



# Sailing with Seven

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

ISSUE NO 7  
Jul 2020



## Is this the end of the USCG Auxiliary!

by Jason Kardos

I want the truth and yes, I can handle it! We are a uniformed military service. Paid or unpaid, we, the Auxiliary, are part of the United States Coast Guard. What does that mean?



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
Washington, DC 20593

### AUXILIARY POLICY STATEMENT

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of our Service. Guided by our Core Values of *Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty*, Auxiliary contributions are paramount to excellence in mission execution and in facing our Nation's current and future challenges. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an indispensable part of the Coast Guard Team.

Established by Congress on June 23, 1939 as the "Volunteer Reserve", the Auxiliary conducted many of the Coast Guard's domestic missions while the Active Duty and Reserve components were forward deployed during World War II. The Auxiliary has continued its great service to our Nation ever since.

The spirit of volunteerism and patriotism that called the first Auxiliarist to duty continues today in the more than 24,000 professional men and women who faithfully execute assigned Auxiliary missions across our Nation, its territories, and in foreign countries where U.S. engagement is enhanced by Auxiliary services. Upon enrollment, Auxiliarists pledge to support the Coast Guard Auxiliary and to faithfully execute assigned duties, and to abide by the governing policies established by the Commandant. Auxiliarists are a crucial force multiplier for sustained Coast Guard mission excellence.

Auxiliarists enthusiastically provide experience, talent, and facilities for a wide range of activities including: Maritime Safety Outreach, Search and Rescue, Safety and Security Patrols, Disaster Response, Pollution Response and Recruiting. These activities enable the Coast Guard to successfully execute all of its missions, and they do it as volunteers!

The Auxiliary missions are:

- To promote and improve Recreational Boating Safety;
- To provide a diverse array of specialized skills, trained crews, and capable facilities to augment the Coast Guard and enhance safety and security of our ports, waterways and coastal regions;
- To support Coast Guard operational, administrative, and logistical requirements.

I charge all Commanders, Commanding Officers and Officers in Charge to continually strive to include the Auxiliary in both mission execution and mission support so that we can maximize sustained excellence across all mission areas.

KARL L. SCHULTZ /s/  
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard





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So then what happened? Why are we being excluded? Every day we experience risk and with no data and no cause, the USCG Auxiliary has been shutdown operationally? Why? Because of fear. We are uniformed members, no different than the active duty and reserves, and we provide vastly greater life experiences than those who have only served in one branch of the military. So, if I can go to Walmart or Bass Pro Shop as a civilian, exercising the same Risk Management and Risk Mitigation that we all learn in the Auxiliary, why cant I go as a uniformed service member and restock literature, promote the Auxiliary, recruit, and make our presence known to promote free Vessel Exams and boating safety? Why can't we go operationally with the very friends and comrades we enjoy the company of as free citizens? Why can't we make the choice to be operational, reduce deaths and accidents on the waterways, and conduct search and maritime protection missions?

During March and April of 2020, Texas has experienced a roughly 45 percent increase in open water-oriented fatalities including boating and swimming incidents over the same period in 2019. ... According to Texas state law, a life jacket must be available for each occupant of a boat or paddle craft. May 20, 2020

tpwd.texas.gov > newsmedia > releases > req=20200520a ▾  
[News Release: May 20, 2020: With Waterways Busy, Fatalities ...](#) ✓

What happened to the Strategic Plan?

If a volunteer member does not want to participate then that is a choice that member has made based on their own Safety and Risk Mitigation. There are members who do feel comfortable conducting operation. Some of us already had COVID-19 and recovered from it. We can wear masks when doing RBSVPs and VEs! We can use disposable gloves, so we never touch more than one person's property at a time. There are many forms of influenza viruses that we never showed concern about prior to this! Swine and Bird Flu outbreaks happen every year! Influenzas and other COVID virus strike every year!

Another thing, I just do not see some person waking up in the morning feeling sick wanting to hook his boat up to their vehicle and head down to the boat ramp to launch and be on the water all day! That is not going to happen, and everyone knows it! No one gets on the water feeling ill! No one! So why treat this any different?



THE NATIONAL COMMODORE  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY  
Larry King



## Foreword

### From the National Commodore

I am pleased to present the 2018-2024 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Strategic Plan to the 24,500 plus member volunteer force and to the U.S. Coast Guard as a whole. The Auxiliary has consistently proven its organizational resiliency and demonstrable capacity to handle significant challenges. It has considerably diversified its support to Coast Guard missions, units, and personnel and has greatly helped the Coast Guard address mounting strategic concerns such as marine safety and security, environmental protection, and cyber security across the maritime transportation system.

