Unit Support Volunteer of the Year

The Unit Support Volunteer of the Year award honours an individual who has made significant and valuable contributions to the effectiveness of their unit.

This award recognises volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional support in both regular operations and special events over the past 12 months.

The award also highlights volunteers who exemplify Coastguard values such as respect, altruism, integrity, dedication, professionalism, and cooperation. Additionally, it acknowledges those who have positively impacted the health, safety, and well-being of their peers, facilitated smooth day-to-day operations, and promoted teamwork and relationship-building within the unit.

Selection Criteria	
1.	**Evidence of Significant or Valuable Support to Unit Operations** • This includes documented instances demonstrating the volunteer's key contributions to the unit's effectiveness over the past 12 months. Evidence may encompass involvement in both regular operations and special events, highlighting specific tasks and responsibilities undertaken. • Prior contributions that have consistently added value to the unit over time should also be included
2.	**Enhancement of Relationships with Coastguard and the Community** • The volunteer's impact should reflect their ability to foster positive relationships with Coastguard support office, local community members, and other stakeholders. • This can be demonstrated through collaborative projects, involvement in community outreach programmes, and initiatives that foster mutual respect and understanding between the unit and the community. It is also important to recognise improvements in volunteer experiences, such as receiving feedback from peers and community members that acknowledges their efforts.
3.	**Exemplification of Coastguard Values** • Nominees should demonstrate the core values of Coastguard: respect, altruism, integrity, dedication, professionalism, and cooperation. This can be illustrated through examples of how their actions align with these principles, such as mentoring new volunteers, engaging in training sessions, and upholding ethical standards in all interactions.
4.	**Contribution to Health, Safety, and Wellbeing of Fellow Volunteers** • The volunteer should have a measurable impact on the health, safety, and welfare of their peers. This can be demonstrated through initiatives such as organising safety training sessions, fostering a supportive environment, or advocating for mental health awareness within the unit. • Evidence may include feedback or testimonials from fellow volunteers regarding the individual's influence on promoting a safe and healthy working environment.

5.	**Facilitation of Smooth Unit Operations on a Day-to-Day Basis** • Contributions that ensure the smooth operation of the unit should be clearly detailed. This includes aspects such as logistical support, administrative assistance, and team communication management. Providing specific examples of interventions or improvements that have led to increased efficiency or effectiveness in operations will help reinforce this criterion.
6.	**Showing the Power of Teamwork and Building Relationships** • The volunteer should display an ability to work collaboratively with others, encouraging a spirit of teamwork within the unit. Evidence could include participation in team-building activities, successful collaboration on projects, or efforts to mediate conflicts and enhance communication among team members. • Positive feedback from peers regarding the volunteer's role in promoting a cohesive team environment is also relevant.
To be selected as the Unit Support Volunteer of the Year, nominators must provide comprehensive evidence addressing each of these criteria. By illustrating their contributions and the positive impacts they have made within the unit, they will demonstrate not only their commitment but also their vital role in upholding the mission and values of Coastguard.	