

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
Group/Air Station Humboldt Bay

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Lieutenant Steve Knight
Humboldt County Sheriff's Office
826 4th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

MAR 3 2010

Dear Lieutenant Knight:

I am pleased to offer my strong support and full endorsement for the continuation of the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grant for the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office (HCSO). Since the inception of the OHV grant program the Coast Guard and the HCSO have worked together to effect near shore rescues along the rugged Humboldt County coast. The OHV program has proven to be an integral part in the prosecution of search and rescue here in Humboldt County.

In the past two years there were sixteen cases where we worked alongside the Sherriff's office, successfully assisting eleven lives. A notable example was during the summer of 2009 when a fishing vessel ran soft aground south of the Humboldt Bay jetty. The victims swam ashore and were greeted by the OHV Deputy. The Deputy provided initial first aid and ensured everyone in the party was accounted for. Another example was the unfortunate crash of a single engine airplane near the town of Trinidad. The Coast Guard and OHV Deputies worked together to recover pieces of the aircraft, which later helped investigators determine the approximate cause of the crash and provided closure to the victims' families.

With the continuation of the OHV grant program the Coast Guard and HCSO will continue to provide an effective and capable search and rescue capability for the citizens along the Humboldt County coast. I look forward to continuing this partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. A. Martino".

C. A. MARTINO
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Group Humboldt Bay