From: Commandant

To: LTJG Howard A. Rittenhouse, 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 Lead Acquisition Information System Security Officer (ISSO) for the Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber, and Intelligence Acquisition Office at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC, from July 2021 to May 2023. During this period, you demonstrated superior professionalism and technical acumen in identifying and mitigating high risk cyber vulnerabilities in the Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) Scan Eagle to keep the program operational on National Security Cutters. You diligently collaborated with internal and external stakeholders to implement Cyber Defense in Depth measures for aviation surveillance systems. These measures enabled the use of CG UAS to conduct wide area near real time reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition, command and control, and special operations missions. Demonstrating exceptional collaboration, you led efforts to authorize installation and operation of the Maven Appliance (MAPP) in tandem with the small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) onboard Coast Guard assets. This third-party provided computer system allowed sensor input data to be processed and streamed to Coast Guard video monitors with enhanced metadata that improved object detection, classification, and tracking of Targets-of-Interest. You displayed exceptional servant leadership through consistent support of the National Naval Officers Association and expertly led training for over 300 Coast Guard members during the renowned Leadership Lecture Series. As an excellent representative of the Coast Guard, you masterfully performed as a White House Social Aide during ceremonial occasions while also representing the Coast Guard in the local community, selflessly volunteering of over 100 hours to the United Planning Organization and as an assistant coach of the Gwynn Park High School Baseball Team.

2. You are commended for your outstanding performance of duty. By your meritorious service you have upheld the highest traditions 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 a second).

For the Commandant,

V. J. Skwarek

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

Assistant Program Executive Officer, C5I