



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
FLOTILLA 7-16  
Gulfport, Florida



Volume X  
2021 1st Quarter

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Commander

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# THE BEACON

## U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary University Programs (AUP)

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program (AUP) is designed to offer college students the opportunity to participate in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and thereby experience and augment the missions of the United States Coast Guard. AUP is the Auxiliary's official program for integration with higher-level educational institutions. Academically minded students with a sincere interest in service gain leadership and authentic Coast Guard experience through the AUP.

The Auxiliary's first units on college campuses took root in 2007 at Auburn University, The Citadel, and The College of William and Mary. AUP now includes nearly 200 members in 14 units representing over 30 colleges and universities across the United States.

Alumni are imbued with a strong commitment as *Leaders in Service*. Nearly 70% go on to serve with the Coast Guard in some capacity, while the others embark on a variety of other careers in the public and private sectors.

Students work alongside the Coast Guard's active military and civilian personnel in areas as diverse as business operations, information technology, GIS, public policy, environmental response, and maritime strategy. Their *Program of Study* focuses on basic Coast Guard knowledge, safe boating, incident management, operations, and leadership.

[HTTPS://WWW.CGAUXEDU.US/](https://www.cgauxedu.us/) [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CGAUXEDU](https://www.facebook.com/cgauxedu)

Meeting  
19:00 hr.  
Third Wednesday  
Of each month.

## Tropical Storm Eta

Howard secured all radio equipment at his home and reported post activity also. 7-16 is dry...no leaks. Little bit by window and back door. I will reinstall the equipment tomorrow. Some boats did not fare well, Howard and Marcella got pictures. A couple boats were pushed ashore and a couple broke loose from the moorings



### Boating Safety

The Coast Guard is reminding the public of these important safety messages:

**Stay off the water.** Hurricanes and tropical storms can be deadly and our ability to conduct rescues can be diminished or non-existent at the height of a storm. Be prepared, stay informed and heed storm warnings.

**Do not shelter on boats.** Mariners are urged not to shelter-in-place on house boats or any other type of vessel. The safest place to be during a tropical storm or hurricane is off the water.

**Be prepared.** Owners of large boats are urged to move their vessels to inland marinas where they will be less vulnerable to breaking free of their moorings or to sustaining damage. Mooring lines should be doubled in case of high winds. Boats that can be trailered should be pulled from the water and stored in a place that is not prone to flooding. Those who are leaving their boats in the water are reminded to remove EPIRBs and to secure life rings, life jackets, and small boats. These items, if not properly secured, can break free and require valuable search and rescue resources to be diverted and may put first responders in harm's way to ensure people are not in distress.

**Evacuate as necessary.** If mandatory evacuations are set for an area, the public should evacuate without delay. Coast Guard personnel and other emergency responders may not be able to evacuate or rescue those in danger during the storm.

**Stay informed.** The public should monitor the progress and strength of the storm through local television, radio, and the Internet. Boaters can monitor its progress on VHF radio channel 16. Information can also be obtained on small craft advisories and warnings on VHF radio channel 16.

- For more information on hurricane preparedness visit [Ready.Gov](https://www.ready.gov) and NOAA websites, as well as following them on Twitter.

Due to the active storm season in the Gulf Coast region, the possibility for debris to resurface during Zeta could pose a danger to mariners. The Coast Guard urges caution and to maintain awareness while transiting.

For more information follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com).

-USCG-



## Storm Eta and Our Radio Room

**Keep your contact information current at *AUX DATA* using **Form 7028**. Use link.**

<http://forms.cgaux.org/forms1.php>

Everbridge

Number is

111-111-1111

Don't block

Answer



## Contact Us:

Telephone:  
630-674-5352

## Email:

[auxgulfport@gulfport.com](mailto:auxgulfport@gulfport.com)

## Website:

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-07-16>

"The Beacon" or  
Facebook

## Submissions:

[MarcellaRuso@gmail.com](mailto:MarcellaRuso@gmail.com)



**ONE REASON.... WE DO WHAT WE DO! SAFTY!**

Let's Come up with some new ideas for  
Safe Boating week that COVID can't  
Stop Us from getting out!



## Data Snapshot:

- Fatalities 633
- Drownings: 449 Injuries (requiring medical treatment beyond first aid): 2,511
- Boating accidents: 4,145
- Property damage: \$49,992,120.93
- Number of registered recreational boats in the U.S.: 11,961,568

Despite historic reductions in fatality rates over the past 45 years, there are still significant opportunities for improvement. While most members of the boating public practice safe boating behaviors, gaps in individual preparedness and situational awareness remain. To advance the culture shift toward even safer recreational boat operator behavior, this plan includes three major priorities:

1. Cultivate a boating public that is better prepared to engage in safer boating behaviors,
2. Make better informed policy decisions by building and using highly integrated systems to gather and evaluate data from many sources, and
3. Nurture collaborative efforts among the stakeholders that benefit the boating public within the recreational boating safety community.

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=A-DEPT&category=nsbw>

**Contact Us:**

**Telephone:**

727-322-3040

**Email:**

[auxgulfport@gulfport.com](mailto:auxgulfport@gulfport.com)

**Website:**

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**"The Beacon" or Facebook**

**Submissions:**

[MarcellaRuso@gmail.com](mailto:MarcellaRuso@gmail.com)

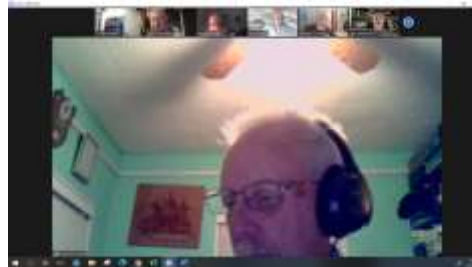
<https://www.facebook.com/uscgauxflotilla7.16/>

Facebook Posts

**ZOOM Meeting!!!**



November 18 our first Zoom meeting with elections. Marcella Ruso is the new flotilla Commander and Howard Bush is the Vice Commander.



