



National Association of Government Communicators

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

| NEWS RELEASE |

NAGC Awards Communicator of the Year

May 11, 2011 (Falls Church, Va.) – The National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) today presented Adm. Thad Allen, U.S. Coast Guard, with the 2011 NAGC Communicator of the Year Award for his work during the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill response.

Adm. Allen was nominated for this award for his effective communication as the National Incident Commander during this crisis. It had world-wide interest from the very beginning and continues to be a compelling event. As Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard, he was in the forefront of the incident as his agency responded quickly to the April 20, 2010, explosion with search and rescue operations and then oil spill response actions and marine environmental protection efforts.

As media outlets from around the globe focused on the Gulf of Mexico, the attention and scrutiny paid to the incident was continuous. Adm. Allen made himself available to the media, and thereby the world, on a seemingly round-the-clock basis to provide information on the response efforts, successfully managing crisis communication efforts on the enormous scale required for the response efforts.

The award presentation was made during the Wednesday Plenary Session of the 2011 NAGC Communications School at the Crowne Plaza Hotel-Riverfront, St. Paul, Minn. The NAGC Communications School is the only event of its kind providing invaluable networking opportunities and practical educational sessions to help government communicators increase their skills. This year's school had more than 150 attendees from throughout the United States.

In May 2010, Adm. Allen completed his duties as the 23rd commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, the most senior post in that service. Continuing to serve his nation as the national incident commander in lieu of retiring at that time, he officially retired from active duty service on June 30, 2010 after 39 years of service. Prior to his assignments as commandant and the Coast Guard chief of staff, Allen served as commander of the Coast Guard Atlantic Area in Portsmouth, Virginia, where he led the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area response forces following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In 2005, Allen was designated the principal federal official (PFO) for Hurricane Katrina and Rita responses and recovery operations throughout the Gulf region.

Now, Allen is one of George Washington University's Distinguished Professors of Practice. Allen is a native of Tucson, Arizona and graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1971. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the George Washington University and received the Alumni Achievement Award in 2006. Allen also holds a Master of Science degree from the Sloan School of Management of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 2003, he was elected a National Academy of Public Administration fellow.

The National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) is a national not-for-profit professional network of federal, state and local government employees who disseminate information within and outside government. Its members are editors, writers, graphic artists, video professionals, broadcasters, photographers, information specialists and agency spokespersons.

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NAGC: Good Communication ... Good Government