



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
1014 N STREET SE SUITE 100
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5720
Ser OOKS/1403
04-095
4 OCTOBER 2004

Mr. Christopher J. Farrell
Judicial Watch, Inc.
501 School Street, SW, Suite 725
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Farrell:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552) request of September 20, 2004, which we received via fax on that date. In general, you requested records relating to my review of, and action on, a Judicial Watch request for an investigation of the Navy's decision to award Senator Kerry a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts for action in Vietnam. Your letter contains eight numbered paragraphs that request specific types of documents. This response is keyed to those paragraph numbers.

In paragraph number one, you asked for "the subject of" my letter to Judicial Watch dated September 17, 2004, which stated I would not undertake the investigation Judicial Watch requested. My Counsel, Lawrence J. Lippolis, spoke to you about this request by telephone on September 23, 2004. As a result of that conversation, we understand that paragraph number one seeks any records we may have that concern Senator Kerry other than those that pertain to the Judicial Watch request for an investigation of his medals and awards. This would include, for example, records of any other investigations of Senator Kerry we may have conducted.

We carefully reviewed the database we use to track subjects of our investigations. We found no reference to Senator Kerry. Consequently, we provide you a "no records response" to your paragraph number one. As I indicate below, you may appeal the response to this part of your request if you believe we have not made a reasonable search of our records.

In paragraph number two, you asked for records of our "report, review, procedure examination, investigation, audit, inspection and/or findings predicated upon" the request that we conduct the

investigation described at the outset of this letter. We will treat this paragraph as a request for all the documents contained in the file we established after receipt of the Judicial Watch request. For future reference, we assigned this file NAVINSGEN Case Number 20040700.

Most of the documents we reviewed consist of the personnel records for Senator Kerry maintained by the Navy Personnel Command (NPC). Ordinarily, we would refer those records to NPC for review and direct response to you. However, since all of these records are included within the August 2, 2004, Judicial Watch FOIA request, to which NPC has already responded, we do not believe we need to make that referral in this instance. We understand NPC has already provided you the documents it considers releasable under the FOIA and that you have appealed the NPC decision not to release portions of some records.

We reviewed a small number of documents that fall under the cognizance of the Office of the Judge Advocate General and the Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals. We have been authorized to release the Board's documents, which are copies of old instructions and delegations of authority. They are enclosed in this letter. We redacted the names of people who provided them to protect their privacy interests. We invoke exemption (b)(7)(C) for this purpose. We have referred the records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General to the FOIA office responsible for those records in order that it may review them and respond directly to you.

Our file contains a number of records that are readily available to the public. For example, you provided us a copy of the book "Unfit for Command." We looked at some public websites, including Senator Kerry's and copied pages from them. Our file also includes the investigative article in the August 22, 2004 edition of the Washington Post. Since these records already are readily available to the public, we do not provide copies of them in response to your request.

We created six documents that are responsive to your paragraph number two, and we have enclosed them with this letter. We redacted the names of the people mentioned in them to protect their privacy interests in accordance with FOIA exemption (b)(7)(C). While much of the information in these documents is exempt from release under FOIA exemption (b)(5) because it is

predecisional and advisory in nature, we invoke that exemption only for that material that expresses an investigator's opinion. Our decision not to invoke the exemption for other information in these documents at this time does not constitute a waiver of our right to invoke the exemption in response to other requests for these records, or for other records of this nature, in the future.

Our file for case number 20040700 also includes correspondence from four people who contacted us after Judicial Watch made public its request for an investigation. We treated these documents as complaints that duplicate the Judicial Watch request. In accordance with our duty to protect a complainant's identity and privacy interests, we are not providing you copies of these records. We invoke exemption (b)(7)(C) for this purpose. However, we do provide redacted copies of our responses to them, which are similar to our September 17, 2004 letter to Judicial Watch, as enclosures to this letter.

Our case file also contains copies of several statutes and instructions that we looked at during our review of your request for an investigation. Since you refer to records of this type in another of your numbered paragraphs, we address them later in this letter.

In paragraph number three, you request the "names of persons(s) contacted, interviewed, consulted, deposed, or relied upon ... for the matters identified in" paragraph numbers one and two of your FOIA request. We did not create a witness list during our review. Where the name of someone who provided information appears in the records we are providing you, it is exempt from release under exemption (b)(7)(C) of the FOIA, and we removed the name to protect that person's privacy interest.

In paragraph number four, you ask for "the legal and/or regulatory basis" for my decision not to undertake the investigation you requested. We treat this as a request for records that document the scope of the Naval Inspector General's authority to decide what he will investigate.

My statutory authority is codified at 10 USC 5020. The Secretary of the Navy has given me additional authority in SECNAV Instruction 5430.57F, Mission and Functions of the Naval Inspector General. We treated your letter of August 18, 2004 as

a DoD/Navy Hotline Complaint and processed it in accordance with DoD Directive 7050.1, Defense Hotline Program, DoD Instruction 7050.7, Defense Hotline Procedures, and SECNAV Instruction 5370.5A, DoD/Navy Hotline Program. All of the foregoing are available on websites readily accessible to the public.

In paragraph number five you ask for "records, instructions, regulations, orders and other things that document the lawful delegation of authority, approval process and procedures for awards" to Senator Kerry. These records are included in the documents we obtained from the Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals and are enclosed, with the (b) (7) (C) redactions noted earlier in this letter.

In paragraph number six you ask for records of any award or decoration the Navy presented to Senator Kerry in 1968. One Purple Heart was awarded to Senator Kerry for action that occurred in December 1968, but it appears that he was not presented that award until 1969, and we have no records that are responsive to this request. If you believe our search was not reasonable, you may appeal it.

In paragraph number seven you ask for records of our communications with the Inspector General, Department of Defense (DoDIG) and the Secretary of the Navy concerning matters addressed in your paragraph numbers one and two. Since those documents appear in our case file, they are provided as part of the records responsive to your paragraph number two. Please note that we communicated our decision to the DoDIG by sending a copy of our September 17, 2004 memorandum to the Secretary of the Navy. Our case file contains one letter from the DoDIG to us; we are forwarding it to the DoDIG FOIA office for review and direct response to you.

In paragraph number eight you ask for records of our communications with anyone other than the DoDIG and the Secretary of the Navy concerning matters addressed in your paragraph numbers one and two. The only documents responsive to this request are the letters we sent other people who asked for an investigation; they are provided as part of the records responsive to your paragraph number two.

There is no charge for the records enclosed with this letter.

I note that you requested expedited processing of this request, and that NPC denied a similar request made in connection with your August 2, 2004 FOIA request. Because I am responding within the timeframe you requested, I consider your request for expedited processing moot.

Since I have denied your request in part, you have the right to appeal my determination in writing to:

OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
1322 PATTERSON AVENUE SE SUITE 3000
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5066

To be considered, your appeal must be postmarked within 60 days from the date of this letter. The enclosed copy of this letter should be attached along with a statement explaining why your appeal should be granted. It is recommended that the letter of appeal and the envelope both bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

If you have any questions concerning this matter, my assistant, Ms. Pat Chase, is familiar with your request and may be of assistance. She may be reached at (202) 433-2222.

Sincerely,



R. A. ROUTE
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Naval Inspector General

Enclosures



INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
400 ARMY NAVY DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202-4704

SEP -2 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL

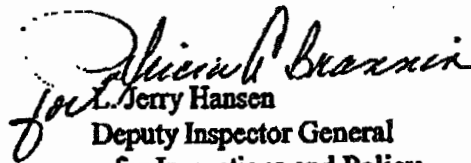
SUBJECT: Alleged Violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and Federal Criminal Law

In accordance with our responsibility under Section 8(d) of Reference (a), (Title 5, U.S.C., Appendix 3), to "report suspected or alleged violations of chapter 47 of Title 10, United States Code (Uniform Code of Military Justice), to the Secretary of the Military Department concerned," the following information is provided for your information and action as appropriate.

We have received a request to conduct an investigation from officials at Judicial Watch, Inc., citing the recent publication of Unfit for Command, by Messrs. John B. O'Neil and Jerome R. Corsi, PhD. Allegations have surfaced that Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) John Forbes Kerry engaged in dishonorable conduct, made false official reports and statements, misused U.S. government equipment, and committed multiple violations of U.S. Navy regulations and directives, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and the U.S. Code between December 2, 1968 and March 17, 1969, while serving on active military duty in the Republic of South Vietnam. Accordingly, the awards he received for valor and combat wounds (Silver Star, Bronze Star, three (3) Purple Hearts), are alleged as being obtained under false pretenses.

In addition, we have a responsibility under Section 4(d) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (Title 5, U.S.C., Appendix 3), to "report expeditiously to the Attorney General whenever an Inspector General has reasonable grounds to believe there has been a violation of Federal criminal law." If your review determines that reasonable grounds exist to believe any Federal criminal laws have been violated, please notify this office.

We note that Judicial Watch has forwarded the same allegations to your office. Please notify this office of any actions you take in response to these allegations. If you have any questions, please contact me at (703) 602-1018.


