COMMENDANT NOTICE 1650

Subj: Coast Guard Unit Awards

1. Purpose. This Notice publishes criteria, eligibility requirements and delegation of authority to award the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, and changes to the Coast Guard Unit Commendation necessitated by approval and establishment of the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation.

2. Publication Affected. The Medals and Awards Manual, CG 207-2, will be changed by a future amendment.

3. Discussion. It has become apparent that the need exists to recognize the meritorious service or achievement of a group of individuals comprising a vessel or shore unit who have, by dedicated competent work, been instrumental in the successful accomplishment of an operation or project which is considered to be at a level of performance below that warranting award of the Coast Guard Unit Commendation but of sufficient merit to warrant recognition. The Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation will afford a means for such recognition.

Delegation to the area commanders will significantly expand the scope of their award authority and, together with promptness with which the award may be made, will serve to add effectiveness to the awards program. An opportunity to promptly recognize deserving units and their personnel upon completion of an operation or period of performance warranting the award will be more meaningful to eligible personnel and afford maximum opportunity for publicity within and outside the Coast Guard. The Commandant has approved the ribbon bar design to represent award of the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation. The colors will be: Blue (ultramarine); light blue (grotto); green (myrtle); and white. The ribbon will be 1 3/8 inches in width consisting of the following vertical stripes: Blue, 3/32 inch; white, 3/32 inch; green, 3/8 inch; white, 1/16 inch; light blue, 1/8 inch; white, 1/16 inch; green, 3/8 inch; white, 3/32 inch; and blue, 3/32 inch. The ribbon is expected to be available by mid-August 1974.

4. Action. Pending amendment of the Medals and Awards Manual, the following shall apply:

a. Coast Guard Unit Commendation (CGUC) Eligibility Requirements. Awarded by the Commandant to any unit with an assigned OPFAC number which has distinguished itself by valorous or extremely meritorious service not involving combat but in support of Coast Guard operations in which
the unit performance substantially exceeds the performance of other units performing similar service. This award may also be conferred upon a unit of other branches of the Armed Forces of the United States, provided that such unit shall meet the standards established for Coast Guard units. To justify this award, the unit must have performed service of a character comparable to that which would merit the award of the Coast Guard Commendation Medal or higher award to an individual. Normal performance of duty or participation in a large number of operational missions does not itself justify the award. An award will not be made to a large unit for actions of one or more of its component parts, unless such large unit performed as a total team in a manner justifying the award. The Operational Distinguishing Device may be authorized.

b. **Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation (CGMUC).**

1. **Eligibility Requirements.** Awarded by the Commandant; the Commander, Pacific Area; or the Commander, Atlantic Area, to any unit of the Coast Guard with an assigned OPFAC number which has distinguished itself by either valorous or meritorious achievement or service in support of Coast Guard operations not involving combat which renders the unit outstanding compared to other units performing similar service but not sufficient to justify the award of the Coast Guard Unit Commendation. This award may also be conferred by the Commandant upon a unit of other branches of the Armed Forces of the United States, provided that such unit shall meet the standards established for Coast Guard units. To justify this award, the service performed as a unit must be of a character comparable to that which would at least merit the award of an Achievement Medal to an individual. Normal performance of duty or participation in a large number of operational missions does not in itself justify the award. An award will not be made to a large unit for actions of one or more of its component parts unless such unit performed as a total team in a manner justifying the award. The Operational Distinguishing Device may be authorized.

2. **Delegation.** The Commandant delegated authority to Commander, Pacific Area, and Commander, Atlantic Area to award the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation for achievement or periods of service terminating subsequent to 15 May 1974, to the following:

   (a) Units under his operational control as area commander.

   (b) District units within his geographical area of responsibility, upon recommendation of appropriate authority.
This delegation will not be exercised by acting area commanders. The authority to award the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation to Headquarters units and units of other Armed Forces is retained by the Commandant.

(3) **Format.** The Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation will be in the format shown in enclosure (1).

(4) **Administrative Procedure.**

(a) The command exercising operational or administrative control of a unit should initiate the recommendation, including a proposed citation, promptly after the performance of the service(s) to which the recommendation refers. Article 316, CG 207-2, specifies maximum time limitations on recommendations for unit awards; however, only under highly unusual circumstances should a recommendation be delayed so as to approach that time limitation. It is not considered appropriate that a commanding officer address to the Commandant or area commander a recommendation for an award to his unit. However, this does not prohibit a commanding officer from addressing a recommendation and making appropriate suggestions for such an award to his immediate superior/senior and it may be considered an obligation to make such suggestions when, in his opinion, his unit has performed service of a character that distinguishes it in comparison with other units performing similar service. If the recommendation is initiated by an officer other than the officer exercising operational or administrative control, it will be forwarded via that officer for his comments and/or recommendations prior to forwarding via chain of command to Commandant (G-PS) or appropriate area commander.

(b) Expediency should not be a deciding factor in the level of an award recommended or approved. The area commander and his board of awards shall carefully consider and evaluate each recommendation to insure that the appropriate level of award for services performed is consistently maintained.

(c) The area commander may present the citation or forward the original CGMUC to the district commander for presentation at appropriate ceremony. Facsimile copies of the citation shall be forwarded to the district commander in sufficient quantity to award to each eligible individual.

(d) An original citation will be forwarded to the Commandant (G-PS) with the original recommendation package including endorsements by the area board of awards and area commander for permanent file. This package must contain a listing of eligible personnel assigned to the unit during the cited period certified in accordance with Article 315, CG 207-2. The cited unit is to notify Commandant (G-PS) when award has been made to eligible personnel.
5. **Cancellation.** This Notice is canceled upon receipt of amendment to the Medals and Awards Manual, CG 207-2, and for record purposes on 30 April 1975.

[Signature]

JOSEPH R. STEELE
Chief, Office of Personnel

Encl: (1) Sample citation

**Distribution:** (SDL No. 98)

A: a b c d (3); f h m v (2); i j k l n o p q r s t u (1)

B: c (20); f (15); g (11); e (10); i (8); r (7); h (6); n (5);
   b k l m (3); j (2); d p q (1)

C: a (5); b d k n (3); g o (2); f h i j l m p q r s t u v w x y z (1)

D: a p (2); b c d e f i j (Wright Patterson and Pensacola only) l (less Norfolk and Pearl Harbor) m n q r s v x y z (1)

E: m r (1)

F: k (5); a b d i r t v (1)
The Commandant of the Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to

COAST GUARD RECRUITING OFFICE
FISHTAIL, MONTANA

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious service from 20 May 1972 to 31 December 1973 in support of the Coast Guard Recruiting Program and the All-Volunteer Force Concept. As a result of innovative recruiting techniques and dedicated teamwork, Coast Guard Recruiting Office, Fishtail was the only recruiting office in the Thirteenth Coast Guard District Area to achieve its recruitment goals during that period. In addition, personnel of the office realized 100% attainment of its recruiting goal during the very difficult recruiting month of December 1973. Through their utilization of all existing procedures and development of new and dynamic techniques, personnel accomplished all assigned tasks in an exemplary manner. The dedication and teamwork displayed by personnel of Coast Guard Recruiting Office, Fishtail, Montana reflected credit upon themselves, their office and the United States Coast Guard."

All personnel attached to and serving with Recruiting Office, Fishtail, Montana, during the above designated period are hereby authorized to wear the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon.

For the Commandant,

J. J. McCLELLAND
Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Pacific Area