



Sailing with Seven

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

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Division Aviation

By Jason Kardos

Aircraft joined the Auxiliary informally during World War II. Public Law 451 passed by congress in September 1945, added owners of aircraft and radio stations to those eligible for membership in the Auxiliary. Public education, vessel examinations and search and rescue became the basic missions of the Auxiliary.

The postwar period brought cutbacks in funding and reductions in the number of personnel, aircraft and vessels available for search and rescue while at the same time the need was increasing. The Auxiliary supplemented active duty forces and proved to be a welcome addition. The Coast Guard, over the years to come, would rely on the Auxiliary to fill the gaps. Aircraft utilization increased and as a result there were several Auxiliary Districts that had aviation flotillas.



Left to Right: Aircrew Jason Kardos and Pilot Dan King, Flotilla 7-1 at Cameron County Airport during a fuel stop visit the Rio Grande Valley Wing of the Commemorative Air Force hangar and embellish on many functional WWII era and newer aircraft

Division 7, 8th district coastal, enjoys the privilege of having three aircraft facilities (and could increase to four) that engage in operations almost weekly. The goal is to promote maritime safety and protection and assist in search and rescue. The patrol areas are the North and South coastal patrol routes. The North route goes from the Colorado River to the Corpus Christi Bay, following both the Intercoastal Waterway and Gulf Coast, and all bays channels leading in and out. Similarly, the South route extends from Corpus Christi Bay to the Rio Grande River.

There is much to know to be on an aircrew and the task is physically demanding. The minimum crew compliment includes a pilot and observer. Other positions can include a qualified aircrewman who can perform an expanded role to assist the pilot in more complex evolutions.

As the Auxiliary use by the Coast Guard expands, Auxiliary aviation will need to be ready to answer the call. That means having a pool of qualified operators and facilities is paramount. We need to have the training, qualifications, administrative readiness, and experience to show how powerful we are as an airborne asset.

Division Boating

By Jason Kardos

Boating always has been one of America's favorite pastimes and entered the sport arena in the early nineteenth century. In 1939, the Coast Guard reported that there were more than 300,000 boats operating in Federal waters. In the previous year it had received 14,000 calls for assistance and had responded to 8,600 "in peril" cases, a record number. Boaters needed to be better trained in seamanship and Federal law. At the same time, civilian yachtsmen were pressing the Coast Guard to establish a volunteer arm of the service.

As a result of these demands, on June 23, 1939, the Congress passed legislation that established the Coast Guard Reserve, its volunteer civilian component, to promote boating safety and to facilitate the operations of the Coast Guard. Groups of boat owners were organized into flotillas and these into divisions within Coast Guard Districts around the country.

Since then, the Coast Guard Auxiliary has evolved to be a uniformed volunteer division of the US Coast Guard with expanded operations to include





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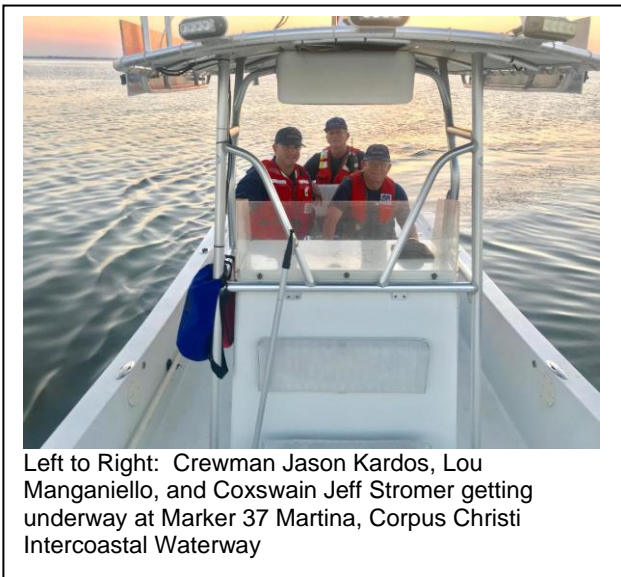
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all Coast Guard activities excluding law enforcement and military action. When operating in uniform or representing the Coast Guard, Auxiliarists are held to the same standards and regulations as their active duty counterparts.

Division 7 has six registered boat facilities and ten qualified crewmen currently. Division 7 is pushing to increase the operational presence with Sector Corpus Christi and is at a critical point to expand the pool of crewmen and coxswains as well as the number of facilities. This will take the efforts of boat owners to ensure their vessels are in good working order and that opportunities to train and operate are available.



Left to Right: Crewman Jason Kardos, Lou Manganiello, and Coxswain Jeff Stromer getting underway at Marker 37 Martina, Corpus Christi Intercoastal Waterway

As the Auxiliary use by the Coast Guard expands, Auxiliary boating will need to be ready to answer the call. That means having a pool of qualified operators and facilities is paramount. We need to have the training, qualifications, administrative readiness, and experience to show how powerful we are as a surface operations asset. Joining together to perform joint air and surface Auxiliary operations will be key to training and proficiency in the future.

Operations Outlook

By Jason Kardos

Until Fiscal Year 2020 begins on October 1st, no new orders are being permitted for Auxiliary operations. All orders already approved will be executed unless

suspended by Sector Corpus Christi.

This means it is time to train, clean our administrative backlog, perform surface crewman and coxswain training using our personal donations of time and expenses, and get organized for the new fiscal year starting October 1st.

Remember, if it isn't recorded on an appropriate ANSC form, and it isn't entered in AuxData, then it did not happen in the eyes of the Coast Guard! Record your numbers appropriately and do not shortchange your times.

Operational Readiness through Administrative Excellence

Around the District

2020 election are upon us!

District elections: in September 21st, Pensacola, Hyatt Place Pensacola Airport

Division elections: October 26th, San Antonio, Blue Skies of Texas

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

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 and photos that are of interest to the division to Jason Kardos (SO-PB), jasonkardos.uscgaux@yahoo.com

