



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

MCO 1650.46A  
MCSC (WPM)  
10 Nov 11

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1650.46A

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: ANDREW J. HIGGINS, EUGENE M. STONER, AND DONALD ROEBLING  
AWARDS FOR ACQUISITION INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

Ref: (a) MCO P1070.12K  
(b) SECNAV M-5214.1  
(c) SECNAV M-5210.1

Encl: (1) Background Information on Andrew J. Higgins,  
Eugene M. Stoner, and Donald Roebling  
(2) Award Submission Format

Report Required: Andrew J. Higgins, Eugene M. Stoner, and  
Donald Roebling Awards (Report Control Symbol  
EXEMPT), par. 4f and encl (2)

1. Situation. To standardize the policies for awarding the subject awards, in recognition of those individuals who have demonstrated superior professional excellence and/or support of systems and equipment to the operating forces (enclosure (1)). Per reference (a), this Order also provides eligibility, criteria, and submission format for the subject awards.

2. Cancellation. MCO 1650.46.

3. Mission. The Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command and the Marine Corps Association will present the Andrew J. Higgins, Eugene M. Stoner, and Donald Roebling awards for Acquisition Excellence and Innovation annually. Three awards are presented: the Higgins Award will be presented to a Marine Corps officer; the Stoner Award will be presented to a Marine Corps Staff Noncommissioned Officer (SNCO); and the Roebling Award will be presented to a Marine Corps civilian acquisition professional employee, who at the time of their nominations are serving in ground acquisition billets. The awards serve to recognize personnel for their superior professional excellence and/or

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innovation in pursuit of acquisition, fielding, and/or support of systems and equipment to the operating forces (enclosure (1)).

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Marines and civilian professionals recommended for the Higgins, Stoner, and Roebling awards should be recognized by seniors, peers, and subordinates as individuals who best exemplify superior acquisition acumen within an appropriate acquisition management environment.

(2) Nominees must clearly perform the functions required in the execution of one of the recognized acquisition career fields as listed below:

- (a) Program Management.
- (b) Acquisition Logistics.
- (c) Test and Evaluation.
- (d) Manufacturing and Production.
- (e) Contracting.
- (f) Budgeting, Cost Estimating, and Financial Management.
- (g) Auditing.
- (h) Communications - Computer Systems.
- (i) Purchasing.
- (j) Systems Planning, Research, and Engineering.
- (k) Industrial Property Management.

(3) Nominees must exhibit innovation and a superior knowledge and understanding of the Marine Corps, Department of the Navy, and Department of Defense systems acquisition

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procedures and requirements in support of the overall acquisition process.

(4) Nominees must have made significant and specific contributions, and/or documented achievements in the furthering of program/program support activities leading to the acquisition, fielding, and/or support of systems and equipment to the operating forces.

(5) Nominees, through both personal and professional example, must be seen as setting the standards, which others will seek to emulate in the conduct of their professional activities and career development goals.

b. Marines nominated for the Higgins and Stoner awards must not have tendered their resignation, applied for retirement, or have an End of Active Service before 1 September of the calendar year in which they are nominated.

c. All Marine Corps officers and SNCO's serving in designated ground acquisition billets during the prior calendar year who are nominated for the award based on the recommendation of their supervisor.

d. All Government civilian acquisition professionals currently employed by the Marine Corps, and nominated for the award based on the recommendation of their supervisor for service during the prior calendar year.

e. Written nominations must be in the format outlined in enclosure (2). Include the nominating organization's address, point of contact, e-mail address, and phone number.

f. Nominations will be submitted annually to the Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command (Attn: Awards Team) to arrive no later than 1 March. The awards will be presented during June of the same year. This reporting requirement is exempt from reports control per reference (b), part IV, paragraph 7p.

g. Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command will convene a board of senior officers and civilians within the command to review the nominees' records, vote, and make appropriate recommendations to the CMC.

h. The Marine Corps Systems Command will present the Higgins, Stoner, and Roebling awards at an appropriate ceremony. Should any recipient be transferred prior to receiving their award, the presentation will be made at the joining command by the Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command.

i. The recipients will be selected by the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC).

