

Date: 07 February 2023

From: David Sedlak, FC - Flotilla 053-08-02

To: Pamela Thompson, DSO-PE

Subj: MAXIM AWARD NOMINATION

**The following background information is provided as per instruction in Maxim Award Nomination Procedures:**

1. Name: Joseph Giannattasio, EMPLID 1211704
2. Unit: 053-08-02
3. Region: Atlantic East

**Commodore Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education Award  
Nomination Package**

**Joseph Giannattasio – Nominee**

**1. Does the nominee present an impeccable appearance with proper and sharp uniform wear?**

Joseph "Joe" Giannattasio consistently maintains an impeccable image through the correct adherence to the Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform guidelines outlined in the USCG Auxiliary Manual (AUXMAN), ensuring appropriateness for various situations and missions. In addition, he upholds a well-groomed and fit demeanor, aligning with the rigorous standards of Active Duty in instances where he frequently provides direct support to Active Duty components. (A full length and a head shot photograph of the candidate in proper uniform is included in the submission package.)

**2. What types of courses are taught by the Nominee in both PE and MT? How many topics can they teach? Describe their level of competence on various education offerings opposed to single focus.**

From 2004 onward, Joseph Giannattasio has provided instruction for more than 800 hours in Public Education and conducted over 900 hours of Auxiliary Member Training and Operational Training. As a former vocational school instructor, a licensed captain, and private pilot, he possesses the skills to effectively prepare and deliver lessons and offering practical guidance. Beyond teaching various Auxiliary and Coast Guard courses to the members at-large, he is also qualified to train numerous instructor trainees ensuring they can successfully carry out the same responsibilities.

**Member Training Courses instructed:**

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| • Auxiliary Leadership Development Program (ALDP) Levels 1-4 | • Coxswain                        |
| • Vessel Examiner  | • Observer (Air Program)          |
| • Program Visitor  | • Navigation Rules 70 & 95        |
| • Instructor   | • Operational Auxiliarist (AUXOP) |
| • Boat Crew  | Core Courses 1-6                  |

**Public Education Courses taught:**

- |                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Boat America (BA)                  | • Kids and Paddlecraft (KNPC)        |
| • Boating Skills & Seamanship (BS&S) | • Personal Watercraft Course (PWC)   |
|                                      | • Sailing Skills & Seamanship (SS&S) |

**Other Training Qualifications:**

- USCG Team Coordination Training Facilitator (TCT-F) - 2007
- Inport Officer Of the Deck - USCGC 87ft. platforms - 2009

**3. Describe their ability to adapt to local needs by adding or adjusting to prepackaged content provided.**

During the emergence of COVID-19 and New Jersey's subsequent restrictions on public gatherings, there was a necessity to transition to virtual meetings and training within the Auxiliary to maintain mission readiness - Joe demonstrated remarkable flexibility. He seamlessly adapted his classroom materials and teaching experience to suit virtual outreach. Embracing virtual instruction allowed him not only to generate and present digital content but also to experiment with methods that rendered virtual presentations pertinent and engaging for students.

#### **4. Describe their use of training aids and development of new or innovative ones.**

For more than two decades, Joe Giannattasio has adeptly embraced emerging technologies and innovative approaches that have proven beneficial for learners and fellow instructors alike. In 2004, when he initially qualified as an Auxiliary IT and PE instructor, technological resources for lesson enhancement were limited to an overhead projector and a portable TV with a DVD player, moved from one flotilla to another. Fast forward twenty years, and the landscape has transformed significantly. In every instance, Joe willingly stepped up to address training needs for both the boating public and his fellow Auxiliary teammates. Presently, in his lessons, Joe has the capability to display slides on a front-of-the-class screen and directly onto members' smart-device screens. He incorporates live annotations and archives these resources in a shared online space for later access. Joe also utilizes various quiz platforms to assess his class's understanding, creates and shares images, animations, and videos to enrich their learning experience, involves students in lessons even when they are offsite, and assigns tasks that allow learners to showcase their comprehension in creative ways.

#### **5. How do the training aids used help understanding of concepts by students?**

Joe's effective use of training aids play a crucial role in enhancing the understanding of concepts and are designed to provide a hands-on and immersive learning experience, helping students grasp complex topics more effectively. Here are several ways in which his training aids contribute to better understanding:

- Practical Application, or 'hands-on' approach helps reinforce concepts and build muscle memory, preparing students for actual operational scenarios.
- Visual Aids, such as charts, diagrams, and multimedia presentations aid in understanding navigation, equipment operation, emergency procedures, and other critical concepts.
- Scenario-Based Training helps individuals develop critical thinking skills, decision-making abilities, and the capacity to respond effectively in dynamic and unpredictable environments.
- Team Collaboration encourages teamwork and collaboration among students by building communication skills, fosters a sense of shared responsibility, and simulates the collaborative nature of Auxiliary operations.

Overall, Joe's practical use of training aids has contributed significantly to a comprehensive and effective learning experience for both Auxiliarists and recreational boating students.

#### **6. Describe their command of the classroom environment to facilitate learning and avoid distractions.**

Joe constantly provides effective direction of the classroom environment, facilitating optimal learning and minimizing distractions. A skilled instructor, he establishes clear expectations and a structured routine, creating a predictable and focused atmosphere. His consistent and fair enforcement of classroom rules helps maintain order and encourages a respectful learning environment. Utilizing engaging teaching methods, interactive activities, and varied instructional approaches, Joe captivates students' interest, reducing the likelihood of distractions. He cultivates open communication channels and builds positive relationships with students encouraging a sense of mutual respect, making the classroom a conducive space for effective learning while minimizing distractions.

