Welcome to

First Northern
Navigation Systems

PRIVATE Aids to Navigation Program

The Navigation System's Private Aid to Navigation program (PATON) encourages the verification of every Private Aid to Navigation by AV qualified Auxiliarists during time periods when these aids are established and for submitting professional on-line reports to the Coast Guard.

Guidelines for the Private Aid - PATON Verification program . . .

The emphasis on the AV program is on **prevention**, **accuracy, credibility, professionalism and service to the Coast Guard.** Our focus is directed toward building the recognition of each Auxiliary AV-Aid Verifier as a highly competent observer and reporter in the eyes of the Coast Guard. Guidelines for Aid Verifier qualifications have been established. These guidelines include the taking and reporting of fixes and depths, the pre-underway and on-scene evaluation of the electronic equipment being used, high quality on-scene observations, and professional on-line verification report preparation. Fixes are taken with GPS sets using WAAS, depths are corrected to the charted vertical datum, physical measurements, photographs, and the validation of observations to the Light List, the Coast Pilot and to the applicable NOAA Nautical Chart are included in the verification process.

PATON training tools, forms and guides are provided for download to your home computer at www.uscgaan.com.

NS-PN01 PATON PROGRAM HAND OUT

Use this handout to promote the PATON - Private Aid to Navigation program with your members.

NS-PN02 33CFR-CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

A link is provided to this excerpt from the Code of Federal Regulations that is full of information about the various classes of Private Aids to Navigation and the rules governing private aids.

NS-PN03 FIRST DISTRICT AID VERIFIER QUALIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM This is a special AV

Training Program section on the PATON Web Page where you will find the AV Qualification Guide, an AV Workshop Agenda and Schedule and various PowerPoint training presentations that can be used for AV workshops and self training exercises.

NS-AN04 7054 AID TO NAVIGATION REPORT Download

this EXCEL form and keep copies in your NAV Kit for use when verifying Private Aids to Navigation. This is also the best tool for documenting Non-Permitted Private aids.

NS-PN05 PRIVATE AID TO NAVIGATION TRAINING

(PowerPoint) – This presentation depicts the various discrepancies that are commonly observed on Private Aids to Navigation. Use it as an annual review in PATON Workshops and for training Aid Verifiers.

NS-PN06 WEB-BASED PATON SYSTEM TRAINING

GUIDE This guide provides the latest screen-by-screen information on the operation of the Web-Based PATON System (Harbormaster) used in First Northern. It takes you through the initial registering process to the verification of the private aid and the report to the ANT Chief. This is an on-line system that is accessed with your home personal computer. The basic aids to navigation training programs found on the Federal Short Range Aid to Navigation Web Page are also part of AV-Aid Verifier training. You will need an access code to use this system and you must be AV Qualified to perform verifications on private aids.

NS-PN07 NON-PERMITTED PATON REPORT Use this form

can be used to report multiple non-permitted private aids. Note, that without the owner's name and a means to contact the owner, the

Coast Guard is at a loss to contact anyone to submit a permit application for the aid.

NS-PN08 **US COAST GUARD AID TO NAVIGATION MANUAL – CHAPTER 5 – Non Coast Guard Maintained Aids** Read this information about private aids as excerpted from the Coast Guard Aid to Navigation Manual.

ONLINE 7030 **ACTIVITY REPORT MISSION - INDIVIDUAL** Use this on-line form to fill out your mission hour form in order to receive Auxiliary recognition for your PATON work in AUXDATA. Use mission category 31 for PATONs and e-mail your report to your IS Staff Officer.

The overall impact of the Auxiliary Private Aid to Navigation Program depends on this input to the AUXDATA System. Please take the time to make these important reports.

If the Private Aid to Navigation Program interests you, talk to your FSO-NS or SO-NS about becoming AV-Aid Verifier qualified. Upon qualification as an AV, you will be assigned specific PATONs to verify. After you have registered on the Web-Based Paton System, you will be assigned an access code for the system for reporting via the on-line PATON system. You can be performing a vital information to the Coast Guard.

> **EVERY AUXILIARIST, WHILE UNDERWAY ON AN AUXILIARY OPFAC SHOULD BE CHECKING AND REPORTING ALL DISCREPANCY(S) TO THEIR CG ANT ON EVERY FEDERAL AID, PRIVATE AID AND BRIDGE THAT THEY OBSERVE. ALSO, THEY SHOULD BE CHECKING THE SHORELINE FOR CHARTED ERRORS OR OMISSIONS AND REPORTING THEM TO NOAA.**

Checking Private Aids to Navigation is a half seasonal and half annual activity in First Northern. Generally, you need an OPFAC-Operational Facility to verify the floating aids. However, there are many PATONs that can be

verified by land. All Auxiliarists are encouraged to contact their Navigation Systems Staff Officers to join their Division Auxiliary Navigation Systems Team and learn how they can make a difference.

There are over 5,000 Private Aids to Navigation within the First District.

Aids To Navigation ATONs

On Station?

Radar Reflector

Number or Letter

Retroreflective Panel

Color

Shape

Light List Narrative
Compare visual sighting to the chart symbols on the latest nautical chart to the data in the Light List. If there is a difference, report it.

Chart Symbol

C "3"

Sinking?

Submerged?

Paint Condition
Report it if it shows 25% deterioration or loss of lateral significance.