

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED/  
ROUTINE  
R 291304Z JUL 25 MID180001883821U  
FM CNO WASHINGTON DC  
TO NAVADMIN  
INFO CNO WASHINGTON DC  
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UNCLAS

NAVADMIN 158/25

MSGID/NAVADMIN/CNO WASHINGTON DC/N2N6/JUL//

SUBJ/FISCAL YEAR 2025 OCEANOGRAPHER OF THE NAVY AWARD NOMINATIONS//

REF/A/INST/OPNAV/20JUN19//AMPN/CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS INSTRUCTION  
1650.37A, NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHY AWARD PROGRAM, WHICH ESTABLISHES AWARDS TO  
RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHY//

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RMKS/1. The Naval Oceanography Awards program was established to recognize outstanding achievement in the field of Naval Oceanography by Officers, Chief Petty Officers, and civilians. The awards are sponsored by the Oceanographer of the Navy per reference (a).

2. Awards criteria and eligibility. One awardee will be selected for each of the following awards:

a. Captain Richard C. Steere Award: Recognizes junior officers afloat or ashore for their leadership, performance, special accomplishments, and expert application of the meteorology and oceanography sciences. U.S. Navy Active and Reserve Officers in O1-O3 paygrades with designator 1800 are eligible.

b. The Commander Mary Sears Award: Recognizes mid-grade officers who demonstrate sustained superior performance, outstanding leadership ability, personal initiative, cooperation and adaptability, outstanding military bearing, and exemplary military and professional conduct. U.S. Navy Active and Reserve Officers in O4 paygrade with designator 1800 are eligible.

c. The Chief Aerographers Mate John Dungan Jr. Award: Recognizes Navy senior enlisted in the oceanography community, afloat or ashore, for their leadership, performance, special accomplishments, and expertise in forecasting and analysis in the applied sciences of meteorology and oceanography in support of fleet operations. U.S. Navy Active and Reserve component Chief and Senior Chief Petty Officer Aerographers Mates are eligible.

d. The Matthew Henson Award: Recognizes Naval Oceanography civilian employees for their leadership, performance, special accomplishments, and expert application of meteorology and oceanography sciences in support of Naval operations. Department of the Navy civilian employees at or below the grade of GS13 are eligible.

3. Nominations. The period of eligibility is from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025. Nomination packages should be submitted as specified in reference (a). Packages must arrive to the Oceanographer of the Navy via

email to the message points of contact no later than 15 October 2025. The Oceanographer of the Navy and Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command will convene a joint board consisting of their respective Technical Directors, Senior Enlisted Advisor/Command Master Chief, Executive Assistant/Chief of Staff, and others, as appropriate, who will select awardees based upon paragraph 2 criteria and content of the respective nomination packages. Nominations must be unclassified and submitted on command letterhead by scan and email (preferred) or letter mail. Nomination packages must include:

- a. Name/Rank or Grade, including contact information (phone number and email);
- b. Job title, pay plan, organization occupation code and location;
- c. Date of commission/promotion history (officer) or pay entry base date/advancement history (enlisted);
- d. Active duty assignments/employment (inclusive dates/in reverse chronological order);
- e. Significant prior awards (personal, service, campaign/in reverse chronological order);
- f. Education (year, degree, school, major field of study);
- g. Command letter of endorsement to include the Commanding Officer's contact information (phone number and email);
- h. Significant accomplishments in the past year (bullet format);
- i. One page biography (include membership in professional or scientific societies, civic organizations, etc);

4. Recognition. The Oceanographer of the Navy will announce the award by message on or about the birthday of Naval Oceanography, 6 December 2025, and will recognize the awardee in person or by their respective Commanding Officer.

5. Released by VADM Karl O. Thomas, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, OPNAV N2N6.//

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