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News Release

IAEM-USA Announces the 2023 USC Auxiliary Emergency Manager of the Year

Oct. 19, 2023 (Falls Church, Va.) – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has selected Matthew Hammons as the IAEM-USA 2023 USC Auxiliary Emergency Manager of the Year. The award will be presented at the President’s Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Nov. 8 at the 71st IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX in Long Beach, California.

Matthew Hammons 2023 USC Auxiliary Emergency Manager of the Year

Matthew has an impressive service and leadership track record in emergency management and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. His extensive experience, awards, and accomplishments demonstrate his dedication to the field and his commitment to enhancing emergency response capabilities.

His roles in the Planning Section of the Sector New Orleans Incident Management Team during multiple hurricane seasons highlight his ability to manage and coordinate response efforts during high-stress situations. His service as a Division and Flotilla staff officer for Marine Safety and Incident Management and his role as an assistant sector liaison officer showcase his commitment to ensuring safety and effective response in the maritime domain.

Matthew’s leadership as a Flotilla commander and recognition with the John C. Uzee Award for Most Outstanding Flotilla underline his ability to lead and inspire others within the Coast Guard Auxiliary. His completion of the Leadership Development Curriculum and his role as the National Staff Officer for ICS Interface for Public Information demonstrate his commitment to continuous learning and improving emergency management practices.

The numerous awards and medals he has received, including the Marine Safety Award, the Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal, and the Meritorious Team Commendation, highlight his exceptional contributions to the field. His dedication to training and education, including instructing ICS courses and FEMA’s Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program, reflects his commitment to building

capacity within the emergency management community.

Additionally, Matthew's achievement of becoming the first Auxiliarist to earn the Master Military Emergency Management Specialist Badge is a testament to his expertise in the field. His completion of various courses, including the DoD's Humanitarian Assistance Response Training and the USCG's Liaison Officer Course, further showcases his commitment to professional development.

Finally, Matthew's ability to adapt and contribute effectively, as seen in his transition from the Situation Unit to the Demobilization Unit during Hurricane Ida, demonstrates his flexibility and problem-solving skills. His creation of and teaching courses for liaison officers and agency representatives highlight his commitment to knowledge sharing and capacity building.

Matthew's extensive experience, leadership, and contributions to emergency management and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, dedication to improving response capabilities, and commitment to learning and teaching deserve this award.

The IAEM-USA USC Auxiliary Emergency Manager of the Year Award recognizes one individual who made extraordinary emergency management volunteer contributions as a uniformed services auxiliary organization member.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,800 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance, the Certified Emergency Manager program, annual scholarships, a comprehensive monthly newsletter, and more.

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