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NAVADMIN 154/26

SUBJ/CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS DELEGATION OF AWARDING AUTHORITY FOR MILITARY AWARDS//

REF/A/MSG/CNO WASHINGTON DC/281601Z APR 22//
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REF/C/MSG/CNO WASHINGTON DC/201907Z FEB 26//
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NARR/ REF A IS NAVADMIN 108/22, CNO DELEGATION OF AWARDING AUTHORITY FOR MILITARY AWARDS.
REF B IS NAVADMIN 122/23, UPDATE TO CNO DELEGATION OF AWARDING AUTHORITY FOR MILITARY AWARDS.
REF C IS NAVADMIN 033/26, UPDATE TO CNO DELEGATION OF AWARDING AUTHORITY FOR MILITARY AWARDS.
REF D IS SECNAVINST 1650.1.J, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY MILITARY AWARDS POLICY.
REF E IS SECNAV M.1650.1, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS AWARDS MANUAL.

RMKS/1. References (a) through (c) are hereby cancelled.

2. The purpose of this NAVADMIN is to publish the updated Chief of Naval Operations' (CNO) delegation of awarding authority for military awards per references (d) and (e).

3. Delegation of military awarding authority (non-combat). The authority to approve non-combat awards is delegated by CNO to subordinate commanders subject to the following limitations.

- a. Admirals (O-10): Legion of Merit (LOM) and below with the exception of the Navy and Marine Corps Medal (NM) for grades O-9 and below for all Navy and Marine Corps personnel in their chain of command.
- b. Vice Admiral (O-9) Commanders: LOM and below with the exception of the NM for grades O-6 and below for all Navy and Marine Corps personnel in their chain of command.
- c. Rear Admiral Upper Half (O-8) and Rear Admiral Lower Half (O-7) in command: Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) and below for grades O-6 and below for all Navy and other U.S. Armed Forces service personnel in their chain of command. Commanders may issue written temporary authorization to an acting commander for greater than 30 days pursuant to the following:
 - (1) If the acting commander is an O-8 or O-7, he or she may be granted authority to award the MSM and below.
 - (2) If the acting commander is an O-6, he or she may be granted authority to award the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (NC) and below.

d. Rear Admiral Lower Half (O-7): NC and below for grade O-6 and below for all Navy and other U.S. Armed Forces service personnel in their chain of command. Commanders may issue written temporary authorization to an acting commander for greater than 30 days pursuant to the following:

(1) If the acting commander is an O-6, he or she may be granted authority to award the NC and below, for grade O-5 and below.

e. Captain (O-6) in command: NC and below for grade O-5 and below for all Navy and other U.S. Armed Forces service personnel in their chain of command.

(1) If the acting commander is an O-5, he or she may be granted authority to award the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (NAM).

f. Commander (O-5) and Lieutenant Commander (O-4) in command:

NAM for all Navy and other U.S. Armed Forces service personnel in their chain of command.

4. Delegation of military awarding authority (valor and combat awards). The authority to approve valor and combat awards is delegated by CNO to subordinate commanders subject to the following limitations.

a. Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (COMFLTFORCOM), Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT), Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, U.S. Naval Forces Africa (COMUSNAVEUR USNAVAF), and Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (COMUSNAVCENT) are delegated authority to approve the "V", "C", and "R" devices for O-6 and below Navy and Marine Corps personnel under their command for all authorized operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Specific authority is granted to approve:

- Legion of Merit with "C" or "R" device (L1, L2)
- Bronze Star Medal with "V" device (BV)
- Purple Heart Medal (only for combat related incidents for actions that occurred within the most recent three years)
- Meritorious Service Medal with "R" device (M2)
- Air Medal with "V" or "C" device and on Strike/Flight basis (AH, A1, AS)
- Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with "V", "C", or "R" device (CV, C1, C2)

- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with "C" or "R" device (N1, N2)

