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SUBJ/CHANGES TO NAVY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL//

REF/A/DOC/SECNAV/22AUG2006//

AMPN/REF A IS SECNAVINST 1650.1H, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS AWARDS MANUAL.//

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RMKS/1. Effective 1 January 2014, Navy Reserve members are eligible for the Navy Good Conduct Medal (NGCM) as set forth in the amended award criteria in paragraph (2) below. Additionally, the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal will no longer be awarded. Reserve service prior to 1 January 2014 earned towards the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal may be applied towards award of the Navy Good Conduct Medal. These changes will be incorporated in the next revision of Ref (a).

2. Article 420.2 of Ref (a) shall now read as follows:

"2. Navy Good Conduct Medal

a. Authorization. The NGCM was established by SECNAV on 26 April 1869 to recognize the "all-around" good Navy enlisted person, well qualified in all phases of conduct and performance. Effective 1 February 1971, commanding officers were delegated authority to award the NGCM. Effective 1 January 2014, Navy Reserve personnel who meet the Reserve eligibility requirements are authorized the NGCM. The CNO has review authority over the NGCM and designates specific criteria for the award.

b. Eligibility Requirements

(1) Period of Service. In accordance with NAVADMIN 305/95, subsequent to 1 January 1996, any three years of continuous active or Reserve service as an enlisted person in the Navy or Navy Reserve. For the period 1 November 1963 through 31 December 1995, inclusive, the qualifying eligibility period is four years. This requirement may be fulfilled by:

(a) Continuous active service during a minority (see note) enlistment, provided the member served on active duty to the day preceding his/her 21st birthday, even though he/she extended the enlistment and remained on active duty. Note: The term "minority" as used in this paragraph and paragraph (b) below refers to being under the age of 18 and not to any particular racial or ethnic background.

(b) Continuous active service during a minority enlistment,

provided the member served on active duty within three months of the day preceding his/her 21st birthday.

(c) Continuous active service during a three-year first enlistment. For first-term personnel who meet all eligibility requirements except length of service, the NGCM may be awarded up to three months prior to the eligibility date, if the member is discharged or released to inactive duty; i.e., the last three months of service may be waived. This does not apply to members who are discharged for the purpose of immediate reenlistment.

(d) A member not eligible for the NGCM who reenlists or reports for active or active Reserve duty within three months after discharge or release to inactive duty, is considered to be serving under "continuous active service" conditions. While the time between the date of separation and date of return to active duty is not counted as an interruption of active service, it may not be included in computing time served. A member who reenlists or reports for active duty or to a drilling Reserve status, after more than three months after separating, must begin a new three-year qualification period.

(e) An enlisted member appointed a temporary warrant or commissioned officer may include such temporary service, upon reverting to an enlisted status, regardless of the purpose (including discharge to accept appointment as a permanent officer). Naval Academy midshipmen who are not commissioned, but are retained in the service in an enlisted status, may include such midshipman service for the purpose of earning the NGCM. Except as provided above, service in warrant, commissioned, or Naval Academy midshipman status may not be included in computing time served.

(f) Drilling Reserve members must maintain eligibility for a satisfactory year towards retirement, as outlined in BUPERSINST 1001.39(series), for three consecutive years.

(g) Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) members assigned to Voluntary Training Units who meet the above criteria are authorized the NGCM.

(2) Conduct. Within the required period of active service, the individual must have a clear record (no convictions by court-martial, no Non-Judicial Punishment (NJP), no lost time by reason of sickness-misconduct, no civil convictions for offenses involving moral turpitude).

(a) If confinement as a result of conviction by any court-martial (general, special, or summary) is involved, a new qualifying period shall begin with the date of restoration to duty on a probationary basis. If confinement is not included in the approved sentence of the court-martial, a new qualifying period shall begin with the date of convening authority action.

(b) If the service record contains record of NJP, a new qualifying period shall begin with the date following the date of the offense. If the date of the offense cannot be determined, the new qualifying period shall begin with the date following the NJP.

(c) If convicted by civil authorities for an offense involving moral turpitude, a new qualifying period shall begin with the date of return to active duty status.

(d) If the record contains a disqualifying mark that is not the result of NJP, the new qualifying period shall begin with the date following

the date of the mark.

(3) Performance marks required during period of eligibility.

2.0 (a) Subsequent to 1 January 1996, no mark below in any trait.

3.0 (b) Between 31 August 1983 and 31 December 1995, no mark below in Military Knowledge/Performance, Rating Knowledge/Performance, Reliability, Military Bearing, Personal Behavior, and Directing.

(c) Prior to 31 August 1983:

1 E-4 and below. No mark below 3.0 in any trait.

2 E-5 and E-6. No mark below EEL (Typically Effective-Lower) in Directing, Individual Productivity, Reliability or Conduct.

3 E-7 to E-9. No mark below the bottom 50 percent in Performance, Reliability, Conduct, or Directing. If an individual receives a disqualifying trait mark, a new period of eligibility shall begin on the day following the ending date of the performance evaluation report that contains the disqualifying trait mark.

c. Waivers. Subsequent to 17 May 1974, for the first award only, the NGCM may be awarded in the following cases, provided conduct and performance requirements are met:

(1) For individuals who are killed in combat against an opposing armed force, or die as a direct result of wounds received in combat against an opposing armed force, the award may be presented posthumously to the next of kin.

(2) For individuals who are separated from the Naval Service for physical disability as a result of wounds incurred in combat against an opposing armed force, or in the line of duty where such wounds were directly related to action against the enemy.

(3) For individuals who die while in a POW status, the NGCM may be presented posthumously to the next of kin, provided it has been determined the member's conduct while a POW was acceptable.

d. Limitations

(1) When the requirements have been met, but it is evident the individual is not deserving of the NGCM due to a repeated record of valid letters of indebtedness, or other acts which are not in keeping with the high moral standards required of all Navy personnel, the commanding officer will make an appropriate recommendation to CNO (DNS-35) stating the reasons.

(2) Although the period of qualifying service was revised to three years effective 1 January 1996, in accordance with Navy Uniform Regulations, this change does not affect the four-year requirement for service stripes.

(3) Effective 1 January 2014, Navy Reserve service earned towards the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal will be applied to the NGCM.

(a) Qualifying active duty year may be combined with qualifying Reserve duty years to earn the NGCM as long as the member is under continuous service throughout the three-year period.

(b) Example: Member affiliated with Navy Reserve immediately after leaving active duty. Member had two years of qualifying active-duty service towards NGCM. If member completes one satisfactory year towards retirement in their first year in the Navy Reserve, member would be eligible for the NGCM.

e. Certificates. A certificate shall be prepared for each award. The member's rate, name, branch of Service, and number of the award shall be centered in the appropriate spaces. The ending date of the period of service for which the award was earned shall be centered after "Awarded for service completed on." The commanding officer's name, grade, and branch of Service shall be typed above "Commanding Officer" and his/her signature affixed."

3. Released by Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy.//

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