Joe L. Jerry Hansen
Deputy Inspector General
for Inspections and Policy

cc: Secretary of the Navy
General Counsel of the Department of Defense

~~—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY—~~

MEMORANDUM

10 September 2004

From: (b)(7)c
To:
Via:

Subj: JUDICIAL WATCH REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION INTO AWARD OF MEDALS TO
LTJG JOHN KERRY AND HIS POST-VIETNAM SERVICE ACTIVITIES;
RECOMMENDATION TO BOOKFILE WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION

1. In letters of 18 August and 8 September 2004, Judicial Watch (JW), a nonprofit public interest group, requested an IG investigation into allegations that medals awarded to then-LTJG John Kerry during his Vietnam service in 1968/69 were fraudulent and that his post-active duty anti-Vietnam War activities while still a member of the Naval Reserve violated the UCMJ and other statutes. The allegations are based on information contained in the book, Unfit for Command, and in numerous related news media interviews and articles.
2. In conducting a preliminary review to determine the investigable merits of this complaint, I read the book, reviewed related documents in LTJG Kerry's Navy personnel file (as supplemented by related documents available on Senator John Kerry's website), reviewed Awards Board documentation concerning procedures and delegations of authority at the time of the events in question, and closely followed related news media articles, including *The Washington Post's* investigative article of 22 August 2004 and a *Newsweek* article of 30 August 2004. My findings are as follows:
 - a. Comparison of awards related documents to procedures and delegations of authority in place at the time indicates that the appropriate personnel in authority followed the appropriate procedures. Thus, there is a presumption of correctness to the documentation underlying the awards in question. I would note that JW's questioning of the authority of various individuals who signed award citations, etc., is clearly without merit, as those individuals had separately delegated authority at the time, as verified by information on file at the Awards Board. Similarly, it is apparent that duplicate citations issued under then-Secretary Lehman's and others' signatures in June 1985 were in response to a request from Senator Kerry or his office. It isn't altogether clear why the originals weren't on file, but there is considerable correspondence indicating efforts over the years to chase down various citations, etc. The citations under Secretary Lehman's name appear to have been signed by a machine, which would explain why he now doesn't recall any involvement.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

The Washington Post
investigative article of 22 August 2004 was extensive and focused on the military action leading to his Bronze Star Medal. It was headlined, "Swift Boat Accounts Incomplete - Critics Fail to Disprove Kerry's Version of Vietnam War Episode." A *Newsweek* article of 30 August 2004 reported that Mr. Del Sandusky, who was steering Senator Kerry's boat during that same military action, told the magazine's reporters a version of the event that was completely supportive of the Senator.¹ (b)(5)

(b)(5)

3. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

4. Recommend bookfile this complaint without further action. Please indicate in the space provided below your approval/disapproval of this recommendation.

(b)(7)(C)

NAVINGEN ACTION:

The recommendation is ~~approved~~ disapproved.


R. A. ROUTE, VADM, USN

13 Sep 04
Date

¹ QM1 D. L. Sandusky is the only name listed as an "eyewitness" on the 23 Mar 69 Bronze Star Medal Award Recommendation that appears on Senator Kerry's website and that is also in his Navy personnel record. Neither the website nor his personnel record contain a Medal Award Recommendation for his Silver Star Medal.

10 September 2004

MEMORANDUM

□

From: (b)(7)c
To: File

Subj: JUDICIAL WATCH AUG 18 REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION INTO
AWARD OF MEDALS TO LTJG JOHN FORBES KERRY AND HIS SUBSEQUENT
POST-VIET NAM WAR SERVICE ACTIVITIES (hereinafter referred to as "request");
ENDORSEMENT OF MEMORANDUM FROM N5 SAME SUBJECT

1. I have reviewed the subject request, the book Unfit For Command, provided as part of the request, and supplemental information provided on 8 September 2004.
2. I have reviewed all related documents in then-LTJG John Forbes Kerry's Official Navy Personnel File as supplemented by documents available at Senator John Kerry's Website, <http://www.johnkerry.com>.
3. I have reviewed related media articles, web pages and newspaper "investigations".
4. I have consulted with NAVINSGEN attorneys and reviewed OJAG opinion.
5. I have reviewed N5 Memorandum of 10 September 2004 with related references and documentation.

6. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(7)c

(b)(7)c

AAUSN-NAVIG

From:

(b)(7)c

AAUSN-NAVIG

Sent:

Wednesday, September 15, 2004 10:27

To:

Route, Ronald VADM NAVIG

Cc:

(b)(7)c

Subject:

FW: NEW YORK POST REQUEST, ICO: SEN KERRY

Admiral,

(b)(5)

A lot of documents regarding Senator Kerry's Vietnam service are posted on his website, including a number of declassified messages describing swift boat missions, casualty reports, etc. We downloaded that material and it was part of our review package. [Remember the discussion of the initials at the bottom of some of those messages and the critics' contention that "KJW" was Kerry.]

As pointed out in the Drudge article, however, the report on the action that resulted in the Senator's Silver Star is not posted. The article says that's because "it supports what the critics have alleged rather than the John Wayne version [the Senator] has been telling." We don't know what the Senator's been saying or why it's not posted his website, but the only detail that's different from the Silver Star citation is the fact that somebody on the boat shot and wounded the armed VC before the Senator chased him down and killed him.

(b)(5)

Several other points:

- The Drudge article and much of the other criticism is based on the contention that the Silver Star was awarded based on the Senator's action to jump ashore, chase down the VC, kill him, and capture his weapon. (b)(5) it's only 5 lines in a 37 line citation (the COMUSNAVFOR Vietnam version) that details all of the actions in the mission involving the other boats, embarked troops, etc., all of which was under John Kerry's command as OTC. It should also be noted that there are 3 different versions of the citation, all posted on the website. The COMUSNAVFOR Vietnam version, signed by VADM Zumwalt, is the most detailed and contains more details about chasing and killing the VC. The official version, signed by the delegated award authority, ADM Hyland, CINCPACFLT, says that he "personally led a landing party ashore in pursuit of the enemy." The Secretary Lehman version differs slightly from the CINCPACFLT version, but uses the same words about going ashore and chasing the enemy.

- (b)(5) Unit for Command addresses the Silver Star in pp. 80-86. It states that "there is no indication that Kerry ever reported that the VC was wounded and fleeing when dispatched." It says RADM Hoffman, commander of all the swift boats at the time, "was shocked" to find out in 1996 that "[Kerry] had killed a single, wounded teenage foe as he fled." It states that CDR Elliott, who wrote the initial draft citation, didn't know until 1996 that "Kerry was facing a single, wounded young VC fleeing in a foincloth." It also says that CDR Elliott indicated he would not have recommended a Silver Star at the time had he been aware of the actual facts. (b)(5)

Please let me know if you would like to have copies of any of the material referred to above.

(b)(7)c

(b)(7)c



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
1014 N STREET SE SUITE 100
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

INFO MEMO

17 September 2004

FOR: SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FROM: VADM R. A. Route, Naval Inspector General

SUBJECT: Judicial Watch Request for Investigation

- In accordance with NAVINSGEN's established review procedures, we carefully examined the Judicial Watch request contained in letters of 18 August and 8 September 2004 and conducted a review of Senator Kerry's awards.
- Our examination found that existing documentation regarding the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart medals indicates the awards approval process was properly followed. In particular, the senior officers who awarded the medals were properly delegated authority to do so. In addition, we found that they correctly followed the procedures in place at the time for approving these awards.
- Conducting any additional review regarding events that took place over thirty years ago would not be productive. The passage of time would make reconstruction of the facts and circumstances unreliable, and would not allow the information gathered to be considered in the context of the time in which the events took place.
- Our review also considered the fact that Senator Kerry's post-active duty activities were public and that military and civilian officials were aware of his actions at the time. For these reasons, I have determined that Senator Kerry's awards were properly approved and will take no further action in this matter.
- In accordance with our normal procedures when dealing with a known complainant, I intend to notify Judicial Watch of the reasons for our decision, Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION: None - for information only.

Attachments:
As stated

Copy to:
IG, DoD



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
1014 N STREET SE SUITE 100
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2040700
Ser N5/1348
17 SEP 2004

Mr. Thomas Fitton
President, Judicial Watch
Suite 725
501 School Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Fitton:

This responds to your letters of August 18 and September 8, 2004, requesting an investigation into Senator Kerry's military awards. By separate correspondence, the Inspector General, Department of Defense, who is also an addressee on your letters, referred your request to me for "information and action as appropriate."

In accordance with our established review procedures, we carefully examined the process by which Senator Kerry was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts in 1968 and 1969. We found that existing documentation regarding his medals indicates the awards approval process was properly followed. In particular, the senior officers who authorized the medals were properly delegated authority to do so. In addition, we found that they correctly followed the procedures in place at the time for approving these awards.

Conducting any additional review regarding events that took place over thirty years ago would not be productive. The passage of time would make reconstruction of the facts and circumstances unreliable, and would not allow the information gathered to be considered in the context of the time in which the events took place.

Our review also considered the fact that Senator Kerry's post-active duty activities were public and that military and civilian officials were aware of his actions at the time. For these reasons, I have determined that Senator Kerry's awards were properly approved and will take no further action in this matter.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. A. Route", is positioned above the printed name.

