

JAMES R. COOLEY, PH.D.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of North Dakota, Aerospace Sciences May 2023
Dissertation: "United States Coast Guard Aviation Safety Climate Assessment Instrument"
- MS University of North Dakota, Aviation May 2019
Thesis: "United States Coast Guard Aviation Safety: Relationship Between the Safety Survey and the Extent of Hazard Reporting"
- BS US Coast Guard Academy, Management May 2003

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND August 2023 to Present
Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Aviation
- Issues in Aerospace – Aviation 501
 - Statistics – Aviation 503
 - Qualitative Research Methods – Aviation 505
 - Advanced Quantitative Research Methods – Aviation 506
 - Advanced Research Methods – Aviation 507
 - Capstone, Aviation Master of Science – Aviation 595
 - Human Error – Aviation 518
 - Human Error – Aviation 350
- Chief Pilot, CG Air Station Traverse City, MI June 2022 to May 2023
- Operations Department Head responsible for all aircrew training, upgrades, evaluations, and safety.
 - Oversaw daily flight schedules for training (and operational missions).
 - Monitored pilot performance and coached individual crew members to improve abilities.
 - Chief Pilot & Ops planner for multi-mission unit. Leads 16 pilots, 55 aircrew, & 43 Auxiliary; responsible for training given:
 - Air support for CG, DOD, US Secret Service, state & local LE
 - 10,000 NM coastline
 - Extreme winter weather
- University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND March 2022 to May 2022
Adjunct Instructor, Aviation

- Human Error – Aviation 350
 - Undergraduate course averaging 30 students per semester, covering the following topics: human error impact, human theory, errors within complex systems, data use, checklists, and automation.
 - Developed course material, projects, quizzes, exams, and homework.

Aviation Safety Manager, Washington, DC May 2019 to June 2022

- Aviation Mishap Analysis – primary instructor and curriculum developer for recurring sessions
 - Jointly taught alongside NTSB
 - 40-hour accident investigation course
 - 200+ Servicemen qualified to serve on prospective accident investigations
- Flight Safety Officer qualification course – developed entire curriculum
 - 80-hour training qualifying 120+ vetted/selected prospective Flight Safety Officers
 - Selected, trained, and mentored 75 officers annually
 - Human Factors, privileged safety data, aeromedical, aerodynamics, mishap analysis, reporting, safety culture

Flight Examiner & Instructor Pilot, Astoria, OR May 2014 to August 2017

- Evaluated all pilots on annual check rides
 - Standardization
 - Search & Rescue
 - Night Procedures and Night Vision Goggle
 - Instrument
- Adjudicated performance and recommended for upgrading to next qualification
 - Maintenance flights
 - Hoisting
 - Vertical Surface rescue
 - Inland SAR & confined area landings

Flight Safety Officer, Astoria, OR May 2014 to July 2016

Instructor in the following topics:

- Crew Resource Management
- Human Factors
- Mishap analysis
 - Flight data
 - HFACS taxonomy
- Operational hazards
- Safety culture assessment

Aircraft Commander, Clearwater, FL & Kodiak, AK April 2008 to July 2011

- Primary trainer to upgrading co-pilots & first pilots.

- Medical care,
- geo diversity,
- Medical Doctor recruiting,
- HR policies,
- Evaluation/selection/promotion
- Commandant presented at State of the Coast Guard, 2022

Thesis, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND 2017 to 2019
 “United States Coast Guard Aviation Safety: Relationship Between the Safety Survey and the Extent of Hazard Reporting”

- Safety survey
- Hazard reporting definitions
- Safety culture validation

PUBLICATIONS

Books

United States Coast Guard. (2016). *Flight Safety Officer (FSO) Performance Qualification Standard (PQS)* (One of three authors).

Journal Publications

Cooley, J.R. “Tweaking the Invisible: Methods of Improving Aviation Safety Cultures,” *Air Beat*, July/August, 2016, pp. 14-17.

