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SUBJ/FISCAL YEAR 2025 VICE ADMIRAL JAMES BOND STOCKDALE LEADERSHIP AWARD  
WINNERS//

RMKS/1. This NAVADMIN announces the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 recipients of the Vice Admiral (VADM) James Bond Stockdale Leadership Award. Commander Desmond Walker, Commanding Officer, USS STOUT (DDG 55) (U.S. Fleet Forces Command) and Commander Joseph Campbell, Commanding Officer, USS JIMMY CARTER (SSN 23) (U.S. Pacific Fleet) were selected for their inspirational leadership.

2. This Fleet award was established in honor of VADM James Bond Stockdale, whose distinguished Naval career symbolized the highest standards of excellence in both personal and professional leadership. The award is presented annually to two commissioned officers on Active Duty in the grade of commander or below who are serving in command of a single ship, submarine, aviation squadron, Sea, Air, Land (SEAL) team, Naval special warfare squadron, SEAL delivery vehicle team, special boat team, explosive ordnance disposal mobile unit, mobile diving and salvage unit, or Navy special clearance team during the nomination cycle. Candidates are nominated by peers who themselves must be eligible for the award.

3. The FY25 winners were chosen from among nine outstanding finalists in a review process that included screening at the Fleet commander level and final selection by a board of senior officers.

4. The following finalists deserve well-earned congratulations:

a. U.S. Fleet Forces finalists:

(1) CDR James Higgins, Commanding Officer, EOD Tactical Development Evaluation Squadron

(2) CDR James Kepper, Commanding Officer, USS WEST VIRGINIA (SSBN 736)

(3) CDR Kenneth Kirkwood, Commanding Officer, USS CALIFORNIA (SSN 781)

(4) CDR Hector Marin, Commanding Officer, USS NEW MEXICO (SSN 779)

b. Pacific Fleet finalists:

(1) CDR Thomas Adams, Commanding Officer, USS SPRUANCE (DDG

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(2) SBT 22 CDR Charles Kreuz, Commanding Officer, HSM 77

(3) CDR Matthew Lees, Commanding Officer, SBT 22

5. CDR Joseph Campbell and CDR Desmon Walker, as well as all finalists, should be justifiably proud of their achievements.

6. Awards will be presented at a ceremony on 14 November 2025.

7. This NAVADMIN will be kept for record purposes, and will remain in effect until canceled or superseded, whichever occurs first.

8. Released by Vice Admiral Jeffrey J. Czerewko, N1.//

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