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# **SeaWolves Virtual Navy**



# **Awards Manual**

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**1. Purpose:**

- A. To provide guidance and regulations concerning Ribbons available for recognizing individuals and units in the Naval Service.
- B. Commands publishing specific award instructions must comply with the guidance established herein.

**2. Authority to Establish Ribbons.**

- A. Ribbons may be established through laws passed by the Fleet Admiral (FADM) or the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO).
- B. All new Ribbons require coordination and concurrence from the Commanding Officer Aground Group and the Director of Web Services who provide coordination to ensure all decorations, Ribbons, and service ribbons are developed in accordance with existing regulations and do not duplicate any previously authorized designs.

**3. Authority to Approve Ribbons.**

- A. In general FADM and CNO-VN retain awarding authority for all Ribbons under their purview. However, they have delegated authority to approve the Legion of Merit and below, in certain situations. Appendix A to this chapter provides a listing of those delegations. Delegation of authority not specified requires direction in writing from FADM and CNO.

**4. Policy Considerations.**

- A. Ribbons are important symbols of public recognition for rewarding heroism or valor, exceptionally meritorious service, or outstanding achievement and other acts or services which are above and beyond what is normally expected, and which distinguish an individual or unit among those performing similar acts or services.
- B. Ribbons are intended to recognize SeaWolves Virtual Navy (SVN) Officers who demonstrate exceptional valor, heroism, or meritorious service. An award should only be recommended in cases where the circumstances clearly merit special recognition of the actions or service.
- C. Duplication of Ribbons. Only one award will be made for the same act, achievement, or period of meritorious service for any individual or unit. However, an award for individual valor, heroism, or specific achievement within a longer period of meritorious service will not be considered duplication, provided the Summary of Action and citation for the meritorious service award do not cite any

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of the actions for which the heroic or specific achievement award was given. In addition, the fact that a unit receives a unit award in no way limits the awarding of personal decorations to deserving individuals of that unit for the same period.

## **5. Personnel Eligible.**

- A. The terms "Naval Service and "serving in any capacity with the SVN," as used in this instruction include service in the SVN Fleet Force, SVN Carrier Air Wing and SVN Ashore Group and SVN Headquarters.

## **6. Precedence of Ribbons.**

- A. The precedence of SVN ribbons authorized for personnel of the SVN is listed in Appendix B.

## **Appendix A.**

### **Delegation of Awarding Authority**

#### **1. Authority retained by the Fleet Admiral (FADM) and the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO).**

- a. All Ribbons to Flag and General Officers.
- b. Silver Star Ribbon and above.
- c. All determinations of Extraordinary Heroism.

#### **2. Authority delegated to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO) and the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (DCNO).**

- a. Combat Ribbons below the Silver Star Ribbon to Flag and General Officers, and below.
- b. New operations for the Combat Action Ribbon.
- c. New areas and/or operations for the Air Ribbon.
- d. Legions of Merit and lesser personal decorations for personnel serving with commands and organizations not under the authority of CNO, including the organizations listed below. This authority includes the ability to sub-delegate the Meritorious Service Ribbon and below.
  - 1. Office of Public Affairs
  - 2. Office of Information Services.
  - 3. Office of the Judge Advocate General
  - 4. Personnel assigned to the SVN and joint commands.
  - 5. All other commands/offices not under the authority of CNO-VN.

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**3. Authority delegated to the Commanding Officer Ashore Group (COMAG), Commanding Officer of Fleet Forces (ComFlt) and the Commanding Officer of the Air Group (CAG).**

- a. All personal Ribbons not specified above, including:
- b. Non-combat Ribbons, Legion of Merit and below, to all grades Captain and below.
- c. CNO-VN may sub-delegate to Flag and General Officers in the grades of Admiral and Vice Admiral the authority to approve both combat and non-combat Legions of Merit and below.
- d. CNO may sub-delegate to other grades the authority to approve the Meritorious Service Ribbon and below.

**4. Authority Sub-Delegated by Air and Fleet Commanding Officers**

- a. Ribbons below the Air Ribbon Award to Officers within their responsibility and lower Chain of Command.
- b. Further Sub-delegation. Further sub-delegation of awarding authority may be authorized to the Executive Officer of the delegating Officers command.

