



# Sailing with Seven

DIVISION 7 (CENTRAL AND SOUTH TEXAS) DISTRICT 8 COASTAL  
WRITTEN BY JASON KARDOS (SO-PB), PHOTOS BY JASON KARDOS (SO-PB) AND  
BESSIE SOURIS (DSO-MA)

ISSUE NO 2  
May 2019



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## 2019 Wings Over Texas Deployment

### District 7 in Corpus Christi, April 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>

Starting April 12<sup>th</sup> and ending Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, four crews comprising US Coast Guard Auxiliaries throughout district Eight Coastal Region, including divisions seven, six, and five, all converged at NAS Corpus Christi for the *Wings Over Texas* airshow. The three-day mission defended the temporary protection zone along the northern sea wall, running east to west at the base's northern edge. This protected zone was designated as an emergency ditch or bailout area for the pilots participating in the airshow as it was critical to keep recreational boaters clear of potential hazards.

The sea states of Corpus Christi Bay varied throughout the weekend. Friday's practice run started with three to five-foot choppy waves, pushing the crews to regain their "sea legs" hastily. The two boat crews working that day accomplished area familiarization, established multi-boat communication protocols, and a sense of comradery.



*The deployment crews – left to right –Rafael Rodriquez, Steve Horton, Jeff Stromer, Geoff Souris, Jeff Hughes, Debbie Meyer, Tom Cook, Jason Kardos, Bruce Henry, Dennis Patterson, Sergey Seryogin, and Roy Pell*

Saturday proved to be a new day with greater challenges as the crews assemble and launch all four boats. Working alongside a Coast Guard twenty-five-foot patrol craft, the auxiliary took position to guide recreational boaters from penetrating the protected zone, with the focus on eastern edge.

DCAPT Stromer's crew was on parade as they brought a VIP onboard, the Chief of Naval Education and Training, escorted him to center stage, and asked him kindly to depart into the water. Not to worry, it was all part of the show and the crew seen below stood by while a Coast Guard HH65 Dolphin swooped in with a rescue swimmer and performed an at sea rescue demonstration. This event was repeated on Sunday with equal success.



*Crew of DCAPT Jeff Stromer's boat escort Rear Adm. Gregory Harris (CNATRA) to in water drop off for the Coast Guard's HH65 sea rescue demonstration*

As weather worsened throughout the day, the deployed vessels adjusted as needed. The crews cautioned recreational boaters in less capable craft to take refuge in safe harbor. Heeding their own warnings, the smaller two craft of the four-boat squadron also returned to harbor, maintaining safety at the forefront of operational success. The crew resource management extended beyond a single boat crew and was implemented at a squadron tactical level.



*Rafael Rodriguez, Coxswain for Jeff Hughes's boat prepares to get underway*

Each day started with vessel preparations on shore while the craft were still on trailers. The squadron then assembled for a mission overview, weather forecast, and safety discussion lead by DCAPT Jeff Stromer. The crews then broke and deployed their vessels. Prior to launch





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from the peer, each crew performed their Green-Amber-Red (GAR) crew briefings.

*Coxswain Tom Cook and facility owner and crewman Dennis Patterson back away from the pier and get underway*



Working collectively in unison, the four boats maintained a watchful eye for each other. A few high speeders slipped through the perimeter and without hesitation the call was made to the designated auxiliary intercept boat to catch and escort the "runner" to a safe area. Collectively, all boaters were politely kept out of the danger area.



*Coxswain Jeff Stromer and crew conduct GAR briefing prior to getting underway. All eyes were up as fellow boats backed off the pier.*

The mission was a great success. All crewmen returned each day having been an instrumental part of the overall success of the *Wings Over Texas* airshow. All crewman and coxswain skill were put to the test with positive results demonstrating how powerful the all-volunteer force is to the US Coast Guard!



*Coxswain Roy Pell and crew make ready to launch.*

## District Seven Supports March District Training (D-Train)



*Dennis Patterson (SO-HR)*

District 8 Coastal Region leadership and members converged in San Antonio, Texas for the March District Training on March 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the heart of Division Seven territory, the event included workshops, meetings, training, and most rewardingly, fellowship events.



*Robert Dittman (VCDR) and Jason Kardos (SO-PB)*

Hosted by Flotilla 07-04, San Antonio, the event went off without any noticeable hitches. Demonstrating the professional aptitude of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 07-04 seamlessly executed a well planned and rehearsed event with a multitude of simultaneous activities. Each day concluded with a social event that fully embodied the *fellowship* cornerstone of the Auxiliary.



*Geoff Souris (SO-SR) and Bessie Souris (DSO-MA)*

The final event was the Commodore's Banquet where local Sea Scout Ship 74 presented the Colors. This presentation was an historical moment as the Auxiliary enters into the new partnership with BSA Sea Scouts. Words of wisdom

were delivered by National Commodore Larry King and D8CR Commodore Charles Maricle. Several members were then recognized for their many accomplishments and service.





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Brian Childs (Div CDR) and Alex Shapovalov (SO-PA)

Enjoying the finale, the staff and members of division seven participated in this social occasion. Being in a uniformed all volunteer service, while spread out over south Texas brings a special appreciation to time spent together.



Roy Pell (Senior QE) and Jeff Hughes (SO-FN)

Two of the fundamental cornerstones are *Fellowship* and *Member Services*. March District 8CR training embodied both.

All operations, boat, VE, flight, public affairs, etc, shall be on the operations calendar. The foundation of the Auxiliary is the Flotilla, but we can all support each other as a division.

The better informed we are, the better we perform our public service as a team. Any flotilla event can easily be a division event, and that is how we can shine above the rest.

**One team, one fight!**

**All call for articles**

Please send articles that are of interest to the division to Jason Kardos (SO-PB), [jasonkardos.uscgaux@yahoo.com](mailto:jasonkardos.uscgaux@yahoo.com).

## Around the District

### Operations Outlook

- 7-5: Georgetown Water Safety Day, Sat, May 11, 9:00am – 1:30pm, Georgetown Recreation Center
- Auxiliary: National Safe Boating Week, May 18 – 24, 2019
- Division: Warrior Weekend, Saturday, May 18, 2019, Port O'Connor, TX 77982
- District: Aux-17, May 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, Houston, TX
- 7-5: VE Blitz, Sunday, May 19, 8am – 3pm, Mansfield Dam Park
- Division: Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup>, Patrol at Corpus Christi Marina for fireworks

Please contact [d8crdivision7@gmail.com](mailto:d8crdivision7@gmail.com) to add to the operations calendar or visit the webform at <http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081-07&category=CALENDAR>.

