxiliarists to perform specific activities in your area of responsibility.** The schedule must include a specific time and place for the activity.
- Maintain close liaison with the Division Aids to Navigation Officer (SO-NS) and submit a monthly activity report. Also, advise the District Aids to Navigation Officer (DSO-NS), via the SO-NS, by 1 October each year of changes desired on chart distribution.
- Coordinate and cooperate with the FSO-OP to ensure that every deployment of an operational facility for chart updating, inspection of private aids to navigation, and others, are performed under Coast Guard patrol orders.
- Foster interest for members to maintain their own navigational publications in an up-to-date condition.



# ***Aid Verifiers***

- **The mission of the AV is to visit the PATON in the AOR and report which are LWP and which are discrepant**
- **Revisit discrepant aids as needed**



# ***Season and Assignment to Duty***

- The AV mission is not constrained to the Auxiliary operational season
- The AV mission can be conducted year round **under certain conditions**
- The AV is not authorized to request patrol orders
- The AV is assigned to duty in writing via a letter signed by the Chief of the Waterways Division
  - The assignment is valid for a period of one calendar year





# ***Assignment of Aids***

- **The DSO-NS will provide to the ADSO (EAST) and ADSO (CENTRAL) a list of PATON to be visited in 2022**
  - **Based on Class of PATON: I, II, III**
  - **Primary: Due for visit in 2022 – please go out of your way to get them**
  - **Secondary: Not due, but do them if you pass them – don't go out of your way**
  - **Tertiary: If you're not doing anything else...**
- **The ADSO (WEST) will confer with the state to identify aids**
- **The ADSOs will pass this list down the COLM to the FSOs**
- **The FSOs will pass the list to AVs**



# *Performance of Duty*

- **AVs will visit two types of PATON**
  - **Beacons**
  - **Buoys**
- **The guidance for each is different**



# ***Buoy***

- **Buoys MUST** be visited on a boat to be properly positioned
  - Must be an approved operational facility
  - Must be on approved orders
  - Must have a fully certified coxswain and crew
  - Must be within the operational season
- Any dispatch of the OPFAC by the USCG OIA will override the ATON portion of the mission
- It must be understood that aid verification missions are always at the coxswain's discretion
- The DSO-OP, in conjunction with the Coast Guard, has established safety protocols in place which all coxswains must follow. Nothing in this guidance is in any way intended to negate any operational protocol the coxswain is obligated to follow
- **PICTURES**



# ***Beacon***

- **May be on land or visible from land**
- **May drive private vehicle to the aid**
  - **Vehicle must be a registered facility**
- **May be done year round, within reason**
- **Must notify FC, FSO-NS or Waterways**
  - **Date of mission**
  - **Mission start time and expected duration**
  - **Identification and location of the aids to be verified**
  - **Proposed transportation**
  - **AV cell phone number**
  - **Distance from AV house to aid**
    - **If distance is over 50 miles, a CG-2070 Travel Request Form will be completed**
  - **Any situation during the mission that will prolong the mission beyond the anticipated duration**
  - **When the mission is completed and the AV is safely home**

**PICTURES**



# Reports

- **Verbal**
  - Report all **MAJOR** discrepancies to your OIA
    - SARDET
    - CG STA
    - Sector Command Center
  - Must be followed up with written **CG7054** report within 24 hours
- **Written**
  - **CCGD5 CG7054\***
    - Convey the exact condition of the aid
    - Make use of comments section to explain unusual situations
    - CG7054 goes to your lowest NS staff officer
    - Do **NOT** include a CG command unless they ask for it



# ***Verification Standards***

- **Discrepancy**
  - The observed structure does not match the chart or the light list description
- **What are we looking for**
  - **Assigned Position (AP)**
  - **Color**
  - **Light characteristics**
  - **Sound device**
  - **Radar transponder**
  - **Overall condition**
    - **Damaged, faded, missing numbers or lettering, leaning more than 15°**



