

R 291931Z APR 10

ALCOAST 215/10

COMDTNOTE 1650

SUBJ: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COAST GUARD OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

A. PERSONNEL MANUAL, COMDTINST M1000.6 (SERIES)

B. MEDALS AND AWARDS MANUAL, COMDTINST M1650.25 (SERIES)

1. ON 28 OCT 2009, THE COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COAST GUARD OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON (OSR).

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

A. ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE COAST GUARD ON A PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT AND WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A TOUR OF DUTY OF AT LEAST 12 MONTHS AT AN OVERSEAS SHORE BASED DUTY STATION OR ON-BOARD A CUTTER PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO AN OVERSEAS AREA. REQUIRED TOUR LENGTHS ARE DEFINED IN REF (A).

B. INACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE WHO ARE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED AND HAVE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED A MINIMUM OF 36 CUMULATIVE DAYS OF SERVICE AT AN OVERSEAS DUTY STATION DURING EACH 12 MONTH PERIOD OF THE REQUIRED TOUR LENGTH AS ESTABLISHED BY REFERENCE (A) FOR ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL. FOR ELIGIBILITY PURPOSES, TWO INACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING (IDT) PERIODS EQUAL ONE DAY OF QUALIFYING SERVICE. TRAVEL TIME DOES NOT COUNT.

C. RESERVIST ON EXTENDED ACTIVE DUTY MUST FULFILL THE ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE AWARD.

D. ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO SERVE SIX MONTHS CONSECUTIVE OR 12 MONTHS CUMULATIVE AT AN OVERSEAS SHORE-BASED DUTY STATION OR ON-BOARD A CUTTER PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED OVERSEAS IN THEATRE DIRECTLY SUPPORTING COMBAT OPERATIONS.

E. RESERVISTS MOBILIZED AND ELIGIBLE FOR THE ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL (AFRM) WITH M DEVICE ARE REQUIRED TO SERVE SIX MONTHS CONSECUTIVE OR 12 MONTHS CUMULATIVE AT AN OVERSEAS SHORE-BASED DUTY STATION OR ON-BOARD A CUTTER PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED OVERSEAS IN THEATRE DIRECTLY SUPPORTING COMBAT OPERATIONS.

F. OVERSEAS IS DEFINED AS DUTY OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING U.S. TERRITORIES AT SHORE BASED COMMANDS AND COAST GUARD CUTTERS PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO AN OVERSEAS AREA. DUTY ON BOARD U.S. BASED DEPLOYING SHIPS OR UNITS DOES NOT QUALIFY.

G. PERSONNEL WHO RECEIVE OR ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE COAST GUARD RESTRICTED DUTY RIBBON OR AN AWARD FOR SIMILAR SERVICE FROM ANOTHER BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE COAST GUARD OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON FOR THE SAME PERIOD. NO WAIVERS OR EXCEPTIONS ARE AUTHORIZED.

H. THE RIBBON MAY BE AWARDED RETROACTIVELY TO PERSONNEL WHO ARE CREDITED WITH COMPLETION OF A TOUR OF AT LEAST 12 MONTHS OF OVERSEAS DUTY AT A SHORE BASED DUTY STATION. INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING AWARDS FOR SERVICE PRIOR TO THE APPROVAL DATE OF THE AWARD ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE INITIAL AWARD ONLY. PERSONNEL REQUESTING VERIFICATION OF THEIR ELIGIBILITY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO THEIR CURRENT UNIT COMMANDER TO SUBSTANTIATE ELIGIBILITY FOR THIS AWARD.

3. SUBSEQUENT AWARDS OF THE COAST GUARD OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON ARE AUTHORIZED FOR COMPLETION OF ADDITIONAL TOURS OF DUTY MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE. A THREE SIXTEENTH INCH BRONZE STAR IS AUTHORIZED FOR EACH ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE PERIOD OF DUTY. A THREE SIXTEENTH INCH SILVER STAR DENOTES A SIXTH AWARD.

4. AWARDING AUTHORITY. COMMANDING OFFICERS AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE.

5. THE COAST GUARD OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON WILL BE WORN AFTER THE COAST GUARD RESTRICTED DUTY RIBBON AND BEFORE THE COAST GUARD BASIC TRAINING HONOR GRADUATE RIBBON.
6. THIS CHANGE WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO A FUTURE CHANGE TO REF (B).
7. FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS CONTACT MS DENEEN DAY AT EMAIL DENEEN.A.DAY(AT)USCG.MIL OR CWO VICTOR HUGHES AT EMAIL VICTOR.E.HUGHES(AT)USCG.MIL.
8. RELEASED BY CURTIS B. ODOM, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.
9. INTERNET RELEASE IS AUTHORIZED.

Subject: RE: COAST GUARD OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

I would like to take this opportunity to clear up some of the confusion concerning the new Coast Guard Overseas Service Ribbon. An Overseas Service Ribbon is a decoration of the United States military which recognizes those service members who have performed military tours of duty outside the borders of the United States of America.

There are different versions of the Overseas Service Ribbons for each military service. Each Service has distinct criteria that delineates eligibility. The Coast Guard's definition of "overseas" is duty outside of the United States. Please note that Alaska and Hawaii and the U.S. Territories of Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, US Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Guam are not eligible duty stations to be considered for this award.

The Coast Guard's old policy did not authorize awarding the Overseas Service Ribbon to reserve or active duty members deployed in support of contingency operations. Because the Navy's policy authorizes reservists and active duty members to receive their Overseas Service award, the new Coast Guard award was established with additional criteria to authorize our reserve and active duty members to receive this award.

It would apply to retired personnel.

If you all have any questions please contact me or you can direct any questions to me.

v/r
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