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Part 7 – Awards

12701 GENERAL

- A. NOAA Corps officers who have been awarded certain decorations or service awards may wear them on specific uniforms in the manner prescribed.
- B. Awards issued by any Department of the U.S. Government are authorized for wear. Awards issued by outside organizations or foreign governments, specifically for official performance of duty, may be approved by the Director on a case-by-case basis.
- C. Members of other uniformed services serving on active duty with NOAA are eligible for certain Department of Commerce, NOAA, and NOAA Corps awards as specified herein. Authorization to wear awards is at the discretion of the member's parent service.

12702 DEFINITIONS

- A. Award - An all-inclusive term covering all decorations, medals, badges, ribbon bars, and their accessories.
- B. Decoration - An award to an individual for a specific act of heroism or meritorious service.
- C. Service Award - An award to an individual or group signifying arduous or remote duty.

12703 PERSONAL DECORATIONS

- A. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE GOLD MEDAL (GOLD) 
 - 1. Eligibility Requirements - The highest honorary award granted by the Secretary. Awarded to an individual, group, or Commerce organization for extraordinary achievements in support of the critical objectives of the Department with a significant beneficial effect on the Nation or the world. To warrant a Gold Medal, a contribution must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. Achievement of critical program goals far surpassing expectations, marked by unusual creativity, energy, or persistence, contributing significantly to the welfare of the Nation;
 - b. Unusually outstanding leadership or management that results in dramatic improvement in productivity, program effectiveness, or quality of the Department's service to the Nation;
 - c. Scientific or technological breakthroughs that resolve longstanding problems or radically advance the state-of-the-art;
 - d. Highly distinguished authorship or editorship that affects the primary principles of the discipline involved, opens up new fields of inquiry, or redefines major issues of investigation; or
 - e. Heroic action involving jeopardy of life.

Part 7 – Awards

2. Type of Recognition - Performance-based, honorary, non-monetary.
 3. Nomination Procedure - See NAO 202-451, Part V.
 4. Selection Procedure - See NAO 202-451, Part V.
 5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. The Department of Commerce presents a medallion and a certificate. CPC provides a large medal, miniature medal, and ribbon bars.
 - c. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars
 1. A 5/16-inch silver-colored “O” worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes a group or organizational award.
 2. A 5/16-inch gold-colored star worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes each subsequent award.
 3. A 1/8-inch gold-colored star worn on the miniature medal suspension ribbon denotes each subsequent award.
- B. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SILVER MEDAL (SILV) 
1. Eligibility Requirements - The second highest honorary award granted by the Secretary. Awarded to an individual, group, or Commerce organization for major contributions of exceptional value in support of the Department's overall goals in service to the Nation. To warrant a Silver Medal, a contribution must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. Achievement of important program goals, marked by excellence of performance and quality of results exceeding expectations;
 - b. Superior leadership or management resulting in substantial improvements in productivity, program effectiveness, or the quality of the Department's service;
 - c. Scientific or technological contributions that significantly advance the understanding, knowledge, or mastery of a given discipline;
 - d. Exceptionally meritorious authorship or editorship that contributes significantly to the body of knowledge in a given field; or
 - e. Unusual courage or competence in an emergency.

Part 7 – Awards

2. Type of Recognition - Performance-based, honorary, non-monetary.
3. Nomination Procedure - See NAO 202-451, Part V.
4. Selection Procedure - See NAO 202-451, Part V.
5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. The Department of Commerce presents a medallion and a certificate. CPC provides a large medal, miniature medal, and ribbon bars.
 - c. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars
 1. A 5/16-inch silver-colored “O” worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes a group or organizational award.
 2. A 5/16-inch gold-colored star worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes each subsequent award.
 3. A 1/8-inch gold-colored star worn on the miniature medal suspension ribbon denotes each subsequent award.

C. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BRONZE MEDAL (BRON)



1. Eligibility Requirements - The highest honorary award of NOAA, granted by the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere. Awarded to an individual, group, or organization for significant contributions to NOAA. Contributions must meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. Accomplishment of improvements in management systems that are more effective or more efficient;
 - b. Demonstration of unusual or creative ability in the development and improvement of methods and procedures;
 - c. Significant contribution affecting major programs or a scientific accomplishment or;
 - d. Superior accomplishment of assigned tasks for at least five consecutive years.
2. Type of Recognition - Performance-based, honorary, non-monetary.
3. Nomination Procedure - See NAO 202-451, Part V.

Part 7 – Awards

4. Selection Procedure - See NAO 202-451, Part V.
 5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. NOAA presents a medallion and a certificate. CPC provides a large medal, miniature medal, and ribbon bars.
 - c. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars
 1. A 5/16-inch silver-colored “O” worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes a group or organizational award.
 2. A 5/16-inch gold-colored star worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes each subsequent award.
 3. A 1/8-inch gold-colored star worn on the miniature medal suspension ribbon denotes each subsequent award.
- D. NOAA CORPS MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (NCMS) 
1. Eligibility Requirements - The highest honorary award of the NOAA Corps. Awarded to a member of the NOAA Corps, or a member of another uniformed service detailed, assigned, or attached to NOAA, who distinguishes him/herself by outstanding meritorious achievement or service to the United States in a position of considerable responsibility. Normally, the acts or service must be of such merit as to warrant more tangible recognition than is possible by the NOAA Corps Commendation Medal, but which does not warrant a U.S. Department of Commerce Gold or Silver Medal, such as:
 - a. Voluntary acts of heroism such as to stand out distinctly above normal expectations. Officers who act with heroism in the face of great danger may be considered instead for a U.S. Department of Commerce Gold or Silver Medal;
 - b. Meritorious service worth of special recognition. The service should be far superior to that usually expected of an individual commensurate with his/her grade, demonstrate significant leadership accomplishments, or constitute a significant and substantial contribution to the Government, such as major improvements in policies, management, or organization. The service may cover an extended period of time; or
 - c. Outstanding career service worthy of special recognition, in view of an officer's sustained performance over multiple assignments. Service should reflect tangible and sustained achievements in leadership, management and government service.
 2. Type of Recognition - Performance-based, honorary, non-monetary.

