



MERITORIUS SERVICE AWARD

presented to

Marc de Vos

for the extensive part that you played as a member of NSRI Station 3 Table Bay, the Air Sea Rescue Unit, and the NSRI in general over the past 13 years.

The award is intended to recognise administrative and operational achievements, such as dedicated service as a Station Commander or the efficient coordination of all elements involved in a rescue, all of which you have indeed surpassed.

You joined NSRI on the 25th of February 2010, and have so far given 13 years of service. During this time, you progressed through the ranks, from trainee to crew, to Rescue Swimmer. You became a Coxswain Class 3 in December 2013 and then Coxswain Class 1 in April 2017.

You also served on the NSRI's Air Sea Rescue Unit from April 2013, and have successfully completed many complicated and taxing rescue calls, an example of which was when you were the rescue swimmer, as part of a helicopter team that extracted a seriously injured crewman from the bowels of a trawler. This required intense fitness, skill, and leadership as well as innovation and maintaining a sense of calm during an incredibly pressurised situation.

Membership of the ASR unit requires a level of sacrifice of time above and beyond that expected of the NSRI boat crews, with a higher level of physical fitness and extra training and skill commitments needing to be met.

On your boat station, you were elected Station Commander in July 2019, standing down in May 2022 to pursue work-related travel opportunities, but have remained committed to the NSRI mission by being active on station when you are in the country and continuing to provide impacts with

administrative and operational support when away.

As a Station Commander, you took over the station and quickly established a new way of operations that enabled the crew to feel comfortable and confident to follow you. The Table Bay NSRI station is a large and operationally busy class 1 Station, with a large crew and a range of complex rescue operations. The asset scope and value are one of the more extensive in the NSRI, and you led this station with respect and success, with a perfect response and safety record.

Table Bay NSRI was the first NSRI station that was called to conduct a Covid Medevac, during the height of the first lockdown, with the attendant fears of the unknown. The leadership required to inspire the crew to conduct the operation in this time, despite the fear was first class.

Above and beyond the very full operational service to the NSRI as described above, you have added value from your professional background and networks.

As an Oceanographer, and during your career at the South African Weather Service, you have on numerous occasions provided weather warning insights and training. You also coded a functional Search & Rescue tool, used by stations to conduct a rapid search area determination. You have contributed immensely to the development of Standard Operating Procedures and the administration around them, which has set the standard and raised the bar for the entire organisation.

We salute you for your service. This organisation is a better place for your contribution.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dave Macready'.

Dave Macready
Chairman: Board of Directors



21 July 2023

Date