The U.S. Coast Guard's respect and appreciation for our Auxiliary shipmates is buttressed by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Policy Statement. It provides the foundation of recognition and support for the tremendous service, sacrifice, and commitment that Auxiliarists readily provide the Coast Guard every day. The significance and value of Auxiliary support to recreational boating safety, search and rescue, marine safety, security, and environmental protection, maritime domain awareness, waterways and coastal security, and many other Coast Guard missions have never been greater and remain essential to our Nation's maritime homeland security.

This Strategic Plan charts the course for Auxiliary administration and program management. It outlines the duties, responsibilities, and expectations of Auxiliarists as they deliver vital services and assist the Coast Guard in shaping, preparing, and applying its mission capabilities to the 21st century mission challenges. I continue to wish you all the best as you carry out your duties and responsibilities in support of the Coast Guard and the Nation. Your unparalleled support and dedicated mission focus are profoundly appreciated. Semper Paratus!

Larry King  
National Commodore  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

★ Relevance      ★ Flexibility      ★ Professionalism







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We are not ignorant children who need some desk leader with zero medical data telling us that operations will make us sick while they order their paid volunteers to operate using risk mitigation.

## IS THIS THE END OF THE US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY?

Is this the *Gold Side's* way of laying the path to ask congress to disband us? Actions speak louder than words, and the message is clear to me? How about you?

I want to know the truth before I commit any more time and money to the USCG Auxiliary! I joined this service precisely because of the four cornerstones:

- Member Services
- Recreational Boating Safety
- Operations and Marine Safety
- Fellowship

I served my country for 20 years and I wanted to be part of something for another 35-40 years.

**LET US DO OUR JOBS! LET US SAVE LIVES!**

Answering the call to duty in performance of its missions, the Auxiliary incorporates the guiding principles of the Commandant's Direction: Ready, Relevant, Responsive.

This strategic plan identifies the key challenges and opportunities the Auxiliary faces, as well as the objectives established to meet those challenges and take advantage of those opportunities presented.

To be Ready, the Auxiliary will streamline background checks and leverage technology and administration, allowing members to focus on missions and training. The Auxiliary will develop tools for Flotillas to use that enhance recruiting and retention at the deck plate level to meet Coast Guard needs, and it will define national programs that support members, units, and the Coast Guard. The Auxiliary will refine leadership training and nurture its culture via servant leaders. To ensure fiscal responsibility and compliance, standardized processes will be developed and implemented Auxiliary-wide. The Auxiliary's information system of record will be modernized to provide a flexible and accurate record of units, members, facilities, and activities.

To be Relevant, the Auxiliary will stress outreach. It will enhance prevention efforts in water safety, particularly for paddlecraft and education to the recreational boating public—in concurrence with the Strategic Plan of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program. To provide excellence in mission support to the Coast Guard, the Auxiliary will align its Interpreter Corps capabilities with Coast Guard requirements. To provide the Auxiliary and Coast Guard with young, talented, educated, diverse and well-trained leaders, the Auxiliary will expand the Auxiliary University Program.

To be Responsive, the Auxiliary will strengthen its relevance to local Coast Guard units and will establish new mission capacity in support of multiple Coast Guard initiatives, including incident management and cyber capabilities. By doing this, the Auxiliary will continue to provide a capable, well-trained, and mission ready workforce.

As the Auxiliary operationalizes this Strategic Plan, it will remain steadfast and committed to the watchwords "Relevance," "Professionalism," and "Flexibility."

*United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Strategic Plan 2018-2024, 11-1-18. Signed by The National Commodore, Larry King*

Remember why you are volunteering. More importantly, understand other people's reasons for volunteering; they are not often the same as your reasons.

We need to promote each other and act with honor, decency, and respect. Are we as individuals remembering the four cornerstones and the core values? Are we pursuing excellence with a focus on the cornerstones of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary?

## US Coast Guard Mission

The mission of the United States Coast Guard is to ensure our Nation's maritime safety, security, and stewardship.

## US Coast Guard Auxiliary Mission

Contribute to the safety and security of our citizens, ports, waterways, and coastal regions.





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## **Coast Guard Motto**

Semper Paratus is a Latin phrase, meaning "Always Ready."

These are not just words; it is who we are! If you believe your service as a volunteer is important, then live by these words. If you have a personal agenda that does not coincide with what the US Coast Guard Auxiliary is, then you are part of the problem and it would be right to excuse yourself from this uniformed service.

Division 7 needs problem *solvers* not problem creators. What are you?

Get more volunteers by showing what we are! Serve with dignity and know how important it is that you represent the Coast Guard Auxiliary in and out of uniform.

## **Operations Outlook**

By Jason Kardos

**NONE! Write your congressman today and demand a return to operations!**

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>.

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](mailto:jasonkardos.uscgaux@yahoo.com)

