



**United States Coast Guard**  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

12 APR 2021  
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TO: ALAUX  
ALAUX 011/21

Subj: 2020 CAPTAIN NIELS P. THOMSEN INNOVATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS

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The following ALCOAST recently recognized three Auxiliarists for their contributions in fostering a Service culture of continuous innovation and learning. Congratulations to Auxiliarist Alvaro Ferrando of District Seven (D7), Miami, Florida; Commodore William “Bill” Bowen III and Auxiliarist Bruce Buckley of District One, Southern Auxiliary Region (D1-SR) New London, Connecticut. Congratulations and Bravo Zulu!

Respectfully,  
Captain Scott L. Johnson  
Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX)

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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC  
TO ALCOAST  
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ALCOAST 140/21  
SSIC 5224  
SUBJ: 2020 CAPTAIN NIELS P. THOMSEN INNOVATION AWARDS  
RECIPIENTS  
A. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 210704 DEC 20/ALCOAST 459/21  
B. Coast Guard Innovation Program, COMDTINST 5224.13 (series)  
1. I am pleased to announce and congratulate the recipients of the 2020 Captain Niels P. Thomsen Innovation Awards, as chosen by the Innovation Council, and discussed in REFs (A) and (B).  
2. Fostering a Service culture of continuous innovation and learning empowers our workforce to play an integral role in supporting CG strategic objectives. This year's award recipient found ingenious solutions that addressed complex maritime challenges, contributed to creating a more inclusive Service, and leveraged data analytics and machine learning to maximize efficiency and effectiveness. Faced with the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19, our recipients also leveraged strengthened C5I infrastructure to modernize force readiness management and maintain engagement with the public and external stakeholders.

3. The 2020 award recipients by category are:

a. Science or Technology:

CHAINLENK: Countering IUU Fishing with Data Driven Solutions

- (1) LT Emily Johnson, D17 Intelligence Branch
- (2) IS1 James Lenkiewicz, D17 Intelligence Branch

b. Operations or Readiness:

Commercial Space Launch Risk Assessment Tool (SLRAT)

- (1) CDR Scott Kirkland, COMDT (CG-7411)
- (2) CDR Joshua Rose, Sector Jacksonville
- (3) CDR Jillian Lamb, Sector Jacksonville
- (4) LCDR Molly Keyser, Sector Jacksonville
- (5) LT Emily Sysko, Sector Jacksonville
- (6) LT LaMarcus Walker, Sector Jacksonville
- (7) LT Anthony Scott, Sector Jacksonville
- (8) LT Joel Hill, Sector Jacksonville
- (9) BMC Robert Martin, Station Port Canaveral
- (10) MST1 Dionysios Mitsios, Sector Jacksonville
- (11) Mr. Douglas Campbell, Sector Jacksonville

c. Administration, Training, or Support:

Modernized Learning for Shore Forces Readiness

- (1) CDR Joel Carse, TRACEN Yorktown
- (2) LCDR Paul Simpson, TRACEN Yorktown
- (3) LCDR John Laraia, TRACEN Yorktown
- (4) LCDR Michael Oubre, TRACEN Yorktown
- (5) LT Mark Bender, TRACEN Yorktown
- (6) LT Elizabeth Tatum, TRACEN Yorktown
- (7) LT Jeremy Leggett, TRACEN Yorktown
- (8) Mr. Mark Ogle, TRACEN Yorktown
- (9) Ms. Kristy Plourde, TRACEN Yorktown

d. Culture Change:

Urination Device for Female Boat Crewmembers

- (1) AMT3 Kristin Talbott, AIRSTA Kodiak

e. Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement:

UPV and Bareboat Charters: Remote Education & Outreach

- (1) AUX Alvaro Ferrando, Sector Miami Prevention Investigations Division

f. Commander Joel Magnussen Innovation Award for Management:

Adaptive Risk Model for Inspected Small Passenger Vessels

- (1) CAPT Matt Edwards, COMDT (CG-CVC)
- (2) CDR Baxter Smoak, COMDT (CG-INV)
- (3) LCDR Stefanie Hodgdon, COMDT (CG-CVC)
- (4) LCDR Peter Bizzaro, COMDT (CG-CVC)
- (5) LCDR Jeff Bybee, MSC
- (6) LCDR Cameron Cooper, MSC
- (7) LCDR Brian Crimmel, COMDT (CG-DCO-51)
- (8) LCDR Timothy McNamara, COMDT (CG-PAE)
- (9) LCDR Matthew Meacham, COMDT (CG-ENG)

- (10) LT Katherine Ahrens, MSC
- (11) LT Kimberly Gates, COMDT (CG-OES)
- (12) LT Keith Heine, MSC
- (13) LT Kevin Kinsella, COMDT (CG-PAE)
- (14) Ms. Jennifer Poythress, COMDT (CG-OES)
- (15) Ms. Juliet Hudson, COMDT (CG-CVC)
- (16) Mr. Emanuel Terminella Jr., COMDT (CG-INV)
- (17) Mr. Marc Cruder, COMDT (CG-5P-TI)

4. The Coast Guard Innovation Council reviewed award nominations received through CG\_Ideas@Work. The 2020 nominees embody the exceptionally innovative spirit of our workforce and their efforts have made tangible positive impacts in our Service, maximizing readiness today and tomorrow. Additional information about these and other exceptional ideas may be viewed at: <https://cg-ideasatwork.ideascalegov.com/>.