- Combat Action Ribbon (CAR) (only for actions that occurred within the most recent three years) b. COMUSNAVEUR USNAVAF and COMUSNAVCENT may sub-delegate authority to approve the Strike/Flight Air Medal (AS), Air Medal single mission meritorious achievement (AF) or heroic achievement (AH) and the Air Medal with the "C" device (A1) to their subordinate task force commanders who are of Flag and General rank.

c. Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command is delegated authority to approve for O-6 and below Navy and Marine Corps personnel under your command all awards listed in subparagraph

4.a with the exception of the Legion of Merit. Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command (COMNAVSPECWARCOM) is delegated authority to approve for O-6 and below Navy and Marine Corps personnel under your command all awards listed in subparagraph 4.a with the exception of the Legion of Merit and the Strike/Flight Air Medal.

d. In addition to the delegation cited above, COMUSNAVEUR USNAVAF, COMUSNAVCENT, COMNAVSPECWARCOM are authorized to approve combat awards commensurate with their authority to qualifying Navy and Marine Corps personnel participating in special operations conducted within the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Africa Command area of responsibility for approved operations.

5. Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with "C" and "R" device (C1, C2) and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with "C" and "R" device (N1, N2) may be further delegated in writing by COMFLTFORCOM, COMPACFLT, COMUSNAVEUR USNAVAF COMUSNAVCENT, COMNAVSPECWARCOM and Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, not lower than an O-6 commander or commanding officer within their respective administrative or operational chain of command.

a. Delegated Awarding Authority Limitations.

(1) In line with reference (d), personnel will be authorized to receive a PMD with the combat "C" device during a meritorious period in which they also qualified for the Combat Action Ribbon (CAR) or would have qualified were it not for the limit of one CAR per operation. In these cases, the summary of action must contain, at a minimum, the date of action for which the awardee qualified for the CAR.

(2) Commanders may also delegate C1, C2, N1, and N2 authority to O-6 commanders and commanding officers to recognize personnel who did not qualify for the CAR but did perform combat actions.

Commanders electing to further delegate this specific authority must provide additional guidance to subdelegated awarding authorities to ensure consistent application of requirements in references (d) and (e).

(3) Sub-delegation of C1, C2, N1, and N2 authority must be issued in writing and provided to the parent delegation authority for situational awareness. For example, if COMFLTFORCOM delegates C1, C2, N1, and N2 authority in writing to a carrier strike group, the carrier strike group commander must provide further C1, C2, N1 and N2 delegations to their subordinate O-6 commanders and commanding officers to COMFLTFORCOM.

6. This is not a blanket approval of these awards to all participants in these operations. For each individual case, awarding authorities must verify that all criteria for these awards, as contained in references (d) and (e) are met. All operations covered under this authority constitute a single designated operation for purposes of this limitation, i.e. only one CAR may be awarded under this authority. An individual may qualify for a subsequent award of the CAR for active participation in combat within a different designated operation.

7. Delegated authorities are responsible for keeping record of all operations for which combat awards have been authorized. A quarterly report that contains the name of the operation, commencement and termination date will be submitted to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (DNS-13) for record keeping purposes only. These operations will not be included in SECNAV M-1650.1.

8. Awarding Authority Policy:

a. Awarding authorities will ensure eligibility requirements and award adjudication are compliant by following the guidelines in references (d) and (e).

b. Awarding authority extends only to award nominations that are compliant with statutory and regulatory policy, including time limits.

c. Officers exercising delegated awarding authority are not authorized to permit awards to be signed by another individual "By direction" of the awarding authority.

d. Except as noted in this NAVADMIN, no further sub-delegation is authorized.

e. CNO may revoke awarding authority from Navy Commanders any time for non-compliance with awards regulations.

9. This delegation of award approval authority remains effective until rescinded by future correspondence.

10. Released by Mr. M. H. Swartz, Director, Navy Staff.//

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