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## Appendix B.

### Precedence of Ribbons

The precedence of decorations authorized for personnel of the SVN is listed below.

#### **a) *Personal Ribbons***

- 1) Medal of Honor Ribbon
- 2) Navy Cross Ribbon
- 3) Distinguished Service Ribbon
- 4) Silver Star Ribbon
- 5) Defense Superior Service Ribbon
- 6) Legion of Merit
- 7) Distinguished Flying Cross
- 8) Bronze Star Ribbon
- 9) Purple Heart Ribbon
- 10) Meritorious Service Ribbon
- 11) SVN Air Ribbon
- 12) Joint Service Commendation Ribbon
- 13) SVN Commendation Ribbon
- 14) SVN Achievement Ribbon
- 15) Joint Service Achievement Ribbon
- 16) Combat Action Ribbon
- 17) Sea Service Ribbon
- 18) Battle E Ribbon
- 19) Good Conduct Ribbon
- 20) National Defense Service Ribbon
- 21) Kill Ribbon
- 22) SVN Recruiting Service Ribbon
- 23) SVN Outstanding Volunteer Service Ribbon

#### **b) *SVN Unit and Service Ribbons:***

- 24) SVN Meritorious Unit Commendation
- 25) SVN Battle E

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**c) SVN Campaign Ribbons:**

- 26) RBF Campaign Ribbon
- 27) China Campaign Ribbon
- 28) Arctic Campaign Ribbon
- 29) Indian Ocean Campaign Ribbon
- 30) Antarctica Campaign Ribbon
- 31) Korean Campaign Ribbon
- 32) Operation Limburger Campaign Ribbon
- 33) Operation World Shield Campaign Ribbon
- 34) OYSTR Campaign Ribbon
- 35) United Nations Campaign Ribbon
- 36) NATO Campaign Ribbon

**d) Training Ribbons:**

SVN personnel are not authorized to wear other Services' marksmanship Ribbons.

- 37) Sub/ Surface Officers Advanced Course (SOAC)
- 38) Advanced War College Ribbon (AWC)
- 39) Sub/Surface Officers Basic Course Ribbon. (SOBC)
- 40) War College Ribbon (WC)

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## 7. SVN RIBBONS PROCEDURE:

### A. DEFINITION.

A military decoration is an award bestowed on an individual for a specific act or acts of gallantry or meritorious service.

### B. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

#### 1) Initiation of Recommendation.

A recommendation for a personal award may be submitted by any commissioned officer senior, in grade or billet, to the individual being recommended, who has knowledge of any act, achievement, or service that may warrant such award. A recommendation originated by other than the commanding officer of the individual concerned must be forwarded to the commanding officer for endorsement. If an officer is not assigned, the senior enlisted member may forward documentation to the first officer in the chain of command for consideration of the award of a personal decoration.

#### 2) Timeliness.

Timely recommendations are essential to a successful Ribbons program. A recommendation should be submitted as soon as possible following the act, achievement, or service upon which it is based. However, due consideration must be given to security requirements, the time required to properly investigate the event, validation of facts, and processing. All recommendations must be appropriately justified and sufficiently detailed to allow proper evaluation and decision.

Award recommendations should be submitted to arrive at the final awarding authority for adjudication at least five (5) days prior to the desired presentation date, to allow sufficient time for administrative processing. For Ribbons requiring review by more levels in the chain of command, additional time should be allowed.

#### 3) Ribbons for Multiple Individuals for the Same Incident or Action.

In situations where multiple personal Ribbons are recommended for the same incident or action, - all of the recommendations shall be forwarded together to the highest awarding authority (such as CNO, VCNO, or DCNO) for consideration, even if only one of the recommendations would normally require that level of approval.

#### 4) Reconsideration of an Award Previously Considered.

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

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**5) Subsequent Awards.**

A member throughout their career will have the opportunity to earn a previously awarded ribbon many times. Award stars are issued in two degrees, gold and silver, with silver considered the higher degree as is the tradition in the U.S. military. An award star is issued in lieu of multiple awards of the same decoration with the first award star issued for the second award of the decoration. For instance, if a service member received three Achievement Medals, their service record would reflect the Achievement Medal with two gold award stars. Silver award stars are issued in lieu of five gold, meaning that a silver star is provided for the 6th, 11th, 16th and so on, for subsequent awards of a decoration. There are no higher degrees of award stars authorized in lieu of five silver award stars.

