

Subj: 2011 STEPHEN DECATUR AWARD FOR OPERATIONAL COMPETENCE
NOMINATION ICO LIEUTENANT COMMANDER

h. Comments: Enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded in support of my strongest possible recommendation for selection.

2. My point of contact for this award nomination is
who can be reached at _____, email:


D. A. MURIANO

Copy to:
COMEODGRU TWO
COMNECC (N2)

NOMINATION NARRATIVE FOR LIEUTENANT COMMANDER

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Lieutenant Commander is strongly recommended for award of the 2011 Stephen Decatur Award for Operational Competence for his exceptional achievements while serving as the Operations Officer of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit SIX (ECDMU SIX), Norfolk, VA and Operations Officer / Deputy for Defeat the Device Line of Operation Operations for Combined Joint Task Force Paladin Southwest (CJTF Paladin SW), Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Commander exceptional professional expertise, outstanding performance, and uncompromising commitment to excellence make him a most worthy candidate for the 2011 Stephen Decatur Award for Operational Competence.

Lieutenant Commander performance as CJTF Paladin SW's Operations Officer and Deputy for Defeat the Device Line of Operation has been nothing short of extraordinary. CJTF Paladin SW provides Counter Improvised Explosive Device and Explosive Ordnance Disposal direct support to Commander Regional Command Southwest, Afghanistan. Lieutenant Commander has expertly managed the employment of CJTF Paladin SW's limited Explosive Ordnance Disposal assets and led all efforts aimed at defeating insurgent Improvised Explosive Device training, tactics, and procedures. He is directly responsible for the operational employment of 18 Joint Service Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams operating across Regional Command Southwest, Helmand Province - *the most active region in Afghanistan* for kinetic operations and insurgent use of Improvised Explosive Devices. Furthermore, he is responsible for three Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams operating across Regional Command West, Afghanistan. Lieutenant Commander provides outstanding planning support to Regional Command Southwest and directs a Combined Joint Tactical Operations Center, providing Commander, CJTF Paladin SW and Director, Regional Command Southwest Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Cell with the most accurate and timely operational, intelligence, and battle space common operational picture information.

Within weeks of arriving in Afghanistan, Lieutenant Commander implemented numerous processes and policy changes that significantly improved staff functions, communications, information sharing, and reporting quality. He realigned CJTF Paladin SW's J3 and J5 directorate functions within the Defeat the Device Line of Operation in order to more efficiently achieve the Commander's mission, intent, and end state. He

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personally established a revised Tactical Operations Center Standard Operating Procedure, which enhanced situational awareness, increased reporting accuracy, and resulted in more rapid operational information flow. Lieutenant Commander simplified subordinate unit reporting requirements in order to reduce the administrative burdens placed upon Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians and units, returning valuable man-hours to the Commander. He revised the CJTF Paladin SW CONOP approval process to ensure proper utilization of Joint Service Explosive Ordnance Disposal forces. He enhanced liaison with Task Force subordinate units, clearing months of backlogged logistical and operational challenges which were hindering Explosive Ordnance Disposal force capacity and quality of life.

In preparation for deployment as CJTF Paladin SW, Lieutenant Commander worked extensively with II Marine Expeditionary Force (the incoming Commander of Regional Command Southwest) Counter Improvised Explosive Device Division, to identify ways to fuse the two staffs and eliminate redundancies and foster greater efficiencies and information sharing. He also provided in-depth briefs on the Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Improvised Explosive Device Defeat, and intelligence capabilities inherent to EODMU SIX / CJTF Paladin SW.

As EODMU SIX Operations Officer, Lieutenant Commander led the Headquarters Staff and 10 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Platoons through a 10-month basic and advanced training phase in preparation for world-wide deployment. He is responsible for over \$200 million of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Platoon and Mobile Unit Table of Allowance and Theater Provided Equipment. He is directly responsible for over 300 items of Secret, NATO Secret, Critical Nuclear Weapons Design Information, and Special Category classified material and systems. Lieutenant Commander improved quality of service for EODMU SIX's Sailors and Officers by greatly enhancing working conditions, maintenance areas, and gear security. He oversaw the design, budgeted, and procured mezzanine storage platforms, sun-shade awnings, and individual gear lockers which.

Lieutenant Commander performance as Operations Officer was critical to EODMU SIX's pre-deployment certification process, to include the successful completion of Commander, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group TWO's pre-deployment Certification Exercise. Lieutenant Commander leadership, technical expertise, and Operational Planning skills were critical to responding to the multitude of exercise

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scenarios. Because of his efforts, EODMU SIX achieved "ready to deploy" certification and was singled out by the Immediate Superior in the Chain of Command as being superior to all prior Mobile Unit certifications. In planning for the Certification Exercise, Lieutenant Commander coordinated the movement of EODMU SIX's Battalion Staff and Expeditionary Support Unit personnel and equipment from Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, VA to Ft. Pickett, VA. While Ft. Pickett was used as the final Certification Exercise location, Lieutenant Commander conducted extensive research and pre-planning for possible locations in Key West and Mayport, Florida and Charleston, SC.

Lieutenant Commander displays an in-depth working knowledge of the Navy Planning Process and the Marine Corps Planning Process; further, he is an outstanding mentor and trainer for EODMU SIX Battalion Staff / CJTF Paladin SW personnel with limited exposure to Operational Planning. Lieutenant Commander shows an extraordinary ability to leverage the logistical, intelligence, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Salvage and Diving skills and experience inherent in the two staffs.

