

# The Captain Hopley Yeaton Cutter Excellence Award

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Hopley Yeaton was born near Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1740 and went to sea at an early age. He became a merchant captain as a young man and saw service in the Continental Navy during the War for Independence in 1776. He was active with the Sons of Liberty, served as an officer on board the Continental frigates *Raleigh* and *Deane*, and commanded the cutters *Scammel*, *New Hampshire*, and the *Governor Gilman* of the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service.

Congress established the Revenue Marine—forerunner service to the U.S. Coast Guard—in 1790 at the behest of the first Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton. The Revenue Marine was initially comprised of ten cutters. On March 21, 1791, President George Washington appointed Hopley Yeaton as the first seagoing officer of the United States. Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson signed his commission. Captain Yeaton was assigned to command the Revenue Marine cutter *Scammel* for patrol duty along the coast from New Hampshire to Calais, Maine. His duties included countering smuggling and piracy and enforcing the maritime boundary with Canada. Captain Yeaton was also the first to propose formal training of young men for service aboard cutters. Today, Hopley Yeaton is regarded as the Father of the Coast Guard.

The Captain Hopley Yeaton Cutter Excellence Award annually recognizes one major cutter (210 feet or greater) and one small cutter (175-feet and smaller), that have demonstrated mission excellence while maintaining a strong commitment to work-life and crew morale.

## Award Criteria

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To merit this award, the cutter must distinguish itself from other units through exceptional performance in categories including, but not limited to:

1. Operations and mission accomplishment
2. Cutter training and readiness
3. Engineering
4. Impact to the Fleet and examples of accomplishments for this cutter (i.e., buoy tenders conducting counter-drug pursuit missions, WMECs conducting ATON, etc.)
5. Commitment to crew and families

**Recommendations:** The Coast Guard Cuttermen Association will solicit nominations via ALCOAST message annually. The award period will be adjusted based on the calendar year (January-December).

# Nomination Procedures

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- Nominations may be submitted by any Coast Guard member or civilian employee using the specified memorandum template, not to exceed two pages. Each nomination must be typed using Times New Roman (12 point) font with one inch margins. Do not deviate from the template.
- Nomination packages will include the formatted data extract summarizing unit metrics so as to provide more space on the memorandum for other accomplishments.
- The nomination packages will be routed through the cutter's ADCON. No additional written endorsement is required or desired from ADCON, other than a forwarding signature. ADCONs can and should reject nominations that are not worthy of forwarding.
- The nomination package will be forwarded to COMDT CG-751 in accordance with the timelines specified in the ALCOAST. Specifically, scanned copies of signed/endorsed nominations may be sent by email to LCDR Craig Allen ([craig.h.allen@uscg.mil](mailto:craig.h.allen@uscg.mil)).
- Please save PDF under the naming convention: cuttername\_award\_year (e.g. cgcingham\_yeatonaward\_2015)
- Address nominations mailed via USPS first class mail to the Coast Guard Cuttermen Association, c/o Commandant (CG-751), U.S. Coast Guard HQ, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE, Washington DC 20593-7907. Note: Commands using this method should allow sufficient time for security screening to meet the deadline.
- The National Cuttermen Association will convene a selection panel comprised of active duty officers, enlisted, and retired Cuttermen, representing all facets of cutter operations to review the nominations and make recommendations to the Coast Guard Cuttermen Association for approval.
- The winners will be announced via ALCOAST and will be recognized at the annual Surface Navy Association Symposium in Washington, DC in January of each year.