R. A. ROUTE

Case Summary for 20040700

as of 27-Sep-04

Receipt Method:	Letter	NAVIG Action Officer:	(b)(7)c
Investigation Type:	Special Inquiries	Investigation Status:	Closed
Investigations Action:	Information	Open Status:	
Investigation Received:	25-Aug-04	Dollar Amount Recovered:	\$0.00
Investigation Opened:	25-Aug-04	Remedies Action:	
Investigation Closed:	17-Sep-04	Safety Alert	<input type="checkbox"/>

Investigation Summary: On 18 Aug 04, Judicial Watch, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public interest group, wrote to DODIG, NAVIG, CNO, and the Board of Decorations and Medals (copy to SECDEF and SECNAV) to file a formal complaint, in the interest of the American public, requesting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding personal medals that were awarded to Senator John Kerry for his service as a naval officer in Vietnam during the period Dec 1968 through Mar 1969. The complaint is based on the recently published book, *Unit for Command*, and the news media interviews of veterans who served with Senator Kerry in Vietnam, which allegedly "raise extremely grave questions concerning the legitimacy and propriety of the awards Senator Kerry received for heroism and wounds received from enemy fire in combat." The complaint provides the book as an attachment and also expounds at length on the contradictory accounts of various individuals, either in the book or in media interviews. The complaint also alleges that Senator Kerry's activities with Vietnam Veterans Against the War following his active duty service, but while still an inactive member of the Naval Reserve, constituted "dishonorable commissioned service," in violation of 18 USC 953, the Constitution, and the UCMJ.

NAVIG responded to Judicial Watch on 17 Sep 04, advising that we had examined the award process and found that existing documentation indicates proper procedures were followed by the appropriate personnel. We noted that additional review concerning events that took place over thirty years ago would not be productive and that we had considered the fact that Senator Kerry's post-active duty activities were public and civilian and military officials were aware at the time. For those reasons, NAVIG determined the medals were properly approved and that we would take no further action in this matter. (b)(7)c

Investigation Remarks: On 22 Aug 2004, the Washington Post published a lengthy article detailing the results of its investigation into the various accounts of events and concluded that Senator Kerry's critics filed to disprove his version of events in Vietnam. A copy of this article is in the file.
 ***Responding with letters similar to that sent to Judicial Watch to the following individuals who wrote in support of investigation this matter: (b)(7)c

Investigation Assigned By	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Completed
Investigation Assigned To	Original Due Date	Current Due Date	Date Report Received Complete
Investigation Cross References			

Complainant: Anonymous,

UIC

Confidential ☐

Complainant Correspondence Date:

SSN:

Gender:

Race

Rating:

Work Group:

Phone Numbers

---For Official Use Only---

Protect in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 as amended, 5 USC Section 552a

Case Summary for 20040700

as of 27-Sep-04

Addresses

Complainant

Remarks:

Subject: Kerry, John F at former Naval Officer

UIC

SSN:

Gender:

Race:

Rating:

Work Group Unknown

N/A

N/A

N/A

Phone Numbers

Addresses

Subject

Remarks:

Allegation: UCMJ/Navy Regulation Violation

Finding: Not Investigated

Statement of Allegation:

Date Occurred:

Root Cause:

Disposition:

Rule Violation:

For Official Use Only

Protect in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 as amended, 5 USC Section 552a



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
1014 N STREET SE SUITE 100
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

20040700
Ser N5/1357
21 SEP 2004

(b)(7)c

This responds to your letter postmarked August 24, 2004, in support of Judicial Watch's request for an investigation into Senator Kerry's military awards.

In accordance with our established review procedures, we carefully examined the process by which Senator Kerry was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts in 1968 and 1969. We found that existing documentation regarding his medals indicates the awards approval process was properly followed. In particular, the senior officers who authorized the medals were properly delegated authority to do so. In addition, we found that they correctly followed the procedures in place at the time for approving these awards.

Conducting any additional review regarding events that took place over thirty years ago would not be productive. The passage of time would make reconstruction of the facts and circumstances unreliable, and would not allow the information gathered to be considered in the context of the time in which the events took place.

For these reasons, we have determined that Senator Kerry's awards were properly approved and will take no further action in this matter. Our review also considered the fact that Senator Kerry's post-active duty activities were public and that military and civilian officials were aware of his actions at the time.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

(b)(7)c

(b)(7)c

AAUSN-NAVIG

From: NAVIG Hotlines

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2004 9:53

To: (b)(7)c

Subject: RE: Lt. John F. Kerry, USNR, Former (U.S.

(b)(7)c

This responds to your e-mail of September 3, 2004, concerning Judicial Watch's request for an investigation into Senator Kerry's military awards.

In accordance with our established review procedures, we carefully examined the process by which Senator Kerry was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts in 1968 and 1969. We found that existing documentation regarding his medals indicates the awards approval process was properly followed. In particular, the senior officers who authorized the medals we properly delegated authority to do so. In addition, we found that they correctly followed the procedures in place at the time for approving these awards.

Conducting any additional review regarding events that took place over thirty years ago would not be productive. The passage of time would make reconstruction of the facts and circumstances unreliable, and would not allow the information gathered to be considered in the context of the time in which the events took place.

Our review also considered the fact that Senator Kerry's post-active duty activities were public and that military and civilian officials were aware of his actions at the time. For these reasons, we have determined that Senator Kerry's awards were properly approved and will take no further action in this matter.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

NAVIG Hotlines

(b)(7)c

9/21/2004



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
1014 N STREET SE SUITE 100
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

20040700
Ser N5/1358
21 SEP 2004

(b)(7)c

This responds to your letters of August 23 and 24, 2004, suggesting that a Board of Inquiry be convened to consider Senator Kerry's military awards.

In accordance with our established review procedures, we carefully examined the process by which Senator Kerry was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts in 1968 and 1969. We found that existing documentation regarding his medals indicates the awards approval process was properly followed. In particular, the senior officers who authorized the medals were properly delegated authority to do so. In addition, we found that they correctly followed the procedures in place at the time for approving these awards.

Conducting any additional review regarding events that took place over thirty years ago would not be productive. The passage of time would make reconstruction of the facts and circumstances unreliable, and would not allow the information gathered to be considered in the context of the time in which the events took place.

For these reasons, we have determined that Senator Kerry's awards were properly approved and will take no further action in this matter. Our review also considered the fact that Senator Kerry's post-active duty activities were public and that military and civilian officials were aware of his actions at the time.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

(b)(7)c



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
1014 N STREET SE SUITE 100
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

20040700
Ser N5/ 1356
21 SEP 2004

(b)(7)c

This responds to your letter of August 28, 2004, requesting an investigation into Senator Kerry's military awards.

In accordance with our established review procedures, we carefully examined the process by which Senator Kerry was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts in 1968 and 1969. We found that existing documentation regarding his medals indicates the awards approval process was properly followed. In particular, the senior officers who authorized the medals were properly delegated authority to do so. In addition, we found that they correctly followed the procedures in place at the time for approving these awards.

Conducting any additional review regarding events that took place over thirty years ago would not be productive. The passage of time would make reconstruction of the facts and circumstances unreliable, and would not allow the information gathered to be considered in the context of the time in which the events took place.

For these reasons, we have determined that Senator Kerry's awards were properly approved and will take no further action in this matter. Our review also considered the fact that Senator Kerry's post-active duty activities were public and that military and civilian officials were aware of his actions at the time.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

(b)(7)c

9/3/04

Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals

SECNAV NDBDM
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

To:

(b)(7)c

From:

(b)(7)c

Number of Pages (including cover sheet) ~~15~~ 20

(b)(7)c

The following items are attached:

- Information on directives delegating awarding authority of Combat awards below CNO's level
- Excerpts from SECNAVINST 1650.1D, in effect starting 17 Dec 68. The subsequent changes do not affect relevant passages you requested. However, I have copies of the change transmittals including CH-1 effective 14 Oct 69, should you require it.
- Excerpts from the current SECNAVINST 1650.1G.

Please let me know if you require additional assistance.

(b)(7)c

(b)(7)c

Directives authorizing delegation of awarding authority

19 Feb 65 SECNAV msg to CINCPACFLT for USN and USMC personnel participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia authority to approve SS, LOM, OFC, BSM, AM, NCM, NAM, PH

23 Jul 66 SECNAVINST 1650.25 delegated authority to COs of naval hospitals receiving battle casualties from Vietnam as patients to award PHs

17 Jul 67 SECNAVINST 1650.26 (on file)—Subj: DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO AWARD MILDECS, includes delegation of SS, LOM and lesser personal decorations to CINCPACFLT, CINCLANTFLT AND CINCUSNAVEUR

3 Aug 67 CNO msg—effective 1 Aug 67 delegated authority to CINCPACFLT, CINCLANTFLT, CINCUSNAVEUR to award SS, LOM and all lesser personal decorations except to immediate staff mbrs and personnel KIA or MIA

7 May 69 CNO msg in which SECNAV approved modification of SECNAVINST 1650.26 (on file) to expand delegation of authority to include KIA/MIA and CNO delegates authority to CINCPACFLT, CINCLANTFLT AND CINCUSNAVEUR to award SS, LOM and lesser personal decorations except to immediate staff members

(b)(7)c

SECNAVINST 1650.1D
1650.1C of 12/1/68 1978



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

SECNAVINST 1650.1D

Op-09B
Ser 3859

17 DEC 1968

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1650.1D

From: Secretary of the Navy
To: All Ships and Stations

Subj: Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual

1. Purpose. This instruction sets forth information and regulations concerning current awards available to individuals and units in the Naval Service. Also included herein is policy guidance governing the acceptance and retention of decorations and gifts from foreign governments.

2. Cancellation. The following instructions and notices are canceled:

a. SECNAVINST P1650.1C of 16 August 1963, Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual (less Annex II)

b. SECNAVNOTE 1650 of 17 July 1967, Subj: Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement; redesignation of. (Canceled for record purposes 1/31/68)

c. SECNAVNOTE 1650 of 17 July 1967, Subj: Meritorious Unit Commendation; establishment of. (Canceled for record purposes 1/31/68)

d. SECNAVINST 1650.26 of 22 Oct 1966, Subj: Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960 -)

e. SECNAVINST 1650.28 of 17 July 1967, Subj: Delegation of Authority to Award Military Decorations

f. SECNAVNOTE 1650 of 6 Feb 1968, Subj: Decorations and Gifts from Foreign Governments. (Canceled for record purposes 12/31/68)

g. SECNAVNOTE 1650 of 22 Nov 1967, Subj: Award Certificates. (Canceled for record purposes 4/30/68).

