

Chapter 5 - UNITED STATES NON-MILITARY DECORATIONS

SECTION 1 - GENERAL

510. DEFINITION. A U.S. non-military decoration is any U.S. decoration not classified as a military decoration.

511. PRECEDENCE. U.S. non-military decorations take precedence immediately after all U.S. unit awards. They take precedence in the order earned except when more than one decoration has been established by the same agency. The precedence then is as established by the awarding agency. Appendix C to Chapter 1 contains a selective list of non-military decorations awarded to members of the Naval Service.

Non-military awards which may have been earned by personnel prior to entrance into the Naval Service may only be worn on the uniform in accordance with U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps uniform regulations.

512. ATTACHMENTS

1. Gold Bar. A gold bar is authorized to be worn on the suspension ribbon of the Gold Life Saving Medal to denote each subsequent award earned.

2. Silver Bar. A silver bar is authorized to be worn on the suspension ribbon of the Silver Life Saving Medal to denote each subsequent award earned.

3. Gold Compass Rose. A gold compass rose is authorized to be worn on the suspension ribbon of the medal and ribbon bar of the National Security Medal to denote each subsequent award earned.

4. Planet Symbol. A ball-shaped object symbolizing a planet, with wing configuration is authorized to be worn on the suspension ribbon of the medal and ribbon bar of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Distinguished Service Medal to denote each subsequent award earned.

SECTION 2 - ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

520. RECOMMENDATIONS. Personnel of the Naval Service should be recommended for U.S. non-military decorations only in rare instances where a military decoration is not considered appropriate. In such cases, recommendations should be forwarded to SECNAV (NDBDM) for further transmittal to the appropriate reviewing authority.

521. ISSUANCE AND REPLACEMENT. Regulations for issue and replacement of U.S. non-military decorations are as issued by the awarding agency.

522. REQUIREMENTS. The authorization and general eligibility criteria for selected non-military decorations listed in Appendix C to Chapter 1 are as follows:

1. Presidential Medal of Freedom

a. Originally authorized as the Medal of Freedom by E.O. 9586, 6 July 1945, amended by E.O. 10336, 3 April 1952. Reestablished as the Presidential Medal of Freedom by E.O. 11085, 21 February 1963.

b. Eligibility Requirements and Awarding Authority. Awarded by the President to any person who has made an especially meritorious contribution to: (1) The security or national interests of the United States; or (2) world peace; or (3) cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

c. Degrees of Award. Awards of this medal will be made in two degrees; First Degree - Presidential Medal of Freedom, with distinction; Second Degree - Presidential Medal of Freedom.

d. Procedure for Award

(1) Recommendations. Recommendations may be submitted to the SECNAV Public Service Awards Panel for consideration and screening. This Board will periodically submit nominations of individuals to the President for award of the medal, in appropriate degrees.

(2) Selection of Recipient. The President may select for award of the medal any person nominated by the Board, any person otherwise recommended to the President for award of the medal, or any person selected by the President upon his own initiative.

(3) Announcement of Award. The principal announcement of awards of the medal shall normally be made annually, on or about 4 July of each year; but such awards may be made at other times, as the President may deem appropriate.

2. National Security Medal

a. Authorized by E.O. 10431, 19 January 1953.

b. Eligibility Requirements and Awarding Authority. Awarded by the President of the United States, or by his designee in the name of the President, to any person without regard to nationality, including a member of the Armed Forces of the United States for distinguished achievement or outstanding contribution in the field of intelligence relating to national security. The contributions may consist of either exceptionally meritorious service performed in a position of high responsibility or of an act of valor requiring personal courage of a high degree and complete disregard of personal safety.

3. National Sciences Medal

a. Authorized by Public Law 86-209.

b. Eligibility Requirements and Awarding Authority. Awarded by the President of the United States to any person who is a citizen or national of the U.S. or an alien lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence and fulfills the specified conditions. This medal will be awarded on the basis of recommendations of the National Science Foundation or such other evidence that the President deems appropriate to individuals who in his judgment are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematical or engineering sciences.

4. Life Saving Medals (Gold and Silver)

- a. Authorized by 14 U.S.C. 500.
- b. Eligibility Requirements and Award Authority.

(1) Either the Gold or Silver Life Saving Medal may be awarded by the Secretary of Transportation to any person who rescues or endeavors to rescue any other person from drowning, shipwreck, or other peril of the water. If such rescue is made at the risk of one's own life and evidences extreme and heroic daring, the medal is gold. If such rescue or attempted rescue is not sufficiently distinguished to deserve the medal of gold, but evidences the exercise of such signal exertion as to merit recognition, the medal shall be silver. The rescue or attempted rescue must either take place in waters within the United States or subject to the jurisdiction thereof or one of the parties being rescued must be a citizen of the United States or from a vessel or aircraft owned or operated by citizens of the United States.

(2) Recommendations. Navy and Marine Corps personnel should not be recommended for Transportation Department Life Saving Medals unless a military decoration is considered wholly inappropriate. The Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal or Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, as appropriate, should be awarded to Navy and Marine Corps personnel for heroic conduct in saving life instead of the Gold and Silver Life Saving Medals.

5. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Distinguished Service Medal.

- a. Authorized by order of National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- b. Eligibility Requirements and Awarding Authority. Awarded by National Aeronautics and Space Administration for distinguished service which contributed significantly to the aeronautics and space activities of the Nation.