

OPERATIONS PLAN FOR BURIAL AT SEA
31 JULY 2007

SUMMARY:

On Tuesday, 31 July 2007, in accordance with his wishes, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarist Thomas Shaw's ashes will be committed to sea. Station Wrightsville beach will provide a MLB-47 as the Vessel of Honor. Shaw family members will be guests aboard the MLB 47. Auxiliarist Ronald Hurley will perform the commitment ceremony.

RESOURCES:

Vessel of Honor: Station Wrightsville Beach: MLB 47'

Auxiliary Escorts: Auxiliary Facility 33429
Auxiliary Facility 20436
Auxiliary Facility 23475

PERSONNEL

Station Wrightsville Beach Auxiliary Liaison: BM2 Justin Shackelford

MLB 47 Coxswain: BM2 Shackelford

Ceremony Officer in Command: Auxiliarist Ronald Hurley

Auxiliary Coordinator: Joe Truelove, Flotilla 10-06 FSO-OP

Auxiliary 33429 Coxswain: Harry Otterbein

Auxiliary 20436 Coxswain: Jim Beecher

Auxiliary 23475 Coxswain: Roy Jameson

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

0945 - Auxiliary facilities rendezvous Banks Channel in vicinity of Station Wrightsville Beach.

1000 - MLB-47 depart station, rendezvous with Auxiliary escorts, transit Masonboro Inlet and proceed to burial site (beyond 3 miles off shore).

1030 (approximately) upon at the burial site, Burial at Sea ceremony will be conducted aboard MLB 47.

1100 (approximately) all vessels return to vicinity of Station Wrightsville Beach.

1130 (approximately) OPCON releases Auxiliary escorts.

UNIFORM OF THE DAY:

Hot weather shorts and tee-shirt

FORMATION:

The vessels will transit Masonboro Inlet in single file with MLB-47 in the lead, followed by 33429, then 20436, and then 23475.

Upon reaching the sea buoy, Auxiliary escorts will come to a "diamond" formation behind MLB 47 with 33429 to starboard, 20436 to port and 23475 astern of MLB 47 and aft of 33429 and 20436.

Upon arrival at the burial site when MLB-47 shall come dead-in-the-water; heading into the wind. Auxiliary vessels shall close up, come dead-in-the-water, heading into the wind coming to a "V" formation with 50 yards distance between vessels. 23475 will take station 50 yards aft of 33429. If necessary for safety, vessels shall increase distances and may maintain headway at dead slow ahead.

The same diamond formation for return to the sea buoy and single file order through Masonboro Inlet.

BURIAL AT SEA CEREMONY

At the command, "All Hands Bury The Dead," all vessels shall stop and the National and Auxiliary Ensigns be dipped at half mast if possible. The Ceremony Officer in Command will then have the container of ashes brought on deck. The bearer shall face aft with his (her) back to the wind. Eight bells shall then be tolled aboard the MLB 47'. "Taps" should be played and Auxiliary members shall remain with heads covered and render sharp hand salutes during the committal.

If weather and sea conditions dictate the ceremony may be shortened.

OPERATIONAL CONTROL:

Upon departure from the station, MLB 47 coxswain will assume OPCON of, and communications guard for Auxiliary facilities. MLB 47' will relinquish OPCON upon return to the station.

While under MLB 47 OPCON, Auxiliary coxswains will provide half-hourly operational status reports to OPCON who will report to the station. When released from MLB 47 OPCON, Auxiliary Facilities will provide normal operational status reports as required by the station.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Marine channel 23A or as designated by OPCON.

CONTACTS

BM2 Shackelford - 910 256 4224 (Station)
Ron Hurley - 910 458 4413 (H)
Harry Otterbein - 910 799 8381 (H): 910 398 3957 (C)
Jim Beecher - 910 934 0041 (H)
Roy Jameson 910 520 3788 (H)
Joe Truelove - 910 458 1920 (H): 910 232 2616 (C)

Nothing contained in this OPORDER relieves coxswains of the responsibility for safe navigation and safety of the crew and facility.