Part 7 – Awards

3. Nomination Procedure
 - a. Initiated by an individual employed, assigned, or attached to NOAA or DOC.
 - b. Transmitted via NOAA form 56-63 the nominee's supervisor, to the Director, CPC, for initial screening.
 - c. Nominations should be made within 120 days of performance of the act or end of the period of service. If nominations are not made in that time frame a letter of lateness must accompany the nomination.
4. Selection Procedure - Requires review and favorable recommendation by the NOAA Corps Uniform and Awards Board and approval by the Director.
5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. CPC provides a certificate, large medal, miniature medal, and ribbon bars. Medals are issued for first award only.
 - c. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars
 1. A 5/16-inch gold-colored star worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes each subsequent award.
 2. A 1/8-inch gold-colored star worn on the miniature medal suspension ribbon denotes each subsequent award.

E. NOAA ADMINISTRATOR'S AWARD (NAAM)



1. Eligibility Requirements - An individual award granted by the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere in recognition of significant contributions to NOAA programs. Areas in which significant contributions to NOAA programs will be considered for an Administrator's Award include: Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), program management, scientific research, public service, engineering development, environmental conservation, policy development, administrative support, public affairs, and information systems.
2. Type of Recognition - Honorary, monetary.
3. Nomination Procedure - See NAO 202-451, Appendix 12.2.
4. Selection Procedure - See NAO 202-451, Appendix 12.2.
5. Issuance and Manner of Wear

Part 7 – Awards

- a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
- b. NOAA presents a plaque. CPC provides a certificate, a large medal, miniature medal, and ribbon bars.
- c. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars
 - 1. A 5/16-inch gold-colored star worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes each subsequent award.
 - 2. A 1/8-inch gold-colored star worn on the miniature medal suspension ribbon denotes each subsequent award.

F. NOAA CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL (NCCM)



- 1. Eligibility Requirements - Awarded to a member of the NOAA Corps, or a member of another uniformed service detailed, assigned, or attached to NOAA, who distinguishes him/herself by heroic or meritorious acts or service.

To merit this award, service must be accomplished or performed in an exemplary manner above that normally expected and must be sufficient to distinguish the individual from those performing similar services. Acts must reflect the preservation of life or property. Acts or service must be of such merit as to warrant more tangible recognition than is possible by the NOAA Corps Achievement Medal, as follows:

- a. Acts of heroism worthy of special recognition, but not to the degree required for the U. S. Department of Commerce (DOC) Gold or Silver Medals.
 - b. Outstanding achievement worthy of special recognition, but not to the degree required for the DOC Bronze Medal or the NOAA Corps Meritorious Service Medal. The achievement should constitute a definite contribution to the Government, such as an invention or an improvement in design, procedure, or organization.
 - c. Outstanding service worthy of special recognition, but not to the degree required for the DOC Bronze Medal or the NOAA Corps Meritorious Service Medal. The service should be superior to that usually expected of an individual commensurate with his/her grade. The service may cover an extended period of time. Award is based on the circumstances and conditions under which the service was performed.
 - d. Leadership that merits special recognition. Leadership must be sustained so as to demonstrate a high state of development; be of such merit as to earn singular recognition; and reflect most creditably on the efforts of the individual toward accomplishment of the unit mission.
- 2. Type of Recognition - Honorary, non-monetary.

Part 7 – Awards

3. Nomination Procedure
 - a. Initiated by an individual employed, assigned, or attached to NOAA or DOC.
 - b. Transmitted via NOAA form 56-63 the nominee's supervisor, to the Director, CPC, for initial screening.
 - c. Nominations should be made within 120 days of performance of the act or end of the period of service. If nominations are not made in that time frame a letter of lateness must accompany the nomination.

4. Selection Procedure - Requires review and favorable recommendation by the NOAA Corps Uniform and Awards Board and approval by the Director.

5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. CPC provides a certificate, large medal, miniature medal, and ribbon bars. Medals are issued for first award only.
 - c. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars
 1. A 5/16-inch gold-colored star worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes each subsequent award.
 2. A 1/8-inch gold-colored star worn on the miniature medal suspension ribbon denotes each subsequent award.

G. NOAA CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL (NCAM)



1. Eligibility Requirements - Awarded to NOAA Corps officers, and members of other uniformed services assigned, detailed, or attached to NOAA. The award is given for professional and/or leadership achievement based on sustained performance or specific achievement of a superlative nature, and shall be of such merit as to warrant more tangible recognition than is possible by the NOAA Corps Director's Ribbon, but which does not warrant a NOAA Corps Commendation Medal or higher award.
 - a. Superior Achievement Recognition - For a contribution resulting in tangible benefits or savings, or intangible benefits to the Government. "Contribution" means an accomplishment achieved through an individual.

