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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-5RI//

TO ALCOAST

UNCLAS //N16100//

ALCOAST 080/17

COMDTNOTE 16100

SUBJ: ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA GOLD AND SILVER AWARDS

A. Recognition Programs Manual, COMDTINST M1650.26 (series)

B. Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 (series)

1. This ALCOAST solicits for nominees for the Association for Rescue at Sea (AFRAS) 2016 Awards.

2. Background.

A. Formed in 1976, AFRAS is a non-profit foundation which 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 search and rescue missions.

B. The AFRAS Gold and Silver Medals are the highest search and rescue awards presented to a Coast Guard member by a civilian organization.

(1) 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.

(2) 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). The nominee must have performed a rescue involving lives saved in either inland or coastal waters where the heroic action of the nominee was uniquely distinguished. However, consideration will be given to all maritime rescues involving life-threatening situations.

3. Awards presentation. Both the Gold and Silver Medals will be presented on 26 September 2017 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Ceremony participants include congressional representatives, AFRAS leadership, 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. AFRAS award eligibility. AFRAS selects recipients from among nominations submitted. Award criteria are set forth in REF A and reiterated below.

A. 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.

B. 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.

C. Nominations must be for Calendar Year 2016 rescues.

5. Administration.

A. Units are encouraged to submit nominations to COMDT (CG-SAR) via their chain of command. District awards boards should review all nominations to ensure compliance with the above criteria. Silver Medal nominations shall be submitted in accordance with REF B, Section 11.C.7.

B. Nominations shall consist of:

(1) A cover letter identifying 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) One page 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 24 April 2017.

6. COMDT (CG-SAR) AFRAS awards POC: Ms. Willie Foster (202) 372-2090. An advance copy of the award nomination can be emailed to Ms. Foster at: willie.m.Foster@uscg.mil.

7. Additional AFRAS information can be found at [www.afras.org](http://www.afras.org).

8. Ms. Dana S. Tulis, Director of Incident Management and preparedness policy, sends.

9. Internet release authorized.