



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

20 May 2021

From: Commandant
To: CWO4 John Phillips III, USCG

Subj: LETTER OF COMMENDATION

1. I note with pride and am pleased to commend you for your performance of duty while assigned as the Commanding Officer aboard CGC HAMMER (WLIC 75302) from March 2021 to May 2021. Displaying extraordinary professional competence, you eagerly took command of the CGC HAMMER on extremely short notice due to unforeseen circumstances, setting the highest standard of professionalism and leadership for the crew and maintaining the unit's morale and operations. Exemplifying steadfast dedication, you led the cutter through four underway trips, logging over 250 underway hours and rebuilding 47 aids, ensuring navigational safety of critical strategic operations and facilitating over \$100 billion dollars in commerce in the Southeast United States. Additionally, you expertly led the crew to the northernmost portion of CGC HAMMER's area of responsibility for the first time in three years, clearing an extensive list of discrepancies, some that had been discrepant for over two years. Demonstrating unmatched technical acumen, you adroitly managed all Sector Jacksonville Aids to Navigation functions, balancing Commanding Officer and Aids to Navigation Officer responsibilities and directly contributing to four Sector sub-units leading District 7 in overall ATON performance. Your dedication, commitment, attention to detail and leadership abilities have set a new standard for those at the unit to emulate.

2. You are hereby recommended for your outstanding performance of duty. By your meritorious service you upheld the highest tradition of the United States Coast Guard.

3. You are hereby authorized to wear the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon Bar Gold Star in Lieu of Second. The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

Mark R. Vlaun
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Sector Jacksonville