



Brandon T. Potratz
Health Services Technician Second Class Petty Officer (HS2)
USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)
2013 Enlisted Person of the Year Award



Commander Stephen V. Burdian, Commanding Officer of USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621) takes great pride in naming Petty Officer Second Class Brandon T. Potratz as VALIANT's 2013 Enlisted Person of the Year!

Petty Officer Brandon Potratz is assigned to USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621) home ported at Naval Station Mayport where he serves as the Independent Duty Health Services Technician.

Petty Officer Potratz was raised in Phoenix, Arizona, and at age 13 became an active member of the Naval Sea Cadets Corps where he completed numerous trainings with the Coast Guard, Navy, and Marine Corps. Notably, he was selected for an international exchange program to visit Australia for two weeks and was also underway on the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76) during its two month transit from Norfolk, Virginia to its homeport of San Diego, California. These experiences led him to join the Coast Guard.

He attended Health Services Technician A-School, at Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma, California. Upon graduation, Petty Officer Potratz reported to USCGC MUNRO (WMEC 724) in Kodiak, Alaska where he performed duties as a shipboard Health Services Technician. Working under the tutelage of the Chief Health Services Technician, Petty Officer Potratz completed numerous search and rescue cases and assisted with the medical evacuations of crew members and civilians throughout the waters of Alaska.



Petty Officer Potratz reported to CGC VALIANT in July 2012 where he immediately worked to assist crew members and their families transition from Base Miami Beach to Naval Station Mayport. Petty Officer Potratz operates a full care sick bay on board. In 2013, he treated 96 patients, administered six onsite labs, distributed 67 prescriptions, and managed the care of 129 migrants and six detainees. Petty Officer Potratz's advice and recommendations to VALIANT's Command were essential to guaranteeing exceptional patient care. He routinely worked overtime and often took his personal time to assist crewmembers in times of need, especially when unexpected hospital visits occurred. He expertly instructed the battle dressing station personnel at the March 2013 Tailored Ship's Training Availability as they achieved an average score of 95% on all drills and exercises directly contributing to VALIANT receiving the Coast Guard "E" Award for Overall Operational Readiness Excellence. He has been the go-to corpsman in the Mayport Basin, providing other visiting cutters with drill cards and lessons learned from the training cycle. The lead medical trainer at Afloat Training Group member stated, "HS2 Potratz sets a great example for the rest of the fleet to follow."

Petty Officer Potratz recently completed over five years sea time and earned his Coast Guard permanent cutterman insignia. He has also contributed to the local Jacksonville community where took his personal time on Thanksgiving to donate food and help set up dinner for a local homeless shelter so that less than fortunate individuals could enjoy the holiday.

He continues to set the standard for his shipmates and looks for new ways to excel and accept greater responsibility. In addition to his duties as the corpsman, Petty Officer Potratz is also the Berthing Area Master at Arms, TRICARE Advisor, Damage Control Training Team Member, Integrated Training Team (ITT) Member, and Alternate Command Drug and Alcohol Representative (CDAR). He recently served as the acting Morale Committee Chairman. LCDR Rob Kuhl, a physician assistant at Helicopter Interdiction Squadron (HITRON) who works directly with him said it best, "Petty Officer Potratz's professional expertise exceeds expectations. He certainly embodies the Coast Guard core values and is a great asset to the VALIANT and the Coast Guard."

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