

## **ALAUX 16-13 - LOSS OF COAST GUARDSMAN**

19DEC2013

1. FYI:

To the Men and Women of Our Coast Guard Family,

We are saddened to relay news of the tragic loss of Petty Officer Travis Obendorf, who died following injuries he sustained while deployed with the Cutter WAESCHE during a search and rescue mission. As you keep Petty Officer Obendorf's family and shipmates in your thoughts and prayers, please also remember we are often called to operate in an environment which provides little margin of error. In all that you do, make safety your highest priority.

CAPT F. Thomas Boross  
Chief, Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety

2: ALCOAST 540/13:

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ALCOAST 540/13  
COMDTNOTE 1000  
SUBJ: LOSS OF COAST GUARDSMAN

1. It is with great sadness that I report the loss of Boatswains Mate Third Class Travis Raymond Obendorf, CGC WAESCHE, who died at 1134 PST today from injuries sustained on November 11, 2013, while the ship was conducting search and rescue operations in D17 waters.
2. WAESCHE was north of Cold Bay, Alaska, responding to a SAR case involving a disabled fishing vessel. Petty Officer Obendorf was a crew member aboard WAESCHE's small boat and was severely injured during boat operations while assisting passengers from the fishing vessel. Despite a valiant fight over the past month, Petty Officer Obendorf succumbed to his injuries earlier today with his family and shipmates at his side.
3. Petty Officer Obendorf stood the watch on the front lines of Coast Guard operations throughout his nine years of active duty. He previously served aboard Coast Guard Cutter ALERT, at Patrol Forces Southwest Asia in Bahrain and at Coast Guard Station Boston Throughout his Coast Guard service, Petty Officer Obendorf's professionalism and commitment ensured that we were always ready to answer the nation's call. Let us never forget his service and sacrifice.
4. The entire Service is energized to support his family and shipmates. Please keep BM3 Obendorf, his family and shipmates in your thoughts and prayers.
5. Semper Paratus. VADM John Currier, Acting Commandant, sends.
6. Internet release authorized.