Lieutenant Commander expert Operational Planning, inspirational leadership, and technical expertise in Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Underwater Mine Countermeasures, Diving and Salvage, and Naval surface operations were absolutely critical to EODMU SIX's successful participation in Homeland Defense Exercise Frontier Sentinel. During the exercise, Lieutenant Commander pioneered a new way of operating with regard to Mine Countermeasures Battle Space ownership. This was a first-of-its kind scenario in which the Underwater Mine Countermeasures Commander actually owned and was responsible for Battle Space, not just assets. Lieutenant Commander expertly managed the Underwater Mine Countermeasures Commander's assigned Battle Space, which required extensive coordination with Navy and U.S. Coast Guard units and the Air Mine Countermeasures Commander's rotary wing assets. Lieutenant Commander was responsible for directing search assets and developing a search plan - not simply the employing, reacquiring and neutralization of assets.

In responding to the range of exercise scenarios presented, Lieutenant Commander exhibited an in-depth knowledge of voice, hard-copy and other reporting requirements, doctrine, policies and programs. He personally led distinct Operational Planning cells encompassing the range of Underwater Mine

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Countermeasures, Diving and Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal mission areas and scenarios. He provided the Commanding Officer with high-quality, well-researched mission planning and decision making products, which enabled optimal employment and allocation of limited forces and resources. He was directly responsible for the operational employment, control, tracking and management of over 100 personnel representing seven different Navy and U.S. Coast Guard commands, to include a Canadian Fleet Diving Unit Salvage Team. Lieutenant Commander also served as the lead planner during a real-world search for unmanned underwater vehicles lost in the Chesapeake Bay shipping lane. Lieutenant Commander efforts not only contributed to the success of Exercise Frontier Sentinel 2010, but also directly increased Mine Countermeasures combat readiness of U.S. Northern Command!

Displaying great foresight and initiative in preparation for EODMU SIX's Afghanistan deployment, Lieutenant Commander coordinated a joint EODMU SIX and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Expeditionary Support Unit TWO trip to Washington D.C. to establish working relationships with different national intelligence agencies that provide reach back support to both the Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Intelligence communities. His efforts have improved the fusion between operations and intelligence, enabling better support to the warfighter.

Lieutenant Commander is an outstanding mentor and role model, committed to the professional and career development of his subordinates. He actively prepared and qualified three candidates for Explosive Ordnance Disposal professional qualification boards. He personally submitted and had Sailors selected for Officer Candidate School, Seaman to Admiral, Combat Meritorious Advancement, and the 2010 United Serviceman's Organization (USO) Sailor of the Year. He mentors and trains ten junior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officers-in-Charge, emphasizing Naval Leadership, professionalism, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal specific issues. As a testament to the mentorship and training Lieutenant Commander provides, his Officers-in-Charge are now operating successfully and independently, leading small teams in locations that include Afghanistan, Iraq, Horn of Africa, and Bahrain.

Lieutenant Commander performance as Operations Officer has been exceptional in every aspect. He has provided exceptional guidance and leadership to the Sailors and Officers of EODMU SIX. His efforts have firmly established EODMU SIX's

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Operations Department as the model for other East Coast Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Units. He has directly and positively impacted the operational readiness of EODMU SIX and all of its subordinate Platoons deploying in support of Fleet, Joint Task Force, and Combatant Commanders. His leadership, coupled with his personal dedication to EODMU SIX Sailors and their mission, has been instrumental to the command's success. Furthermore, Lieutenant Commander is a model of exemplary military appearance, physical readiness, and professional conduct. Lieutenant Commander Hanna has earned my strongest possible personal recommendation and is most deserving of the 2011 Stephen Decatur Award for Operational Competence.

PROPOSED CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE 2011 ANNUAL NAVY LEAGUE SEA
SERVICE AWARDS STEPHEN DECATUR AWARD FOR OPERATIONAL COMPETENCE
TO
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER
UNITED STATES NAVY

Lieutenant Commander performance and achievements as Operations Officer for Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit SIX (EODMU SIX), Norfolk, VA and Operations Officer and Deputy for Defeat the Device Operations for Combined Joint Task Force Paladin Southwest (CJTF Paladin SW), Helmand Province, Afghanistan have been exceptional in every aspect.

His leadership of EODMU SIX's Battalion Headquarters Staff and 10 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Platoons has advanced the operational readiness of Explosive Ordnance Disposal assets deploying world-wide in support of Fleet, Joint Task Force, and Combatant Commanders. Lieutenant Commander has provided exceptional guidance and leadership to the Sailors and Officers of EODMU SIX. His efforts have firmly established EODMU SIX's Operations Department as the model for other East Coast Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Units. His leadership, coupled with his personal dedication to EODMU SIX Sailors and their mission, has been instrumental to the command's success.

Lieutenant Commander has expertly managed the employment of CJTF Paladin SW's limited Explosive Ordnance Disposal assets and led all efforts aimed at defeating insurgent Improvised Explosive Device training, tactics, and procedures. He expertly employed 18 Joint Service Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams operating across Regional Command Southwest, Helmand Province - the most active region in Afghanistan for kinetic operations and insurgent use of Improvised Explosive Devices. He not only improved CJTF Paladin SW's intra-Staff communications, information sharing, and reporting quality, but also enabled better fusion with the Marine Expeditionary Force staff serving as Regional Command Southwest. His efforts have resulted in improved Counter Improvised Explosive Device support to the warfighter.