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### **C. Criteria for Ribbons**

#### **Medal of Honor:**



Eligibility Requirements. The Ribbon of Honor (MOH) is not about one single action, it is about many. It is about valor, integrity and tremendous career achievements. It is about devotion and self sacrifice. It is about doing what has to be done to achieve a goal in combat, even if it means putting oneself in harm's way. It is about giving for the team, not even thinking about own score or record. To be the first to step in and do what has to be done, in war time, in peace time, no matter what the issue. It is about what we call Honor. The MOH determination is also measured against past war performances. The decision to give this award must be unanimous between the FADM, the CNO, and the VCNO.

Awarded by: FADM

#### **Navy Cross:**



Eligibility Requirements. The Navy Cross is the 2nd highest award for combat valor and non-combat services. For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force. It is also awarded for reaching the 500 kill mark. Awarded for combat only.

Awarded by: CNO

#### **Distinguished Service Ribbon:**



Eligibility Requirements. The Distinguished Service Ribbon is awarded for both combat valor and non-combat services of exceptionally meritorious service to the SVN Division in a position of great responsibility. It is also awarded for reaching the 400 kill mark.

Awarded by: CNO. VCNO

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**Distinguished Flying Cross**



Eligibility Requirements. Eligibility Requirements. Awarded to individuals who, while serving in any capacity with the SVN, distinguish themselves by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight. To justify this decoration for heroism, an act in the face of danger, well above those actions performed by others engaged in similar flight operations, is required; for achievement, the results accomplished must be so exceptional as to render them conspicuous among those accomplished by others involved in similar circumstances.

Awarded by: CNO/VCNO

**Silver Star:**



Eligibility Requirements. The Silver Star is the third highest military award designated for heroism in combat and achieving 300 kills.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO

**Defense Superior Service Ribbon:**



Eligibility Requirements. The Defense Superior Service Ribbon (DSSM) is awarded by the CNO to officers who perform superior meritorious service while in a position of significant responsibility. This Ribbon is also awarded to the top scorer in a given month.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO

**Legion of Merit:**



Eligibility Requirements. The Legion of Merit is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service. It is also awarded for reaching the 200 kill mark.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO

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**Bronze Star:**



Eligibility Requirements. The Bronze Star is awarded for heroic or meritorious achievement of service in connection with operations against an opposing armed force. It is also awarded for achieving 100 kills.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO

**Air Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. Awarded to individuals who, while serving in any capacity with the SVN, distinguish themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight, under flight orders.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO

**Purple Heart:**



Eligibility Requirements. The Purple Heart is awarded for wounds or death as result of an act of any opposing armed force.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO

**Combat Action Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Combat Action ribbon is awarded to any officer who takes part in a war or campaign. They must file a minimum of (1) one mission report.

Awarded by: CNO/VCNO

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**Meritorious Service Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Meritorious Service Ribbon (MSM) is a junior award of the Legion of Merit and is presented for either outstanding achievement or meritorious service in a non-combat situation or setting. The MSM is also awarded to an officer who dives 10 times a week for 8 consecutive weeks.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO

**Navy Commendation Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Navy Commendation Medal (NCM) is awarded for heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service and those who distinguish themselves by heroic action, outstanding achievement, or meritorious service. Mostly awarded for successful bounty claims.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO, CAG, COMFLT

**Navy Achievement Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Navy Achievement Ribbon is awarded for professional and/or leadership achievements that are clearly of a superlative nature. The Navy Achievement Ribbon may now also be presented for most reported combat missions in a given month.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO, CAG, COMFLT

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**Outstanding Volunteer Service Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Outstanding Volunteer Service Ribbon is awarded for actions taken on a person's own initiative to further the aims and objectives in the SVN division. This award distinguishes those officers who personify unselfishness and continued service beyond the call of duty.

Awarded by: CNO/VCNO/DCNO/DWD/CTO/COMAG

**Good Conduct Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Good Conduct Ribbon is awarded for 10 consecutive weeks of active service. It can be also awarded for creditable above-average nature in the areas of professional performance, military behavior, leadership, online appearance and adaptability.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO, CAG, COMFLT, FC, SC

**National Defense Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The National Defense Ribbon is awarded for the successful completion of the SVN Naval Training Command.

