

CHAPTER 8

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CHAPTER 8

DECORATIONS, MEDALS, AND AWARDS

PART A: GENERAL

8000 DEFINITION

1. Awards encompass all decorations and unit awards, including those made by foreign governments as well as the United States; battle streamers; medals; ribbons; certificates of commendation or letters of commendation and appreciation; meritorious mast; miscellaneous badges, buttons and auxiliary insignia; and other forms of public recognition merited by Marines and Marine Corps units.

8001 SCOPE

1. This chapter contains information concerning the administration of certain awards for Marine Corps personnel and Marine Corps organizations. It supplements the detailed instructions contained in the Navy and Marine Corps

Awards Manual (SECNAVINST P1650.1C), which shall serve as the consulting authority for the Marine Corps in all matters pertaining to decorations, medals and awards.

8002 RESPONSIBILITY

1. Awards are an important aspect of command responsibility at all levels. Prompt and judicious recognition of an individual's, as well as an entire unit's, meritorious achievements is a vital factor of morale. Recommendations for all awards will be initiated by the person cognizant of the meritorious achievement and all recommendations worthy of consideration will be submitted through official channels. Presentation of authorized awards will be made as soon as practicable and with appropriate ceremony.

PART B: AWARDS

8050 GENERAL

1. For detailed instructions beyond the scope of this chapter refer to the following manuals:

a. Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual (SECNAVINST P1650.1C) - eligibility requirements, administrative procedures for recommending awards, including sample citations, time limitations and presentation of awards.

b. Marine Corps Uniform Regulations - wearing of and precedence of all awards, including those awards received from other branches of the Armed Forces and from foreign countries.

c. Marine Corps Flag Manual - award of, uses and display of streamers.

d. Marine Corps Orders and Bulletins - small arms and competitive marksmanship awards.

e. Marine Corps Personnel Manual - chapter 15 contains instructions for recording eligibility for awards and issuances thereof in the officer qualification record and enlisted service record book.

8051 CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION AND LETTER OF APPRECIATION

1. A certificate of commendation and/or letter of appreciation will be issued for exceptional performance of duty above and beyond that which is normally required and expected of an officer or enlisted person. Such certificate or letter will be issued only by general officers and those who command brigades or equivalent organizations on separate duty. In exceptional cases they will be issued by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

2. All other officers desiring to make recommendations for certificates of commendation or letters of appreciation will submit them via chain of command to officers designated in paragraph 1, above, for issue. For commendatory services where certifi-

cates of commendation or letters of appreciation are not deemed warranted, reporting seniors are urged to include appropriate remarks on fitness reports, or award meritorious mast if deemed warranted.

3. Copies of such certificates of commendation and/or letters of appreciation will be forwarded to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DGH), and notation made in the officer qualification record or service record as set forth in paragraphs 15162 and 15114.

8052 MERITORIOUS MAST

1. Whenever the performance of an enlisted person is considered noteworthy or commendable beyond the usual requirements of duty, or he demonstrates exceptional industry, judgment, or initiative, the senior who has observed him will make a report of this to the individual's commander. All such reports will be sent to the commander of a battalion or equivalent echelon. These reports will be given careful consideration and if appropriate, meritorious mast will be held. For details pertaining to the recording of meritorious mast in the service record book, see subparagraph 15114.1f.

2. Meritorious mast will not ordinarily be conducted when the services or performance of individuals is recognized through the award of certificates of commendation or letters of appreciation, or personal decorations.

3. The command to which the individual is assigned will publish information concerning the mast and entries pertaining thereto which were made in the individual's service record book.

4. Copies of meritorious masts will be forwarded to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DGH) for personnel in the grade of corporal and below. For sergeants and above, copies will be forwarded with fitness reports in accordance with subparagraph 15068.5e.

8053 **AWARDS FROM OTHER
BRANCHES OF THE ARMED
FORCES**

1. General

a. Personnel of the Marine Corps serving with other branches of the Armed Forces of the United States are authorized to accept awards presented by such other service provided that they are not given for the same act or service for which a previous award has been made.

b. Commanders are responsible to have copies of all citations for decorations awarded to personnel under their command by other branches of the Armed Forces for heroism or meritorious service made a part of the official records on file at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps of the individual concerned. This includes personnel of the Marine Corps serving with other branches of the Armed Forces of the United States as well as those who were previously members of other branches.

2. Distinguished Unit Emblem (Army)

a. The Distinguished Unit Emblem is awarded to units of the Armed Forces of the United States and cobelligerent nations for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy occurring on or after 7 December 1941. It is considered an individual decoration for persons engaged in the cited actions, and so may be worn by them, whether or not they continue as members of the unit. A member of the naval service attached to a unit cited by the Army subsequent to the cited period will not wear the Army Distinguished Unit Emblem while so attached.

