

D7's Own Named Finalist for Coast Guardsman of the Year

Story by PA2 Bobby Nash, PADET Jacksonville, Fla.

One of District Seven's own was recently honored as an everyday hero by the Navy Times. Petty Officer 1st Class (MST1) Anthony Clark, of Sector Charleston, S.C., was named a finalist in June for the Navy Times Coast Guardsman of the year for 2008.

The award differs from other similar honors because nominees can be presented from any Navy Times reader. That means the grass-roots award recipient can be nominated by their parents, friends and shipmates.

"I had no idea this was even coming. It's nice to know that your peers look up to you and appreciate the hard work you do," said Clark.

In keeping with the spirit of the nomination process, the criteria for nomination are fairly simple as well. According to the Navy Times Web site, nominees simply should demonstrate pride, dedication and courage beyond what is expected. They should also show concern for their fellow service members, their community and the country they serve.



Petty Officer 1st Class Anthony R. Clark, a Marine Science Technician and returning member of the Coast Guard's Redeployment, Assistance and Inspection Detachment (RAID) Team IV, stands at parade rest during an awards ceremony at the Atlantic Area Headquarters, Oct. 16, 2007. Photo by PA2 Kip Wallow.

Clark's regular duties at Sector Charleston include acting as the lead petty officer of the waterways division, and he is in charge of the containers and facilities inspections. He also spearheaded the Trident Program, which used Auxiliarists as force augmenters in Juneau, Alaska. Clark spent a lot of his personal time training the Auxiliary and ensuring they were qualified in prevention related missions.

Clark was also named the Atlantic Area Enlisted Person of the Year for 2007. He earned the prestigious award for his role on the Coast Guard's Redeployment, Assistance and Inspection Detachment (RAID) Team IV. Clark served as one of the lead RAID Team inspectors in support of the 840th Deployment Distribution Support Battalion in Balad, Iraq. While serving with the division Clark was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the U.S. Central Command Combat Patch and the Army Expert Pistol Badge.

Each military service will have its own top service member named by the editorial staff of Army Times Publishing Company. Each winner will receive a week's trip to Washington, D.C., with all expenses paid for two, a formal awards reception, ceremony and sponsor after-party on Capitol Hill. They will also receive a luncheon with Military Times editors and reporters, and a tour of the publishing company and newspaper printing plant.

In 2006, another D7 coastie was given the same honor by the Navy Times. Petty Officer 3rd Class (HS3) Angelica Hopkins-Slayton, of the CGC Dallas, was last year's recipient. Highlights of her award included her role as one of two medical personnel aboard the cutter while caring for more than 80 Cuban migrants brought aboard. She also helped repair a school in the Dominican Republic.