



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-3000

MCO 1020.35
PPO
05 AUG 2019

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1020.35

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: INVOLUNTARY REMOVAL OF THE MARINE SPECIAL OPERATOR
INSIGNIA (MSOI)

Ref: (a) MCO 1020.34H
(b) MCO 3571.2H
(c) Army Regulation 600-8-22, "Military Awards,"
March 5, 2019
(d) COMNAVSPECWARCOM Instruction 1221.1A, "Enlisted
Special Warfare Operator/Special Warfare Boat
Operator Navy Enlisted Classification Review
Guidance," October 15, 2008
(e) NAVMC 1200.1E
(f) MARADMIN 490/16
(g) NAVMC 3500.97
(h) SECNAV Notice 5210
(i) SECNAV M-5210.1
(j) MCO 5210.11F
(k) 5 U.S.C. 552a
(l) SECNAVINST 5211.5F

1. Situation. On 17 Aug 2016, CMC approved the adoption of the Marine Special Operators breast insignia for wear on Marine Corps uniforms. Upon assignment of the 0372 and 0370 primary military occupational specialty (PMOS), Marines are authorized to wear the insignia per the guidance in reference (a). The wear of the MSOI is a privilege that may be involuntarily terminated when a Marine is found to be unfit to continue representing Marine Special Operations Forces (MARSOF) by wearing the MSOI. Consequently, the Marine Corps requires guidance pertaining to the authority to revoke the MSOI.

2. Mission. To provide updated guidance on Commander, Marine Forces Special Operations Command's (COMMARFORSOC) authority to award and revoke the authority to wear the MSOI.

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release;
distribution is unlimited

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. This Order establishes COMMARFORSOC as the sole authority to revoke the authorization to wear the MSOI. A transparent, fair and equitable process is implemented to involuntarily, and permanently, remove the authorization of a Marine to wear the MSOI.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) References (b) through (d) establish the ability of other Special Operations Forces, as well as the Marine Corps Explosive Ordnance Disposal community, to revoke the authority to wear insignia.

(b) Marine Special Operators are defined as Special Operations Officers (SOO) with the 0370 PMOS, and enlisted Critical Skills Operators (CSO) with the 0372 PMOS.

b. Subordinate Element Missions

(1) Commander, Marine Forces Special Operations Command (COMMARFORSOC)

(a) Per references (a), (e), and (f), COMMARFORSOC is the sole awarding authority for the 0370 and 0372 PMOS and for the MSOI.

(b) Initiate all requests to reclassify the 0370 and 0372 PMOS and route to Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs (DC M&RA) for final adjudication.

(2) Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs (DC M&RA). Perform final adjudication of PMOS 0370 and 0372 reclassification requests received by COMMARFORSOC in accordance with existing processes and directives.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Special Operations Officer (SOO). Officers completing the appropriate course of instruction by the CMC authority per references (e) and (g) are classified as SOOs. This classification carries with it the authorization to wear the MSOI as prescribed in references (a) and (e) through (g).

COMMARFORSOC is granted the authorization to award and remove the MSOI.

(2) Critical Skills Operator (CSO). Enlisted Marines completing the appropriate course of instruction by the CMC authority per references (e) and (g) are classified as CSOs. Classification carries with it the authorization to wear the MSOI as prescribed in references (a) and (e) through (g). COMMARFORSOC is granted the authorization to award and remove the MSOI.

(3) Marine Special Operator Insignia (MSOI). The MSOI may be permanently removed by the awarding authority (COMMARFORSOC) if a CSO or SOO:

(a) Has been convicted at a trial by courts-martial or a civilian court which could be punished by confinement of six months or more and any other misconduct which would require specific intent for conviction.

(b) Has been found guilty at Article 15, Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) proceedings.

(c) Is relieved for cause.

(d) If the recipient is involuntarily reclassified to an MOS other than 0370 or 0372.

(4) Reclassification of the 0370 and 0372 PMOS

(a) In cases where CSOs successfully complete an enlisted commissioning program and are commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, although they are no longer classified as a 0372 CSO, they are authorized to retain their MSOI.

(b) In cases where a SOO or CSO's PMOS is reclassified due to any other reason not listed above in paragraph 3.c.(3), COMMARFORSOC will have the authority to decide whether the individual will remain authorized to wear the MSOI or will have that authorization revoked.

(5) MSOI removal. MSOI removal is administrative in nature and shall not be used as a punitive measure or as a substitute for required disciplinary and/or administrative action. If a Marine is unsuitable for continued service,

appropriate administrative separation procedures shall be followed.

4. Administration and Logistics

a. Records Management. Records created as a result of this Order shall be managed according to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)-approved dispositions per references (h) and (i) to ensure proper maintenance, use, accessibility and preservation, regardless of format or medium. Refer to reference (j) for Marine Corps records management policy and procedures.

b. Privacy Act. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) may result in both civil and criminal penalties. The Department of the Navy (DON) recognizes that the privacy of an individual is a personal and fundamental right that shall be respected and protected. The DON's need to collect, use, maintain, or disseminate PII about individuals for purposes of discharging its statutory responsibilities shall be balanced against the individuals' right to be protected against unwarranted invasion of privacy. All collection, use, maintenance, or dissemination of PII shall be in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (reference (k)) and implemented per reference (l).

5. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.



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