



19 APR 2022
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 014/22

Subj: 2021 CAPTAIN NIELS P. THOMSEN INNOVATION AWARDS RECIPIENTS

1. On April 13, 2022 the Coast Guard announced the winners of the 2021 Captain Niels P. Thomsen Innovation Award. Congratulations to Auxiliarist Clint O'Connor of District Seven (D7) for being selected as winner of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement category for his development of the Aid Verifier Assistant App (AVA). AVA is a mobile app that lets Auxiliarists and qualified Aid Verifiers report aids-to-navigation verifications and discrepancies quickly, accurately and easily, with photo tagging possibilities. The Auxiliarists below also earned special recognition for being part of their respective innovation projects that were honorable mentions in the same category. Congratulations and Bravo Zulu to all!

a. Transforming Search and Rescue with Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Computer Vision

- (1) CDR Benjamin Perman, Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (JAIC)
- (2) CDR Edgardo Cruz, Sector Delaware Bay
- (3) LCDR Raven Holm, JAIC
- (4) AUX Vincent Bocchimuzzo, Flotilla 014-07-05
- (5) AUX David Clark, Flotilla 081-06-03
- (6) AUX Glenn Colaco, Flotilla 081-06-08
- (7) AUX Sam Dawood, Flotilla 081-06-10
- (8) AUX Norman Freed, Flotilla 014-07-05
- (9) AUX Daniel Grammel, Flotilla 013-10-03
- (10) AUX Michael Gregory, Flotilla 054-06-06
- (11) AUX John Kane, Flotilla 095-39-08
- (12) AUX Linda Lakin, Flotilla 014-07-02
- (13) AUX David Pierce, Flotilla 014-07-02
- (14) AUX Ray Rivera, Flotilla 082-04-03
- (15) AUX Roy Savoca, Flotilla 070-04-04
- (16) AUX John Stewart, Flotilla 014-07-02
- (17) AUX Anthony Wong, Flotilla 070-17-10
- (18) AUX Nikolai Zerkle, Flotilla 095-31-07

b. Culinary School Students and Graduates are the Ideal Auxiliary Culinary Assistants

- (1) CAPT William Woityra, USCGC POLAR STAR
- (2) SCPO Michael Langin, USCGC POLAR STAR
- (3) PO1 Cynthia Friend, USCGC POLAR STAR
- (4) ENS Aidan Uvanni, USCGC POLAR STAR
- (5) AUX Miranda Henry, AUX Flotilla 130-02-04
- (6) AUX Lisa Hickman, AUX Flotilla 170-01-01
- (7) AUX Samantha Logue, AUX Flotilla 08-05-02
- (8) AUX James Ehnborn, AUX Flotilla 130-02-04

2. Internet release authorized.

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.

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

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.