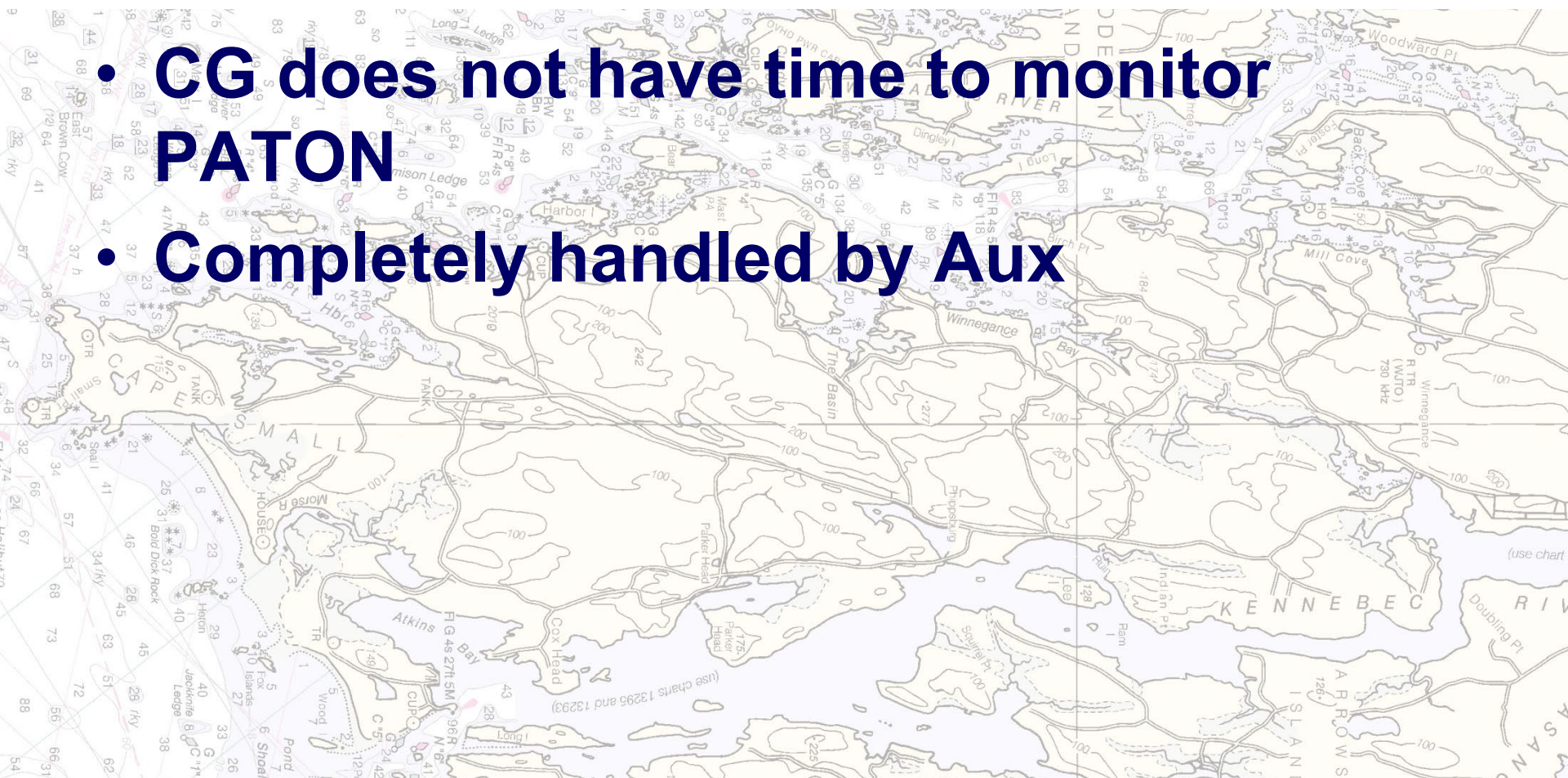
# ***AVA Software***

- **Phone-based app to assist in verifications**
- **Will advise you if the aid is reported as discrepant in the LNM**
- **With proper input of CCGD5 standards and boat standoff distance, will calculate if aid is at AP or if it is off station**
- **Will automatically populate the CG7054**
- **Will email the CG7054 to yourself so you can verify it before you submit it**
- **Makes visiting aids very easy**
- **Training is scheduled in immediate future**



# ***Benefits to Coast Guard***

- **CG does not have time to monitor PATON**
- **Completely handled by Aux**







# Hours

## • Staff Officers

- Time spent reviewing the LNM (99A)
- Flotilla and Division meetings (99A)
- Time spent reviewing CG7054s

## • AVs

### • Underway

- Your underway hours are reported by the coxswain
- You report the time it takes you at home after the mission to prepare and submit the CG7054

### • Driving

- You report your hours and your mileage from the time you step out your door until you walk back into your door
- You then report the time to process the CG7054

### • Codes

- 30: Federal aids
- 31: Private aids
- 32: Bridges