

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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14OCT2007

Scott Bakker, Capt.
Commander, CAP
South Coast Air Rescue Squadron

Dear Captain Bakker:

1. I would like to extend a commendation to you for a job well done. Your efforts to spearhead the advancement of airborne loudhailer systems will undoubtedly save lives and enhance effectiveness in all realms of Search & Rescue and Law Enforcement (SAR/LE).
2. The benefits of a quality loudhailer system, such as the Power Sonix system you have most recently worked with on your unit's aircraft, are remarkable. Its uses are endless for SAR/LE, Homeland Security, Public Safety and in myriad other fronts. Historically, these systems have had marginal performance at best, but currently available technology now allows for clearly discernable voice projections for miles! It is a tool that private, public, and even military agencies should not be without. In fact, the USCG is currently testing and evaluating these new systems for implementation on its SAR helicopter fleet.
3. I cannot overstate the tremendous value these systems bring to the table in our professional community. I have personally witnessed demonstrations of the loudhailer system installed on your aircraft and am thoroughly impressed. Most notable was the volume and sound clarity despite mountainous terrain, windy conditions and straight line distances of over a mile. I have seen this system earn its weight in gold warning crowded beachgoers of an approaching tsunami. I have also seen situations where the lack of such a system has resulted in a recovery mission instead of rescue. This is a priceless life saving tool.

Sincerely,

DEREK. C. HAM
LT, U. S. Coast Guard
Air Station Atlantic City