5. Although only a few ideas can be selected for an award, the Innovation Council would also like to recognize this year's honorable mentions for each award category.

a. Science or Technology:

Augmented Reality Maintenance Assistance (ARMA)

- (1) CDR Bryan Burkhalter, FORCECOM

Virtual Readiness Center Maritime Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE) Weather Macro

- (1) LT David Cooper, Sector Jacksonville

b. Operations or Readiness:

Advanced Domain Awareness Messaging System (ADAMs) as a Mobile Vessel Sighting Report Solution (text/email compatible)

- (1) LCDR Adam Gibbs, Sector San Diego

Sector Miami Prevention Investigation: Illegal Charter Investigator Qualification – (PAX-OPS)

- (1) LTJG Danny Hicks, Sector Miami Prevention Investigations Division
- (2) Mr. Jesus Porrata, Sector Miami Prevention Investigations Division
- (3) AUX Alvaro Ferrando, Sector Miami Prevention Investigations Division

c. Administration, Training, or Support:

Aviation Rating Apprentice Program

- (1) Aviation Technical Training Center Elizabeth City

Modernization of EMT Recertification

- (1) LT Douglas Schneider, LANT-39
- (2) LT Eric Sheridan, TRACEN Petaluma
- (3) HSC Heidi Christensen, TRACEN Petaluma
- (4) HSC Patrick Coppo, CGC Stone
- (5) HSC Darcy Hislop, TRACEN Petaluma
- (6) HSC Shelby Carlson, TRACEN Petaluma
- (7) ASTC Micah Franklin, TRACEN Petaluma
- (8) HS1 Taijiro Laren, TRACEN Petaluma
- (9) HS1 Eugene Pryka, TRACEN Petaluma
- (10) HS1 Christine Yoshimura, TRACEN Petaluma
- (11) HS1 Heidi Bennett, TRACEN Petaluma
- (12) Ms. Shyla Volk, TRACEN Petaluma

Galley Metrics and Command Visibility

(1) CS1 Zachary Carman, USCG Base Seattle.

d. Culture Change:

MyCG - A Centralized, Public Information Gateway for All Coast Guard Audiences

(1) CAPT Matthew Moorlag, COMDT (CG-092)

(2) CDR Timothy Balunis, COMDT (CG-092)

(3) CDR Whitney Houck, COMDT (CG-092)

(4) LT Luke McConnell, COMDT (CG-092)

(5) LTJG Krystal Wolfe, COMDT (CG-092)

(6) CWO3 Allyson Conroy, COMDT (CG-092)

(7) YN1 Scott Turner, COMDT (CG-092)

(8) PA2 Hunter Medley, COMDT (CG-092)

(9) Ms. Alana Miller, COMDT (CG-092)

(10) Ms. Allie DeLegge, COMDT (CG-092)

(11) Ms. Christie St. Clair, COMDT (CG-092)

(12) Ms. Kara Noto, COMDT (CG-092)

(13) Mr. Rodrigo Brinski, COMDT (CG-092)

(14) Mr. Jonathon LaDue, COMDT (CG-092)

ATC Mobile Podcast "Flight Suit Friday"

(1) LCDR Nathan Shakespeare, ATC Mobile

(2) LCDR Sam Hafensteiner, ATC Mobile

(3) LT Ryan Vandehei, ATC Mobile

(4) Mr. Charles Seay, ATC Mobile

e. Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement:

Research and Development Center Auxiliary Team Skills Bank

(1) Commodore Bill Bowen, USCG Research and Development Center (RDC)

(2) Dr. Joe DiRenzo III, USCG Research and Development Center (RDC)

(3) AUX Bruce Buckley, USCG Research and Development Center (RDC)

f. CDR Joel Magnussen Innovation Award for Management:

Rapid and Efficient Program Renovation: CG Emergency Management

(1) COMDT (CG-OEM)

Saving Arctic Communities: Maritime Safety Task Force (MSTF) and Bulk Fuel Facility Workgroup

(1) CDR Jereme M. Altendorf, Sector Anchorage

6. The Innovation Awards ceremony will be held on 30 April 2021 during the spring Senior Leadership Conference. Additional information regarding this and other Innovation Council activities can be found at the Innovation Portal

at: <https://cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/cg9/2/6/Innovation/Pages>.

7. POC: Please direct any questions to COMDT (CG-926) Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, and Innovation Program at: [Innovation@uscg.mil](mailto:Innovation@uscg.mil).

8. RADM Michael J. Johnston, Assistant Commandant for Acquisition (CG-9), sends.

9. Internet release is authorized.

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\*\*\*For many reasons including the value of keeping communication lines clear and open as well as facilitating access to training and educational tools, all

Auxiliarists are urged to have their own email address and to keep it updated in AUXDATA.\*\*\*

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\*All ALAUX's are posted on the Chief Director of Auxiliary web site located at: [CHDIRAUX ALAUX](#)

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If you have a question regarding this ALAUX, please seek resolution within your Chain of Leadership and Management (COLM) including up to your servicing District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX). If your question still cannot be resolved after that, then please email [CGAUX@uscg.mil](mailto:CGAUX@uscg.mil).