

Department of Transportation and Communications
PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS
(Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard)
139 25th Street, Port Area
1018 Manila

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PCG Circular)
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**Philippine Coast Guard
Awards and Decorations**

1. **Purpose** - This circular prescribes the different PCG Award and Decorations, and the policies and procedures on giving/conferring them.
2. **Objective** - To recognize the meritorious and outstanding performance and deeds of individuals and units/organizations who distinguished themselves in outstanding achievement or service in activities relevant to the objectives of the PCG mission.
3. **Scope** - This circular applies to all PCG personnel (uniformed and non-uniformed), civilians and foreign dignitaries.
4. **PCG Awards and Decorations in their order of Precedence.**
 - a. **Coast Guard Medal of Valor**

Actions involving actual conflict with an enemy, distinguishing oneself conspicuously by gallantry, intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. In order to justify an award of the Medal of Valor, an officer or enlisted man must perform in action a deed of personal bravery or self-sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty as conspicuous as to distinguished him above his comrades.

b. Coast Guard Legion of Honor

1. Degree of LAKAN

- a. This is awarded by the President of the Republic of the Philippines to high-ranking Coast Guard officers, civilian dignitaries including the Chief of State, Prime Minister or Head of Government and other persons holding high and respectable positions whose accomplishments can seldom be surpassed such as jurist, parliamentarian, statesman, diplomat, journalist and scientist.

- b. This award is granted to the awardee in recognition for his eminently meritorious and valuable service rendered in a position of major responsibility. The performance of duty must merit exceptional recognition; however, a superior performance of the moral duties of a position shall not alone justify the award. For civilian awardees, it should be for eminently meritorious and valuable service rendered to the Philippines that merit official recognition by the government.

2. Degree of DATU

This is awarded by the Secretary of Transportation and Communications to Commandant Philippine Coast Guard and Commanders of Major Unit of the PCG or their equivalent in the friendly foreign nations; and to civilian, such as the President of the Senate, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Heads of Department or their equivalent in friendly foreign nations for eminently meritorious and valuable service in a position of major responsibility but in a lesser degree of category not warranting the award of the Degree of Chief Commander.

3. Degree of MAGINOO

This is awarded by Commandant Philippine Coast Guard to Coast Guard personnel for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service above that for which the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) is usually awarded; and to civilians for outstanding service to the Philippines that merits official recognition by the government.

c. Coast Guard Distinguished Conduct Star

Acts of conspicuous courage and gallantry in the face of an armed enemy. To warrant and award of Distinguished Conduct Star (DCS), a person must perform an act of heroism so notable and involving risk of life so extraordinary as to set him apart from his comrades.

d. Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal

1. For eminently meritorious and valuable service in a position of major responsibility. The performance of duty must be such as to merit recognition by the service as exceptional. A superior performance of duties normal to the grade, specialty of assignment, and experience of an individual is not adequate basis for this award.
2. The accomplishment of the duty should have been completed prior to submitting a recommendation or, if the person being recommended has been transferred prior to completion, the accomplishment must have been

progressed to what may clearly be determined to be exceptional or significant.

e. Distinguished Coast Guard Cross

Distinguished heroism i. e., - extraordinary achievement while participating in Coast Guard operations.

f. Coast Guard Outstanding Achievement Medal

For distinguished or extraordinary achievement or service in the advancement of science or in socio-economic, technical and/or Coast Guard fields related to its mission or public service of the highest order.

g. Coast Guard Gawad sa Kaunlaran

For conspicuously meritorious and valuable achievement in the pursuit of socio-economic or conspicuously exceptional service, which have contributed immensely in accomplishing the objectives of the PCG or in improving the quality of life of the people within the Coast Guard establishment.

h. Coast Guard Bronze Cross

1. Heroism not involving actual armed conflict.
2. Performance or acts of heroism involving risk of life under conditions other than those of armed conflict.

i. Coast Guard Meritorious Medal

Heroic or meritorious achievement for service in connection with Coast Guard operations and administrative activities.

j. Coast Guard Commendation Medal

Demonstrated exemplary efficiency, devotion and loyalty to duty assignments.

k. Coast Guard Wounded Personnel Medal

For having been wounded in action against an enemy of the Philippines or as a direct result of an act of the enemy, provided such wound necessitates treatment of a medical officer.

l. Coast Guard Search and Rescue (SAR) Medal

This is awarded by the Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard and Major Subordinate Unit Commanders with a TO rank of Commodore or higher to personnel of the PCG, PCGA, and or other civilian entities for exemplary act in the conduct of search and rescue resulting in saving life and property at sea.

m. Coast Guard Civic Action Medal

Meritorious achievement in the field of civic action.

n. Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal

Must have served two (2) successive enlistment terms with no record of punishment, conviction, or derogatory information whatsoever.

o. Sagisag ng Ulirang Tanod Baybayin

For having distinguished oneself conspicuously in the performance of Coast Guard activities and community development programs and other related activities which merit public recognition.

p. Coast Guard Employee Award

1. Distinguished Honor Medal - Awarded to an individual for outstanding contributions which has national significance. Candidates for this award shall have achieved any of the following: demonstration of outstanding service, or contribution to the public administration in the form of exemplary achievement or through sustained interest and development; accomplishment of major operation or staff responsibilities which are clearly exceptional; and demonstration of outstanding courage and voluntary risk of life or honor under extremely adverse condition which result in direct benefit to the government or the protection of public interest.
2. Superior Honor Medal - Awarded to an individual in recognition of significant contributions of unusual value not only to the agency but to the public service in general. Contributions along any of the following deserve this type of award; superior service contributing to the achievement of agency program objectives; exemplary or courageous handling of an emergency situation; and superior creative service such as the development of a new and highly effective program which contributes to the agency benefits or savings.
3. Civilian Merit Medal - Awarded to an employee in recognition of accomplishment worthy of commendation in the discharge of assigned job responsibilities along any of the following: performance of assigned task excelling normal position requirements or quality of their performance;

initiative in developing a new system or work methods; improvement of devices which results in substantial saving in manpower, materials, cost and time; specific accomplishment for which an employee is responsible for the improvement of funds and significant technical process; extraordinary devotion to duty under adverse conditions; and outstanding scientific, technical supervisory and executive ability.

q. Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation

The Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to all units of the Philippine Coast Guard. It may also be awarded at the discretion of the President to the unit/organization which has performed significant accomplishment in the field of maritime safety.

r. Coast Guard Long Service Medal

Upon completion of twenty (20) years of faithful and honorable service with the PCG, and for each additional five (5) years, one bronze star shall be affixed to the ribbon. Computation of service with the PCG shall be in accordance with the provisions of PD 1638, as amended.

s. Coast Guard United Nations Service Medal and Ribbon

Personnel dispatch to any member nation as members of par-military or quasi-military units designated by the national government for service in support of United Nations actions and certified by the United Nations Commander-In-Chief, United Nations Command, as having directly supported operations there.

t. Coast Guard Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Operation Ribbon

Uniformed PCG personnel who have participated in rescue/relief and rehabilitation operations connected with typhoons, floods, earthquakes, conflagrations and other disaster/calamities for any period during and after said disaster/calamities.

u. Coast Guard Eligibility Badge

To earn this Badge an officer or enlisted personnel must pass the written PCG Eligibility Examination. However, an officer and EP who are graduates of Coast Guard Command and Staff Course (CGCSC) and Detachment Commanders Course (CGDCC) are eligible for this award.

v. PCG Enlisted Man and Enlisted Woman of the Year

The PCG Enlisted Man and Enlisted Woman of the year must have outstanding achievement and performance of duties and must possess good traits and characteristics to be determined by a board to be created by HPCG.

w. Coast Guard Civilian Personnel of the Year

1. Selection shall be made from among the PCG civilian personnel who have rendered at least five (5) years continuous service on the basis of the following:
 - a. Efficiency ----- 40 points
 - b. Achievement, resourcefulness and creativity ---- 40 points
 - c. Length of service ----- 10 points
 - d. Traits and characteristics ----- 10 points
2. In no case shall the civilian employee of the year selected receive a total score less than 80 points.
3. Achievements, resourcefulness and creativity shall include, among other things, an idea, a suggestion or an invention for improvement to effect economy in operation, to increase production, to improve working conditions or service or otherwise benefit the government; performance of extraordinary exceptional act; the courageous handling of an emergency situation; outstanding scientific, technical and executive abilities, which contributed or resulted in efficiency and economy in government operations.
4. Employee with pending administrative cases and/or with derogatory records shall not be considered for nomination.

x. CGSOG Badge

1. Must be a PCG uniformed personnel.
2. Must complete and graduate from the prescribed Coast Guard Basic Underwater Operation Course.
3. Must be physically, psychologically and professionally fit to perform diving skills and combat duties.

y. Coast Guard Marksmanship Badge

For ability and proficiency in the handling of arms. Initially, the badge and the additional bars shall be awarded to PCG uniformed personnel who may acquire any qualification in the marksmanship training. And for each qualification, an additional bar shall be attached to the badge. The bar shall denote the weapon and corresponding degree of qualification which may either be as marksman, sharpshooter or an expert.

z. Presidential Streamer

1. The Operation must have successfully accomplished its mission with notable heroism.

aa. Coast Guard Secretary of Transportation and Communications Streamer

The unit must have successfully accomplished its mission with distinction, not warranting Presidential Streamer.

