

NOAA Corps Uniform and Awards Board

End of Year Report - 2019



Awards

The UAB reviewed 192 award submissions in calendar year 2019:

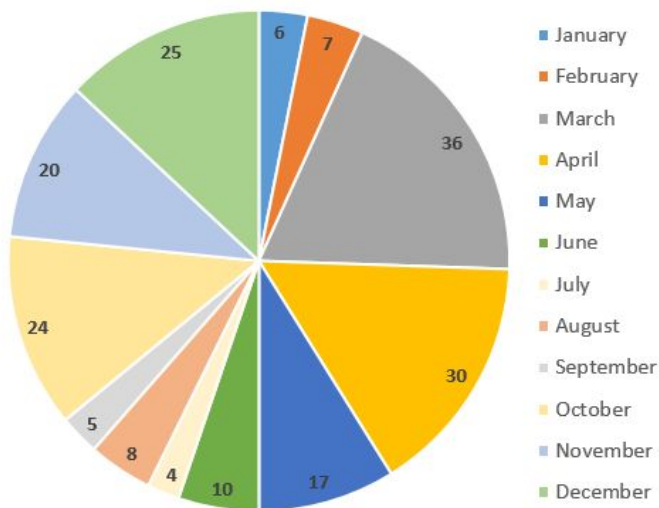
Number of awards:

162 approved as written
9 upgraded to a higher award
14 returned for re-write
2 downgraded to a lower award
4 found to be redundant with another award
1 recommendation to convert to Unit Citation

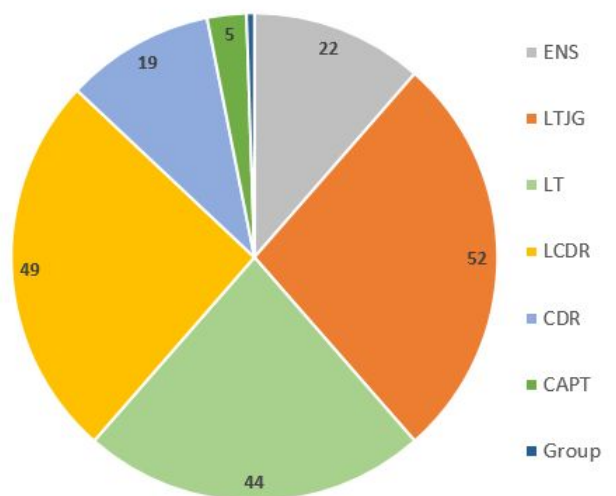
Types of awards:

69 Director's Ribbons
6 Outstanding Volunteer Service Medals
65 Achievement Medals
42 Commendation Medals
10 Meritorious Service Medals

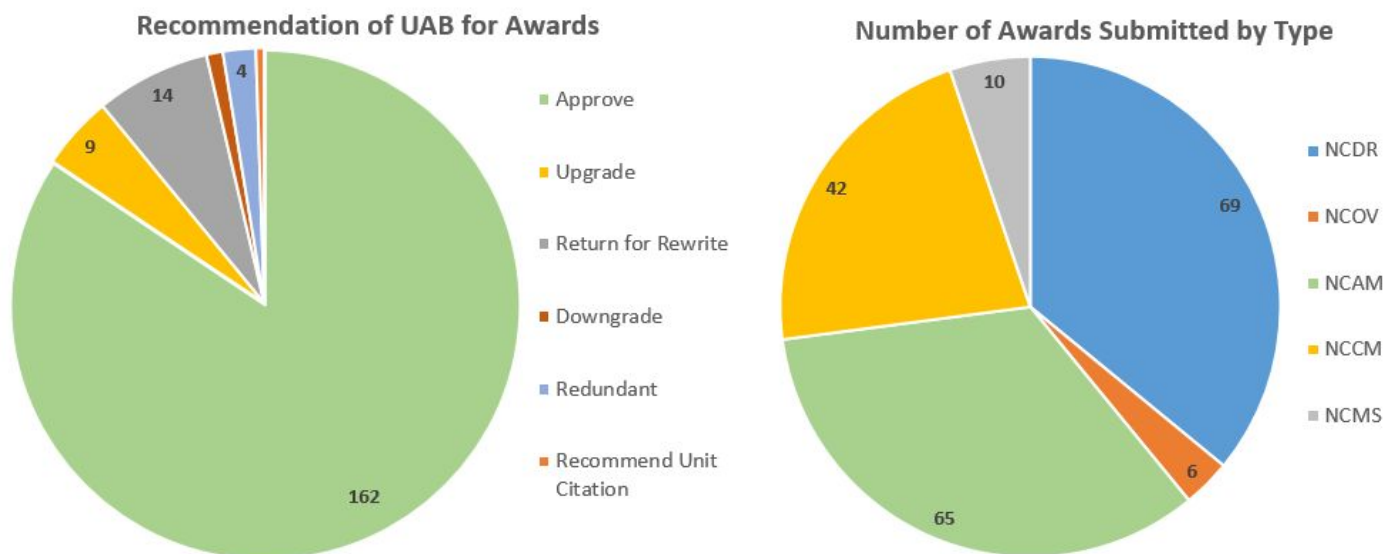
Number of Awards Reviewed by Month



Awards Submitted for Review by Rank



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Uniforms

Boonie Hat

The UAB has recommended and received approval from the Director to include the USCG UDC stocked “Boonie Hat” as an optional item for the ODU in certain operating environments. An update will be made to the Directives.

