

SURFACE FORCE INDEPENDENT DUTY CORPSMAN OF THE YEAR

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



COMNAVSURFPAC WINNER

HMC(SW) HECTOR SANTILLAN, JR., USN
USS KIDD (DDG 100)

Chief Hospital Corpsman (Surface Warfare) Santillan's outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication as Department Leading Chief Petty Officer during USS KIDD's demanding C7F deployment and Sustainment Phase were pivotal to mission success. He expertly led a team of two officers, four chiefs, and 22 junior sailors across three divisions, supporting joint operations with CSG-1 and CSG-9 and major exercises, including RIMPAC and PACIFIC DRAGON. His leadership resulted in six advancements, six Sailor of the Quarter awards, nine Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, 190 PQS completions, and a 100% retention rate.

As Senior Medical Department Representative, HMC Santillan achieved a 97% medical readiness level, one of the highest in PACFLT, while managing comprehensive care for 325 sailors. His innovative approach to mental health included coordinating an embedded psychologist for underway support, facilitating 25 timely consultations, and enhancing mental health resilience across the command. His clinical expertise led to over 2,100 patient encounters and numerous critical medical and life support trainings, earning praise from senior medical authorities.

HMC Santillan's mentorship and commitment to excellence directly impacted fleet readiness, morale, and sailor well-being. His efforts embody the highest standards of Navy medicine and leadership.

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COMNAVSURFLANT WINNER

HMC(SW/FMF/EXW) CHRISTOPHER DUKE
USS PORTER (DDG 78)

Chief Hospital Corpsman Christopher Duke's exceptional leadership and dedication have significantly elevated USS PORTER's medical readiness and Sailor development. As Department Leading Chief Petty Officer, he led a diverse team of 17 Sailors, achieving multiple awards, 100% retention, and COB completion, and securing advancements through the Meritorious Advancement Program. His role as Medical Training Team (MTT) Leader resulted in the qualification of 34 Sailors in advanced first aid and six MTT members, fostering a strong culture of medical preparedness and achieving early FSO-M certification.

Chief Duke demonstrated exemplary command of the training program, leading PORTER through 15 TCCC drills, three Mass Casualty drills, and four Battle Dressing Station drills, achieving a 100% pass rate. His proactive efforts ensured 99% medical readiness during the Southern Seas 2024 deployment, where he facilitated vaccinations and dental exams for over 320 Sailors.

A trusted leader, he also serves as Command Duty Officer and Health and Wellness Program Coordinator, organizing impactful events such as mental health awareness days, a blood drive, and MWR activities. His expertise, commitment to Sailor welfare, and readiness efforts underscore his vital role in PORTER's success and reflect his unwavering dedication to the Navy's mission.