U. S. Coast Guard. “Ready Workforce 2030,” 2022, pp. 26-29 (Cooley led team authoring Line of Effort 3 chapter).

Journal Papers Accepted

Cooley, J.R. “New survey, so what?,” *Glideslope*, N.D.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

Panelist for XPONENTIAL: “Rural Regions, National Impact: Drones in Maritime Search & Rescue and Healthcare Logistics”; May 14, 2026

Panelist for Northern Michigan Startup Week – drone integration and maritime use; April 22, 2026

Guest Speaker, Spirit Airlines Operations Training; readiness, personal responsibility, leadership, & culture; May 29, 2025

Guest Speaker at the 2025 World Aviation Training Summit (WATS), “From Rescues to Readiness: Strengthening Human Factors in High-Stakes Performance,” April 9, 2025

Guest Speaker, “USCG Updates,” Great Lakes Maritime Academy Board of Visitors Meeting, October 19, 2022.

Guest Trainer, Mountain Rescue, Corvallis, OR, 2017.

Moderator, “Crew Resource Management Breakout,” Flight Safety Officer Standardization Course, Orlando, FL, 2017.

Guest Speaker, “Engineering Opportunities in the U.S. Coast Guard & Aviation,” Clatsop Community College, Astoria, OR, 2016.

Keynote Address, Flight Safety Officer Standardization Course, Washington, DC, 2016.

Guest Speaker, Pacific Northwest Fishermen Safety Training – Coast Guard rescue capabilities, Astoria, OR, 2015.

Guest Speaker, Bahamian primary school, Ambassador-arranged, 2009.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Guest, “Brothers in Armchairs” podcast, interview discussing most harrowing rescues, 2021.

Helicopter Association International HAI@Work: “Managing Risk in Hazardous Environments,” 2022.

Host, “Aviation Safety Podcast,” released one-of-a-kind, Coast Guard-wide, 2014 - 2017.

The New York Times Magazine Feature, “The Wreck of the Kulluk,” interview, January 2015. <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/04/magazine/the-wreck-of-the-kulluk.html>

The Weather’s Channel’s “Coast Guard Cape Disappointment – Pacific Northwest” feature, television show covering helicopter rescues, 2013 - 2014.

The Weather’s Channel’s “Coast Guard Alaska” feature, television show covering helicopter rescues, 2011 – 2013.

CERTIFICATIONS, QUALIFICATIONS, DESIGNATIONS

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| MH-60T Redesignation | April 2022 |
| Certified Flight Instructor – Helicopter Instruments Renewed in 2018, 2022, 2024 | August 2016 |
| Federal Aviation Safety Officer Interagency Committee for Aviation Policy | February 2016 |
| Airline Transport Pilot | June 2015 |
| MH-60T Transition Course – qualified in airframe | May 2011 |
| Collateral Duty Civil Rights Officer | May 2007 |
| Incident Command System (ICS) Qualified | April 2007 |
| Coast Guard Aviator Designation; # 3828 | October 2006 |
| Commercial Instrument License – airplane & rotorcraft-helicopter | June 2006 |
| HH-60J Transition Course – qualified in airframe | October 2006 |
| Search & Rescue Fundamentals Qualified | October 2006 |
| Landing Signal Officer Provided maneuvering signals to helicopters landing aboard ship; 50+ landings | July 2004 |
| Shipboard Rescue Swimmer Man overboard emergency response | July 2004 |

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

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| Command Cadre Ice Rescue Course U.S. Coast Guard | January 2023 |
| Operations Officer Course U.S. Coast Guard | April 2022 |
| Aviation Mishap Analysis Course Southern California Safety Institute | September 2019 |
| Certification in Aircraft Accident Investigation | September 2015 |

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| Investigation Management Southern California Safety Institute | September 2015 |
| Aviation Engineering Safety Southern California Safety Institute | June 2015 |
| Safety Management Systems Southern California Safety Institute | February 2015 |
| Human Factors in Accident Investigation Southern California Safety Institute | November 2014 |
| Gas Turbine Accident Investigation Southern California Safety Institute | August 2014 |
| High-Altitude Power Management Mountain Qualification Course | June 2014 |
| Aviation Safety Officer School | May 2014 |
| Aircraft Accident Investigation Southern California Safety Institute | May 2014 |
| Civil Rights Training As singular Civil Rights Officer at largest operational USCG air station | November 2006 |
| FAA Commercial Pilot Rotary and single-engine fixed wing | June 2006 |
| US Navy Flight Training Basic and Advanced | June 2006 |
| Enneagram Personality assessment | November 2002 |
| Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Personality assessment | June 2002 |

HONORS AND AWARDS

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| Meritorious Service Medal Meritorious Achievement as Aviation Safety Manager, USCG Headquarters | 2022 |
| CG Commendation Medal (Operational) | 2017 |

