DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
2486 M STREET NW 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 NAVJOSEH 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 200401000 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,

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

Enclosures
MEMORANDUM FOR NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL

SEP 2 2004

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 Francis John R. O'Neill and Jerome R. Corsi, Ph.D. Allegations have surfaced that Lieutenant Junior Grade (LJG) 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 to be 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 you 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) 962-1018.

Deputy Inspector General
for Inspections and Policy

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

---OFFICIAL USE ONLY---
MEMORANDUM

From: RAW
To: 
Via: 

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

1. In letters of 18 August and 3 September 2004, Judicial Watch (JW), a nonprofit public interest group, requested an IG investigation into allegations that medals awarded to then-LTG 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, In the Heat 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 JW's 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 24 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 public interest group, requested an IG investigation into the allegations under Secretary Lehman's name appear to have been signed by a machine, which would explain why he now doesn't recall any involvement.

(p0f5)
The Washington Post

INVESTIGATIVE ARTICLE of 23 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.

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

HAVENHEIM ACTION:

The recommendation is approved.

R. A. ROUTE, VADM, USN Date

1 Del M. Sandusky is the only name listed as an 'eyewitness' on the 23 Mar 61 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.
MEMORANDUM

From: [Redacted]
To: File

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


3. I have reviewed related media articles, web pages and newspaper "investigations".

4. I have consulted with NAVIGEN attorneys and reviewed OIG opinion.

5. I have reviewed NS Memorandum of 10 September 2004 with related references and documentation.
From: JASON NAVIG
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2004 10:27
To: Route, Ronald VAIGNAV
Cc: 
Subject: FW: NEW YORK POST REQUEST; IOC: SEN KERRY

Admiral,

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 initiated at the bottom of some of those messages and the critics’ contention that “UN” 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 post shot and wounded the alleged VC before the Senator chased him down and killed him.

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. This is only five lines in a 57 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 CTC. 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 VAIG Zumwalt, is the most detailed and contains most 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 uhman version differs slightly from the CINCPACFLT version, but uses the same words about going ashore and chasing the enemy.

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

AAUSN-NAVIG

10/07/2004 14:52 Fax 202 846 5189 Judicial Watch, Inc
FOR: SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

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

SUBJECT: Judicial Watch Request for Investigation

- In accordance with NAVINSIGEN’s established review procedures, we carefully examined the Judicial Watch request contained in letters of 18 August and 9 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
Mr. Thomas Fitzos
President, Judicial Watch
Suite 725
501 School Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Fitzos:

This responds to your letters of August 16 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,

[Signature]

R.A. ROUTE
Case Summary for 20040700
as of 27-Sep-04

SUMMARY

On 15 Aug 04, Judicial Watch, a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization, and received a letter from the Defense Department stating that investigations into the deaths of sailors in the 1988 and 1989 crashes of the U.S.S. Stark and the U.S.S. Vincennes had been closed.

On 25 Jun 04, Judicial Watch, a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization, received a letter from the Defense Department stating that investigations into the deaths of sailors in the 1988 and 1989 crashes of the U.S.S. Stark and the U.S.S. Vincennes had been closed.

Investigation Assigned By
Original Due Date: 01-Jul-94
Current Due Date: 01-Jul-94
Completed: Yes

Complainant: Anonymous,
Confidential: Yes

Investigation Cross References

Method: Lawn
Investigations Type: Special Inquiries
Investigations Action: Information
Investigations Assigned To
Original Due Date: 01-Jul-94
Current Due Date: 01-Jul-94
Data Report Received: Yes

Date

Page 1 of 2
Case Summary for 20040700
as of 27-Sep-04

Subject: Kerry, John F at former Naval Officer

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<tr>
<th>Work Group</th>
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Phone Number: NA

Address: NA

Subject: NA

Remarks: NA

Allegation: UCMJ/Navy Regulation Violation

Finding: Not Investigated

Statement of Allegations: Number (C-408)

Dispositions: NA

Rule Violations: NA

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See Office Use Code:

Revised to comply with the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 as amended, 5 USC Section 7342. 

Page 2 of 2
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.
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 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, 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.

NAVG Hotlines

9/21/2004
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 officer 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.
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 those 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.
9/3/04

Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals

SBNNAV NDBDM
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

To: [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Number of Pages (including cover sheet) 20

The following items are attached:

- Information on directives delegating awarding authority of combat awards below WO 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 1650.16.