8054 **FOREIGN AWARDS**

1. No person in the naval service shall without the consent of Congress accept any decoration or award of any kind whatsoever from any king, prince, or official of a foreign government.

a. A decoration or award tendered to a Marine on active or inactive duty by any foreign government shall be forwarded to the Commandant of the Marine Corps with a statement in explanation of the award. After approval by the Chief of Naval Operations the award will be forwarded to the Department of State where it will be held in escrow pending the consent of Congress. This policy shall also be observed where the decoration or award is tendered to a member of the immediate family of a Marine. The Department of State is directed by law to furnish the second session of each alternate Congress with an omnibus bill authorizing all officers and employees named therein to accept the decorations, awards, and gifts tendered to them by foreign governments. The bill shall include only those officials and employees who have retired permanently from Federal Service.

b. Individuals may participate in a formal presentation ceremony upon invitation of a foreign nation and receive the tender of an award. Such receipt does not constitute an acceptance of the award by the recipient. This permission does not apply, however, to personnel performing any duty whatsoever in connection with the Military Assistance Program unless the award is in recognition of actual combat services or heroism involving the saving of life.

2. French Fourragere

a. The fourragere was awarded by the French Ministry of War to those units which were cited two or more times in the French Orders of the Army during World War I. The fourragere became a part of the uniform of the unit so recognized.

b. The Fifth and Sixth Marine Regiments have been so cited and all personnel are authorized to wear the fourragere while serving in these units.

c. In order for an individual to be entitled to wear the fourragere permanently he must have been a member of one of the above-named organizations or of the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion (since disestablished) on at least two of the occasions for which they were cited.

d. The Commanders of the Fifth and Sixth Marine Regiments are authorized to issue the fourragere.

**8055 STARS AWARDED FOR COM-
BAT AIRCREW INSIGNIA
(formerly called Aircrew
Insignia)**

1. Individual combat stars shall be authorized by unit commanders to those aircrewmembers who have engaged:

a. Enemy aircraft.

b. Enemy vessels with bombs, rockets, torpedoes, guns or missiles.

c. In offensive or defensive operations against enemy fortified positions.

2. Combat aircrewmembers qualified under the provisions of paragraph 1, above, to wear combat stars, may wear the combat aircrewmembers insignia on a permanent basis. A maximum of three combat stars may be awarded for display on the combat aircrew insignia. Combat action reports in excess of three stars shall be credited on the individual's service record only. A copy of the authorization granted on a permanent basis as defined herein will be forwarded to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DGH) for inclusion in the individual's permanent record. All inquiries concerning this insignia shall be addressed to Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code AAZ).

3. Appropriate notation shall be made in the officer qualification record or enlisted service record of each person who receives this award.

4. Regulations concerning the Combat Aircrew Insignia and procurement thereof are contained in paragraph 4019.

PART C: INSIGNIA FOR CIVILIAN DRESS

8100 HONORABLE DISCHARGE BUTTON AND PIN

- ▶ 1. Each enlisted person of the Marine Corps who is honorably discharged or discharged under honorable conditions from the service and does not reenlist will be issued a Marine Corps honorable discharge button, or pin in the case of women, to be worn only with the civilian dress.
- ▶ 2. Each enlisted member of the Marine Corps Reserve, who has served on continuous active duty for 30 days or more, will be issued one of these buttons upon honorable discharge or discharge under honorable conditions from the Marine Corps Reserve, provided he does not reenlist.
3. Discharged personnel who are authorized to receive a button and have not, or have lost such insignia, should make application to Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DL). For issuing authority refer to paragraph 8151.

8101 RETIRED LAPEL BUTTON

1. The Retired Lapel Button denotes affiliation with the Marine Corps and is to be worn only with civilian dress. This button will be issued by the Commandant of the Marine Corps to all Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve personnel upon their permanent retirement on or after 1 July 1955. Those personnel retired prior to 1 July 1955 and those personnel desiring replacements may purchase these buttons from Marine Corps exchanges or military shops.
2. Further information may be found in The Handbook for Retired Marines.

8102 DELETED (Ch. 4)

8103 GOLD STAR LAPEL BUTTON

1. Upon application to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DL), one Gold Star Lapel Button will be furnished, without cost, to the widow and

to each of the parents of a Marine who lost or loses his or her life in service during World War I, World War II or during any subsequent war or period of armed hostilities in which the United States may be engaged. Gold Star Lapel Buttons will also be furnished to other next of kin, as set forth in paragraph 3, below, upon application and payment of an amount sufficient to cover the cost of manufacture and distribution.

