



20 APR 2023
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 016/23

Subj: 2023 ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA GOLD AND SILVER AWARDS AND
GEOFF PAGELS SAR PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR AWARDS SOLICITATION

The Coast Guard recently solicited for nominations for the AFRAS Gold and Silver Medals. Nominations must be for calendar year 2022 rescues and must be received by the Coast Guard Office of Search and Rescue (CG-SAR) by May 30, 2023. Please submit nominations in accordance with the guidance below.

Respectfully,
Captain Troy P. Glendye
Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX)

R 191855Z APR 23
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC
TO ALCOAST
BT
UNCLAS
ALCOAST 157/23
SSIC 16100
SUBJ: 2023 ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA GOLD AND SILVER AWARDS
AND GEOFF PAGELS SAR PROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR AWARDS
SOLICITATION
A. Recognition Programs Manual, COMDTINST M1650.26
B. Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1G
1. This ALCOAST solicits nominees for the 2023 Association for the Rescue at Sea (AFRAS) 2023 and Geoff Pagels Search and Rescue (SAR) Professionals of the Year awards.
2. Background.
a. AFRAS Gold and Silver Awards.
(1) Formed in 1976, AFRAS is a non-profit foundation that supports services concerned with saving lives at sea. The AFRAS awards program provides the opportunity for Area and District Commanders, Commanding Officers, and

Officers-in-Charge to recognize deserving Coast Guard personnel for bravery in the conduct of SAR missions.

(2) The AFRAS Gold and Silver Medals are the highest SAR awards presented to a Coast Guard member by a civilian organization.

(a) Gold Medal. Established in 1982, the Gold Medal is presented annually to a Coast Guard enlisted person for an act of extraordinary bravery during a rescue at sea.

(b) Silver Medal. Established in 2000, the Silver Medal (silver reflects the distinctive Auxiliary uniform) is presented annually to a deserving Coast Guard Auxiliarist. A collective nomination may be submitted for members of the same boat or air crew.

b. Geoff Pagels SAR Professionals of the Year Awards. Established in 2023, the Geoff Pagels SAR Professionals of the Year awards honor the legacy of the first Coast Guard civilian SAR Specialist.

3. Awards presentation. The AFRAS Gold and Silver Medals and the Geoff Pagels SAR Professionals of the Year awards will be presented in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., in the Fall of 2023. Ceremony participants often include congressional representatives, AFRAS leadership, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and other senior Coast Guard leaders. Award recipients will be honored at the ceremony and family members are invited to attend.

4. Awards eligibility.

a. AFRAS Gold and Silver Medals. AFRAS selects recipients from among nominations submitted. Award criteria are set forth in REF (A) and reiterated below.

(1) Gold Medal nominees must be enlisted members on active duty at the time of the rescue being recognized. Silver Medal nominees must be Coast Guard Auxiliarists at the time of the rescue being recognized.

(2) The response must involve a lifesaving rescue from the perils of the sea where the heroic actions of the nominee are uniquely distinguished. However, consideration will be given to all rescues involving life-threatening situations.

b. Geoff Pagels SAR Professionals of the Year Awards.

(1) One nomination may be submitted for outstanding contribution to the SAR mission readiness of Coast Guard SAR Professionals. This includes training, relationship building and mentorship.

(2) A second nomination may be submitted for a member or team that demonstrated outstanding professionalism in the planning and coordination of a SAR mission.

c. All award nominations must be for calendar year 2022.

5. Administration.

a. Units are encouraged to submit nominations for both AFRAS Gold and Silver Medals and the Geoff Pagels SAR Professional of the Year Awards to COMDT (CG-SAR). AFRAS Silver Medal nominations must be submitted in accordance with REF (B), Section 11.C.7.

b. All nominations must consist of:

- (1) A cover letter identifying the award recommendation, the nominee and pay grade (if applicable), current duty station/ Auxiliary Flotilla, and expiration of enlistment (if applicable).
- (2) Coast Guard Award Recommendation, Form CG-1650.
- (3) Per REF (A), the award citation.
- (4) 1-2 page summary of action that fully describes the rescue.
- (5) Any additional information pertinent to AFRAS evaluation of the nomination.

c. Forward command endorsed nominations to:

COMDT (CG-SAR), U.S. Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20593-7516
Attn: AFRAS Nomination

d. Award nominations must be received by COMDT (CG-SAR) by 30 MAY 2023.

6. COMDT (CG-SAR) Awards POC: Mr. Mike Clarke (202) 372-2090, Michael.E.Clarke@uscg.mil. Notify Mr. Clarke of a pending award nomination submission.
7. Ms. Dana S. Tulis, Director, Office of Emergency Management (CG-5RI), sends.
8. Internet release is 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 II.

*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.