3. Action. Annex II of SECNAVINST P1650.1C will be attached to this instruction and retained pending revisions issued by the Chief of Naval Personnel. Annex II, and revisions thereto, will eventually be incorporated into a separate publication.

SECNAVINST 1650.1D
17 December 1968

4. Effective date. This instruction is effective upon receipt.

Charles F. Baid

CHARLES F. BAID
UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

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tify the decoration, the individual must clearly render himself conspicuous above his comrades by an act so outstanding that it clearly distinguishes his gallantry beyond the call of duty from lesser forms of bravery; and it must be the type of deed which if not done would not subject him to any justified criticism. The deed must be without detriment to the mission of his command or to the command to which attached.

2. Navy Cross.

a. Authorization.—10 U.S.C. 6242.

b. *Eligibility Requirements.*—Awarded to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy or Marine Corps, distinguishes himself by extraordinary heroism not justifying the award of the Medal of Honor—

(1) while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

(2) while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

(3) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

To warrant this distinctive decoration, the act or the execution of duty must be performed in the presence of great danger or at great personal risk and must be performed in such a manner as to render the individual highly conspicuous among others of equal grade, rate, experience, or position of responsibility. An accumulation of minor acts of heroism does not justify the award. The high standards demanded must be borne in mind when recommending the award.

3. Distinguished Service Medal.

a. Authorization.—10 U.S.C. 6243.

b. *Eligibility Requirements.*—Awarded to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy and Marine Corps, distinguishes himself by exceptionally meritorious service to the United States in a duty of great responsibility. To justify this decoration, an exceptional performance of duty, clearly above that normally expected, which has contributed materially to the success of a major command or project, is required. In general, the Distinguished Service Medal will be awarded only to

those officers in principal commands at sea or in the field whose service is such as to justify the award. However, this shall not be interpreted to preclude the award of the Distinguished Service Medal to any individual whose service meets the requirements. If there is any doubt as to the degree of service involved, the Legion of Merit is the more appropriate award.

4. Silver Star Medal.

a. Authorization.—10 U.S.C. 6244.

b. *Eligibility Requirements.*—Awarded to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy or Marine Corps, is cited for gallantry in action that does not warrant a Medal of Honor or Navy Cross—

(1) while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

(2) while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

(3) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The heroic act(s) performed must render the individual conspicuous and well above the standard expected. An accumulation of minor acts of heroism normally does not justify the award, but unusual or exceptional cases will be decided on their merits.

5. Legion of Merit.

a. Authorization.—10 U.S.C. 1121.

b. *Eligibility Requirements.*—Awarded to a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly foreign nation who distinguishes himself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in performing outstanding service.

(1) *For U.S. Military Personnel.*—This award will be made to U.S. military personnel without reference to degree, and for each such award, the Legion of Merit (Legionnaire) will be issued. To justify this decoration, the service rendered must have been comparable to that required for the Distinguished Service Medal but in a duty of lesser though considerable responsibility. In general, the Legion of Merit will be awarded to officers in lesser commands at sea or principal commands on shore who have performed such exceptionally meritorious service as to justify the award of the

c. *Credit for Purposes of Advancement in Rating.*—For personnel of the Navy, credit points are allowed for certain awards to a maximum of 15 points in arriving at a final multiple for purposes of advancement in rating. (For further details and list of creditable awards, see Manual of Advancement in Rate or Rating, NAVPIERS 15060.)

118. PERSONNEL ELIGIBLE

1. Anyone who meets the eligibility criteria for an award may be recommended for it by any officer senior to the individual being recommended.

2. Members of Reserve components, while participating in authorized periods of training or while in active status, may be considered for all military decorations provided the act, achievement, or service was in furtherance of the Navy and Marine Corps missions or functions and meets the established criteria.

3. In determining eligibility, the terms "naval service" and "serving in any capacity with the U.S. Navy," as used in this instruction include service in the U.S. Marine Corps and in the U.S. Coast Guard when the Coast Guard or units thereof operate under the control of the Navy.

4. U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen are considered to be on active duty and therefore eligible for those awards for which they may qualify.

5. NROTC midshipmen are eligible for awards for which they may qualify when serving on active duty but not for periods spent as full-time college students.

6. Merchant Marine Reserve service is creditable only when such service is concurrent with U.S. Naval Reserve service.

7. Awards to U.S. Naval personnel from other U.S. Armed Forces. Personnel of the Navy and Marine Corps serving with other branches of the Armed Forces are authorized to accept awards tendered by such other services with the concurrence of SECNAV, CNO, or CMC as appropriate, provided they are not given for the same act or service for which a previous award has been made by the Navy.

8. Awards to U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force personnel.

a. *Recommendations.*—Recommendations

for Navy decorations to Army or Air Force personnel will be submitted to the Secretary of the Navy via the Chief of Staff of the Army or Air Force, as applicable.

b. *Limitations.*

(1) Army and Air Force personnel are eligible to receive from the U.S. Navy any of the military decorations listed herein except the Medal of Honor.

(2) Army and Air Force personnel will not be awarded a Navy decoration for services which have already been recognized by an Army or Air Force decoration.

9. Foreign awards to U.S. personnel (see ch. 7).

10. U.S. awards to foreign personnel (see ch. 6).

11. Military awards to civilians.

a. *Recommendations.*—Recommendation for an award of a military decoration to a civilian shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy (Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals) via the administrative chain of command and the Chief of Naval Operations.

b. *Limitations.*—The laws, executive orders and other directives governing the award of certain decorations provide that they shall be awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the naval service qualifies therefore under certain conditions. This would include civilians. By such criteria, the following are decorations for which civilians could qualify: Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, and Purple Heart. The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded only with the approval of the President. Civilians are not normally awarded military decorations. When U.S. nonmilitary decorations are available for specific services rendered, they are considered more appropriate for award to civilians than military decorations.

119. ATTACHMENTS

Attachments are worn in accordance with current uniform regulations, therefore, only their significance is dealt with here.

1. *Stars*.—There are four variations of stars used on decorations and medals.

a. 5/16 inch Gold—worn on personal military decorations to denote each subsequent award received. (Strike/Flight Air Medal awards are of a special category, see para 8, below.)

b. 5/16 inch Silver—worn in lieu of five gold stars in order to represent five subsequent awards.

c. 3/16 inch Bronze—worn on unit campaign, and service awards to denote engagements or campaigns or subsequent awards earned. A special application is the use of this star to indicate the initial special individual award of the Air Medal. Thus it denotes that the medal or ribbon represents an initial award earned outside of the strike/flight system. Second and subsequent awards are represented as indicated in paras (a) and (b) above.

d. 3/16 inch Silver—worn on unit campaign, and service awards in lieu of five Bronze Stars.

2. *Combat Distinguishing Device*.—The bronze letter "V" is authorized for wear on the following decorations if the award is for acts or services involving direct participation in combat operations: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal. In all cases, the citation must specifically authorize the Combat Distinguish-

ing Device. Eligibility for decorations and distinguishing devices awarded for combat shall be based upon acts or services by individuals who are exposed to personal hazard due to direct hostile actions, or imminence of such action, and not solely upon the geographical area in which the acts or services are performed. Each case must be judged on its own merits.

3. *Strike/Flight Device*.—5/16 inch Bronze arabic numerals to denote strike/flight awards of the Air Medal. The number worn will indicate the total number of such awards earned subsequent to 9 April 1962.

4. *Oak Leaf Clusters*.—These are used by the Defense Department, the Army, and the Air Force to denote subsequent awards of decorations. There are four variations of Oak Leaf Clusters as follows:

a. 13/32 inch Bronze—worn on the suspension ribbon of the medal to denote each subsequent award.

b. 5/16 inch Bronze—worn on ribbon bars to denote each subsequent award.

c. 13/32 inch Silver—worn in lieu of five Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters on the suspension ribbon of the medal.

d. 5/16 inch Silver—worn in lieu of five Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters on the ribbon bar.

5. Additional attachments which have limited application are listed with the awards to which they apply.

Section 2.—Administrative Procedures

121. PREPARATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Initiation*.—A recommendation for the award of a military decoration may be submitted by any officer senior to the individual being recommended having knowledge of an act, achievement, or service which may warrant such award. It will be submitted as promptly as practicable following the act or term of the service to which the recommendation refers. A recommendation originated by other than the commanding officer of the individual concerned should be forwarded to the commanding officer for comment and/or recommendation prior to forwarding via chain of command.

2. *Timeliness*.

a. Timely recommendation is essential to

a successful awards system. A recommendation must be submitted as soon as possible following the act, achievement, or service upon which it is based. All recommendations, including those transmitted electrically, must be appropriately justified and sufficiently detailed to allow proper evaluation and decision.

b. Normally, except those instances involving retirement or separation, individual recommendations for an award of a decoration for meritorious service will be processed so that if approved, presentation may be made at the individual's new duty station.

c. In other than exceptional cases, a minimum of 2 months should be allowed for administrative processing of award recommendations.

