



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

05 JUNE 2025
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 021/25

Subj: 2024 AUXILIARY INTEGRATION AWARD PROGRAM RESULTS

1. Please read [ALCOAST 250/25](#), 2024 AUXILIARY INTEGRATION AWARD PROGRAM RESULTS, for the announcement of the award recipients. Congratulations to the following awardees!

- a. Commodore Viggo C. Bertelsen, Jr. and Vice Admiral John P. Currier Awards:
 - (1) Enhanced Mission Support Award: USCGC CHEYENNE (WLR 75405)
 - (2) Enhanced Operations Award: COAST GUARD AIR STATION MIAMI
 - (3) Applied Innovation Award: COAST GUARD SECTOR HOUSTON-GALVESTON
- b. District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX, dpa) of the Year: CDR STEVEN A. KOCH, First District (Southern Region)

2. The ALCOAST is attached to this message for your convenience.

3. 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.

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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC
TO ALCOAST
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ALCOAST 250/25

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SUBJ: 2024 AUXILIARY INTEGRATION AWARD PROGRAM RESULTS

A. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 031508Z JAN 25/ALCOAST 002/25

B. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 131800Z MAR 25/ALCOAST 120/25

1. I am pleased to announce the recipients of the annual Commodore Viggo C. Bertelsen, Jr. and Vice Admiral John P. Currier Awards along with the District Director of Auxiliary of the Year Award.

Bravo Zulu to the following:

a. Enhanced Mission Support Award: USCGC CHEYENNE (WLR 75405) demonstrated exceptional integration of Coast Guard Auxiliary support by utilizing Auxiliary Culinary Assistants (AUXCA-1) to provide over 900 meals during five deployments, maintain galley operations through personnel gaps, and host a formal training program that qualified six new AUXCA-1s. The unit also established a security watchstander program with over 30 days of Auxiliary participation that supported real-world SAR operations, facilitated damage control and security training, and partnered with Auxiliary Public Affairs to significantly enhance mission readiness and community engagement.

b. Enhanced Operations Award: AIR STATION MIAMI's Auxiliary team completed 1,776 operational patrol hours across a fleet of 18 Auxiliary aircraft. These assets supported Sector Key West, Sector Miami, and other homeland security operations, performed a record 402 missions, and saved the Service \$12.4M in operating costs. Their efforts also included critical post-Hurricane Milton flights to help restore port operations, 22 mid-air divers to conduct SAR missions, and sustained presence along maritime approaches, all while seamlessly integrated into daily operations and training alongside active-duty crews.

c. Applied Innovation Award: SECTOR HOUSTON-GALVESTON established strategic Auxiliary partnerships and educational initiatives, including establishment of a chartered Auxiliary University Program at Texas A&M, development of the Coast Guard's first awards program for STEM students, and integration of Auxiliary support into its Partnership in Education team that garnered recognition for excellence. SECTOR HOUSTON-GALVESTON also led beta testing of the Coast Guard Unmanned Aircraft Systems program which included the use of Auxiliary UAS pilots in support of oil spill response, SAR, and hurricane recovery operations which significantly enhanced its operational capability and agility.

d. District Director of Auxiliary (DIRAUX, dpa) of the Year: CDR STEVEN A. KOCH led Auxiliary administration and operations across the Southern and Northern Regions of the First District by supporting over 4,400 members, 289,000 Auxiliary mission hours, and 255 surface and 16 air assets. He launched the district's first Auxiliary Paddlecraft (AUXPAD) Ashore Program, expanded Coast Guard officer commissioning pipelines through the Auxiliary University

Program resulting in 11 new Coast Guard officer accessions, and organized an Auxiliary District Training (DTRAIN) event that delivered 37 training topics to over 350 Auxiliarists.

2. Honorable mention goes to the following nominees by category:

a. Enhanced Mission Support Award: AVIATION TRAINING CENTER resourcefully integrated Auxiliarists across flight operations, medical and spiritual support, and mission coordination. This yielded more than 1,550 Auxiliary flight hours for pilot training, support of 80 aviator qualifications, and critical contributions to SAR, HC-144 drop training, and rescue swimmer proficiency.

b. Enhanced Operations Award: SECTOR LAKE MICHIGAN effectively leveraged Auxiliary resources to bolster its SAR coverage, fill critical station staffing gaps, and ensure uninterrupted radio communications and a safeguarded public during a Rescue 21 outage.

c. Applied Innovation Award: INVESTIGATIONS NATIONAL CENTER OF EXPERTISE creatively integrated Auxiliarists into its marine casualty investigations and public hearings. Most notably, it adeptly leveraged Auxiliary expertise in video production, forensic animation, data analysis, publication design, and interpreter services as part of the investigation into the TITAN submersible tragedy.

3. Nominations were received by 16 Coast Guard units and all of them conveyed exceptionally novel and beneficial integration of Auxiliary resources into Coast Guard mission support and execution.

I applaud the outstanding actions of all awardees and nominees. Your integration of the Auxiliary in fresh and effective ways has increased Coast Guard mission efficiency and provided inspirational models for all Coast Guard units.

4. Plaques for the Commodore Viggo C. Bertelsen, Jr. and Vice Admiral John P. Currier Awards will be sent to the cognizant DIRAUX for coordination of appropriate presentation. The DIRAUX of the Year award will be presented in August.

5. The nine-member selection panel thoroughly reviewed and deliberated the nomination packages across all four categories.

Panel members were:

- a. COMO John P. Feighery, Auxiliary Vice National Commodore
- b. CAPT Brent R. Schmadeke, CG-BSX
- c. CDR Eustacia Y. Weist, CG-BSX-1
- d. LCDR Callan E. Fless, CG-BSX-2
- e. LT David Castillo, CG-7412
- f. BMCM Travis R. Park, CG-BSX-12
- g. YNC Samantha M. Tober, CG-BSX-11
- h. Mr. Stephen J. Minutolo, CG-BSX-11
- i. Mr. David T. Goff, CG-BSX-11

6. POC: Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX-11) at hqs-smb-bsx-cgaux@uscg.mil.

7. RADM W. R. Arguin, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy (CG-5P), sends.

8. Internet release is authorized.