2. Type of Recognition - honorary, non-monetary.

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3. Nomination Procedure
 - a. Initiated by an individual employed, assigned, or attached to NOAA or the U. S. Department of Commerce.
 - b. Transmitted via NOAA form 56-63 from the nominee's supervisor, to the Director, CPC.
 - c. Nominations should be made within 120 days of performance of the act or end of the period of service. If nominations are not made in that time frame a letter of lateness must accompany the nomination.

4. Selection Procedure - Requires review and favorable recommendation by the NOAA Corps Uniform and Awards Board and approval by the Director.

5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. CPC provides a certificate, large medal, miniature medal, and ribbon bars. Medals are issued for first award only.
 - c. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars
 1. A 5/16-inch gold-colored star worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes each subsequent award. A 5/16inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award.
 2. A 1/8-inch gold-colored star worn on the miniature medal suspension ribbon denotes each subsequent award. A 1/8-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award.

H. NOAA CORPS DIRECTOR’S RIBBON (NCDR)



1. Eligibility Requirements - Awarded to a NOAA Corps officer, or member of another uniformed service detailed, assigned, or attached to NOAA, in recognition of noteworthy accomplishments in the performance of duty of a lesser order than that required for the NOAA Corps Achievement Medal, as follows:
 - a. Unusual or substantial accomplishment set apart from others in the same or similar circumstances.
 - b. Sustained exemplary performance set apart from others in the same or similar circumstances.

2. Type of Recognition - Honorary, non-monetary.

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3. Nomination Procedure
 - a. Initiated by an individual employed, assigned or attached to NOAA or DOC.
 - b. Transmitted via NOAA form 56-63 the nominee's supervisor, to the Director, CPC, for initial screening.
 - c. Nominations should be made within 120 days of performance of the act or end of the period of service. If nominations are not made in that time frame a letter of lateness must accompany the nomination.
4. Selection Procedure - Requires review and favorable recommendation by the NOAA Corps Uniform and Awards Board and approval by the Director.
5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. CPC provides a certificate and ribbon bars.
 - c. Attachments to Ribbon Bars - A 5/16-inch gold-colored star worn on the ribbon bar denote each subsequent award. A 5/16-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award.

12704 UNIT AWARDS AND NON-GOVERNMENT DECORATIONS

A. NOAA UNIT CITATION (NUCA)



1. Eligibility Requirements - Awarded to a group of employees who, because of their individual and collective efforts, have made substantive contributions to NOAA's programs. Consideration for a Unit Citation is given, but not limited to those contributions which:
 - a. Are outstanding enough to bring unusual credit and/or favorable attention to NOAA and the Department of Commerce;
 - b. Result in greatly advancing or furthering NOAA programs;
 - c. Accomplish significant savings or improvements in NOAA's operating programs; and
 - d. Represent outstanding service to the public.
2. Type of recognition - Honorary, non-monetary.

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3. Nomination Procedure - Submitted by the nominator on form CD-326, Recommendation for Recognition (revised 7-10) through channels to the appropriate Assistant Administrator or NOAA Staff or Program Office Director.
 4. Selection Procedure - Approval is given by the Assistant Administrator or NOAA Staff or Program Office Director, as appropriate.
 5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. NOAA presents a certificate. CPC provides ribbon bars.
 - c. Attachments to Ribbon Bars - A 3/16-inch bronze-colored star worn on the ribbon bar denote each subsequent award. A 3/16-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award.
 6. Additional Information - See NAO 202-451, Appendix 12.2.
- B. NOAA ACO - JUNIOR OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD (ACOJ) 
1. Eligibility Requirements - Awarded annually to a NOAA Corps officer, below the grade of lieutenant commander, to recognize outstanding contributions to NOAA, outstanding performance, and/or the positive reflection cast by the recipient upon the NOAA Corps. NOAA Corps officers who are promoted to lieutenant commander during the calendar year for which the award is made are eligible.
 2. Type of Recognition - Honorary, non-monetary.
 3. Nomination Procedure
 - a. Nominations are solicited by the National ACO in the first quarter of each fiscal year for the immediately preceding calendar year.
 - b. Any supervisor (not limited to immediate supervisor) under whom the nominee is serving, or any NOAA Corps officer senior in rank to the nominee, may nominate that NOAA Corps officer to receive the award. More than one nomination may be made by each supervisor or senior officer. Nomination should be made for a NOAA Corps officer who, by his/her actions, demonstrated outstanding qualities of personal and/or Corps development. This may include performance of assigned duties, academic achievement, scientific advancement of a NOAA mission, public service, and/or other exemplary achievements.

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- c. The nomination shall consist of at least two pages, the first a cover memo addressed to the National ACO and containing the name, grade, duty title, and job description of the nominated officer. The following page(s) shall be the personal comments of the supervisor, which reflect the basis for the nomination. Criteria on which the supervisor may want to expound include daily job performance, officer bearing, active participation in NOAA Corps-related activities, extra-curricular activities, and any other noteworthy characteristics.
 - 4. Selection Procedure - Selection shall be made by the Executive Committee of the National ACO.
 - 5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. ACO presents a certificate, large medal, miniature medal, and ribbon bars.
- C. NOAA ACO – SCIENCE AWARD (ACOS) 
 - 1. Eligibility Requirements - Awarded to a NOAA Corps officer, or member of another uniformed service assigned, detailed, or attached to NOAA, who has distinguished him/herself by making outstanding scientific contribution(s) that distinguish the individual above those performing similar services.
 - 2. Type of Recognition - Honorary, non-monetary.
 - 3. Nomination Procedure
 - a. Nominations are solicited by the National ACO in the first quarter of each fiscal year for the immediately preceding calendar year.
 - b. Any commissioned officer, or any supervisor under whom the officer is serving, may nominate the officer to receive the award.
 - c. The nomination shall consist of at least two pages, the first a cover memo addressed to the National ACO and containing the name, grade, duty title, and job description of the nominated officer. The following page(s) shall be the personal comments of the supervisor, and should specify the award for which the nomination is being made, the nature of the contribution or achievement, and its significance in relation to the missions of the nominee's unit, NOAA, and/or the NOAA Corps.
 - 4. Selection Procedure - Selection shall be made by the Executive Committee of the National ACO.

