



**American
Red Cross**

Cape Cod and Islands Chapter

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Media Alert **MEDIA ALERT**

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American Red Cross to Honor USCG Air Station Crew 6011 at its 8th Annual Heroes Breakfast on March 4th

Hyannis, Mass, February 10, 2010 - The American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, is pleased to announce that USCG Air Station Cape Cod Crew 6011 members LCDR Doug Atkins, LT Mike Snyder, AMT3 Nick Davenport and AST2 Derick Ansley will be honored as a Military Sea Rescue Heroes at its 8th Annual Heroes Breakfast on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, MA from 7:00-9:00 A.M. For tickets or sponsorships, check out www.cciredcross.org or call (508) 775-1540.

In October the Coast Guard was directed to locate a vessel reportedly taking on water eight miles east of the Cape Cod Canal. By the time a helicopter was airborne, in a low overcast cloud layer and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile visibility, the vessel had been lost. There was only 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours of daylight remaining. The helicopter began the first of several searches of the area. The poor visibility and strong, turbulent winds induced vertigo in both pilots, but the crew pressed on and completed numerous search patterns during the first 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours of the search. They fought the weather, landed to refuel and within 40 minutes were airborne again. With help from the Sandwich police, who they had contacted and asked to conduct land searches of the beaches, debris was reported washing ashore. With all haste, the crew proceeded to the debris position, located two survivors in the water and determined that the survivors would probably not survive a beach "landing" and would have to be hoisted.

With LT Snyder flying on night vision goggles, AST2 Ansley, a Rescue Swimmer, was deployed. He quickly realized the dangers and difficulties of hoisting the survivors from the breaking waves so he towed each survivor further offshore, clear of the breaking waves. Shortly after Ansley helped the first survivor into the rescue basket, a wave struck, tumbling both the survivor and Rescue Swimmer. After recovering from the blow, the Rescue Swimmer rechecked to be sure the survivor was safely in the basket and gave the "thumbs up" to the Flight Mechanic. The first survivor was hoisted and the second hoist was then completed without complication.

The crew made and executed critical decisions on the weather, scene conditions and safely operated their aircraft in a highly challenging and fatiguing condition for 5.4 hours. The survivors were handed off to medical personnel and were soon released, returned safely to their families. This accomplishment is more impressive considering this was the first time hoisting in surf conditions for LT Snyder and AMT3 Davenport.

The Red Cross touches lives in our community every day through programs and services such as disaster relief and health and safety training. As an organization committed to helping the community, the Red Cross is honored to salute individuals who are making a difference through their actions at its 8th Annual Red Cross Heroes Breakfast.

Tickets are available online at cciredcross.org or can be obtained by calling toll-free (508) 775-1540, ext. 21. Different levels of sponsorship are also available. You can write to: American Red Cross, Cape Cod and Islands Chapter, 286 South Street, Hyannis MA 02601 or send an email to heroes@cciredcross.org.

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