Awarded by: CTO

**Battle E Award**



Eligibility Requirements. The Battle Excellence Award ribbon is awarded to the top scorer in each fleet each month. Award can be given for top score, most improvement, activity participation, overall performance. The 5th award will be \*gold\*.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO, CAG, COMFLT

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**Joint Service**



Eligibility Requirements:

Eligibility Requirements. Any SVN member that participates in a minimum of (5) mission per month in each group (Fleet Forced and Carrier Air Wing) for three (3) consecutive months.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO

**Sea Service Award**



Eligibility Requirements. The Sea Service Award ribbon is issued annually to each officer on their join date. Each award will have the number of years served on center. Officers that have reported 49 or less mission in the given year earn a silver number. Officers that report over 50 mission in the given year are awarded a gold number.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO

**Kill Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Kill ribbon is awarded in increments of 100. Each award will have the Roman numeral equivalent centered on the ribbon.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO

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**Unit Awards:**

**Meritorious Unit Commendation**



Eligibility Requirements. To any unit of the SVN that has distinguished itself, under combat or non-combat conditions, by either valorous or meritorious achievement, which renders the unit outstanding compared to other units performing similar service. To justify this award, the unit must have performed service of a character comparable to that which would merit the award of a Bronze Star Ribbon, or achievement of like caliber in a non-combat situation, to an individual. Normal performance of duty or participation in a large number of combat missions does not, in itself, justify the award. **An** award will not be made to a unit for actions of one or more of its component parts, unless the unit performed uniformly as a team in a manner fully justifying collective recognition.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO

**Battle E Award**



Eligibility Requirements. The Battle Excellence Award ribbon is awarded to the top fleet or squadron each month. This award can be issued if the unit does not merit the Meritorious Unit Commendation. The 5th award will be \*gold\*.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO, DCNO, CAG, COMFLT

**Campaign Awards:**

**RBF Campaign**



Eligibility Requirements. The RBF Campaign Ribbon is awarded to members who served for 30 days during the RBF operations between March - April 2000.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO

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**Antarctic Service Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Antarctic Service Ribbon is awarded to members who served for 30 days in the Antarctic theater of operations between May - June of 2000.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO

**China Service Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The China Service Ribbon is awarded to members who served for 30 days in the Chinese theater of operations between January - March 2002.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO

**Atlantic Service Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Atlantic Service ribbon is awarded to members who served for 30 days in the Atlantic theater of operations between September - November 2002.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO

**Korean Service Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Korean Service Ribbon is awarded to members who served for 30 days in the Korean theater of operations between February - March 2003.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO

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**Operation Limburger Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Operation Limburger ribbon is awarded to members who served for 30 days in the campaign between February - March 2003.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO

**Indian Ocean Service Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Indian Ocean Service ribbon is awarded to members who served for 30 days in the Indian Ocean Theater of operations between August - September 2000, November - December 2001 and March - April 2004.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO

**Operation World Shield Ribbon**



Eligibility Requirements. The Operation World Shield ribbon is awarded to members who served for 30 days in the campaign between October - November 2004.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO

**OYSTR Campaign**



Eligibility Requirements. The OYSTR Campaign Ribbon is awarded to members who served for 30 days during the OYSTR conflict in December 2007.

Awarded by: CNO, VCNO

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**Training Awards:**

**War College/ Advanced War College**



Eligibility Requirements. The War College ribbon and the Advanced War College ribbon is awarded to every officer that successfully completes the War College and the Advanced War College course

Awarded by: WCC

**Air/ Fleet Officer's Advanced Course.**



Eligibility Requirements. Any SVN officer who successfully completes the Air Officer Advanced course is awarded this ribbon.

Eligibility Requirements. Any SVN officer who successfully completes the Surface/Submarine Officer Advanced course is awarded this ribbon.

Awarded by: CTO

**Air/ Fleet Officer's Basic Course**



Eligibility Requirements: Any SVN officer that successfully completes the Surface/Submarine Basic Course is awarded the SOBC ribbon.

Awarded by: CTO