

SUBJ/2025 NAVAL HELICOPTER ASSOCIATION (NHA) AWARD NOMINATIONS

1. Request widest dissemination. The 2026 NHA Symposium will be held at Harrah's Resort Southern California in San Diego, California from 11-15 May 2026. Each year NHA sponsors national level awards with the winners chosen from a field of Regional Award Winners. The NHA Regional and National Awards are an important means to recognize the outstanding performance within the Rotary Wing/Tilt Rotor Force. The National Award winners will be recognized at the NHA Symposium.

2. NHA is soliciting award inputs for CY 2025 in the following categories. NHA membership for awardees is highly recommended but not required.

a. Single Action Awards:

- (1) Aircrew of the Year (deployed)
- (2) Aircrew of the Year (non-deployed)
- (3) Rescue Swimmer of the Year

b. Sustained Performance Awards:

- (1) Rear Admiral Tomaszewski Squadron Commanding Officer Leadership Award
- (2) Pilot of the Year
- (3) Commander James R. Walker, Tactician of the Year Award
- (4) Shipboard Helicopter Pilot of the Year
- (5) Fleet Instructor Pilot of the Year (FRS/Weapons School)
- (6) Training Command Pilot of the Year
- (7) Aircrew Instructor of the Year (FRS/Weapons School)
- (8) Aircrewman of the Year
- (9) Maintenance Officer of the Year
- (10) Senior Enlisted Maintenance Person of the Year (E6 to E9)
- (11) Junior Enlisted Maintenance Person of the Year (E5 or junior)

3. The annual awards period of consideration is the 2025 calendar year (1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025). Nomination packages for all awards, except the Rear Admiral Tomaszewski Squadron Commanding Officer Leadership Award, must be forwarded to your NHA Regional President by **17 January 2026**. Regional Award winners should be forwarded to the NHA National Awards Vice President by 7 February 2026.

4. Nominations for the Rear Admiral Tomaszewski Squadron Commanding Officer Leadership Award must be forwarded by individual units to their respective ISIC (CAGs may provide endorsements for selection by TYCOMS). Each ISIC will select one winner and forward directly to the NHA National Awards Vice President by 4 February 2026. The overall winner will be selected by the NHA Regional Directors.

5. Notes:

a. Use of the templates is mandatory. Award templates have been updated to mirror the CNAF annual award format. All submissions must include an electronic copy of the award. Contact information for each nominee including e-mail address and phone number is required with their submission.

b. Individuals must be a rotary winged/vertical lift aviator to be considered for Training Command Instructor Pilot of the Year and Shipboard Pilot of the Year Awards.

c. Rescue Swimmer of the Year Award nominations may be for an overwater or overland rescue.

d. Templates, guidelines, timelines, and national/regional POCS are listed on the NHA awards web page link at

<https://navalhelicopterassn.org/awards>.

e. When warranted, individuals may be nominated for more than one award.

f. Request Shipboard Helicopter Pilot of the Year Award nominations be submitted to the NHA region closest to the ship's homeport.

g. Social Security Numbers are no longer required.

6. I look forward to working with you and thank you for your continued support of NHA. If you have any questions, please contact the NHA Vice President for awards and HSCWSP Executive Officer, CDR Keith Graebner, at [keith.r.graebner.mil\(at\)us.navy.mil](mailto:keith.r.graebner.mil(at)us.navy.mil).