Please let me know if you require additional assistance.
Directing authorizing delegation of medical authority

19 Feb 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

20 Feb 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINPACFLUR & CHINHAFILUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

21 Feb 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

23 Feb 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

27 Feb 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

28 Feb 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

29 Feb 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

2 Apr 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

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4 Apr 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

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16 Apr 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

17 Apr 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

18 Apr 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

19 Apr 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

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25 Apr 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

26 Apr 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

27 Apr 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

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29 Apr 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

30 Apr 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

1 May 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

2 May 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

3 May 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

4 May 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

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14 May 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

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17 May 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

18 May 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

19 May 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.

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30 May 55 DECHNAV msg to CHINHAFILUR & CHINPACFLUR for USAF and USAF personnel participating in combat operations in South Viet.
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20300

SECRETARY 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 actions are canceled:

a. SHERWORTH 1650.10G of 16 August 1963, Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual Class Amend 11

b. SHERWORTH 1650.10 of 17 July 1967, Subj: Secretary of the Navy

3. Action. Annex II of SHERWORTH 1650.10 will be attached to this instruction and retained pending revisions favored by the Chief of Naval Personnel. Annex II, and revisions thereto, will eventually be incorporated into a separate publication.
REDACTED 1650.ID
17 December 1968

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

[Signature]

CHARLES F. FATER
UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Distribution:
SMC Form 1 and 2
HARRINGTN 1313 DM

Readdress:
Supply and Fiscal Dept. (Code 214.32)
D.D. Naval Station, Washington, D.C. 20390
ify the conduct, the individual must clearly
triumph himself conspicuous above his comrades
by an act or acts outstanding that is clearly dis-
tinguished by gallantry beyond the call of duty
from other forms of bravery and that would
be the type of deed which if not done would not
be subject to any possible criticism. The deed
must be without detriment to the mission of
his command or in the order to which at-
scribed.

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 opera-
tions involving conflict with an opposing for-
   eign force;
   (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 ascertain this distinctive conduct, 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 con-
   sidered among others of equal grade, rank,
   experience, or position of responsibility. An ac-
   cumulation of minor acts of heroism normally
does not justify the award. The high awards
   must be borne in mind when recom-
   mending the award.
3. Distinguished Service Medal.

b. Eligibility Requirements.—Awarded to
   a person who, while serving in any capacity
   with the Navy or Marine Corps, distinguishes
   himself by exceptionally meritorious service
   to the United States in a duty of great respon-
sibility. To justify this decoration, an exceptional
   performance of duty, clearly above that nor-
   mally expected, which has contributed ma-
   terially to the success of a major command or
   project, is required. In general, the Distin-
guished 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.

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 opera-
tions involving conflict with an opposing for-
   eign force;
   (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 heroism not(s) performed must render
   the individual conspicuous and well above the
   standards expected. An accumulation of minor
   acts of heroism normally does not justify the
   award, but material or exceptional cases will be
   decided on their merits.
5. Legion of Merit.

b. Eligibility Requirements.—Awarded to a
   member of the Armed Forces of the United
   States or of a friendly foreign nation who dis-
tinguishes 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 in grade. To justify this decoration, the ser-
   vice rendered must have been comparable to
   that required for the Distinguished Service
   Medal but in a degree of lesser though consider-
able responsibility. In general, the Legion of
   Merit will be awarded to officers in lesser com-
   mand at sea or principal commanders on shore
   who have performed such exceptionally mer-
   itious service as to justify the award of the
   —2—
c. Credit for Purposes of Advancement in Rating.—For personnel of the Navy, credit points are awarded for certain awards to a maximum of 15 points in any rating as a final multiple of five purposes of advancement in rating. (For further details and list of creditable awards, see Manual of Advancement in Ranks or Rating, NAVPERS 14660.)

118. PRESENCE, ELIGIBILITY.

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 of 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 operates 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. ROTC 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 assurance of SECNAV, GNO, or COM as appropriate, provided they are not given for the same act or service for which a previous award has been made by the Navy.