NOAA Diver Insignia

A 2006 decision to change the design of the NOAA Diver Insignia caught up with the Corps in 2018 when the insignia provider began selling a “new” style of pin. The UAB reviewed the information available and recommended reverting to the original design. The Director has approved this and the Corps will continue with the original design (that has been in place since 1976). Additionally, the UAB took the opportunity to re-size the large size insignia to bring it in line with other qualification insignia. The new large size pin will retain the existing design, but will be re-sized to 1.125 inches. The UAB will work with the Institute of Heraldry to update the specification and the manufacturer to have new insignia produced. An announcement will be made when available.

NOAA Coxswain Insignia

The UAB has continued work on the development of a NOAA Coxswain Insignia to be worn by qualified NOAA Corps Officers. The proposal has been finalized and presented to the Director for review.

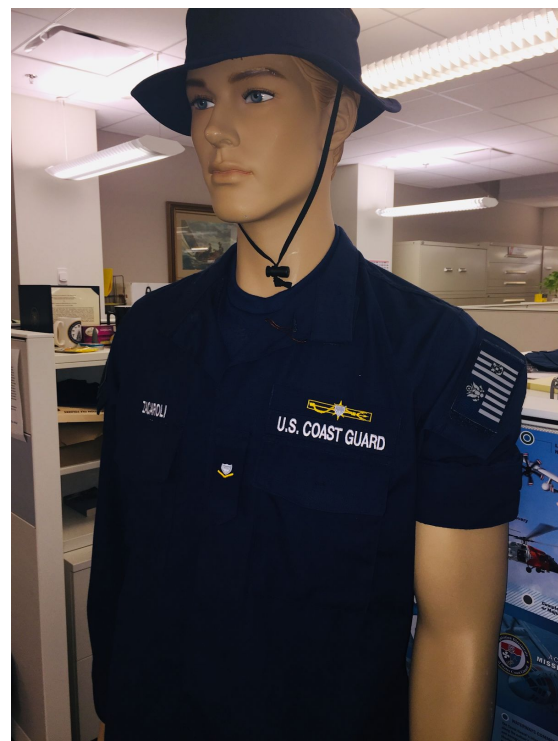
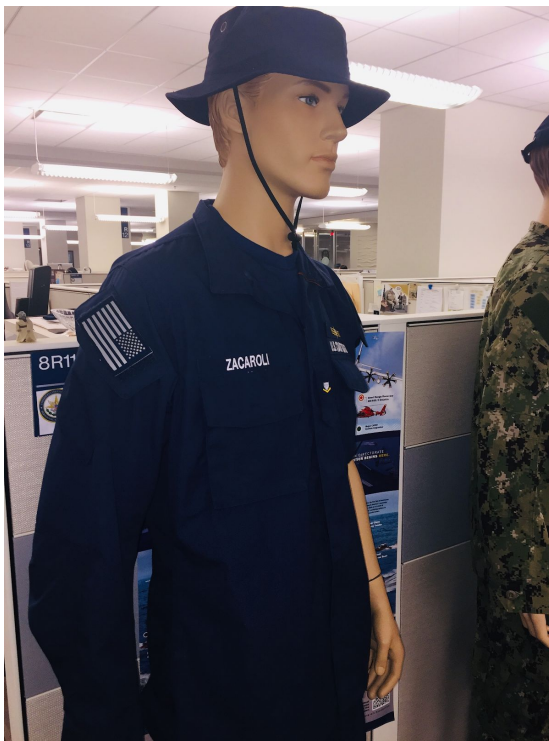
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Navy Information Warfare Officer Insignia

UAB recommended approval for wear in the NOAA Corps and the Director has approved.

New USCG ODU Uniform

Also known as the Next Generation Coast Guard Utility Uniform (CGU). The USCG uniform program was authorized to make significant changes in the appearance and construction of the current ODU. They will be applying the Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type III pattern as the primary pattern for the new Coast Guard Utility (CGU) produced in CG Blue. The UAB will be working closely with the USCG UDC as this transition is made and will be keeping the Corps informed via future Cyberflashes.



Identification Badges

A proposal was received to have identification badges for certain types of special duty, similar to other services. A NOAA Administrator Staff Badge, NOAA Corps Director Staff Badge, and a NOAA Corps Recruiting Staff Badge were suggested. The UAB is supportive of this, but has chosen not to take it up at this time in order to focus on getting other new changes finalized and incorporated into the next uniform directives update.

Aviation award recommendations

The UAB discussed either creating ribbons equivalent to sea service ribbons or implementing

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awards unique to aviation. A separate working group to address this issue was formed in 2019, and the UAB is currently reviewing the proposals with them..

OOD Qualification Insignia

The NJAC has submitted a proposal for an OOD qualification insignia. The UAB reviewed the proposal and determined that there is no equivalent in other services of insignia for the OOD qualification. The proposal was not advanced to the Director.

Awards How-To

The UAB updated the *NOAA Corps How To: Awards* guidance document available on the CPC website.

Stars on Organizational Awards

The UAB developed clarifying images and language for the wear of stars and “O” attachments on organizational awards. This change will be incorporated into the next update of the directives.

Awards Order of Precedence

The UAB updated the award order of precedence. This change will be incorporated into the next update of the directives.

Multiple ODU Qualification Insignia

The UAB was asked for clarification if two sew-on qualification insignia is allowed on the ODU. The UAB will vote and will provide clarification in the next update to the directives.