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5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. ACO presents a certificate, large medal, miniature medal, and ribbon bars.
 - c. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars
 1. A 3/16-inch bronze-colored "S" is worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar.
 2. A 1/8-inch bronze-colored "S" is worn on the miniature medal suspension ribbon.
- D. NOAA ACO – ENGINEERING AWARD (ACOE) 
1. Eligibility Requirements - Awarded to a NOAA Corps officer, or member of another uniformed service assigned, detailed, or attached to NOAA, who has distinguished him/herself by making outstanding engineering contribution(s) that distinguish the individual above those performing similar services.
 2. Type of Recognition - Honorary, non-monetary.
 3. Nomination Procedure
 - a. Nominations are solicited by the National ACO in the first quarter of each calendar year for the immediately preceding calendar year.
 - b. Any commissioned officer, or any supervisor under whom the officer is serving, may nominate the officer to receive the award.
 - c. The nomination shall consist of at least two pages, the first a cover memo addressed to the National ACO and containing the name, grade, duty title, and job description of the nominated officer. The following page(s) shall be the personal comments of the supervisor, and should specify the award for which the nomination is being made, the nature of the contribution or achievement, and its significance in relation to the missions of the nominee's unit, NOAA, and/or the NOAA Corps.
 4. Selection Procedure - Selection shall be made by the Executive Committee of the National ACO.
 5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.

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- b. ACO presents a certificate, large medal, miniature medal, and ribbon bars.
- c. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars
 - 1. A 3/16-inch bronze-colored "E" is worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar.
 - 2. A 1/8-inch bronze-colored "E" is worn on the miniature medal suspension ribbon.

E. SAME COLBERT MEDAL (COLB)



- 1. Eligibility Requirements - Awarded annually to a member of the National Ocean Service, officer or civilian, active or retired, in recognition of the most outstanding contribution to military engineering through achievement in design, construction, administration, research, or development.
- 2. Type of Recognition - Honorary, non-monetary.
- 3. Nomination Procedure
 - a. Nominations are solicited by the designated Service Chief at the beginning of each calendar year for the immediately preceding calendar year.
 - b. Nominations may be initiated by any NOAA employee. Nominations shall be submitted through channels to the appropriate Assistant Administrator or NOAA Staff or Program Office Director, who forwards the nominations to the designated Service Chief.
 - c. The nomination shall consist of at least two pages, beginning with a concise sentence stating the reason for the award and followed by a more detailed description of the contributions or achievements and their significance to engineering and science.
- 4. Selection Procedure - Nominations are screened and final selection made by a special committee appointed by the designated Service Chief. Following approval by the designated Service Chief, nominations are forwarded to the Executive Director, Society of American Military Engineers, for validation and award.
- 5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. SAME presents a certificate and a large SAME Colbert medal. CPC provides a SAME miniature medal, ribbon bars, and triangle attachments.

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- c. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars - A 3/16-inch silver-colored triangle is worn on the SAME miniature medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar.

F. SAME KARO AWARD (KARO)



1. Eligibility Requirements - Awarded annually to a field unit of the National Ocean Service which has made an outstanding contribution in an engineering or scientific field. A plaque is awarded to the unit.
2. Type of Recognition - Honorary, non-monetary.
3. Nomination Procedures
 - a. Nominations are solicited by the designated Service Chief at the beginning of each calendar year for the immediately preceding calendar year.
 - b. Nominations may be initiated by any NOAA employee. Nominations shall be submitted through channels to the appropriate Assistant Administrator or NOAA Staff or Program Office Director, who forwards the nominations to the designated Service Chief.
 - c. The nomination shall consist of at least two pages, beginning with a concise sentence stating the reason for the award and followed by a more detailed description of the contributions or achievements and their significance to military engineering/engineering and science. A list of all individuals attached to the unit during the award period shall be included with the nomination.
4. Selection Procedure - Nominations are screened and final selection made by a special committee appointed by the designated Service Chief. Award is made by the designated Service Chief.
5. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. CPC provides ribbon bars and triangle attachments.
 - c. Attachments to Ribbon Bars
 1. A 3/16-inch bronze-colored triangle is worn on the ribbon bar.
 2. A 3/16-inch bronze-colored star worn on the ribbon bar denotes each subsequent award. A 3/16-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award.