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 (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 (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 services 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.
3.Stars—There are four variations of stars used on decorations and medals.
   a. 6/16 inch cloth—used on personal military decorations to denote each subsequent award received. (Starks/Flight Air Medal awards are of a special category, see para 2, below.)
   b. 6/16 inch silver—worn in lieu of five gold stars in order to represent five subsequent awards.
   c. 6/16 inch bronze—worn on unit campaign, and service awards to denote engagements or campaigns or subsequent awards earned. A special application to the Air Force for the use of this star is to indicate the initial special individual award of the Air Medal. This is done to denote that the medal or ribbon represents an initial award earned outside of the strikes/herst/flight system. Second and subsequent awards are represented as indicated in points (a) and (b) above.
   d. 6/16 inch silver—worn on unit campaign, and service awards in lieu of five bronze stars.

5. Combat Distinguishing Device—The tenor letter “V” is substituted for wear on the following decorations if the award is for acts or services involving direct participation in combat operations: Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal. In all cases, the citation used specifically references the Combat Distinguishing Devices.

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 junior 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 in which the recommendation referred. A recommendation originated by other than the commanding officer of the individual concerned should be referred to the commanding officer for comment and/or recommendation prior to forwarding via chain of command.

2. Finalization
   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 presented so that if approved, presentation may be made at the individual’s new duty station.
   c. In other than exceptional cases, a minimum of 3 months should be allowed for administrative processing of award recommendations.
4. Every effort should be made to present posthumous awards to the next of kin within 90 days after the individual concerned is declared dead.

5. Preparation.
   a. Format—Individual recommendations, prepared on the standard award recommendation form (NAVTEXES 1550/60), (Fig. 1-3) may be submitted by the originating command in person or by mail. 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 ordering service.

   b. Summary of Actions—Each recommendation for a decoration is evaluated on the merits of the justification contained therein. Generalities and empty 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 circumstances should be given.

   c. Medal of Honor—In addition to other awards, the Medal of Honor (see Fig. 1-3) will accompany recommendations for this award.

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

   1. (1) If practicable, state the amount of at least two circumstances. Such statements should furnish accounts of the incident, including any action to whether the person for whom the award is sought performed his life.

   2. (2) The place, time, date, 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.

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

   4. (4) A frank description of the scene, including distance, location of vessel, and height of vessel or vessels from which rescue efforts were started, as applicable.

   5. (5) A statement as to the preceding qualifications of the rescue if applicable. (See Art. D-4603, Bppers Manual for Navy Personnel, and Marine Corps order 1010.5 for Marine Corps personnel.)

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

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

   8. (8) 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 263) must accompany the recommendation for an award. Upper field and combat conditions this citation may be drafted in an exhibit above the originating command. Recipient of awards are entitled to well-prepared citations, which will be cherished by them and be a source of pride to their family. Fundamentally, a citation is an account of hero’s notes or an enumeration of meritorious achievements or services. Although a citation is laudatory and formalized, this in itself cannot satisfy the inclusion of adequately stated regarding accomplishments or commendatory remarks regarding the individual. It must agree with the recommendation as to date(s) and that citation is a description 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 specified for each award; the duty assignment of the individual in detail; the inclusive dates of service on which the recommendation is based; and if desired a description of operations of the unit to which
### Summary of Recommendation for Award of Medal of Honor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Date or rank at time of action</th>
<th>Post of rank</th>
<th>Person who suggested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Conditions Under Which Act Performed**

- Location:
- Date:
- Weather:
- Sea conditions:
- Visibility conditions:

**Narrative Description of Gallant Conduct**

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1-12.
attached. Opening quotes for specific docu-
ments:

Medal of Honor—"For conspicuous gall-
antry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty . . . ."

Navy Cross—"For extraordinary hero-
ism . . . ."

Distinguished Service Medal—"For ex-
ceptional meritorious service to the
Government of the United States in a
life of great responsibility . . . ."

Silver Star Medal—"For conspicuous gal-
antry and intrepidity in action . . . ."

Legion of Merit—"For exceptionally mer-
itious conduct in the performance of
outstanding service . . . ."

Distinguished Flying Cross—"For hero-
ism (or extraordinary achievement)
while participating in aerial flight . . . ."

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

Bronze Star Medal—"For heroically achieve-
ment (or meritorious achievement) in
(air or naval service) in connection with
operations against the enemy (or opera-
tions involving conflict with an opposing
foreign force) . . . ."

Air Medal—"For heroically achievement in
aer.ial flight . . . ."

Navy Commendation Medal—"For hero-
ically achievement (or meritorious achieve-
ment) in (military service) while serving as
"Navy Achievement Medal—"For leader-
ship (or professional) achievement in the
superior performance of his duties while
serving as . . . ."

