

2023 Geoff Pagels SAR Professional of the Year

Individual Award

Presented to:

Mr. Doug Samp

The 2023 Geoff Pagels SAR Professional of the Year Award for Outstanding Contribution to SAR Readiness has been awarded to Mr. Doug Samp, while serving as the Joint PACAREA/District 11 SAR Program Manager. Mr. Samp's exceptional achievements have had enterprise-wide and National-level impacts, and his efforts went well beyond the requirements of his position.

Mr. Samp managed the District 11 SAR program, providing invaluable planning, training, and oversight to the District's 2,400 active duty, reserve, and civilian employees. During 2022, District 11 managed over 2,065 SAR cases, resulting in 469 lives saved, 2,282 lives assisted, and \$2.6 million in property saved in the execution of the Coast Guard SAR mission.

Mr. Samp's initiative, charisma, and infectious enthusiasm built external awareness and support for maritime SAR, which directly led to new partnerships across the Indo-Pacific, Latin America, various California civil agencies, and the broader maritime public. Partnering with the Ocean Rowing Society, he created the District 11 Ocean Adventure Task Force to develop reasonable and comprehensive safety requirements and regulations, and Coast Guard monitoring of these high-risk transoceanic voyages.

He also collaborated with the National Weather Service to identify, forecast, and disseminate advisories where weather conditions can cause "sneaker waves," resulting in a 70 percent decrease in deaths.

Mr. Samp served as the lead U.S. representative for SAR at the Pacific Partnership forum in the Philippines and conducted exercises with the Japan Coast Guard, Philippines Coast Guard, and Palawan civil authorities. Establishing the first ever Eastern Pacific SAR Forum, he created a large-scale forum to share best practices and improve communications, reducing workload for the U.S. and improving relationships with Mexico, Panama, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Chile.

Mr. Samp's enduring legacy of accomplishments and influential contributions to the SAR program and superior mission execution will continue to resonate through those he has mentored and educated. He is regarded by his peers as one of the finest and most dedicated SAR professionals in our Service.