Outstanding achievement saving & assisting 137 lives; 74 rescues; 84 instructional flights; co-wrote qualification standards for fleet Flight Safety Officers

Captain Marion Gus Shrode Award Aviation Safety 2016
Singular winner for running best unit aviation safety program amongst all the US Coast Guard in preceding year.
<https://aoptero.org/awards/roost-2016-awards/>

PACAREA CG Foundation Admiral Chester R. Bender 2015
Heroic action involving personal danger for high altitude helicopter rescue
Acceptance speech: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFdROFHx7S0>

Vertical Flight Technical - CAPT William J. Kossler Award, International Vertical Flight Society 2015
Greatest achievement in operation of vertical flight.
<http://vtol.org/customincludes/showawards.cfm?awardid=8>

Commandant's Letter of Commendation (Operational) 2015
Outstanding performance on two back-to-back rescues: 1. Overturned vessel and saving 5 lives; 2. Nighttime cliff rescue high hoist saving 2 lives.

CG Achievement Medal (Operational) 2014
Superior performance – High altitude rescue of injured ice climber
Featured on The Weather Channel's "Coast Guard Cape Disappointment Pacific Northwest"

CG Achievement Medal (Operational) 2013
Superior performance – 25 lives saved, 16 rescues, & catastrophic emergency
Extensive coverage on The Weather Channel's "Coast Guard Alaska" for numerous rescues

CG Achievement Medal (Operational) 2012
Superior performance – saved 12 persons from adrift oil rig headed toward rocks; delivered 1,500 pounds of critical engine parts to adrift tow vessel during 20' seas.
Rescue featured on The Weather Channel's "Coast Guard Alaska," Gentlemen's Quarterly magazine, National Public Radio, and The New York Times Magazine

CG Unit Commendation Ribbon 2012
Exceptionally meritorious service in response to the 2010 7.0 earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

CG Arctic Service Medal 2012
21 days of non-consecutive duty deployed with H-60 helicopter north of the Arctic Circle

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| CG Achievement Medal (Operational) | 2011 |
| Superior performance – 31 lives saved and assisted 57 others; 95 search and rescue cases; four hurricane responses; 25 LE cases resulting seizure of 5,580 kg of cocaine. | |
| CG Achievement Medal (Operational) | 2010 |
| Superior performance – next-day response to Port-au-Prince, Haiti after January 2010 7.0 catastrophic earthquake. 37 people rescued. Transported 4 physicians and \$10k in antibiotics. In 14 days, flew H-60 helicopter 4,900 nautical miles over the course of 49 flight hours. | |
| Humanitarian Service Medal | 2010 |
| UNIFIED RESPONSE – Haiti Earthquake Relief Effort | |
| CG Achievement Medal (Operational) | 2009 |
| Superior performance – saving heart attack victim from fishing vessel in 20' seas; 245 NM transit, middle of the night long range medevac | |
| CG Commendation Medal (Operational) | 2008 |
| Outstanding achievement flying rescues/logistics and humanitarian aid in the wake of 2 consecutive hurricanes | |
| Commandant's Letter of Commendation (Operational) | 2008 |
| Outstanding performance as pilot responding to pre-dawn MAYDAY; vessel taking on water, 8' seas, pitch black, night vision goggle (NVG) failure, night hoisted rescue swimmer and two survivors from life raft; 2 lives saved. | |
| Humanitarian Service Medal | 2008 |
| Hurricane Hanna Disaster Relief | |
| CG Presidential Unit Citation | 2005 |
| Meritorious achievement and outstanding performance in action from 29 August to 13 September 2005 in preparation for, and response and recovery to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina. | |
| Commandant's Letter of Commendation (Operational) | 2004 |
| Outstanding performance as ship-driver onboard icebreaker; arranged \$900,000 worth of mission essential training and managed 250 scientist's administration over the course of 12 months underway. | |
| CG Arctic Service Medal | 2003 |
| 21 days of non-consecutive duty deployed onboard icebreaker HEALY north of the Arctic Circle | |
| Global War Terror Service Medal | 2003 |

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| CG Special Operations Service Ribbon | 2003 |
| CG Sea Service Ribbon | 2003 |
| National Defense Service Medals Global War on Terrorism | 2001 |