Part 7 – Awards

12705 CAMPAIGN AND SERVICE AWARDS

A. ANTARCTICA SERVICE MEDAL (AASM)



1. Eligibility Requirements - Each person who, during the period subsequent to January 1, 1946, and a date to be ultimately established by the Secretary of Defense, meets the qualifications of any of the subparagraphs set forth below, shall be eligible to receive this medal. For the purpose of this paragraph, Antarctica is defined as the area south of latitude 60ES [Public Law 86-600, enacted July 7, 1960].
 - a. Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or civilian citizen, national, or resident alien of the United States who, as a member of a U.S. expedition, participates in or has participated in scientific, direct support, or exploratory operations in Antarctica.
 - b. Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or civilian citizen, national, or resident alien of the United States who participated in a foreign Antarctic expedition in Antarctica in coordination with a U.S. Antarctic expedition and who is or was under the sponsorship and approval of competent U.S. Government authority.
 - c. Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who participates in or has participated in flights as a member of the crew of an aircraft flying to or from the Antarctic Continent in support of operations in Antarctica.
 - d. Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or civilian citizen, national, or resident alien of the United States who serves or has served aboard a U. S. ship operating south of latitude 60°S in support of U. S. programs in Antarctica.
 - e. Any person, including citizens of foreign nations, not fulfilling the qualifications under subparagraphs (a) through (d) above, but who participates in, or has participated in a U.S. Antarctic expedition in Antarctica at the invitation of a participating U.S. agency may be given the award by the Secretary of the Department under whose shore cognizance the expedition falls, provided the commander of the military support force as senior U.S. representative in Antarctica considers that this person has performed outstanding and exceptional service and shared the hardships and hazards of the expedition.
 - f. No minimum time limits of participation are required for eligibility for this medal before June 1, 1973. After June 1, 1973, minimum time limits for the award are 30 days under competent orders to duty at sea or ashore, south of latitude 60ES. Each day of duty under competent orders at an outlying station on the Antarctic Continent will count as 2 days when determining award eligibility. Flight crews of aircraft providing logistics support from outside the Antarctic area will receive no more than 1 day's credit for flights in and out during any 24-hour period. Days need not be consecutive.

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2. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Upon completion of the eligibility requirements, the commanding officer or officer in charge shall forward to the National Science Foundation (NSF), Office of Polar Programs, appropriate documentation, in letter form, listing the names of the participant(s), their social security numbers, and inclusive dates of qualification.
 - b. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - c. NSF presents a certificate, a large medal, a ribbon bar, and some attachments to medals and ribbon bars. Miniature medals and other attachments may be purchased through many military uniform outlets.
 - d. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars
 1. Clasps - A bronze-colored clasp, 1/8-inch by 1 1/2 inches, with the words "Wintered Over" on the suspension ribbon of the large medal, denotes the first wintering over period. A gold-colored clasp of the same dimensions denotes the second wintering over period, and a silver-colored clasp of the same dimensions denotes the third or subsequent wintering over period. The clasp is worn centered on the suspension ribbon. Not more than one clasp shall be worn. (The winter period is from mid-March to early October.)
 2. Disks - A bronze-colored disk, 5/16-inch diameter, with an outline of the Antarctic continent inscribed thereon worn on the suspension ribbon of the miniature medal and on the ribbon bar denotes the first wintering over period. A gold-colored disk denotes the second wintering over period, and a silver-colored disk denotes the third or subsequent wintering over period. The disk is worn centered on the ribbon bar and the suspension ribbon of the miniature medal, peninsula pointing up. Not more than one disk shall be worn.
 - e. The award may be made posthumously.

B. COAST GUARD ARCTIC SERVICE MEDAL (ARCT)



1. Eligibility Requirements - The Director is authorized to award the Coast Guard Arctic Service Medal to NOAA Corps officers who qualify in accordance with the most current COMDTINST M1650.25D. Requirements are as follows:
 - a. Any NOAA Corps officer who, during summer operations (1 May to 31 October), serves or has served aboard a NOAA vessel operating in polar waters north of the Arctic Circle (66°33'N). Minimum time requirement is 21 non-consecutive days under competent orders. Only one award per year is authorized.

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- b. Any NOAA Corps officer who, during winter operations (1 November to 30 April), serves or has served aboard a NOAA vessel operating in polar waters north of latitude 60°N in the Bering Sea, Davis Strait, or Denmark Strait. Minimum time requirement is 21 non-consecutive days under competent orders. Only one award per year is authorized.
 - c. Any NOAA Corps officer who serves or has served in shore-based or flight operations north of the Arctic Circle. Minimum time requirement is 21 non-consecutive days under competent orders, receiving no more than one day's credit for flights in and out during an 24-hour period. Only one award per year and/or deployment is authorized.
2. Issuance and Manner of Wear
- a. Upon completion of a deployment during which the eligibility requirements for this award have been met, the commanding officer or officer in charge shall forward to the Director, CPC, appropriate documentation, in the form of a memorandum, listing the inclusive dates for which this medal has been authorized.
 - b. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - c. CPC issues a large medal. Miniature medals and ribbon bars may be purchased through many military uniform outlets.
 - d. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars - For all qualifying deployments after January 1, 1989:
 1. A 3/16-inch bronze-colored star worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes each subsequent award. A 3/16-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award.
 2. A 1/8-inch bronze-colored star worn on the miniature medal suspension ribbon denotes each subsequent award. A 1/8-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award.
 3. Only one award may be earned each deployment.
 - e. The award may be made posthumously.