bb. Commandant, PCG Streamer

1. The unit must have successfully accomplished its mission with distinction not warranting Secretary of Transportation and Communications Streamer.
2. The unit must have achieved results beyond what is normally expected.

cc. APPURTANCE

1. Coast Guard Dolphin

- a. Bronze Dolphin - shall be awarded for the first, second, third and fourth succeeding deeds instead of the Medal for valor, Distinguished Conduct Star, Distinguished Service Medal, Gold Cross, Coast Guard Cross, Philippine Legion of Honor, Outstanding Achievement Medal, Bronze Cross, Coast Guard Meritorious Medal, Silver Wing Medal, and Wounded Personnel Medal.
- b. Silver Dolphin - Shall be awarded for every fifth succeeding Bronze Dolphin (Medal for Valor, distinguished Conduct Star, Distinguished Service Medal, Coast Guard Cross, Gold Cross) except for posthumous awards presented to next of kin.
- c. Bronze Clam - Shall be awarded for each succeeding deed or act of achievement sufficient to justify the award of Coast Guard Commendation Medal.

2. Coast Guard Anchor

- a. Bronze Anchor - Shall be awarded and affixed on the service (campaign) ribbon and badge for each succeeding campaign/major engagement/participation in unit maritime enforcement operations.
- b. Silver Anchor - Instead of the fifth Bronze Anchor, this shall be affixed on the service (campaign) ribbon and badge for the fifth succeeding campaign/major engagement/participation in unit maritime massive operations.

3. Coast Guard Trident

succeeding deeds instead of the Coast Guard decorations for heroic achievement.

- b. Silver Trident - Shall be awarded for every fifth succeeding deed in lieu of the five Bronze trident.
- c. Gold Trident - Shall be awarded after the fourth succeeding deed in lieu of the four silver trident.

5. **Policies and Procedures.**

A. Who May Recommend An Award

Recommendations for an award or decoration can be made by the Commanding Officer of an organization, office or unit having knowledge of the deed or act.

B. Approving Authority (Annex 'A')

C. Interim Awards And Awards of Lesser Category

To ensure that a deserving acts, service or achievement receive recognition, the appropriate authority may promptly award a suitable lesser Coast Guard decoration pending final action on a recommendation for a higher award.

D. Succeeding Awards

Not more than one of the same decoration will be awarded to one person. For each succeeding acts or services that justifies that award of such decoration, an appurtenance will be awarded.

E. Character of Awards

1. To be fully effective, an award should be timely. It is highly desirable that a recommendation be caused thru channel and acted upon as quickly as possible. If circumstances preclude submission of a completely documented

additional data shall be submitted later. Action of intermediate headquarters and the approving authority shall be expeditious and consistent with full and considerable judgment.

2. A recommendation for an award based on a period of meritorious service in a given assignment shall not be made while the individual being recommended is still performing or has not been relieved for such assignment. However, if such individual has been performing his duty for the last three years, he may be recommended for an award.

Should a person departing from an organization desires to initiate recommendation for an award, he should leave a recommendation in a written form with his successor for the latter's final action when the individual recommended become eligible for the award and decoration.

F. Limitation

1. Only one award shall be made for the same act, achievement or service.
2. Duplicating award shall not be made outstanding achievement and inclusive meritorious service with in the same period of time. Continuation of the same similar type of duty previously recognize by an award shall not be a basis for second decoration.
3. If appropriate an award may be made to improve the extended period of serving superseding the earlier award or the award previously made may be amended to be incorporated in the extended period of service.

G. Awards And Decorations Board

The PCG Awards and Decorations Board shall be created and covered by appropriate orders, composition which are:

Chief of Staff, PCG	Chairman
AC of S for Personnel, CG-1	Member
AC of S for Educ & Training, CG-7	Member
AC of S for Operations, CG-3	Member
AC of S for Intelligence, CG-2	Member
AC of S for Plans & Program, CG-5	Member
Director, Coast Guard Operation Center	Member
Coast Guard Adjutant	Member
Coast Guard Public Information Officer	Member
Coast Guard MCPO	Member
Chief, Civilian Affairs	Member

H. Issuance of Medals and Ribbons

Service medals and ribbons are distributed by the PCG Adjutant.

I. Reports

Reports on awards and decorations shall be submitted to PCG Adjutant quarterly by the Major Unit and other awarding authorities. It shall include name of awardees with their corresponding awards and decorations.

J. Miniature

Replicas of decorations, service medal and ribbons in miniature authorized for wear on mess jacket, Barong Pilipino or evening clothes, shall be one-fourth (1/4) of the size of the ceremonial occasions only.