Commander Richardson chaired.



Photo Thanks!!! Congrats!! Orrie



Membership cards may be expiring reminder from Ellie to check yours.



Thank you, for keeping the radio safe Howard!

Meeting  
19:00 hr.  
Third Wednesday  
Of each month.

Keep an eye out  
for training meetings  
held the  
First Wednesday  
&  
Up coming  
Activities and Events  
(may also be found on  
our calendar in the  
Flotilla by the  
mailboxes)



## COURSES:

### ON GOING COURSES:

A \$40 About Boating Safety (ABS) class that includes textbook, 8 hours Saturday class and you get your certificate.  
Special DISCOUNT rates are available for couples, families and groups of two or more! Call 727-322-3040 or [auxgulfport@gulfport.com](mailto:auxgulfport@gulfport.com)  
(Auxiliarist's come the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month and coteach)  
**COVID -19 please call ahead may still be on hold.**

### AVIALABLE COURSES ONLINE:

Welcome to the New National Testing Center

List of Training Courses, Exams, and Manuals... **and take a course.**

<http://ntc.cgaux.org/TrainingCourses.php>

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=IT-GROUP&category=training-resources>

**Visit our Facebook page... post something or comment!**

<https://www.facebook.com/uscgauxflotilla7.16/>

## Upcomming Events:

### VISIT VETRIANS AT BAY PINES:

Quarterly visit

**CXL- COVID-19 / Stay Tuned**

**Meeting time:**

**Place:** Main Entrance at Bay Pines



### Flotilla Meeting Refesment Scheduling for 2021!:

- **Stay Safe till we meet again!**



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James McCormick III  
Outstanding Volunteer  
Contribution for VE-RBSVP

**Holiday Giving was not stopped by COVID-19!!!**



We started right after Thanksgiving!



Then the donations came!

**Holiday Giving was not stopped by COVID-19!!!**

**Keep your  
contact  
information  
current at AUX  
DATA using Form  
7028. Use link.**

[http://forms.cgaux.  
org/forms1.php](http://forms.cgaux.org/forms1.php)







U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

111-111-1111

The overarching mission of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is to contribute to the safety and security of citizens, ports, waterways, and coastal regions. Its philosophy is to be “Semper Paratus” (“Always Ready”) against all threats and hazards. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an integral part of Coast Guard Forces and has members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam.

After evaluating various emergency notification platforms, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary chose Everbridge for its technical capabilities, security, ease of use, and ability to map to each District’s needs.

With Everbridge, what used to take teams of six or more 12 hours to accomplish, one person can now complete in minutes to reach all members of the District. The Everbridge system also canvasses all voice and text contact paths in a single notification and prompts volunteers to confirm receipt. During Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, Districts were able to account for 85% of their members in 15 minutes. The Everbridge system’s customizability enables Districts to tailor the system to match the way they work. Because the Everbridge system is easy to learn and use, even those who were reluctant to try a new technology quickly replaced older methods with Everbridge once they saw it in action.

So when you see 111-111-1111 on your phone Everbridge has contacted you and as an Auxiliarist you need to respond to the call.

111-111-1111



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Of each month.

**INTERCOM** Submissions to:  
Dorothy J. Riley, SO-PB  
Kevin Buckley

Email address:  
[dottieriley@gmail.com](mailto:dottieriley@gmail.com)  
[kbuckley8@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kbuckley8@tampabay.rr.com)

**NAVIGATOR EXPRESS**  
**80<sup>th</sup> Edition**

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=a-dept>

Submit photo for:  
"Photo of the Month"



## 7-16 Guys are AMAZING!!!

Flotilla 7-16 Vessel Exams and Partner Visits during the COVID 19 Issue

As we all know the COVID 19 virus has curtailed a lot of the Auxiliary missions and activities this year. It has held us hostage for Public Education Class and Public Affairs Events.

HOWEVER, .....

From January 1, 2020 to November 1, 2020 Gulfport Flotilla 7-16 has completed

250 Vessel Exams and 271 Partner Visits.

Members have conformed to the US Coast Guard requirements concerning the COVID 19 Virus. Social distancing and the wearing of masks were required. Four members of the Flotilla have worked very hard to obtain these numbers during the virus.

One member, Dave Ditto has obtained enough points to be awarded the RBS Device, which is a two-year program. He had to obtain 120 points for two years in a row in order for the device to be awarded. Dave spent a lot of time and energy achieving this award. We are very proud of his accomplishment. Flotilla 7-16 has on two members that have obtained this award in the last 10 years.

Despite all the requirements and setbacks Flotilla 7-16 has achieved a good record in Vessel Exams and Partner Visits for 2020.

Regards,

D. Terry Hershman  
IPDCDR  
DDSL Divisions 7 and 11  
AUC Station St. Petersburg  
Auxiliary Representative for TBHSS Committee  
FSO-VE Flotilla 7-16  
FSO-PV Flotilla 7-16

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## F.Y.I.

Here is a great link to brush up on your Boating Knots.

<https://www.animatedknots.com/boating-knots>



# History



News Journalist Walter Cronkite being named Honorary National Commodore in 1977 by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Colonel Sanders, Kentucky Fried Chicken founder, speaking to Coast Guard Auxiliary members.



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Marty Richardson, Commander

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Kevin Buckley

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[dottieriley@gmail.com](mailto:dottieriley@gmail.com)

[kbuckley8@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:kbuckley8@tampabay.rr.com)

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