

## SURFACE FORCE INDEPENDENT DUTY CORPSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



The Surface Force Independent Duty Corpsman Award was established to identify highly motivated and specially trained Hospital Corpsman representing SURFLANT and SURFPAC to manage health programs and provide primary care under indirect supervision at sea.

**HMC (SW/EXW/FMF/PJ)  
JOSHUA BEARD, USN  
USS ANTIETAM (CG 54)**

HMC Beard's service to the Navy, to ANTIETAM, and to his shipmates is reflected in the sustained superior performance of his duties as ANTIETAM's Senior Medical Department Representative/Independent Duty Corpsman. Every inspection of his department is conducted with confidence and completed with perfection. His actions have resulted in ANTIETAM receiving accolades from numerous superiors, including the 7th Fleet Surgeon for his role in bringing Tactical Combat Casualty Care to the Surface Force, qualifying 100% of the crew. The definitive proof of his numerous successes is in the metrics and the overall health of ANTIETAM's Sailors. Under his care ANTIETAM maintains 99% overall medical readiness, despite executing the highest OPTEMPO of all surface ships throughout the Navy and having no access to routine care for 8 months. He is the consummate professional and has earned his commanders complete trust and confidence! Chief Beard seeks out responsibility, assuming duties as Section Leader, Exceptional Family Member Coordinator, and Command Fitness Leader. His efforts drastically turned around the personal readiness aboard and reinvigorated the crew to choose a lifestyle of fitness. Aboard the first Bubble Ship for COVID, he developed and executed the first COVID outbreak drill in 7th Fleet and maintained ANTIETAM's "bubble" for more than 8 months - the longest COVID free ship deployed in the 7th Fleet. During deployment, HMC Beard provided numerous critical and life-saving procedures at sea, with 36 additional medical evacuations conducted under his care resulting in zero casualties, and praise from the strike group Senior Medical Officer for his outstanding care. Chief Beard's clinical care of Sailors is self-evident. He has received near-perfect monthly reviews from both his Physician Supervisor and the Strike Group Senior Medical Officer (SMO). His Physician Supervisor stated that Chief Beard is undoubtedly the "Best of 7th Fleet IDC's." Chief Beard's Medical Department was selected by the Strike Group SMO as the training platform for junior IDCs from USS RONALD REAGAN. Chief Beard was the best provider to train the next generation of IDCs across 3 Cruisers, 7 Destroyers, and the Senior Doctors, Nurses, and Physician Assistants aboard RONALD REAGAN. Chief Beard's successes have been the result of his exceptional dedication to his Sailors. ANTIETAM Sailors know that regardless of the hour, or whether he is aboard or at home, Chief Beard will always be there to provide care and treatment. There is no other Hospital Corpsman throughout the fleet more deserving of this recognition!

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**HM1 (SW)  
SCOTT SOOTS, USN  
USS STOUT (DDG 55)**

HM1 Soots is a true professional and technical expert. There is no stronger IDC in the Fleet, who has demonstrated sustained superior performance in an afloat Surface Force IDC billet throughout FY20. HMI Soots operates well above the level expected of even the U.S. Navy's best First-Class Petty Officers, easily meeting the responsibility, maturity, and leadership expected from an experienced HMCS. HMI Soots was hand selected by CNSL for a no-notice reassignment from OSCAR AUSTIN to STOUT in November 2020. He successfully worked through a holiday and pre-deployment standdown to

correct significant shortfalls in medical readiness prior to the start of COMPTUEX and a January 2020 operational deployment. HMI Soots hit the ground running on day one, addressing a medical readiness of 49%, achieving 80% prior to deployment, and 93% prior to STOUT's return to homport. While independently deployed on STOUT without organic MEDEVAC assets, HM1 and his team managed over 300 patient visits with only eight patients requiring medical evacuation while operating in the C5F and C6F AORs. His outstanding medical knowledge, the ability to remain calm under stress, and his communication/coordination amongst two Carrier Strike Groups, one Amphibious Readiness Group, and two command fleets resulted in zero disabilities or loss of life. HMI molded two junior hospitalmen with zero shipboard experience into exceptional young leaders and medical technicians. Under his direction, they have achieved: 100% Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) qualifications, two college enrollments, one United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) enrollment, and 100% retention rate. He maintained OSCAR AUSTIN's medical readiness at a level near 95%, unheard of for ships in an extended shipyard period, and maintains 99% on STOUT, despite an operational deployment of over nine months. Onboard STOUT, HMI Soots' impact exceeds the boundaries of the medical department. He is a model Sailor and personifies the core values of honor, courage, and commitment, earning the trust and respect of his command team and two crews. There is no better or more qualified and deserving candidate in the U.S. Navy for recognition through this prestigious award.