Recipients of the Medal of Honor or Meritorious
Achievement in Service. The second part of
the citation identifies the recipient by name,
designates his specific achievement, his ac-
complishments, and the outstanding personal
attributes displayed by him. The description
of the individual's achievements may not be
clarity that they were sufficient to justify the
award recommended. Vastly reviewed: results
of achievements may also be included. If duly
performed in actual combat, the citation should
be made. No standard information, however,
may be included in the proposed citation, even
though the recommendation which it accom-
panies may contain classified information.

(2) Commanding Officers—The third
part of the citation states the character
attributes, outstanding or implied in the second
part, that reflect great credit upon the individual
and were in keeping with the highest traditions
of the U.S. Naval services.

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 eval-
uation.

b. Recommendations for awards should be
clearly substantiated and supported by
administrative practice. In particular, their
existence should be corroborated to the recom-
manded individual or to the next of his prior to an
action by the commanding authority. Negative publi-
cation may be avoided. Medal of Honor recom-
mendations shall be marked "For Official Use
Only."

c. When a recommendation originates in
a united or joint command or operation,
MAAG, or mission, it shall be forwarded
for consideration to the united 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 not required.

2. Processing—Recommendations shall be
forwarded to the authority empowered to ap-
prove the award recommended (see para 118,
Delegation).

a. For Personal Assigned to the Operat-
ing Forces of the Navy—Recommendations shall
be forwarded, where appropriate, via the
Naval Command in Chief and Chief of Naval
Operations, with copies provided to command-
ers of Intermediate echelons. In cases con-
cerning Maritime, recommendations shall be
forwarded via the Commandant of the Marine
Corps before transmission to the Chief of Naval
Operations. Commanders receiving information
copies of the recommendations may provide
comments, if desired, to the Fleet Commanders in
Chief. Such comments will be submitted in
timely fashion in accordance with instructions

1-38
issued by the First Commander in Chief. It is recommended that meaningful comments are sought, and evaluation 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 head of command and the Chief of Naval Operations who appropriates.

(2) Marine Corps Personnel—Via the administrative head of command and the Commander of the Marine Corps.

c. Recommendations for the Purple Heart shall be submitted 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 by the appropriate unified or specified command and, if appropriate, Joint Task Force Commander for presentation 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 occurring recommendation, processing, and approval/disapproval actions is a source of embarrassment to those recommended and, in the case of finally approved recommendations, could diminish the impact of commendations in which the awards are made. To prevent premature disclosure, processing of Medal of Honor recommendations will be handled in a “For Official Use Only” basis until the awards are officially announced or awarded.

4. Actions of Presenting 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 recommend a higher award to a higher authority if required.

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

c. Submit the recommendation for further consideration and justification.

d. Approve no award.

e. 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.

f. The awarding authority will issue the medal and citation for any award approved.

(Awards for personnel killed or missing in action see art. 118-114.)

g. 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 such citation will be issued to the individual concerned.

h. Cases requiring approval by the Secretary of the Navy will be processed by the Board of Decorations and Medals (see art. 118). For these cases the Secretary of the Navy will issue citations and certifications.

133. 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 ceremonies 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
Naval Department Board of Decorations and Medals

SECNAV NDBDM
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

To: [Name]

From: [Name]

Number of Volumes (including cover sheet)

Please see p. 2 of the list for BS delegates

SECNAV INST 1650.28
See pp 1 & 2
DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY — VIETNAM

23 Sep 1963 - GHQ F liy Ser 784 authorized GINIWALFIT to award Strike/Flight Air Medals for Vietnam operations.

20 Sep 1963 - GINIWALFIT to liy Ser 15/466 subdelegated authority to GINIWALIT to award Strike/Flight Air Medals for Vietnam operations.

SERV: Certificates for these awards were issued by SERVM.

19 Feb 1964 - SERVM rec 192232 to GINIWALFIT for Navy and Marine Corps personal participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia (S.E.A.) authority to approve: 2NM, LCM, LAG, HSM, AM, NUC, BM, WY.

GINIWALFIT MFRY 1500.1 (copy net hold) subdelegated above authority to 2NM.

6 Aug 1964 - SERVM authorized GINIWALFIT to subdelegated authority to make Strike/Flight Air Medal awards to GINIWALFIT.

9 Sep 1965 - GINIWALFITIC 1500.14 subdelegated authority to GINIWALFIT to award Strike/Flight Air Medals for Vietnam operations.