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C. NOAA CORPS NATIONAL RESPONSE DEPLOYMENT MEDAL (NRDM)



1. Eligibility Requirements – Awarded to NOAA Corps officers, and members of other uniformed services assigned, detailed, or attached to NOAA who distinguish themselves by significant participation in any national response operation, as designated by the Director. The medal is not awarded for participation in support of operations not within the designated operational area. Significant participation is defined as:
 - a. Any NOAA Corps officers assigned to a NOAA research platform (ship or aircraft) that was deployed on specific tasking of response activities, or was engaged in research at or near the presence of any hazard related to the response.
 - b. Any NOAA Corps officer deployed to the response effort with significant duties related to the incident. This includes but is not limited to officers temporarily assigned to the response centers, NOAA facilities and research platforms in response area.
 - c. Any personnel of a uniformed service other than NOAA Corps, that was assigned to assist NOAA in execution of response operations.
2. Type of Recognition - honorary, non-monetary.
3. Nomination Procedure
 - a. Initiated by an individual employed, assigned, or attached to NOAA or the U. S. Department of Commerce.
 - b. Transmitted via NOAA form 56-63 from the nominee's supervisor, to the Director, CPC.
 - c. Nominations should be made within 120 days of performance of the act or end of the period of service.
 - d. Officers shall be awarded the NRDM based on the significance of deployment. Uniformed service personnel shall be reviewed for the award, who provide evidence of their significant service to the response effort via memorandum to the Director, CPC. Minimum requirements for the award will be determined by the Director.
 - e. The award may be made posthumously.
4. Selection Procedure - Requires review and favorable recommendation by the NOAA Corps Uniform and Awards Board and approval by the Director.
5. Issuance and Manner of Wear

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- a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
- b. CPC provides a certificate, large medal, miniature medal, and ribbon bars. Medals are issued for first award only.
- c. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars
 1. A 5/16-inch bronze-colored star worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes each subsequent award. A 5/16- inch silver- colored star denotes a sixth award.
 2. A 1/8-inch bronze-colored star worn on the miniature medal suspension ribbon denotes each subsequent award. A 1/8-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award.

D. NOAA CORPS OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL (NCOV)



1. Eligibility Requirements - Awarded to a member of the NOAA Corps, or a member of another uniformed service detailed, assigned, or attached to NOAA, perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained direct and consequential nature. To qualify for award of the NCOV, a service members volunteer service must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Be to the civilian community, to include the uniformed services family community.
 - b. Be significant in nature and produce tangible results.
 - c. Reflect favorably on the NOAA Corps and the Department of Commerce.
 - d. Be of a sustained and direct nature.
 - e. While there is no specific time period to qualify for the NCOV, the recommending and approving authorities shall ensure the service to be honored merits the special recognition afforded by this medal. The NCOV is intended to recognize exceptional community support over time and not a single act or achievement. Further, it is intended to honor direct support of community activities. For the purpose of this award, attending membership meetings or social events of a community service group is not considered qualifying service, while manning a community crisis action telephone line is considered qualifying service.
2. Nomination Procedure
 - a. Initiated by an individual employed, assigned, or attached to NOAA or the U. S. Department of Commerce.

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- b. Transmitted via NOAA form 56-63 from the nominee's supervisor, to the Director, CPC.
 - c. Nominations should be made within 120 days of performance of the act or end of the period of service. If nominations are not made in that time frame a letter of lateness must accompany the nomination.
 - 3. Selection Procedure - Requires review and favorable recommendation by the NOAA Corps Uniform and Awards Board and approval by the Director.
 - 4. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - b. CPC provides a certificate, large medal, miniature medal, and ribbon bars. Medals are issued for first award only.
 - c. Attachments to Medals and Ribbon Bars
 - 1. A 3/16-inch bronze-colored star worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar denotes each subsequent award. A 3/16-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award.
 - 2. A 1/8-inch bronze-colored star worn on the miniature medal suspension ribbon denotes each subsequent award. A 1/8-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award.
- E. NOAA CORPS SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON (NSSR) 
- 1. Eligibility Requirements - The Director is authorized to award the NSSR to NOAA Corps officers serving aboard commissioned ships, and to USPHS officers assigned to NOAA ships, who qualify. Requirements are as follows:
 - a. Twelve months accumulated sea duty, including temporary duty at sea, that includes at least one 90 consecutive-day deployment. Second and subsequent awards will be earned for each additional 12 months of sea duty in which a 90 consecutive-day deployment occurs. Periods in shipyard away from home port are not considered deployments.
 - b. The NSSR is retroactive to January 1, 2002. The Navy Sea Service Deployment (SSDR) award was authorized for sea duty or deployments prior to January 1, 2002.

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- c. After January 1, 2002, awards will be made as described in (a) above. The accumulated sea time for subsequent awards is reset to zero upon completion of both criteria for each award period. Ninety-day deployments may not be carried forward when accumulated sea time is reset.
 1. Upon completion of a ship deployment during which the eligibility requirements for this award have been met, the commanding officer or officer in charge may authorize and issue this award, and shall forward to the Director, CPC, appropriate documentation listing the inclusive dates of the 12-month period and the 90-day deployment for which this ribbon has been authorized. Use of the Awards Authorization is required.
 2. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt and verification of proper documentation.
 3. The command or CPC provides ribbon bars.
 4. Attachments to Ribbon Bars - A 3/16-inch bronze-colored star worn on the ribbon bar denote each subsequent award. A 3/16-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award.
 5. The award may be made posthumously.

F. NOAA CORPS ATLANTIC SERVICE RIBBON (NCAS)



1. Eligibility Requirements - Any NOAA Corps officer, or member of another uniformed service assigned, detailed, TDY, or attached to NOAA, who completes 180 days of a permanent sea assignment aboard a NOAA vessel operating in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes or adjacent waters after January 1, 1946, shall be eligible to receive this ribbon. The Director may waive the minimum time requirement.
2. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Upon completion of the eligibility requirements the commanding officer may authorize and issue this award, and shall forward to the Director, CPC, appropriate documentation listing the inclusive dates for which this ribbon has been authorized. Use of the Awards Authorization is required. A memorandum directed to the Director, CPC, demonstrating how the eligibility requirements were met, may be substituted for the forms when referencing assignments commencing before January 1, 1986.
 - b. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - c. The command or CPC provides ribbon bars.