AWARD RECOMMENDATION
NAVPERS 1052/2 (2-57) 5/10/57-01-014

DATE:

INSTRUCTIONS

Submitting command fill in all information available and forward in immediate response.

The addressee will fill in endorsements. Attach additional sheets as necessary to amplify recommendation.

1. FROM		2. TO				
3. INITIALS	4. NAME (Last, first, middle)	5. RANK/RATE	6. DUTY STATION	7. NO. OF SERV.		
8. STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> RESERVE	9. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	10. YEAR OF ENL. OR ONLS. SERV.		11. ESTIMATED RETIREMENT DATE		
12. PREVIOUS ADDRESSES		13. PLACE OF BIRTH				
14. NAME OF PRESENT UNIT		DUTY ASSIGNMENT				
15. NAME OF UNIT AT TIME OF ACTION/SERVICE		DUTY ASSIGNMENT				
16. NAME OF BRANCH/COMPONENT	17. <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINE <input type="checkbox"/> ARTILLERY	18. HAS SERVICE BEEN RECOMMENDED (if not, attach statement)				
19. GRADE AT TIME OF ACTION/SERVICE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	20. AREA WHERE ACTION TOOK PLACE	21. DATE OR DATES OF ACTION/SERVICE				
22. PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED AND DATES OF ACTION (State full details, campaigns and awards received)						
23. OPERATIONS RECOMMENDED BUT NOT YET ACTED ON INCLUDE DATES OF ACTION/SERVICE COVERED						
24. OTHER ACTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR THIS ACTION/SERVICE (Name, rank, service number, branch of service and award recommended)						
25. OTHER ACTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR THIS ACTION/SERVICE (Name, rank, service number, branch of service - attach statements as required)						
26. COMMENTS (Name, rank, service number, branch of service - attach statements as required)						
27. SUMMARY OF ACTION (Include dates, assignments, locations, orders, theory and factual strength and disposition, disabilities, action justifying the award - then detail of award is recommended signed free hand sketch of story)						

Figure I-2 (Obverse)

(Over)

29. I certify that the data furnished herein are known to me.
NAME, GRADE, TITLE OF RECOMMENDATOR SIGNATURE

30. FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: Date:
To:
Via: (1)
(2)
(3)
1. Forwarded, recommended.
2. ☐ This recommendation is recommended to. ☐ Recommend modification of recommendation (See attached sheet)
☐ Approval not recommended for the following reason(s):

(Signature)

31. FORWARDING ENDORSEMENTS BY VIA ADDRESSEES(ES)

VIA	RECOMMENDATION	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	NAME, SIGNATURE AND TITLE
1				
2				
3				

32. DISPOSITION OF BASIC RECOMMENDATION BY READING AUTHORITY SIGNATURE DATE

Figure 1-3 (Reverse)

d. Every effort should be made to present posthumous awards to the next of kin within 90 days after the individual concerned is declared dead.

3. Preparation.

a. *Format.*—Individual recommendations, prepared on the standard award recommendation form (NAVJERS 1650/6), (fig. 1-2) may be submitted by the originating command in pen or pencil. Where additional space is required, sheets of standard size paper may be appended. A separate form will be used for each award being recommended. Additional copies will be prepared only to the extent required by the originating command. Where information to complete the form is not available to the originating command, blanks will be left for completion by endorsing seniors.

b. *Summary of Action.*—Each recommendation for a decoration is evaluated on the merits of the justification contained therein. Generalities and excess use of superlatives should be avoided as should the job description approach. An objective summary giving specific examples of the performance and manner of accomplishing it together with the results and benefits derived therefrom should be presented. The amount of detail and supporting documentation required will depend upon the circumstances and the nature of the award being recommended. Where appropriate and practicable statements of two eyewitnesses should be appended.

c. *Medal of Honor.*—In addition to other for award of Medal of Honor (see fig. 1-3) will accompany recommendations for this award.

d. *Life Saving Awards.*—Recommendations for awards involving life saving should include the following:

(1) If practicable, statements of at least two eyewitnesses. Such statements should furnish accounts of the incident, including opinions as to whether the person for whom the award is sought imperiled his life.

(2) The precise locality of the rescue or attempted rescue, or heroic action.

(3) The date, time of day, nature of weather, including force of the wind, condition and temperature of the water if applicable, and amount and source of light if at night.

(4) The names of all persons rendering assistance and the nature of the assistance.

(5) A freehand sketch of the scene, including distances, location of assistance, and heights of piers or vessels from which rescue efforts were started, as applicable.

(6) A statement as to the swimming qualifications of the rescuer if applicable. (See art. D-2502, BuPers Manual for Navy personnel; and Marine Corps order 1510.2 for Marine Corps personnel.)

(7) An account of the cooperation or lack thereof on the part of the person being rescued.

(8) A rescue from burning should be described in great detail, including the aid received by the rescuer, the extent of the burns, and a description of the outer clothing of the rescuer.

(9) It is emphasized that recommendations should include the above, but should not necessarily be limited to that information.

e. *Citation.*—A proposed citation (see Article 243) must accompany the recommendation for an award. Under field and/or combat conditions this citation may be drafted at an echelon above the originating command. Recipients of awards are entitled to well-prepared citations, which will be cherished by them and be a source of pride to their families. Fundamentally, a citation is an account of heroic acts or an enumeration of meritorious achievements or services. Although a citation is laudatory and formalized, this in itself can never justify the inclusion of exaggerated statements regarding accomplishments or insincere commendatory remarks regarding the individual. It must agree with the recommendation as to date(s) and duty station and assignment of the individual. It must be factual, contain no classified information, and be adaptable to publication by news media. A citation consists of three parts:

(1) *Opening Sentence.*—The opening sentence of the body of the citation consists of a standard phrase describing the degree of meritorious or heroic service as specified for each award; the duty assignment of the individual; the inclusive dates of service on which the recommendation is based; and if desired a description of operations of the unit to which

Figure 1-1.—SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Date or rank at time of action: _____ Next of kin: _____

Person who assisted: _____

Conditions Under Which Act Performed

Location: _____ Weather: _____

Date: _____ Enemy condition: _____

Terrain: _____ Friendly condition: _____

Narrative Description of Gallant Conduct

attached. Opening phrases for specific decorations:

Medal of Honor.—"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty * * *"

Navy Cross.—"For extraordinary heroism * * *"

Distinguished Service Medal.—"For exceptionally meritorious service to the Government of the United States in a duty of great responsibility * * *"

Silver Star Medal.—"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action * * *"

Legion of Merit.—"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service * * *"

Distinguished Flying Cross.—"For heroism (or extraordinary achievement) while participating in aerial flight * * *"

Navy and Marine Corps Medal.—"For heroism * * *"

Bronze Star Medal.—"For heroic achievement (or meritorious achievement) (or meritorious service) (or heroic service) in connection with operations against the enemy (or operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force) * * *"

Air Medal.—"For heroic (or meritorious) achievement in aerial flight * * *"

Navy Commendation Medal.—"For heroic achievement (or meritorious achievement) (or heroic service) (or meritorious service) while serving as * * *"

Navy Achievement Medal.—"For leadership (or professional) achievement in the superior performance of his duties while serving as * * *"

(2) *Statement of Heroic/Meritorious Achievement of Service.*—The second part of the citation identifies the recipient by name, describes his specific duty assignments, his accomplishments, and the outstanding personal attributes displayed by him. The description of the individual's achievements must show clearly that they were sufficient to justify the award recommended. Value of results of achievements may also be included. If duty was performed in actual combat, the citation should so state. No classified information, however, may be included in the proposed citation, even

though the recommendation which it accompanies may contain classified information.

(3) *Commendatory Remarks.*—The third part of the citation states that the outstanding attributes, mentioned or implied in the second part, reflected great credit upon the individual and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

122. SUBMISSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. General Considerations.

a. All recommendations for awards will be processed as expeditiously as possible consistent with a full and considered evaluation.

b. Recommendations for awards should be closely held consistent with good administrative practices. In particular, their existence should not be disclosed to the recommended individual or to the next of kin prior to action by the awarding authority. Premature publicity must be avoided. Medal of Honor recommendations shall be marked "For Official Use Only."

c. When a recommendation originates in a unified or joint command or operation, MAAG, or mission, it shall be forwarded for comment to the unified or joint commander or the chief of the MAAG or mission who then forwards it to the awarding authority.

d. Awards recommended for Army or Air Force personnel will be forwarded via the parent service for concurrence.

e. Special provisions for the submission of unit awards are set forth in chapter 3.

2. *Transmittal.*—Recommendations shall be addressed to the authority empowered to approve the award recommended (see para 115, Delegation).

a. *For Personnel Assigned to the Operating Forces of the Navy.*—Recommendations shall be forwarded, where appropriate, via the Fleet Commander in Chief and Chief of Naval Operations, with copies provided to commanders of intermediate echelons. In cases concerning Marines, recommendations shall be forwarded via the Commandant of the Marine Corps before transmittal to the Chief of Naval Operations. Commanders receiving information copies of the recommendations may provide comments, if desired, to the Fleet Commander in Chief. Such comments will be submitted in timely fashion in accordance with instructions

issued by the Fleet Commander in Chief. It is emphasized that meaningful comments are sought, and submission will most likely be appropriate only in those cases where there is disagreement with the original recommendation.

b. For Personnel Not Assigned to the Operating Forces of the Navy.—Recommendations shall be forwarded as follows:

(1) *Navy Personnel.*—Via the administrative chain of command and the Chief of Naval Operations where appropriate.

