



**U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
DISTRICT 11 NORTH REGION
DIVISION 7 COMMANDERS REPORT**



**To: Curtis Han, Commodore
Jim Losi, District Chief of Staff
District 11 North Board & Staff**

**Date: August 20, 2023
From: Bill Ross, Division Commander
Division: 113-07 Utah**

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. August 6, 2023 Special Forces Parachute Drop
2. August 10-12 Division OPEX and Naval Cadets
3. New FC appointed for Flotilla 7-6
4. Recruiting
5. Coastie Assignment
6. Preparation for Elections and Change of Watch

Details

1. Sunday August 6, 2023 Division 7 participated in a multiorganizational project to provide a security drop zone for the Utah 19th Special Forces qualifications with their parachute drop exercise. There were 108 troopers jumping from Blackhawk helicopters into the water of Deer Creek Reservoir. We had two facilities and two PWC's to maintain a secure boundary to close off the north end of the lake from intrusion by recreational boaters. We worked closely with the Wasatch County Search and Rescue on this project.

The north boat ramp was closed to all traffic from 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM. One of our members manned the ramp to explain the closure to the boaters. In addition, other members were assigned at the two remaining ramps to inform the boaters that the north end of the lake was closed.

The Coast Guard Communications Trailer was positioned on an overlook next to the highway to facilitate communications with our members and the military communications. The trailer is now equipped with a radio capable of monitoring the aircraft and the local airport traffic. Many members of the public were gathered around the open doorways of the communication trailer listening to air traffic over the radio. It was a great opportunity for exposure of our auxiliary programs.

We have established a very meaningful relationship with the CO of the 19th and will be working closely with them for next year's operations.

2. Our August 10-12 Training OPEX was a tremendous success. Com Han, Jim Losi DCO and OTO Perez were in attendance. We were able to spend half a day Friday on a tour of Jordanelle Reservoir, Deer Creek Reservoir and Utah Lake State Park. Utah Lake is the largest fresh water lake in Utah measuring 12 miles wide and 24 miles long.

We had three facilities at the OPEX, the state boat Challenger crewed by Mike and Michelle Thompson, Ann and Tony Zocchi brought their Z boat and owner Don Moyle brought his facility Pony Express. Paul Brown served as the coxswain.

Thanks to the efforts of Anthony King SO-MT, the Naval Sea Cadets were invited to participate in our OPEX which was attended by 12 Cadets and 18 parents for the training. They were included in a variety of classes in radio communications taught by Comm Mike Williams, PPE by Lana Visser and navigation and other classes taught by Lana Visser and Anthony King.

On Friday evening, we were able to conduct night training exercises with Com Han, DCO Losi and OTO Perez and a full day of training on Saturday. The Sea Cadets were included in training opportunities on the facilities and learned piloting and navigation.

John-Michael Zimmerle, his wife Tony and their son Nathan, along with the help of many cadets provided wonderful meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner. JM is a CA 1.

In all respects, we are extremely grateful for a very successful and rewarding weekend.

3. Mark Robertson has accepted appointment as the FC for flotilla 7-6. He was sworn into office at our July Division meeting.

4. Flotilla 7-8 has one new member joining. He is a paddle boarder who was introduced to the Auxiliary at the Parachute Jump.

Flotilla 7-3 has three new members joining this month.

5. It has been announced by OTO Perez that a Coastie vehicle has been refurbished and is going to be assigned to Division 7. We are going to have it transported to Utah following the PCA Fair and are very excited to have the opportunity to utilize this device at our PA events and especially at the boat show. We see a very positive potential of having members be trained in its use.

6. Our election committee has been organized to qualify eligible candidates for election as Division Commander and Vice Division Commander. Our electronic election is scheduled for September 28, 2023

PROJECTS:

1. Plans are progressing to have up to three candidates qualify for QE in September.
2. We are starting preparations for the January 31 to February 4, 2024 Boat Show and the use of the Coastie.

CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES:

1. We are still experiencing delays getting a grant proposal for funding a facility for Flotilla 7-3
2. Working to get the staff positions filled for Flotilla 7-6

AGENCY INTERACTION:

1. We have established a very strong relationship with the CO of the Utah 19th Special Forces. Com Mike Williams will be working with the CO to plan next year's parachute jump in August 2024. OTO Perez has indicated that he would like to be present to participate in the exercise.
2. The Utah Lake Rangers have acquired the necessary materials for Flotilla 7-3 to assist in setting marking for the boat dry storage lot.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Working to get a staff for Flotilla 7-
2. Assist 7-3 to get a grant to purchase a facility
3. Organize members as Coastie operators

Photos

Jim Losi & Michelle Thompson on Challenger Meal Time



Photo by Lori Dannfield



Photo by Lori Dannfield

Don Moyle's Poney Express



Photo by Lori Dannfield

Ann & Tony Zochio's Z-Boat



Photo by Lori Dannfield

Challenger Coming About



Photo by Lori Dannfield

Naval Sea Cadets



Photo by Lori Dannfield

John-Michael and Tony Zimmerle



Photo by Lori Dannfield

Challenger with Recreational Boat in Tow



Photo by Lori Dannfield

End of Report