

CSI's Vice President of Government Services, Vince Van Ness, inducted into US Coast Guard Hall of Honor

This past month our very own VP of Government Services, Vince Van Ness, was inducted into the United States Coast Guard Hall of Honor! During his time in the service Mr. Van Ness was a member of a hand selected team of pilots and aviators in The Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron Ten (HITRON-10) who pioneered and instituted the Coast Guard Aviation's Airborne Use of Force (AUF) mission.



*[Pictured: Vince Van Ness, third from the right]*

From September, 1998 through March, 2000, this hand selected team of fourteen Coast Guard aviators, nine pilots and five flight mechanics, set out to develop and operationally test new equipment, tactics, and operational procedures to bring about a non-lethal use of force concept against Go-Fast boats designed to smuggle drugs and other illegal contraband into US territory to tactical reality. During this short 18 month period, the team used leased, non-standard MH-90 helicopters, integrating a mix of lethal and non-lethal technology along with state-of-the-art sensors, night vision devices, and communications equipment, and developed highly aggressive and effective offensive and defensive tactics never before attempted by rotary wing aircraft.



This monumental effort has completely altered the nature of Coast Guard operations, paving the way for more than 767 interdictions, 629 metric tons of drugs seized with an estimated street value of \$22.2 billion, and 2,320 drug traffickers detained and/or prosecuted in the U.S. since its creation. HITRON-10 has since grown and matured into the nation's single most impactful unit within the entire United States' counter-drug arsenal.

We are immensely proud to have Mr. Van Ness as a part of the CSI Aviation team and are grateful for his many years of dedicated service to the nation. Congratulations and *Semper Paratus*.



*[Pictured: Vince Van Ness on far right]*