(2) *Marine Corps Personnel.*—Via the administrative chain of command and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

c. Recommendations for the Purple Heart shall be forwarded directly to the Chief of Naval Personnel/Commandant of the Marine Corps, or other delegated authority, as appropriate, without reference to the chain of command.

d. Special provisions applying to the Medal of Honor:

(1) Recommendations for the award of the Medal of Honor initiated within service channels will be forwarded to the appropriate Unified or Specified Commander and, if appropriate, Joint Task Force Commander for processing to the JCS.

(2) Recommendations which have been endorsed by the JCS will be referred to the Secretary of the military department concerned for appropriate action.

(3) Premature public disclosure of information concerning recommendations, processing, and approval/disapproval actions is a potential source of embarrassment to those recommended and, in the case of finally approved recommendations, could diminish the impact of ceremonies at which the awards are made. To prevent premature disclosure, processing of Medal of Honor recommendations will be handled on a "For Official Use Only" basis until the awards are officially announced or are presented.

ii. Actions of Awarding Authority.

a. When a command receives a recommendation for an award which it is empowered to approve, it may take one of the following actions:

(1) Approve the award.

(2) Approve a higher award or recom-

mend a higher award to a higher echelon if required.

(3) Where appropriate, carefully consider the recommendation in the light of the criteria of a lower award and approve such award.

(4) Return the recommendation for further clarification or justification.

(5) Approve no award.

b. Recommendations for awards previously disapproved by an awarding authority may be reconsidered only upon presentation of new and relevant material evidence which was not available at the time of the original recommendation.

c. The awarding authority will issue the medal and citation for any award approved. (Awards for personnel killed or missing in action—see art. 115.1.d).

d. After completing his action, even if no award is approved, the awarding authority will transmit a copy of the citation, if issued, together with the file of correspondence, direct to the Secretary of the Navy (Board of Decorations and Medals) for review and subsequent filing in the individual's jacket by Commandant of the Marine Corps or Chief of Naval Personnel. A certificate to support each citation will be issued to the individual concerned.

e. Cases requiring approval by the Secretary of the Navy will be processed by the Board of Decorations and Medals (see art. 116). For these cases the Secretary of the Navy will issue citations and certificates.

123. PRESENTATION OF DECORATIONS

Presentation of military decorations should be made as soon as practicable after approval and with ceremony appropriate to the nature of the award and consistent with any special circumstances that may exist. Such presentations afford excellent opportunities for the enhancement of command and community relations and should be appropriately publicized.

1. *Medal of Honor.*—The Medal of Honor will be presented as directed by the President.

2. *All Other Decorations.*—The Chief of Naval Personnel or the Commandant of the Marine Corps, as appropriate, will make arrangements in accordance with established policy for presentation or delivery of the medal and citation/certificate to the recipient, or in

Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals

SECNAV NDBDM
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

To:

(b)(7)c

From:

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Number of Pages (including cover sheet)

(b)(7)c

- Please see p. 2 of the list for BS delegation
- SECNAVINST 1650.28
See pp 1 & 2

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY VIETNAM

- 23 Sep 1963 - SECNAV ltr Sor 781 authorized CINCPACFLT to award Strike/Flight Air Medals for Vietnam operations
- 30 Sep 1963 - CINCPACFLT ltr Sor 15/4461 subdelegated authority to CGFMFPAC to award Strike/Flight Air Medals for Vietnam operations
NOTE: Certificates for these awards were issued by SECNAV
- 19 Feb 1965 - SECNAV msg 192253Z to CINCPACFLT for Navy and Marine Corps personnel participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia (SEA) authority to approve: SSM, LOM, DFC, BSM, AM, NCM, NAM, PH
CINCPACFLT INST 1650.1 (copy not held) subdelegated above authority to CG FMFPAC
- 6 Aug 1965 - SECNAV authorized CINCPACFLT to subdelegate authority to make Strike/Flight Air Medal awards to COMSEVENTHFLT
- 9 Sep 1965 - CINCPACFLTINST 1650.1A subdelegated authority to COMSEVENTHFLT to award Strike/Flight Air Medals for Vietnam operations
- 30 Aug 1965 - SECNAV msg 301840Z Aug 65 to CINCPACFLT - ALL IN ABSENTIA cases will be forwarded to SECNAV for final action
- 3 May 1966 - SECNAV msg 031318Z to CINCPACFLT authorized CINCPACFLT to make following awards to COAST GUARD personnel operating with the Navy in Vietnam: SSM, LOM, BSM
- 23 Jul 1966 - SECNAVINST 1650.25 (NBDM?JAF/gju) delegated authority to commanding officers of naval hospitals receiving battle casualties from Vietnam as patients to award Purple Hearts
- 11 Sep 1966 - SECNAV msg 112352Z Aug 66 to CINCPACFLT authorized award of NCM to Coast Guard personnel serving with Navy in Vietnam (modified SECNAV msg 031318Z May 66)
- 30 Nov 1966 - SECNAV msg 300235Z Nov 66 to CINCPACFLT delegated authority to award SSM, DFC, BSM, AM, NCM to foreign military personnel in SEA for heroic deeds (limited to CAPT/COL and below) The authority may be subdelegated to CG FMFPAC
- 17 Jul 67 - secnavinst 1650.28, Subj: Delegation of Auth to award mil
3 Aug 1967 - CNO msg 031920Z Aug 67, effective 1 Aug 1967 delegated authority to CINCPACFLT, CINCLANTFLT, CINUSNAVEUR to award SSM, LOM, and all lesser personal decorations except to immediate staff members and to personnel KIA or MIA.
CHATRA & COMSTS - authority to award BSM, AM, NCM, AND all lesser personal decorations except to immediate staff members and KIA and MIA personnel
CINUSNAVEUR subdelegated to COMSIXTHFLT effective 1 Aug 67
- 14 Aug 1967 - CINCPACFLT msg 142112 Aug 67 subdelegated authority to COMSEVENTHFLT and COMSIXTHFLT to award BSM, AM, NCM, and NAM except for immediate staff members and MIA and KIA personnel.

- 14 Aug 1967 -- CINCPACFLT msg 142113Z Aug 67 subdelegated to CG FMFPAC for other than SEA combat operations authority to award BSM, AM, NCM, NAM to immediate staff members and KIA and MIA. FOR SEA Combat operations authority as previously delegated.
- 18 Aug 1967 -- CG FMFPAC msg 182239Z Aug 67 subdelegated to CG III MAF authority to award BSM, and lesser personal decorations to Navy and Marine Corps personnel seriously wounded during combat operations under conditions which warrant recognition
- 7 Sep 1967 -- CNO msg 031920Z Aug 67 modified by CNO msg 070326Z Sep 67 - effect 15 Sep 1967 delegated authorities will sign citations. SECNAV will sign and issue certificates for awards approved by delegated authorities.
- 7 May 1968 -- CNO msg 071336Z May 68 - SECNAV approved modification of SECNAVINST 1650.28 to expand delegation of authority to include KIA and MIA. Effective immediately CNO delegates authority to:
- a. CINCPACFLT, CINCLANTFLT AND CINUSNAVEUR to award SSM, LOM and all lesser personal decorations - except to immediate staff members. To subdelegate to commanders in grade of VADM & LG of Fleets and forces including FMF authority to award BSM, AM, NCM and all lesser personal decorations except to immediate staff members.
 - b. CNAITRA AND COMSTS - BSM, AM, NCM and all lesser personal decorations except to immediate staff members.
 - c. CHNAVPERS - PH to all personnel KIA or MIA.
- 11 May 1968 -- CINUSNAVEUR msg 111125Z May 68 delegated to COMSIXTHFLT authority to award BSM, AM, NCM and all lesser personal decorations except to immediate staff members.
- 18 Jun 1968 -- CINCPACFLT msg 182104Z Jun 68 expanded previously delegated authority to CG FMFPAC for other than SEA Combat operations to award BSM, AM, NCM, NAM to Navy and Marine Corps personnel serving units assigned to FMFPAC, including KIA and MIA cases. Not to include immediate staff members. Authority may be subdelegated to CGIII MAF to award BSM, AM, NCM, NAM to Navy and Marine Corps personnel for SEA combat operations during Vietnam conflict except to immediate staff members.
- 18 Jun 1968 -- CINCPACFLT msg 182107Z Jun 68 authorized delegation to COMSEVENTHFLT and COMFIRSTFLT to award BSM, AM, NCM, and NAM including both combat and meritorious awards and also for KIA and MIA. (Not immediate staff members)
- 29 Sep 1968 -- CINCPACFLT msg 291838Z Sep 68 authority to COMNAVFORV to award BSM, AM, NCM and NAM to USN and MC personnel including KIA and MIA combat and meritorious awards included.
- 9 Dec 1968 -- SECNAVINST 1650.25A Subj: Award of Purple Heart. Authority to commanding officers of naval hospitals receiving battle casualties to award Purple Hearts.