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- d. Attachments to Ribbon Bars - A 3/16-inch bronze-colored star worn on the ribbon bar denote each subsequent award. A 3/16-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award. Only one award is authorized for each tour of duty.
- e. The award may be made posthumously.

G. NOAA CORPS PACIFIC SERVICE RIBBON (NCPS)



- 1. Eligibility Requirements - Any NOAA Corps officer, or member of another uniformed service assigned, detailed, TDY, or attached to NOAA, who completes 180 days of a permanent sea assignment aboard a NOAA vessel operating in the waters of the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, Bering Sea, or adjacent waters after January 1, 1946, shall be eligible to receive this ribbon. The Director may waive the minimum time requirement.
- 2. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Upon completion of the eligibility requirements the commanding officer may authorize and issue this award, and shall forward to the Director, CPC, appropriate documentation listing the inclusive dates for which this ribbon has been authorized. Use of the Awards Authorization is required. A memorandum directed to the Director, CPC, demonstrating how the eligibility requirements were met, may be substituted for the forms when referencing assignments commencing before January 1, 1986.
 - b. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - c. The command or CPC provides ribbon bars.
 - d. Attachments to Ribbon Bars - A 3/16-inch bronze-colored star worn on the ribbon bar denote each subsequent award. A 3/16-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award. Only one award is authorized for each tour of duty.
 - e. The award may be made posthumously.

H. NOAA CORPS MOBILE DUTY SERVICE RIBBON (NCMS)



- 1. Eligibility Requirements - Any NOAA Corps officer, or member of another uniformed service assigned, detailed, TDY, or attached to NOAA, who completes 180 days of a mobile duty assignment in the United States, its possessions or territories after January 1, 1946, shall be eligible to receive this ribbon. The Director may waive the minimum time requirement.
- 2. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. The Chief-of-Party or officer shall forward a memorandum to the Director, CPC, demonstrating how the eligibility requirements were met.

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- b. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
- c. CPC provides ribbon bars.
- d. Attachments to Ribbon Bars - A 3/16-inch bronze-colored star worn on the ribbon bar denote each subsequent award. A 3/16-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award. Only one award is authorized for each tour of duty.
- e. The award may be made posthumously.

I. NOAA CORPS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE RIBBON (NCIS)



1. Eligibility Requirements

- a. Any NOAA Corps officer, or member of another uniformed service assigned, detailed, or attached to NOAA, who serves aboard a United States vessel operating in foreign or international waters, with at least one foreign in-port call, and participating in a foreign or international project as part of the deployment after January 1, 1946, shall be eligible to receive this ribbon. Minimum time requirement is 21 consecutive days under competent orders. Time includes foreign port calls but excludes transit to and from the United States, its territories, or possessions.
- b. Any NOAA Corps officer who serves aboard a foreign vessel or on operational duty, based in areas other than the United States, its territories or possessions. Minimum time requirement is 21 consecutive days under competent orders.

2. Issuance and Manner of Wear

- a. In the case of (1)(a) or (1)(b) above, upon completion of a ship deployment during which the eligibility requirements for this award have been met, the commanding officer or officer in charge may authorize and issue this award to those eligible, and shall forward to the Director, CPC, appropriate documentation listing the inclusive dates for which this ribbon has been authorized.

Use of the Awards Authorization - Atlantic Fleet form, or Awards Authorization - Pacific Fleet form is strongly recommended. A memorandum to the Director, CPC, demonstrating how the eligibility requirements were met, may be substituted for the forms when referencing assignments commencing before January 1, 1986.

- b. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
- c. The command or CPC provides ribbon bars.

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- d. Attachments to Ribbon Bars
 - 1. In the case of (1)(a) or (1)(b) above, a 3/16-inch bronze-colored star worn on the ribbon bar denotes each subsequent award. A 3/16-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award. Only one award is authorized for each tour of duty.
 - 2. In the case of (1)(c) above, a 3/16-inch silver-colored triangle is worn on the ribbon bar. Only one triangular attachment is authorized.
- e. The award may be made posthumously.

J. NOAA CORPS NATIONAL RESPONSE SERVICE RIBBON (NRSR)



- 1. Eligibility Requirements - Any NOAA Corps officer, or member of another uniformed service assigned, detailed, TDY, or attached to NOAA, who provides significant support to NOAA during a period of national emergency. The Director will determine the parameters of national emergency for the purposes of this award, and will determine the minimum requirements for significant contribution to the response effort. Authority to award the NRSR may be delegated to the Director CPC.
- 2. Issuance and Manner of Wear
 - a. Upon completion of the eligibility requirements the officer may submit evidence of support to the Director, CPC, for review. The Director will award the NRSR based on the established minimum requirements.
 - b. Appropriate service record entries will be made at CPC after receipt of proper documentation.
 - c. CPC provides ribbon bars.
 - d. Attachments to Ribbon Bars - A 3/16-inch bronze-colored star worn on the ribbon bar denote each subsequent award. A 3/16-inch silver-colored star denotes a sixth award. Only one award is authorized for each tour of duty.
 - e. The award may be made posthumously.

12706 OTHER AWARDS AND BADGES

- A. Professional organization awards - Awards received from nongovernmental sources, solely for NOAA-related professional performance, may be approved for wear by the Director. Authorization shall be on a case-by-case basis after an examination of the criteria used and after the suitability of the award has been established.
- B. Foreign awards – NOAA Corps officers who have been specifically authorized by the Director to accept awards from foreign governments may wear such awards.

