United States Department of the Interior
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

CITATION

CITIZEN'S AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

DAVID OKITA

Mr. David Okita, owner and operator of Volcano Helicopters, a company that provides helicopter services for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), has been the primary pilot for the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) for more than 20 years. Mr. Okita has been an invaluable partner in fulfilling the public safety and scientific research mission of the HVO. He has completed countless safe flights and sling loads to all corners of the Island of Hawai'i including the high, rugged wilderness of Mauna Loa, the largest active volcano on Earth. He has carried diverse crews of scientific observers, technicians, and VIPs, impressing all with aviation skills, depth of knowledge about the volcanoes, eruptive phenomena, and island geography and history. Mr. Okita has an exceptionally intuitive feel for the needs of each mission. He knows the HVO monitoring network in extraordinary detail shaving costly minutes off flight times to stations in the middle of vast lava fields. His ability to flight plan for safety and efficiency during both times of peaceful volcanic activity and eruption crises have undoubtedly saved lives, prevented injuries, and contributed to wise allocation of Federal dollars. Mr. Okita has been a full partner with HVO scientists in observing, documenting, and interpreting the activity of Kīlauea Volcano, another highly active volcano on the island of Hawai'i. His careful, timely, and accurate observations are part of the official record of activity and often resulted in specific response activities by the HVO and other officials. All of these contributions were made with genuine love for Hawai'i, concern for HVO colleagues, and the steady, calm demeanor of an extraordinarily gifted pilot in command. Most importantly, Mr. Okita and his crews always returned to base safely. For his outstanding contributions to the USGS, Mr. David Okita is granted the Department of the Interior's Citizen's Award for Exceptional Service.

James Reilly
Director

United States Department of the Interior

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Office of the Director
Reston, Virginia 20192

CITATION

CITIZEN'S AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

RAYMOND E. SPENCE

In recognition of his dedicated service to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Earthquake Program's mission as an organizational partner's systems analyst for the Earthquake Science Center's ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning project.

Mr. Raymond E. Spence has demonstrated exceptional service to support the USGS ShakeAlert production system, as an organizational partner's systems analyst from Berkeley Seismology Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley. ShakeAlert is a mission critical USGS-led system protecting life, limb and property. Several organizations on the West Coast depend on the ShakeAlert system to alert individuals and machines of impending shaking from an earthquake in their vicinity. Specifically, during the 35-day period from December 22, 2018, to January 25, 2019, while Department of the Interior employees were furloughed due to the Government shutdown, Mr. Spence stayed on-call to provide 24/7 coverage to respond to server and related network infrastructure issues. Under normal circumstances, at least four USGS personnel would work with him on a rotational schedule to provide this around-the-clock system support. In addition, for issues on systems under Federal Government security restrictions, Mr. Spence conscientiously worked with the one excepted Government employee. The USGS deeply appreciates Mr. Spence for his tireless efforts and dedication to the mission of the Bureau. His commitment has been unfailing. For his outstanding contributions in ensuring that the mission-critical USGS ShakeAlert system was fully operational during the Government shutdown, Mr. Raymond E. Spence is granted the Department of the Interior's Citizen's Award for Exceptional Service.

Jim Reilly
Director