AG

- 6 Feb 1969 - SECNAV msg 061737Z Feb 69 to CINCPACFLT authorized CINCPACFLT to concur in Award recommendation for SSM and lesser awards to Navy & Marine Corps personnel. (Not to include flag/general officers) Authority may be subdelegated to CGFMFPAC for MC personnel.
- 25 Feb 69 - CINCPACFLT msg 252102Z Feb 69 delegated authority to CGFMFPAC as authorized above.
- 13 Jun 1969 - SECNAVINST 1650.31 , Subj: Special Award Authority for Combat Operations

29 Apr 1970

- SECNAVINST 1650.31A - Special Award Authority for Combat Operations. CNO may authorize CINCPACFLT to subdelegate to CG FMFPAC the authority to award SSM, and lesser personal decorations. Authorize CINCPACFLT to concur in recommendations for SSM and lesser personal decorations tendered by other services to members of the naval service below flag/general rank and further authorized subdelegation to CG FMFPAC. Authorize CINCPACFLT to authorize CG FMFPAC to subdelegate to CG FIRST MAW to award strike/flight Air Medals. Authorize CINCPACFLT to subdelegate to commands and activities, commanding officers of naval hospital award Purple Heart. CNO may approve awards for following categories of personnel below flag/general rank or equivalent and to delegate this authority

COAST GUARD - SSM and lesser personal decorations. CINCPACFLT who may further subdelegate to COMNAVFORV and COMSEVENTHFLT to approve BSM and lesser

FOREIGN PERSONNEL in support of operations in Vietnam, Thailand or Korea -

May subdelegate to CINCPACFLT WHO MAY subdelegate to CG FMFPAC SSM, DFC, BSM, AM (single mission, NCM (both combat and meritorious) and Navy and Marine Corps Medal. CINCPACFLT may subdelegate to COMSEVENTHFLT and COMNAVFORV and authorize CG FMFPAC to subdelegate to CG III MAF authority to award BSM, single mission Air Medals and NCM, both combat and meritorious

ARMY and AIR FORCE personnel attached to or serving with units of USN or USMC in SEA CNO may approve NCM and NAM and may subdelegate to CINCPACFLT who may subdelegate to CG FMFPAC, COMSEVENTHFLT AND COMNAVFORV

27 May 1970

- CNO forwarded SECNAVINST 1650.31A of 29 Apr 1970 to CINCPACFLT and authorized CINCPACFLT to approve awards, concur in recommendation tendered by other services and to subdelegate as indicated in instruction.

13 Apr 1971

- SECNAV msg 130114Z Apr 71 granted special award authority for combat operations to COMNAVFORV until such time as CINCPACFLT could absorb workload (apparently COMNAVFORV no longer grade of VADM)

21 May 1971

- CINCPACFLTINST 1650.2E subdelegated authority to award NCM and lesser personal decorations except to immediate staff members and KIA and MIA cases to: COMNAVAIRLANT, PHIBFORLANT, CGFMFLANT, COMSUBLANT, COMSEVENTHFLT, COMSECONDFLT

1 May 1972

- CNO ltr OP-09B Ser 1664P09B19 restated delegated award authority

13 May 1972

- CINCPACFLT msg 131545Z May 72 set forth award authority, BSM and lesser personal decorations except immediate staff and KIA and MIA to: COMNAVAIRLANT, COMPHIBLANT, CGFMFLANT, COMSUBLANT, COMSECONDFLT and COMASMPORLANT.

2 Dec 1974 -- CNO ltr Ser 09R19/3478 delegated award authority as follows:
CINCPACFLT, CINCLANTFLT, CINCSNAVEUR - MSM and lesser personal
decorations, except to immediate staff members.
CNET - NCM and lesser personal decorations.

27 Jan 1975 -- CINCPACFLT INST 1650.1E award authority as shown:
CG FMFPAC, COMSIXTHFLT AND COMTHIRDFLT to award NCM and lesser
personal decorations

25 Feb 1975 -- CINCLANTFLTINST 1650.2H sets forth delegation as follows:
COMNAVAIRANT, COMSURFLANT, COMSUBANT, CGFMFLANT, COMSECONDFLT
may award NCM and lesser personal decorations.

4 Nov 1974 -- SECNAV approved new delegation of authority based on BOARD ltr
Ser 1110 of 20 Sep 1974

16 Dec 1976 -- CINCPACFLT subdelegated awarding authority LTR Ser 14/PD-8098

CINCPACFLT's DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO AWARD PURPLE HEART

SECNAV 7th END of 12 March 1965 on HSA Saigon ltr Ser 86 of 7 Jan 65 approved authority for CINCPACFLT to award Purple Heart. (Except for posthumous cases)

CINCPACFLT ltr Ser 15/PD-36 of 9 April 1965 sub delegated authority to SEVENTHFLT, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific and Commanding Office Headquarters Support Activity, Saigon.

CINCPACFLT ltr Ser 15/PD-1903 of 13 Nov 1965 sub delegated authority to 30th Naval Construction Regiment.

CINCPACFLT ltr Ser 15/PD-110 of 12 Jan 1966 sub delegated authority to Commanding Office Naval Support Activity, Danang.

CINCPACFLT ltr Ser 15/3353J of 10 June 1966 sub delegated authority to Commander, Naval Forces, Vietnam.

CINCPACFLT ltr Ser 15/3607J of 5 Jun 1967 sub delegated authority to Commander, River Assault Flotilla ONE (CTF 117)

CINCPACFLT ltr Ser 102/5717M of 25 Aug 1967 sub delegated authority to Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20350

SECNAVINST 1650.28
50-1
17 July 1967

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1650.28

From: Secretary of the Navy
To: All Ships and Stations

Subj: Delegation of Authority to Award Military Decorations

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 1650.1C of 16 Aug 1963
(Subj: Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual)

1. Purpose. To delegate authority for the award of personal decorations.

2. Background. To increase the effective and timely recognition of heroic and meritorious performance by Navy and Marine Corps personnel, the Secretary of the Navy has approved a broader delegation of authority for the award of personal decorations.

3. Implementation. Effective 1 August 1967, delegation of authority to award personal decorations, and to subdelegate such authority, is prescribed as follows:

a. The Secretary of the Navy retains the authority to approve awards of personal decorations to:

(1) All flag and general officers, except for the award of the Purple Heart.

(2) All personnel of the Navy and Marine Corps for services performed in the National Capital Region (NCR). The NCR is defined in SECNAVINST 5010.6 (NOTAL). For purposes of award delegation authority, Marine Corps Schools Command, Quantico, Virginia, is considered part of the National Capital Region.

(3) All personnel of the Navy and Marine Corps serving in assignments external to the Department of the Navy.

(4) All individuals other than personnel of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps.

b. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps are authorized to award the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, and lesser personal decorations, except to members of their immediate staffs. Authority to award these decorations to personnel killed or missing in action will be retained by the Chief

of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps and may not be delegated, except that the Chief of Naval Operations may authorize the Chief of Naval Personnel to award the Purple Heart to U. S. Navy personnel.

c. The Chief of Naval Operations may delegate to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe; the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; and, subject to special award authority for the Viet-Nam conflict, to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, authority to:

(1) Award the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, and lesser personal decorations, except to members of their immediate staffs and to personnel killed or missing in action.

(2) Subdelegate to commanders, in the grade of vice admiral and lieutenant general, of Fleets and Forces, including Fleet Marine Forces, the authority to award the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and lesser personal decorations, except to members of their immediate staffs, and to personnel killed or missing in action.

d. The Chief of Naval Operations may also delegate to other commanders in the grade of vice admiral the authority to award the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and lesser personal decorations, except to members of their immediate staffs and to personnel killed or missing in action.

e. The Commandant of the Marine Corps may, for the Marine Corps Supporting Establishment, subdelegate to commanders in the grade of lieutenant general, authority to award the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and lesser personal decorations, except to members of their immediate staffs and to personnel killed or missing in action.

f. The Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and all other commanders to whom award authority is delegated, will forward recommendations for personal decorations involving members of their immediate staffs to the next higher echelon for approval or other appropriate action.

4. Special Award Authority for the Viet-Nam Conflict. The Secretary of the Navy has directed that the award authority presently delegated by the Secretary of the Navy for Southeast Asian combat operations, including awards to certain

SECNAVINST 1650.25
17 July 1967

U.S. Coast Guard and foreign personnel, be continued in effect during the Viet-Nam conflict, in accordance with these delegations:

a. The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet:

(1) May award the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement Ribbon, and the Purple Heart to Navy and Marine Corps personnel participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia, and may further subdelegate this authority to the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific (SECNAV 152252Z Feb 1965) (NOTAL).

(2) May award the Silver Star Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, and the Navy Commendation Medal to foreign military personnel, in the grades of Captain/Colonel and below, participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia with United States forces, and may further subdelegate this authority to the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific (SECNAV 300352Z Nov 1965) (NOTAL).

File
(3) May authorize subdelegation by the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, to the Commanding General, First Marine Air Wing, of authority to award the Air Medal under Strike/Flight system to personnel serving with the First Marine Air Wing (SECNAV ltr ser 781 of 23 Sep 1963) (NOTAL).

SECNAV 211549Z Jan 66
(4) May subdelegate authority to award the Air Medal under the Strike/Flight system to the Commander Seventh Fleet (SECNAV 662313Z Aug 1965) (NOTAL).

(5) May subdelegate authority, as he deems appropriate, to award the Purple Heart to personnel of those Navy and Marine Corps commands and activities in the Southeast Asia area.

(SECNAV 7th End of 12 Mar 1965 on CO HEDSU-PACT Saigon ltr ser 86 of 7 Jan 1965) (NOTAL).

(6) May award the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Navy Commendation Medal to Coast Guard personnel operating with the Navy in the Viet-Nam area (SECNAV 112352Z Aug 1966 and SECNAV 031318Z May 1966) (NOTAL).

(7) In addition to authority previously delegated, the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet may authorize the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, to subdelegate to the Commanding General III Marine Amphibious Force, authority to award the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and lesser personal decorations.

b. The commanding officers of all U.S. Naval Hospitals are delegated authority to award the Purple Heart to U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel received as battle casualties from Viet-Nam (SECNAVINST 1650.25 of 23 Jul 1966) (NOTAL).

