

R 261352Z AUG 10

ALCOAST 432/10

COMDTNOTE 16100

SUBJ: 2009 ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA (AFRAS) AWARD RECIPIENTS

A. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 021913Z APRIL 10/ALCOAST 169/10

1. PER REF (A), THIS MESSAGE ANNOUNCES THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2009 AFRAS GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS. THE GOLD MEDAL IS AWARDED ANNUALLY TO A COAST GUARD ENLISTED MEMBER WHO HAS UNIQUELY DEMONSTRATED SELFLESS COURAGE AND HEROISM DURING A RESCUE AT SEA. THE SILVER MEDAL IS AWARDED ANNUALLY TO A COAST GUARD AUXILIARIST FOR EXTRAORDINARY BRAVERY DURING A RESCUE AT SEA.

2. GOLD MEDAL. THE 2009 GOLD MEDAL IS AWARDED TO AST1 SALVADOR CARIRE, COAST GUARD AIR STATION ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY. AST1 CARIRE IS RECOGNIZED FOR CONSPICUOUS COURAGE AND HEROIC LIFE-SAVING ACTION AT SEA WHILE RESCUING THE LONE SURVIVOR OF THE FISHING VESSEL ALISHA MARIE. ON 23-24 DECEMBER 2009, JUST PRIOR TO MIDNIGHT, THE COAST GUARD RECEIVED AN EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATING RADIO BEACON (EPIRB) ALERT FROM THE 38-FT FISHING VESSEL LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 36 NM SOUTHEAST OF BARNEGAT LIGHT, NEW JERSEY. AFTER AN EXTENDED SEARCH IN LOW VISIBILITY, DRIVING RAIN, AND NEAR THE FUEL ENDURANCE OF THE HELICOPTER, PETTY OFFICER CARIRE SPOTTED THE FAINT, SUBMERGED STROBE LIGHT ON AN OVERTURNED RAFT APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES AWAY. AFTER DEPLOYING INTO 12-FT SEAS, PETTY OFFICER CARIRE SWAM OVER 50 YARDS TO THE INVERTED RAFT AND REALIZED SOMEONE WAS UNDERNEATH. PETTY OFFICER CARIRE RIGHTED THE OVERTURNED RAFT AND FOUND A SEVERELY HYPOTHERMIC SURVIVOR UNDERNEATH. BATTLING FATIGUE, PETTY OFFICER CARIRE READIED THE INCAPACITATED VICTIM FOR A HOIST INTO THE FUEL CRITICAL HELICOPTER. AFTER REJOINING THE CREW IN THE AIRCRAFT, PETTY OFFICER CARIRE BEGAN TREATMENT FOR SHOCK AND HYPOTHERMIA. PETTY OFFICER CARIRE DOMONSTRATED OUTSTANDING COURAGE. HIS PERFORMANCE DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF AS A COURAGEOUS AND HEROIC PROFESSIONAL, AND BROUGHT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF AND THE COAST GUARD.

3. SILVER MEDAL: THE SILVER MEDAL IS AWARDED TO DISTRICT ONE AUXILIARISTS PAUL SADECK, LEO LAKE, ROBERT M. JOSEPH AND RODNEY THOMAS, FOR THE PERILOUS RESCUE OF THREE PERSONS ON 26 AUGUST 2009, WHILE SERVING AS COXSWAIN AND CREW OF THE AUXILIARY VESSEL AMYJULIE. THE AMYJULIE WAS ON ROUTINE PATROL IN BUZZARDS BAY, MASSACHUSETTS, WHEN THE CREW CAME UPON A SWAMPED FISHING VESSEL WITH TWO PEOPLE ONBOARD AND ONE OF THE VICTIMS UNACCOUNTED FOR. DESPITE OPERATING IN 5-FT SEAS AND 25 KNOT WINDS AND, THE CREW QUICKLY ASSESSED THE RISKS AND DEvised A PLAN TO RESCUE THE TWO PERSONS AND SEARCH FOR THE STILL MISSING VICTIM. AFTER SEVERAL FAILED ATTEMPTS TO COME ALONG SIDE THE SWAMPED VESSEL IN THE ROLLING SEAS, THE AMYJULIE CREW THREW LIFE RINGS TO THE TWO MEN AND SWIFTLY PULLED THEM TO THE BOAT. AFTER LISTENING TO THE RESCUED PERSONS ACCOUNTS OF THE INCIDENT, THE CREW IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED THE POTENTIAL LOCATION OF THE THIRD PERSON AND HEADED SOUTHWEST TOWARDS BENTS LEDGE BUOY. DISPLAYING EXCEPTIONAL SKILL AND DETERMINATION IN THE FACE OF CHALLENGING WEATHER AND SEA CONDITIONS, THE CREW OF THE AMYJULIE SIGHTED THE THIRD PERSON THROUGH VICIOUS SEA SPRAY AND HOWLING WINDS, AND BROUGHT HIM SAFELY ONBOARD. THE CREW QUICKLY RETURNED TO PORT, WHERE FAIRHAVEN EMERGENCY RESPONSE OFFICIALS WERE WAITING TO RENDER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. THE COXSWAIN AND CREW OF THE AUXILIARY VESSEL AMYJULIE DEMONSTRATED OUTSTANDING COURAGE, PROFESSIONALISM AND DEDICATION AS THEY SAVED THE LIVES OF THREE PERSONS IN PERILOUS SEAS, BRINGING GREAT CREDIT ON THEMSELVES, THE AUXILIARY AND THE COAST GUARD.

4. THE OTHER AFRAS AWARD NOMINEES, ALL OF WHOM DEMONSTRATED EXCEPTIONAL COURAGE, HAVE FURTHER ENHANCED THE COAST GUARD REPUTATION AS THE LIFE SAVERS AND GUARDIANS OF THE SEA. THESE OUTSTANDING

INDIVIDUALS INCLUDE:

A. AST3 ROBERT D. EMLEY - COAST GUARD GROUP ASTORIA, OREGON.

B. BM2 BENJAMIN M. FOSTER - COAST GUARD CUTTER DORADO, CRESCENT CITY, CALIFORNIA.

5. AWARD RECIPIENTS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT A RECEPTION ON CAPITOL HILL, AT THE RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON DC, 30 SEPTEMBER 2010 (TONOS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF SEARCH AND RESCUE).

6. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AFRAS AWARD RECIPIENTS AND NOMINEES ON A JOB WELL DONE.

7. RELEASED BY RDML C. B. THOMAS, DIRECTOR OF RESPONSE POLICY.

8. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.