

September 24, 2010

From: Commandant

To: Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles Safety Department

Subj: CAPTAIN MARION "GUS" SHRODE AVIATION SAFETY AWARD

1. I note with pride and am pleased to commend LT Dill, LT Miles and LEUT Cooper on their selection as the recipients of the 2010 Captain Marion "Gus" Shrode Aviation Safety Award.
2. With the recent increase in border security missions, the Safety Department was instrumental in the development of field-level tactical patrol procedures for joint operations with the U.S. Border Patrol. The patrols resulted in the capture of 41 illegal migrants, six human traffickers, two vehicles, \$6,800 in cash, and three tons of marijuana. The Safety Department provided critical input and oversight for this mission that ensured crew and aircraft safety in demanding flight profiles in the high threat border environment. In an effort to identify potential operational hazards during pre-mission planning, the Safety Department implemented a formal unit practice to identify hazards, outline mitigation strategies, and document the results of this process with a numerical and color-coded score in ALMIS. This valuable metric allowed greater transparency and enhanced risk awareness throughout the Eleventh Coast Guard District. Recognizing that aircrew training minimums do not guarantee proficiency, the Safety Department sought creative means to evaluate proficiency based on time between events. Using a color-coded matrix to highlight the time between critical maneuvers, this new tracking tool enables aircrews to structure training missions to specifically target those evolutions that have had the most time lapse between events. Devoted to continually monitoring unit safety, the team conducted a mid-year safety survey designed to capture emerging trends and operational practices that were drifting from acceptable standards. This survey brought forth shortcomings of the unit's personal protective equipment (PPE) storage location. The team, in partnership with the unit's Flight Standards Board, crafted an innovative solution — two mobile PPE carts. These carts, similar to the aircraft tool carts, are wheeled to aircraft undergoing maintenance. By providing readily available protective gear to the work site, this initiative increased safety, work quality, and efficiency, and decreased the time required to complete scheduled maintenance.
3. The dedication displayed by Air Station Los Angeles Safety Department's toward enhancing aviation safety at the unit is truly exemplary. Your names will be placed on the Captain Marion "Gus" Shrode Aviation Safety Award Plaque in the Aviator Hall of Honor at the Coast Guard Aviation Training Center, Mobile, Alabama.

For the Commandant,

MARK J. TEDESCO  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service  
Director, Health, Safety and Work-life