30 Aug 1966 - SERVM rec 2002025Aug 06 to GINIWALIT — ASA in MARSVNA task will be forwarded to SERVM for final action.

3 May 1966 - SERVM rec 301359 to GINIWALFIT authorized GINIWALFIT to make following awards to ASA (NARL) personnel operating with the Navy in Vietnam: 2NM, LCM, WY.

23 Jul 1966 - SERVM rec 1125025Aug 06 to GINIWALFIT authorized award of NUC to ASA (NARL) personnel serving with Navy in Vietnam (modified SERVM rec 0245565May 66).

20 Nov 1966 - SERVM rec 1101232Nov 06 to GINIWALFIT delegated authority to award 2NM, LCM, HSM, BM, WY to foreign military personnel in S.E.A. for hero deeds. (Effective to GINIWALFIT and below) The authority may be subdelegated to GINIWALFIT.

17 Jul 1967 - SERVM rec 1125025Aug 07, effective 1 Aug 1967 delegated authority to GINIWALFIT, GINIWALFITIC, UNICORPSFIT to award 2NM, LCM, and all lower personal decorations except to immediate staff members and to personnel of ASA or MIA.

GINIWALFIT to UNICORPSFIT authority to award 2NM, AM, WY, and MIA to personnel of ASA or MIA.

GINIWALFITIC subdelegated to GINIWALFIT effective 1 Aug 1967.

14 Aug 1967 - SERVM rec 1101232Aug 07 subdelegated authority to BEFIMFIT to award 2NM, AM, HSM, and MIA except for awards to ASA personnel and MIA personnel.
14 Aug 1967 - CINCPAC/VNF msg 142/34 Aug 67 subdelegated to CG WPHAC for other than USA combat operations authority to award RSM, AN, NMC, NMA to immediate staff members and KIA and MIA. For USA combat operations authority as previously delegated.

23 Aug 1967 - CG WPHAC msg 142/35 Aug 67 subdelegated to CG 121 WAC authority to award RSM and lesser personal decorations to Navy and Marine Corps personnel serving during combat operations under conditions which warrant recognition.

7 Sep 1967 - CNO msg 021003CZ Aug 67 modified by CNO msg 070326G Sep 67 - revised 25 Sep 1961 delegate authorities will sign citations. CGNAV will sign and issue certificates for awards approved by delegated authorities.

7 May 1968 - CNO msg 031325CZ May 68 - NAVSWAP approved modification of NAVMEM 1620.28 to expand delegation of authority to include KIA and MIA. Effective immediately CG delegation authority to:

a. CINCPAC/VN, CINCPAC/MS and CINCPAC/MSF to award RSM, NMC and all lesser personal decorations except to immediate staff members.

b. To subdelegate to commanders in grades of ESM & EL of NAV and forces including WPNF authority to award RSM, NMC and all lesser personal decorations except to immediate staff members.

c. CINCPAC/MS and CINCPAC/MSF to all personnel KIA or MIA.

21 May 1968 - CINCPAC/MSFP msg 1111226 May 68 delegated to CONSTELLATION authority to award RSM, AN, NMC and all lesser personal decorations except to immediate staff members.

18 Jun 1968 - CINCPAC/VN msg 113012G Jun 68 expanded previously delegated authority to CG WPHAC for other than USA combat operations to award RSM, AN, NMC, NMA to Navy and Marine Corps personnel serving units assigned to WPHAC, including KIA and MIA cases. Not to include immediate staff members.

18 Jun 1968 - CINCPAC/VN msg 113012G Jun 68 authorized delegation to CONSTELLATION and CONSTACKTO authority to award RSM, AN, NMC, and NMA including both combat and noncombat awards and also for KIA and MIA. (Not immediate staff members).

CINCPAC/VN msg 121025CZ Sep 68 authority to CONNAVFORV to award RSM, AN, NMC and NMA to USN and AN personnel including KIA and MIA medals and decorations awards included.

9 Dec 1968 - NAVMEM 1150.2A Subj: Award of Purple Heart. Authority to commends civilians of naval hospitals receiving battle casualties to award Purple Heart.

-2-
6 Feb 1969
- GEMAV: ½ of 051273. Feb 69 to CINCPACVIF authorized CINCPACVIF
to exercise in Award recommendation for CM and lesser awards to Navy
& Marine Corps personnel. (Not to include flag/general officers)
Authority may be subdelegated to CINCPAC for NC personnel.

