



Sailing with Seven

DIVISION 7 (CENTRAL AND SOUTH TEXAS) DISTRICT 8 COASTAL
Written or Edited by Jason Kardos (SO-PA)

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Contents

- 01: Wings Over South Texas
- 02: Why Are Vessel Exams Important
- 03: National Safe Boating Week
- 04: Hurricane Season Is Among Us
- 05: Operations Outlook
- 06: Fun Fact
- 07: Reminder

Wings Over South Texas



Aux Crew left to right: Coxswain Rodriguez, Crewman Griffin, Crewman Kardos, and Crewman Patterson at the ready for 2021 Wings Over South Texas



Vice Division Commander Jeff Hughes on patrol at the 2021 Wings Over South Texas

The bi-annual Wings Over South Texas event was the mission for Division-7, April 30th thru May 2nd this year. The new range for the main event is at a new area adjacent to the downtown waterfront in Corpus Christi. This is the new standard, moving the show from NASCC/CCAD to the downtown area, and it is an exciting change that combines the airshow with *Buccaneer Days Corpus Christi*.



Two crews and three boats came together to serve as part of an interagency coordinated safety zone patrol. This kept an area clear of recreational boats that would otherwise find themselves in jeopardy if any of the aircraft had to perform a forced water landing.

Our crews endured rough weather for the first two days. Only a few jets came out to test the new venue airspace during a noticeably short break in the weather on May 1st. This airspace is a challenge for the pilots with skyscrapers in the middle of their turn radius and the Corpus Christi airport class C airspace needed to allow commercial and military aircraft to come in and out.

The sun finally came out on the last day and made for a Sunday event like no other. The Aircraft types included the Coast Guard's HC-144A and MH-65, CH-47, Airforce P-51 and F16, Customs P3Cs, and the Navy's C20, T6, F35, and F18 (Blue Angels). The crowds were thrilled, and the waters stayed safe thanks in part to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Why Are Vessel Exams Important?

Co-author Ellaine Griffin

Semper Paratus, always ready. That is the motto of the Coast Guard and the silver side takes a giant hand in promoting boating safety. The VSC decal that alerts the Coast Guard, Harbor Patrol, and other law-enforcement agencies that your boat was found to be in full compliance with all Federal and State boating laws. This





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also sets a precedence that you have taken proactive steps to operate safely.

The exam is an interactive process. It is a lot of fun when you get captains that want the knowledge review.

A common statement is 'I took a safety course decades ago, but I would like the review.' It is always a two-way exchange of knowledge and wisdom.

Remember, the standard is black and white, and a failed inspection can be more valuable than a passed inspection.



The ribbon will be awarded by completing a combination of sixty vessel and commercial fishing vessel examinations.



National Safe Boating Week

National Safe Boating Week is May 22-28, 2021. Wear your life jacket to work is Friday the 28th. Getting the message out for the shutoff switch lanyard requirements, state laws that say what ages are required to wear life jackets and educating people on the types of jackets are key points to make.



Another critical issue is propeller awareness as the number of deaths is

climbing due to prop strikes on pedestrians in the water, especially if they get ejected from the boat due to rough handling. The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) "Get Connected" campaign, funded by a U.S. Coast Guard grant, encourages boat operators to connect the kill switch / engine stop switch. Getting the motor off quickly is the best action to take but it may not be enough in time. Turning the boat in the direction of the

person in the water initially will pivot the engine away from them. Knowing that someone is in the water and shutting the engine off quickly is something every boater should talk about with all their passengers prior to leaving the dock.

Hurricane Season Is Among Us

National weather Service Hurricane Preparedness Week is 26 May - 1 June. The US Coast Guard will account for 100% of their members, including Auxiliary members, in the event a Hurricane threatens the area.



If you are leaving the area at any point between 1 June and 30 November, it is necessary for you to communicate your plans via email or telephone to the Flotilla Commander, Vice Commander, or IPFC.

Operations Outlook

May 15-16: Flotilla 7-5 hosts AUXPAD training and QE to prescreened applicants.

Training events needed! Send your schedules.

Please contact d8crdivision7@gmail.com to add to the operations calendar or visit the [webform](#).

All operations events that will accommodate training shall be on the calendar.

All call for articles:

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

Fun Fact



Did you know that Baffin Bay has a habitat of serpulid that dates back 30,000 years? The serpulid reef areas are only found in a few areas of the world.

Reminder

Are you logging in your time, miles, and travel costs into AUXDATAII?