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- C. Awards and badges of societies and various organizations - Awards and badges of military societies, veteran’s organizations, and civilian organizations not provided for in the above paragraphs may be worn on the uniform only while the individual is attending meetings or conventions of the awarding society or organization, or while participating in parades or other ceremonies as a member of:
 - 1. American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, or other officially recognized veteran's organizations.
 - 2. Technical societies, such as the Society of American Military Engineers.

- D. The Director, through the Uniform and Awards Board, will resolve any individual questions regarding the wearing and precedence of decorations, medals, awards, ribbons, or badges not listed above.

Part 7 – Awards

12707 ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR AWARDS

A. The order of precedence of awards that may be authorized for NOAA Corps officers is indicated below. Awards given by the Department of Commerce, NOAA, and the NOAA Corps are indicated by bolded, uppercase letters.

B. **Personal Decorations**

Medal of Honor

Navy Cross; Distinguished Service Cross; Air Force Cross

Presidential Medal of Freedom

Defense Distinguished Service Medal

COMMERCE GOLD MEDAL

Distinguished Service Medals (Armed Forces)

Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal

Silver Star Medal

Defense Superior Service Medal

COMMERCE SILVER MEDAL

Legion of Merit

Distinguished Flying Cross

Navy-Marine Corps Medal; Soldier's Medal; Airman's

Medal; Coast Guard Medal

Gold Lifesaving Medal

Bronze Star Medal

Purple Heart Medal

National Security Medal

COMMERCE BRONZE MEDAL

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

NOAA CORPS MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Meritorious Service Medals (Uniformed Services)

Public Health Service Outstanding Service Medal

Merchant Marine Meritorious Service Medal

Air Medal

Silver Lifesaving Medal

NOAA ADMINISTRATOR'S AWARD MEDAL

Joint Service Commendation Medal

NOAA CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL

Commendation Medals (Uniformed Services)

Joint Service Achievement Medal

NOAA CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

Achievement Medals (Uniformed Services)

National Medal of Science

NOAA CORPS DIRECTOR'S RIBBON

Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon

Public Health Service Citation

Merchant Marine Mariner's Medal

Combat Action Ribbon

Part 7 – Awards

C. Unit Awards (no medals authorized)

Presidential Unit Citation
Joint Meritorious Unit Award
NOAA UNIT CITATION
Navy Unit Commendation
Army Valorous Unit Award
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
Secretary of Transportation's Award for Outstanding Achievement
Coast Guard Unit Commendation
Public Health Service Outstanding Unit Citation
Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation
Army Meritorious Unit Commendation
Air Force Organizational Excellence Award
Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation
Public Health Service Unit Commendation
Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation
Navy "E" Ribbon

D. Non-Government Decorations

NOAA ACO Junior Officer of the Year Award
NOAA ACO Science/Engineering Award
Society of American Military Engineers Colbert Medal
Society of American Military Engineers Karo Award

E. Campaign and Service Awards

Prisoner of War Medal
Outstanding Airman of the Year Ribbon
Air Force Recognition Ribbon
Good Conduct Medals: Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard
Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal
Organized Marine Corps Reserve Medal
Coast Guard Reserve Good Conduct Medal
(Formerly USCG Reserve Meritorious Service Ribbon)
Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal
Navy Fleet Marine Force Ribbon
Expeditionary Medals
Navy Occupation Service Medal
Medal for Humane Action
National Defense Service Medal
Korean Service Medal
Merchant Marine Korean Service Bar
Antarctica Service Medal

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E. Campaign and Service Awards (cont.)

Coast Guard Arctic Service Medal
 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
 Vietnam Service Medal
 Merchant Marine Vietnam Service Bar
 Humanitarian Service Medal
NOAA CORPS NATIONAL RESPONSE DEPLOYMENT MEDAL
NOAA CORPS OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL
 Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
 Army Overseas Ribbon
 Air Force Overseas Ribbon (long tour replaces short tour)
NOAA CORPS SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON
NOAA CORPS ATLANTIC SERVICE RIBBON
NOAA CORPS PACIFIC SERVICE RIBBON
NOAA CORPS MOBILE DUTY SERVICE RIBBON
NOAA CORPS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE RIBBON
NOAA CORPS NATIONAL RESPONSE SERVICE RIBBON
 Public Health Service Foreign Duty Service Award
 Public Health Service Hazardous Duty Service Award
 Public Health Service Isolated Hardship Service Award
 Public Health Service Special Assignment Service Award
 Public Health Service Smallpox Eradication Campaign Ribbon
 Public Health Service Crisis Response Service Award
 Southwest Asia Service Medal
 Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon
 Navy Arctic Service Ribbon
 Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon
 Armed Forces Reserve Medal
 Naval Reserve Medal
 Marine Corps Reserve Ribbon
 Air Force Longevity Service Award
 Air Force NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon
 Army NCO Professional Development Ribbon
 Coast Guard Basic Training Honor Graduate
 Air Force Basic Military Training Honor Graduate
 Army Service Ribbon
 Air Force Training Ribbon
 Naval Reserve Sea Service Ribbon

F. Foreign Personal Decorations

G. Foreign Unit Awards (no medals authorized)

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation
 Korean Presidential Unit Citation
 Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Cross of Gallantry Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Civil Actions Medal Color

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H. Non-U.S. Service Awards

United Nations Service Medal

United Nations Medal

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)

Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)