25 Feb 69
- CINCPACVIF Memorandum. Feb 69 delegated authority to CINCPAC as
authorized above.

13 Jun 1969
- GEMAV: 1550.31, Subj: Special Award Authority for
Combat Operations
20 Apr 1970  -  SGM 1690.31A - Special Award Authority for Combat Operations.  This new authority authorizes COMPAerin to subdelegate to CG PAYPA the authority to award SEM and lesser personal decorations.  Authorizes CINCPAC/PAK to concur in recommendations for SEM and lesser personal decorations rendered by other services to members of the naval service below flag/general rank and further authorizes subdelegation to CG PAYPA to award silver star/Flight Air Medals.  Authorizes CINCPAC/PAK to subdelegate to commands and activities, commanding officers of naval hospital award Purple Heart.

22 Apr 1970 - SEM and lesser personal decorations.  CINCPAC/PAK who may further subdelegate to COMNAVPAK and COMCINCPAC/PAK to approve SEM and lesser personal decorations.

27 May 1970  -  CGM authorized SGM 1690.31A of 20 Apr 1970 to CINCPAC/PAK and authorized CINCPAC/PAK to approve awards, concur in recommendation rendered by other services and to subdelegate as indicated in previous instruction.

13 Apr 1971 - CGM revoked SGM 1690.31A Apr 71, granted special award authority for combat operations to COMNAVPAK until such time as CINCPAC/PAK could absorb workload (apparently CINCPAC/PAK no longer rate of VAM).

21 May 1971  -  SGM 1690.28 subdelegated authority to award SEM and lesser personal decorations except to immediate staff members and KIA and IIA cases to: COMNAVPAK, COMPAIRRING, CONSULTANT, CONSULTING, CONSORTIAL, CONSORTICIAL.

3 May 1972  -  CGM 1690.28 May 72 restored delegated award authority.

19 May 1972 - CGM 1690.28 May 72 restated forth authority, SEM and lesser personal decorations except immediate staff and KIA and IIA cases to: COMNAVPAK, COMPAIRRING, CONSULTANT, CONSULTING, CONSORTIAL, CONSORTICIAL.
2 Dec 1974
CNO ltr Scr 09/44/74 delegated award authority as follows:
CINCPACFLT, CINCPACRFL, COMAIRFOR - NM and lesser personal
decorations, except to immediate staff members.
CINCPAC - NM and lesser personal decorations.

27 Jan 1975
CINCPACFLT INST 1600.1E award authority as shown:
00 NAVFAC, COMNAVSHIPS and COMAIRFOR to award NM and lesser
personal decorations.

25 Feb 1975
COMAFIOLU INST 1600.2E sets forth delegation as follows:
COMNAVSHIPS, CINCPACFLT, NAVFAC, COMAIRFOR, COMAFIOLU,
may award NM and lesser personal decorations.

4 Nov 1974
S-2A Navy approved new delegation of authority based on NAVFAC
ltr Scr 1110 of 20 Sep 1974.

16 Dec 1975
CINCPACFLT subdelegated awarding authority LTR Scr 14/TD-595.
CINCPACFLT's DETERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO AWARD PURPLE HEART

CINCPACFLT 7th Dec of 14 March 1965 on HQA Saigon ltr for 85 of 7 Jan 65 approved authority for CINCPACFLT to award Purple Heart. (Except for posthumous cases)

CINCPACFLT 14th Apr 24/70-36 of 9 April 1965 sub delegated authority to ABDULWAHAB, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces Pacific and Commanding Office Headquarters Support Activity, Saigon.

CINCPACFLT 27th Dec 81/70-13 of 27 Dec 1965 sub delegated authority to 30th Naval Construction Regiment.

CINCPACFLT 31st Dec 24/70-110 of 31 Jan 1966 sub delegated authority to Commanding Officer Naval Support Activity, Danang.

CINCPACFLT 27th Dec 12/70-9 of 12 Jan 1966 sub delegated authority to Commander, Naval Forces, Vietnam.

CINCPACFLT 14th Dec 13/70-2 of 13 Jan 1967 sub delegated authority to Commander, River Assault Flotilla ONA 099 (OFF 117)

CINCPACFLT 27th Jan 12/70-9 of 25 Mar 1967 sub delegated authority to Commander THIRD Naval Construction Brigade.
(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 Medal for Achievement, and the Purple Heart to Navy and Marine Corps personnel participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia, and may further delegate this authority to the Commander, Combat Service Identification Team, Fort McHenry Annex, Fort Meade, Maryland (SECHAVN 40315014-65) (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 combatant civilian personnel in the conduct of Operation Freedom Eagle, participating in combat operations in Southeast Asia with United States Forces, and may further delegate this authority to the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific, as of May 10, 1965 (NOTAL).  