5. Administrative Procedures. Pending revision, the provisions of reference (a) are effective. In addition, the following correspondence is to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy (Board of Decorations and Medals):

a. After completion of action by delegated authority, all original recommendations, copies of award letters of transmittal and citations for review and subsequent forwarding to the Commandant of the Marine Corps or the Chief of Naval Personnel, as appropriate, for filing in the individual's service record.

b. Copies of all directives which further subdelegate award authority.

ROBERT H. B. BALDWIN
Under Secretary of the Navy

Distribution:
SNDL Parts 1 and 2
Marine Corps List 5/10

Stocked:
Supply & Fiscal Department (Code 514.32)
Naval Station, Washington, D.C. 20390

FORWARD THE CASE WHEN APPROVED,

WITH SIGNED PERMANENT CITATION DIRECT

TO THE NAVY DEPARTMENT BOARD OF DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

E. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART TO PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) SHALL BE FORWARDED DIRECT TO THE CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL OR COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS AS APPROPRIATE. THE CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL OR COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS WILL PROCESS AWARDS OF THE PURPLE HEART FOR PERSONNEL KILLED IN ACTION (KIA).

2. PROCEDURES PRESENTLY IN EFFECT GOVERNING APPROVAL OF AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS NOT HEREIN DELEGATED REMAIN IN EFFECT.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:

A. COMNAVEFORV WILL SUBMIT A MONTHLY SUMMARY REPORT TO CINCPACFLT OF AWARDS MADE UNDER THIS DELEGATION.

B. AFTER COMPLETION OF ACTION BY DELEGATED AUTHORITY, ALL ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATIONS, COPIES OF AWARD LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL AND CITATIONS, FOR PERSONNEL KILLED OR MISSING IN ACTION (KIA/MIA), WILL BE FORWARDED TO SECNAV (NDBDM) FOR REVIEW AND SUBSEQUENT FORWARDING TO CMC OR BUPERS, AS APPLICABLE, FOR FILING IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S SERVICE RECORD. ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATIONS, COPIES OF AWARD LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL AND CITATIONS FOR ALL OTHER OTHER COMPLETED AWARDS WILL BE FORWARDED TO CINCPACFLT FOR ATTACHMENT OF AN IGH CARD.

C. ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATIONS, COPIES OF AWARD LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL AND CITATIONS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL SHOULD BE FORWARDED IN A PACKAGE MADE UP AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION ON TOP.
2. A COPY OF THE APPROVED CITATION SECOND
3. A COPY OF THE LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL THIRD
4. ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS IN ANY ORDER DESIRED

D. COMNAVEFORV WILL ISS

E. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSTHUMOUS OR IN ADSENTIA AWARDS WILL BE PROCESSED AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE. TO EXPEDITE THIS PROCESSING, SUBMISSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY MESSAGE IS ENCOURAGED WITH CONTENT MINIMIZED TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE.

4. PROVIDE CINCPACFLT, CMC AND SECNAV (NDBDM) WITH COPIES OF ALL IMPLEMENTING DOCUMENTS.

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NAVAL MESSAGE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

ROUTINE
R 291038Z SEP 68
FM CINCPACFLT

TO COMNAVFORV

INFO CNO
SECNAV
COMFPPAC
COMNAVIAIRPAC
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMFIRSTFLT

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UNCLAS

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO AWARD MILITARY DECORATIONS

A. SECNAVINST 1650.28 OF 17 JUL 67
B. CNO 071336Z MAY 68 (PASEP)
C. SECNAVINST 1650.1C
D. CINCPACFLT S722022 JUL 68 (PASEP)

1. REFS A AND B DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO AWARD MILITARY DECORATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS AUTHORITY CINCPACFLT HEREBY SUBDELEGATES SUBJECT AUTHORITY TO COMNAVFORV AS FOLLOWS:

A. TO AWARD THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL, AIR MEDAL, THE NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL AND THE NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL TO U. S. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS PERSONNEL, INCLUDING PERSONNEL KILLED OR MISSING IN ACTION (KIA/MIA), SERVING IN UNITS ASSIGNED TO THE ADMIN/OPS CONTROL OF COMNAVFORV, THIS AWARD AUTHORITY INCLUDED SUSTAINED PERFORMANCE AWARDS WHICH ARE BASED UPON MERITORIOUS SERVICE PERFORMED IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA AREA OF OPERATIONS, THE AWARD AUTHORITY IS NOT APPLICABLE TO MEMBERS OF IMMEDIATE STAFF AND FLAG OR GENERAL OFFICERS. THIS AUTHORITY MAY NOT BE FURTHER SUB-DELEGATED.

B. AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERSONAL DECORATIONS INVOLVING MEMBERS OF IMMEDIATE STAFF SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO CINCPACFLT FOR APPROVAL OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION.

C. AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERSONAL DECORATIONS INVOLVING FLAG OR GENERAL OFFICERS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PURPLE HEART SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY VIA THE CHAIN OF COMMAND.

D. IN THE CASE OF AWARDS FOR PERSONNEL KILLED OR MISSING IN ACTION,

0981 SN...COG

UNSN NDBDH 00 09 09C 09B 01 03 04 05 FP BFR

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Delegated Authority

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2. Reconsideration of Disapproved Recommendations. When a recommendation for an award has been considered by the authority delegated to bestow it and it has been disapproved, it may be reconsidered only upon presentation of new, material, and relevant evidence which was not available at the time of the original recommendation.

3. Limitation of Medals.

a. Award and Issuance. Only one of the authorized decorations shall be awarded to an individual for a given act or service. No two medals or ribbons of the same decoration will be issued to an individual. For each subsequent act or service which is deemed to justify another award of the same decoration, a Gold Star will be issued in lieu thereof to be worn upon the accompanying ribbon. (Exception is a subsequent award of a Purple Heart posthumously. In such cases, a medal is issued to the official next of kin even though a medal was previously issued to the individual.)

b. Medals for Individual Acts vs Unit Awards. Denial of a unit award on a group of individuals in no way affects the eligibility of an individual in that group for a military decoration for acts or services performed during the same period covered by the unit's citation.

4. Character of Service. Eligibility of any person for a military decoration shall be determined by his status at the time the act or service was performed, but no decoration shall be awarded or presented to anyone whose service subsequent to the time he distinguished himself shall have been such as to merit a discharge under other than honorable conditions. (See Article 114-7.)

223. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.

The Medal of Honor will be awarded only with the approval of the President of the United States. All other Navy Department decorations for which authority is not delegated will be awarded by the Secretary of the Navy. At present, with the exception of the Purple Heart, no authority to make awards is delegated by the Secretary of the Navy. The Chief of Naval Personnel and Commandant of the Marine Corps are delegated authority to award the Purple Heart. In the event circumstances arise which make it necessary for this authority to be delegated for other awards, implementing instructions and procedures will be promulgated.

224. PRESENTATION OF MEDALS AND CITATIONS.

1. Ceremony and Publicity. Presentation of military decorations shall be made as soon as practicable after approval of the award and shall be made with appropriate ceremony. These presentations should be publicized through appropriate news media when security considerations permit.

2. Medal of Honor.

a. Presenting Authority for Living Recipients. If the recipient is within a reasonable distance, he will be ordered to Washington, D. C., and the presentation of the medal and citation will be made by the President or by the Secretary of the Navy as the President's personal representative. Otherwise, the presentation will be made by the senior officer present, bearing in mind that this occasion demands that the presenting officer be the highest ranking individual it is possible to obtain.

b. Presenting Authority for Posthumous Awards. If the award is posthumous and the next of kin is in the vicinity of Washington, D. C., or signifies a desire to be present there, the President or the Secretary of the Navy, as practicable, will present the Medal of Honor and citation to such next of kin as the representative of the deceased. Otherwise, in the case of Navy personnel, the Chief of Naval Personnel will forward the Medal of Honor and citation to the Commandant of the Naval District within which the next of kin resides, to arrange such suitable presentation as is consistent with the occasion, the exigencies of the service, and the desires of the next of kin. In the case of Marine Corps personnel, the Commandant of the Marine Corps will make arrangements for the presentation of the award in accordance with the wishes of the next of kin.

3. All Other Awards. The Chief of Naval Personnel or the Commandant of the Marine Corps, as appropriate, will make arrangements in accordance with their established policies for presentation or delivery of the medal and citation/certificates to the recipient, or in the case of a posthumous award, to his next of kin. If the award is presented outside the vicinity of Washington, it shall be presented by the senior officer present or the unit commander.

4. Permanent Citations and Certificates.

a. The citation for the Medal of Honor is signed by the President in the name of Congress.

b. The Secretary of the Navy will sign in the name of the President, permanent citations for all other decorations to members of the naval service except Navy Commendation Medals, Secretary of the Navy Commendations for Achievement, and Purple Hearts. He will sign in his own name, the permanent citations for all Navy Commendations for Achievement. (See Article 720.1.d and 720.2.d for citations and certificates accompanying awards to foreign personnel.)

c. The Chief of Naval Personnel or the Commandant of the Marine Corps, as appropriate, will sign in the name of the President, certificates for Purple Hearts.

225. AWARDS TO U. S. ARMY AND U. S. AIR FORCE PERSONNEL.

1. Recommendations. Recommendations for Navy Decorations to Army or Air Force personnel will be submitted to the Secretary of the