2. Not more than one button will be furnished to any one individual except in those cases where the button has been lost, destroyed or rendered unfit for use through no fault or neglect on the part of the person to whom it was issued. Such button may be replaced, upon application, and by payment of an amount sufficient to cover the cost of manufacture and distribution.

3. As used above, the term "widow" also shall include widower. The term "parents" shall include mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother and/or father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis. The term "next of kin" shall only include children, brothers, sister, half brothers and half sisters. The term children shall include stepchildren and children through adoption. The term "World War I" shall include the period extending from 6 April 1917 to 3 March 1921; and the term "World War II" shall include the period extending from 8 September 1939 to 25 July 1947 at 12 o'clock noon. The period covered by the Korean conflict is from 27 June 1950 to 27 July 1954, inclusive.

4. Application forms, Form NME Form No. 3 dated 1 May 1948, and assistance in completing them may be obtained from any nationally recognized veterans organization and Gold Star Organizations. If unable to obtain forms from these sources, requests should be addressed to Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DL), Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380.

PART D: ADMINISTRATION AND ISSUE PROCEDURES

8150 COMBAT AWARD RECOMMENDATION CARDS (NAVMC 539-PD (Rev. 5-52))

1. These cards are utilized by the Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals and by delegated authorities in the consideration of recommendations for personal decorations of a meritorious or heroic nature, or in operations in support of combat actions.

2. Commanders of all units down to and including squad level, or any other individual cognizant of the meritorious achievement are authorized to prepare a combat award recommendation card as soon as practicable after an act meriting recommendation for an award is performed.

3. The cards which are self-explanatory will be completed in full, signed by the person making recommendation and submitted via official channels to the cognizant commander as soon as practicable.

8151 INITIAL AND REPLACEMENT ISSUE

1. General

a. Whenever a decoration, medal, lapel button or auxiliary insignia awarded in accordance with existing laws and regulations becomes lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for use through no fault or neglect of the person to whom originally awarded, it shall be replaced without charge upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of the cause of loss, etc. However, if lost through negligence, the loser may replace such awards only by purchase at current published prices.

2. Issued by Headquarters Marine Corps

a. The Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DL) issues decorations, campaign and service medals, appurtenances thereto, expert rifle and pistol requalification bars, and lapel

buttons to members and former members of the Marine Corps and to the next of kin of deceased Marines.

(1) Above items are issued in response to individual applications. Commanders may originate applications for members of their commands provided they itemize the awards desired and identify the intended recipient in each instance.

(2) Applications for above items (original issue or replacement) should reach the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DL) not later than six weeks prior to the date desired. Applications should be individual requests.

(3) Applications requesting replacement of above items will include statement giving circumstances under which item was lost, destroyed or rendered unfit for use. Commanders will state whether or not the requested item was lost, etc., through the fault or neglect of the person to whom it was awarded. Applications not containing this statement will be returned.

(4) Personnel who have served in both officer and enlisted grade, or in other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces should include all service numbers.

(5) Stock necessary to support issues of items listed in subparagraph a, above, resulting from individual applications is maintained at Headquarters Marine Corps. The Marine Corps Stock Fund is reimbursed for this inventory at Headquarters level, therefore commanders are not to cite funds in the application.

b. Purple Heart Certificates

(1) Application for Purple Heart Certificates should be made to Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code DL). Wounds must be substantiated in the records of this Headquarters before certificate can be issued.

3. Issued by Field

a. Commanders are currently authorized to issue the following as appropriate to members of their commands:

(1) Good Conduct Awards with Certificates

▶ (2) Organized Marine Corps Reserve Awards with Certificates.

▶ (3) All small-arms qualification badges and bars except Rifle and Pistol Expert Requalification Bars.

▶ (4) Honorable Discharge Button.

▶ (5) French Fourragere (only by commanders of the Fifth and Sixth Marine Regiments).

b. In making replacement, commanders will be guided by the provisions of subparagraph 1a, above, and will only issue those items stocked for regular issue in the activity in-

volved. Since these items come under the cognizance of the Single Manager Program, requisitions for authorized stocks should be submitted to the normal source of supply. Under no circumstances are requisitions for stocks of these items to be submitted to Commandant of the Marine Corps.

4. Items not Issued

a. Ribbon bars, except initial issue for personal decorations and unit awards, will not be issued by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Replacements for ribbon bars of personal decorations and all other bars must be purchased at the individual's expense from Military Exchanges or commercial sources.

b. Combat Aircrew Insignia will not be issued by the Commandant of the Marine Corps or the appropriate commander. Insignia may be procured from Military Exchanges upon presentation of appropriate letter of authorization.