(3) May authorize such actions as he deems appropriate by the Commander, Combat Service Identification Team, Pacific, to the Commanding General, Pacific, to the Commanding General, Pacific Air Forces, to award the Air Medal under the procedures set forth in the Security for Air Operations (SECHAVN 4022100) (NOTAL).  

(4) May delegate authority to award the Air Medal under the procedures set forth in the Security for Air Operations (SECHAVN 4022100) (NOTAL).  

(5) May delegate authority, so far as he deems appropriate, to award the Purple Heart and Marine Corps Commendation and Meritorious Service medals and gifts to the President and other authorized organizations (SECHAVN 4022103).  

(6) May award the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, and the Navy Commendation Medal to civilians and military personnel participating in the Naval Reserve (SECHAVN 4022102) as of 1 December 1965 (NOTAL).  

(7) In addition to authority previously delegated, the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet may authorize the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific, to delegate to the Commander, U.S. Naval Construction Force, authority to award the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and other personal decorations.  

b. The commanding officers of all U.S. Naval Hospitals are delegated authority to award the Purple Heart to U.S. Navy, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel involved in battle casualties from Vietnam (SECHAVN 40315014-65) (NOTAL).  

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

a. After completion of action by delegated authority, all original personnel files, copies of award records of post-military and civilian personnel, the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Chief of Naval Personnel, and any pertinent files in the individual's service record.  

b. Copies of all documents which further substantiated award actions.

ROBERT H. B. RADNOR  
Under Secretary of the Navy  

Distribution:  
NHL, Sec 1 and 2  
Marine Corps List 5/10  

Stocked:  
Supply & Fiscal Department (Code 514.32)  
Naval Station, Washington, D.C. 20390
FORWARD THE CASE UPON APPROVAL, WITH SIGNED "RECOMMENDATION"
DIRECT TO THE NAVY DEPARTMENT BOARD OF DECORATIONS FOR MEDALS.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART TO PERSONNEL
MISSED IN ACTION (KIA) SHALL BE FORWARDED DIRECT TO THE CHIEF OF NAVAL
PERSONNEL OR COMMANDANT OF THE NAVAL 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 DELEGATED REMAIN IN EFFECT.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:
   a. OHAVALNAV WILL SUBMIT A MONTHLY SUMMARY REPORT TO
      CINCPACFLT OF AWARDS MADE UNDER THIS LEGISLATION.
   b. AFTER COMPLETION OF ACTION BY DELEGATED AUTHORITY, ALL ORIGINAL
      RECOMMENDATIONS, COPIES OF AWARD LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL AND CITATIONS
      FOR PERSONNEL KILLED OR MISSED IN ACTION (KIA/MIA) WILL BE FORWARDED
      TO SECNAV (NUSD) FOR REVIEW AND SUBSEQUENT FORWARDING TO CMC OR
      SUBCMCS AS APPLICABLE. FOR VETERANS IN THE INDIVIDUAL 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 ISK 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. OHAVALNAV WILL ISSUE

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

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO AWARD MILITARY DECORATIONS

A. SGO RANG 1530.20 OF 17 JUL 67
B. SGO RANG 2733322 MAY 64 (PASEP)
C. SGO RANG 1530.10
D. CINCPACFLT 7220322 JUL 63 (PASEP)

1. REFS A AND B DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO AWARD MILITARY DECORATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS AUTHORITY CINCPACFLT HEREBE SUBDELEGATES SUBJECT AUTHORITY TO COMMANDER 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 ADMINISTRATION CONTROL OF CONNAVFOR, THIS AWARD AUTHORITY INCLUDED SUSTAINED PERFORMANCE AWARDS WHICH ARE BASED UPON HERITORIC SERVICE PERFORMED IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA AREA OF OPERATIONS. THE AWARD AUTHORITY IS NOT APPLICABLE TO MEMBERS OF IMMEDIATE STAFF AND FLAG OR GENERAL OFFICIALS. THIS AUTHORITY MAY NOT BE FURTHER SUBDELEGATED.

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

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

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