**7. Describe how they engage students and hold their attention even during boring parts of instruction.**

Joe is outstanding in engaging students and maintaining their attention during potentially dull segments of instruction by employing a variety of interactive and innovative teaching methods. Incorporating multimedia elements, such as videos, visuals, or interactive simulations, he makes the material more dynamic and visually stimulating. Encouraging active participation through discussions, group activities, or hands-on exercises Joe provides opportunities for students to apply theoretical concepts, promoting a deeper understanding. Additionally, Joe is excellent at injecting humor or real-world examples into a lesson that adds an element of relatability and makes the content more engaging. Joe creates a supportive and inclusive learning environment, where students feel valued and encouraged to share their perspectives, further enhancing overall interest and participation. Ultimately, by diversifying instructional approaches and making the content relevant and interactive, Joe effectively captures and sustains students' attention, even during less captivating portions of a curriculum.

**8. Describe how they inspire students to learn more and to take additional training.**

Inspiring Auxiliarists to pursue continuous learning and additional training, Joe cultivates a culture that values personal and professional development within the organization. His recognizing and awarding the achievements of members who invest time in learning reinforces a sense of accomplishment and motivates others to follow suit. Joe provides clear pathways for advancement, whether through certifications, specialized training programs, or leadership roles, he creates tangible goals that members can strive for. He has established mentorship programs where seasoned members share their experiences and encourage skill development that generates a supportive learning community. Emphasizing the tangible benefits of additional training, such as increased impact of supporting the Coast Guard or enhanced personal growth, Joe's guidance helps members see the value in expanding their skill sets.

**9. Describe their development of new or innovative ways of teaching.**

Joe has developed new and innovative ways of teaching the typical Auxiliarist demographic, often providing a tailored approach that considers their unique learning needs and preferences. In recent years, he has incorporated technology in a user-friendly manner, introducing members to digital tools and online learning platforms designed with intuitive interfaces. Joe has developed personalized and flexible learning plans, accommodating various learning styles to include the diverse needs of prime members. The integration of social and collaborative elements into educational programs, such as group discussions or peer learning, further enhances the overall learning experience for all Auxiliarists.

**10. Describe their ability to serve as a role model or act as a mentor to less experienced Instructors.**

Joseph Giannattasio is a proficient, knowledgeable, and extensively experienced member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and his ability to serve as a role model and mentor to less experienced instructors has fostered a culture of professionalism, expertise, and continuous learning within the flotilla. Through his demonstrated commitment to excellence, ethical conduct, and accomplishments, Joe sets a high standard for others to emulate. By sharing his wealth of experience, providing guidance, and offering constructive feedback, he contributes significantly to the professional development of less experienced instructors. His mentorship not only imparts technical knowledge but also instills the values, leadership qualities, and resilience necessary for navigating the challenges of Coast Guard Auxiliary service. In doing so, Joseph Giannattasio is a source of inspiration, guidance, and support, shaping the next generation of dedicated and capable instructors within the Auxiliary.

### **C. Narrate an answer the following - Why should they win the award?**

Joe Giannattasio serves as an exemplary figure not just for fellow instructors but for everyone, embodying admirable qualities in the way he carries himself, dons the Auxiliary uniforms, guides new members, and contributes to routine tasks like setting up the classroom, obtaining training materials, and promoting the flotilla's PE classes. New and existing members quickly recognize Joe's pivotal role in the organization and often seek his advice. Always accommodating, he recently developed and conducted test-preparation classes to motivate members in preparing for and taking online tests for Instructor, Vessel Examiner, and Program Visitor roles. Joe not only mentors other instructors but also designs classes for them, exemplifying the teaching skills necessary for success. He coaches them on effective teaching methods and cautions against the improper use of presentation software, emphasizing the importance of capturing an audience's attention and interest during presentations. In essence, Joe Giannattasio is the go-to individual in the flotilla for guidance and information on a wide range of Auxiliary topics. His generosity with his time and skills, coupled with his professional and personal demeanor, inspires everyone to continually enhance their abilities in Auxiliary and Public Education instruction.

### **Supporting Attestations**

AMOM Award 2011 - "... Additionally, he participated in numerous District Crew Schools and Coxswain Schools as an instructor and mentor in training operational Auxiliarists. While fulfilling these multiple qualifications, Auxiliarist GIANNATTASIO performed in excess of 500 mission hours demonstrating outstanding commitment and dedication. A USCG Licensed Captain and Private Pilot, as an Auxiliary member he has exhibited superior practical performance and earned the Auxiliary Operational Excellence Award in 2007. ..."

ACM Award 2019 - "... Mr. GIANNATTASIO demonstrated exceptional operational technical proficiency in creating the development and execution of several unique air training exercises: Operation SURFAIR is the first surface/air exercise of this type in the Coast Guard Auxiliary where aircraft vector to, and visually locate, Auxiliary surface vessels in separate areas throughout the district. Another first of its type in the Auxiliary, HUNTAIR exercises create a dynamic interface of Auxiliary air and mobile communication units that demonstrate their operational skills for actual wilderness search and rescue missions. ..."

ACM Award 2021 - "... Commodore GIANNATTASIO worked closely with the District Executive Committee's task force assignment areas of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Auxiliary Awareness and Guidance, supporting district efforts combatting COVID-19, and laid the groundwork for the creation of new virtual meeting and training opportunities for members to grow personally and professionally, to ensure a safe work environment, and the well-being of our members and their families. He vigorously advocated for advanced indoctrination at District training events utilizing teleconferencing, and video instruction technology to improve the safeguards and proficiency of Auxiliarists in the performance of their administrative and operational duties. ..."