

AL AUX 11-13 - 2012 AUXILIARIST OF THE YEAR

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SUBJ: 2012 AUXILIARIST OF THE YEAR

1. I am pleased to announce the selection of Mr. Chris W. Bandy of Flotilla 28-1 in the Ninth District, Central Auxiliary Region, as the 2012 Auxiliarist of the Year.
2. Mr. Bandy enrolled in the Auxiliary in June 2010 and quickly earned the reputation as an enthusiastic volunteer, subject matter expert, and Paddle Smart Program manager in the Apostle Island National Lakeshore area of Lake Superior. The Paddle Smart Program was launched in 2011 to curb the rising number of kayaking fatalities. It was significantly promoted and championed by Mr. Bandy who devoted over 700 hours working alongside the National Park Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, and local kayak outfitters to increase kayaking safety awareness. He coordinated underway professional exchanges with National Park Service units, and executed an exceptional kayak search and rescue exercise that involved several federal and local response agencies along with nearly all local kayak organizations. Mr. Bandy personally distributed over 700 kayak emergency contact decals and spearheaded public education and outreach to over 3,000 kayaking enthusiasts in the region. His dedication and commitment to strengthening partnerships and advancing kayak safety were instrumental to the prevention of kayaking fatalities and the lowest number of Coast Guard paddle sport-related search and rescue cases within the Apostle Island National Lakeshore area in more than four years.
3. Mr. Bandy quickly qualified in several Auxiliary program disciplines including boat crew member for the Coast Guard Station Bayfield 25-foot RBS Defender, Auxiliary public education instructor, and Auxiliary vessel examiner. He selflessly devoted over 1,300 hours of Auxiliary service to the advancement of recreational boating safety and the professional development of others. During his Auxiliary tenure, Mr. Bandy was awarded the Auxiliary Achievement Medal, two Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendations, and the Sustained Auxiliary Service Award.
4. I applaud Mr. Bandys exemplary performance and spirit of service. He will be formally recognized as the 2012 Auxiliarist of the Year at the Auxiliary National Conference in San Diego, CA on 24 Aug 2013.
5. The following Auxiliarists were finalists for selection and are congratulated for their outstanding performance and achievement:
 - a. Mr. Stephen Wagner, Flotilla 11-02 in the First District (Northern Auxiliary Region).
 - B. Mr. Jason Snelling, Flotilla 01-18 in the Fourteenth District.
6. RDML Joseph A. Servidio, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, sends.
7. Internet release authorized.