



## All Hands Messages

### *Update to Accident Involving CG-6505*

To the Men and Women of the Coast Guard:

This “All Hands” updates the status of the tragic loss of CG-6505 last week. Three of the four flight crew were recovered without vital signs and one remains missing. Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, Hawaii Air National Guard as well as local fire and police assets conducted an exhaustive search over the past four days. Regretfully, we have not located our missing pilot, Commander Thomas Nelson, the Executive Officer of Air Station Barbers Point. The search has been suspended and his family has been notified.

Commander Nelson, Lieutenant Commander Andrew Wischmeier, Aviation Survival Technician First Class David Skimin, and Aviation Maintenance Technician Second Class Joshua Nichols made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country. They leave a legacy of dedication, courage and commitment to their Nation and humanity. We will honor the crew of CG-6505 by continuing to perform operations safely and effectively.

These last few days have been excruciating for the families, friends and fellow crew members of these fallen Guardians. The entire Coast Guard will continue to provide whatever support we can during this difficult time. Vice Admiral Pecoske, the Pacific Area Commander, will provide details, as they become available, on the funerals and/or memorial services and how to express condolences to the families.

As Guardians, we constantly train and hone our skills in order to operate in hazardous conditions. However, no amount of training can ever prepare us to lose a shipmate or an aircrew. Each person grieves in their own way and I encourage you to keep a weather eye towards the people you live and work with on a daily basis. Thank you for your devotion to the Coast Guard and to each other.

Admiral Thad Allen  
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

