



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

MCO 1650.57
PAC-20
10 May 2013

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1650.57

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE CORPS MUSIC AWARDS PROGRAM

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 1650.1H
(b) SECNAV M-5210.1

1. Situation. Marine musicians have served our Corps in peace and war since 1775, helping to preserve the history and traditions of our nation and our Corps. Recognition of the contributions that Marine musicians make to our Corps is fitting and important.

2. Cancellation. MCO 1650.43 W/CH 1.

3. Mission. Establish a program that will permit the Commandant of the Marine Corps to annually honor one Sergeant or below as the Marine Musician of the Year and one Staff Noncommissioned Officer (SNCO) as the SNCO Musician of the Year. Additionally, establish a program that will permit the Commandant of the Marine Corps to annually recognize Marine Corps musical units for their outstanding musical and military accomplishments during the year. Time the annual selection of the recipients to permit them to be honored in conjunction with the Marine Corps Music Leadership Symposium.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. It is the intent of the Commandant of the Marine Corps to motivate Marine musicians, recognize individual and unit achievements, recognize teamwork, and emphasize the importance of music to the Marine Corps. A process will be established to determine the recipients of each award based on overall musical, technical, and military proficiency.

(2) Concept of Operations.

(a) Individual Awards. Individual Marines will be nominated by their commands. Nominated Marines will submit an audio or video recording for consideration as directed. The Marine Corps Musician of the Year and the Marine Corps SNCO Musician of the Year will be awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal to be

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presented by the Commandant of the Marine Corps or a designated representative.

(b) Unit Awards. Musical Units will submit an audio or video recording for consideration as directed. Unit award recipients will be awarded a trophy and Certificate of Commendation to be presented by the Commandant of the Marine Corps or a designated representative.

b. Subordinate Element Missions

(1) The following commands will nominate one musician for each individual award:

- Commander, Marine Forces Pacific
- Commander, Marine Forces Reserve
- Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force
- Commanding General, 1st Marine Division
- Commanding General, 2d Marine Division
- Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing
- Commanding General, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing
- Commanding General, Eastern Recruiting Region/Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island
- Commanding General, Western Recruiting Region/Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego
- Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Base, Quantico
- Commanding Officer, "The Commandant's Own" Drum and Bugle Corps, Marine Barracks, Washington, DC,
- Commanding Officer, Marine Detachment, School of Music

(2) The following commands will submit recordings to be considered for unit awards:

- Commander, Marine Forces Pacific
- Commander, Marine Forces Reserve
- Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force
- Commanding General, 1st Marine Division
- Commanding General, 2d Marine Division
- Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing
- Commanding General, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing
- Commanding General, Eastern Recruiting Region/Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island
- Commanding General, Western Recruiting Region/Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego
- Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Base, Quantico

(3) Director, HQMC Public Affairs (PAC-20):

(a) Coordinate all aspects of the selection process.

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(b) Appoint a six-member Selection Board consisting of the Head of Marine Corps Music as President, Enlisted Assistant of Marine Corps Music, one officer and one SNCO from "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, and one officer and one SNCO selected at large.

(4) Selection Board:

(a) The Board will select one nominee as the Marine Corps Musician of the Year and one nominee as the Marine Corps SNCO Musician of the Year. The board will make their decision on the performance recording, nomination letter, current information available in the Official Military Personnel File, Master Brief Sheet, and the Marine Corps Total Force System.

(b) The Board will select one large ensemble performance of the year and one small ensemble performance of the year. The board will make their decision based on the musicality and technical achievement of the recording.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Nomination packages for individual awards will consist of an unedited audio or video recording chosen at the Marines' discretion displaying the nominee's musical abilities. The unedited live recording should be 3-7 minutes in length. Selections must have been recorded during the fiscal year for which the nomination is submitted. Musical accompaniment may be utilized if desired. Additionally, a letter of recommendation from the nominees current Band Officer highlighting the nominee's contributions to their unit and Marine Corps music will be submitted.

(2) Nomination packages for unit awards will consist of a large ensemble and small ensemble performance chosen at the Band Officer's discretion along with two ceremonial music selections designated annually by the Head of Marine Corps Music (PAC-20). Selections must have been recorded during the fiscal year for which the nomination is submitted. Additionally, a letter from the Band Officer highlighting unit accomplishments during the fiscal year will be submitted.

(3) Deadline for submission of all required recordings and documents will be 15 October.

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(4) HQMC Public Affairs (PAC-20) will compile unit training data annually on 1 October. This training data, along with the selection board's rankings for large ensemble and small ensemble performance of the year and the rankings of the two designated ceremonial music selections will be used to determine the recipient of Band of the Year honors.

5. Administration and Logistics

a. All individual nominees not selected will receive a Certificate of Commendation signed by the Director, HQMC Public Affairs. These awards will be sent to the respective commands for presentation at an appropriate ceremony.

b. Director, HQMC Public Affairs will forward selected recipients to the Director, Marine Corps Staff for final approval.

c. Director, HQMC Public Affairs will provide the temporary additional duty funding for the Marine Musician of the Year and the SNCO Musician of the Year to attend the Marine Corps Music Leadership Symposium.

d. Records created as a result of this Order shall be managed according to National Archives and Records Administration approved dispositions per reference (b) to ensure proper maintenance, use, accessibility and preservation, regardless of format or medium.

6. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is not applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.

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



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