K. Announcement and Publication

Awards and decorations granted by the Office of the President, Department of Transportation and Communications, and the Commandant, PCG shall be announced and published in General Orders by command of the CPCG. Other awards and decorations granted by the Commanders of Major Unit, PCG shall be announced and published in General Orders by their respective commands copy furnished the Office of the Commandant, PCG (Attn: PCG Adjutant).

L. Manner of Wearing. (Medals, Badges and Ribbon)

1. Wearing of Medals

Decorations, service medals, and ribbons are worn on the uniform above the left breast pocket in the rows of three. Line of medals is about four inches below the middle point on the top of the shoulder. The highest award shall be to the right in the upper row, the lowest award in the lower row to the wearers left. All the ribbons that are multi-colored shall be worn such that blue colors are placed towards the wearers right.

2. Wearing of Badges

Badges not exceeding three may be worn at all times in the uniform. They are worn above the line of the medal or ribbons on the left breast pocket and on the right breast pocket, respectively.

3. Wearing of Ribbons

The ribbons are worn in lieu of an authorized decoration and service (campaign) medal. One ribbon for each decoration or medal is authorized.

4. Occasion for Wearing

Medals, decorations, badges, emblems or service ribbons may be worn on the formal Coast Guard attire or the service uniform, but shall not be worn on the uniform together with their corresponding ribbon.

(a) These decorations, however, may be worn on uniform during occasion as follows:

1. On the state occasion, local or abroad.
2. When receiving or calling or acting as escort or aide to the President of the Republic of the Philippines.
3. In all official and social function at Malacañang, when attending other ceremonies and social functions elsewhere given for secretaries of different departments or ranking officers of the PCG.
4. As escort of colors.

(b) Commanding Officers may prescribe the wearing on the following occasions:

1. Parades, review, inspection and funerals.
2. Ceremonial and social occasion.
3. Regular duty when the general office attire is worn.

(c) These decorations may also be worn at the option of the wearer on the above occasion unless not prescribed and prohibited on the following occasion:

1. Holiday, when not on duty with troops.

2. Social occasion of private nature.

(d) Conversely, these decorations shall not be worn on the following occasion:


1. On service shirt, overcoat and when equipped or armed for PCG operation or simulated operation.
2. By officers while suspended from command or rank or facing trial or efficiency separation board.
3. By enlisted personnel while serving sentence of confinement.
4. When wearing civilian clothing, except for civilian decorations.

6. **EFFECTIVITY.** This circular shall take effect upon publication.

BY COMMAND OF REAR ADMIRAL LISTA:

OFFICIAL:

DANILO A ABINOJA
COMMO PCG
Chief of Staff, PCG


WILLIAM O ARQUERO
LTJG PCG
Coast Guard Adjutant

APPROVING AUTHORITY

AWARDS (Decorations)	AWARDED FOR		AWARDED BY
	HEROISM	Service or Achievements	
Coast Guard Medal of Valor	X		PRES OF RP
Coast Guard Legion of Honor (Degree of LAKAN) (Degree of DATU) (Degree of MAGINOO)		X	PRES OF RP PRES OF RP SOTC CPCG
Coast Guard Distinguished Conduct Star	X		CPCG
Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal		X	CPCG
Distinguished Coast Guard Cross	X		CPCG
Coast Guard Outstanding Achievement Medal		X	CPCG
Coast Guard Gawad sa Kaunlaran		X	CPCG/MAJ UNIT COMDRS
Coast Guard Bronze Cross	X		-DO-
Coast Guard Meritorious Medal		X	-DO-
Coast Guard Commendation Medal		X	-DO-
Coast Guard Wounded Personnel Medal		X	-DO-
Coast Guard Search and Rescue (SAR) Medal		X	-DO-
Coast Guard Civic Action Medal		X	CPCG
Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal		X	CPCG
Sagisag ng Ulirang Tanod Baybayin		X	CPCG
Coast Guard Employee Award		X	CPCG

AWARDS (Decorations)	AWARDED FOR		AWARDED BY
	HEROISM	Service or Achievements	
Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation		X	PRES OF RP
Coast Guard Long Service Medal		X	CPCG
Coast Guard United Nations Service Medal and Ribbon		X	PRES OF RP
Coast Guard Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Operation Ribbon		X	CPCG/MAJ UNITS COMDRS
Coast Guard Eligibility Badge		X	CPCG
PCG Enlisted Man and Enlisted Woman of the Year		X	CPCG
Coast Guard Civilian Personnel of the Year		X	CPCG
CGSOG Badge		X	CPCG
Coast Guard Marksmanship Badge		X	CPCG
Presidential Streamer		X	PRES OF RP
Coast Guard Secretary of Transportation and Communications Streamer		X	SOTC
Commandant, PCG Streamer		X	CPCG