5. Administration and Logistics

a. Previous award recipients are ineligible for subsequent nominations for these awards. Award nominees not selected as recipients in previous years are eligible for subsequent nominations if they still meet all award criteria.

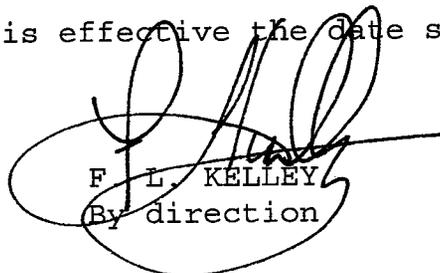
b. The award covers the calendar year immediately preceding the nomination due date.

c. Records created as a result of this directive shall include records management requirements to ensure the proper maintenance and use of records, regardless of format or medium, to promote accessibility and authorized retention per the approved records schedule and reference (c).

6. Command and Signal

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

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

  
F. L. KELLEY  
By direction

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON  
ANDREW J. HIGGINS, EUGENE M. STONER, AND DONALD ROEBLING

Andrew J. Higgins. Andrew J. Higgins began designing and building boats to support his lumber exporting business in the 1920's. In 1926, he designed the shallow draft "Eureka" boat with a spoonbill bow for trappers and oil drillers working in the bayous of Louisiana. The characteristics of both the bow and the hull enabled the boat to operate in as little as one foot of water, to be easily run up on river banks, and to retract easily from river banks. Mr. Higgins repeatedly offered the boat to the Navy's Bureau of Ships, but was rebuffed until the Marine Corps Equipment Board, under Brigadier General Emile Moses, took an interest in his proposals. With the support of the Marine Corps, Higgins' designs were accepted after rigorous testing and became the prototype for the Landing Craft variants, Landing Craft Vehicles and Personnel, and Landing Craft Mechanized used during World War II. In addition to landing crafts, his company also manufactured a wide array of war material, from powered gun turrets to torpedo tubes. After the war, Mr. Higgins concentrated on production of small boats and new types of building materials, but he is best remembered for his contributions to the war effort, many made at his own expense, and for his innovations in manufacturing methods which cut production time on many items which were vital to victory.

Eugene M. Stoner. Eugene M. Stoner was the innovative designer of the Armalite rifle. He joined Colt in 1959, where he conceived what became known as the Stoner System, subsequently developed by the Cadillac Gage Company. This innovative and ingenious idea consisted of 15 basic assemblies from which any one of a complete family of weapons can be assembled. The basic unit is a receiver with bolt, return spring, gas piston, and trigger mechanism. Onto this basic unit can be grafted different lengths of barrel, different butt stocks, and different feed systems, so as to configure up six weapons - an assault rifle, a submachine gun, a magazine-fed light machine gun, a belt-fed light machine gun, a tripod-mounted heavy machine gun, and a fixed heavy machine gun for use in tanks. All of the weapons used the same gas-piston operating system. The Stoner 62 and 63 systems were the first small arms to be chambered for the NATO 5.56mm cartridge. The belt-fed light machine gun was adopted by the Marine Corps as the XM207, and was used during the Vietnam War. Design innovation and

Enclosure (1)

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commonality of parts for improved logistics and maintenance supportability are hallmarks of the Stoner Family of Arms.

Donald Roebling. Donald Roebling developed the first tracked amphibian vehicle in the aftermath of the great Florida Hurricane of September 1935. His father, a renowned bridge builder, had commented as to how such a vehicle could have saved many lives during and immediately following the disaster. So, at age 28, Donald Roebling acted on his father's idea. His early work was highlighted in the October 1937 issue of Life Magazine, where Marine Corps and Navy officers who were interested in finding a capability for landing troops during amphibious assault operations noticed it. Marine Corps officers' contact with Mr. Roebling resulted in his early innovations such as the use of aluminum in the hull design to reduce weight and achieve higher water speeds, and development of unique paddle-like cleats bolted to the track to derive propulsion from the track in the water as well as on land. Although the Chief of Naval Operations cited a lack of funds to pursue the Roebling "Alligator," as it was known, the Marine Corps Equipment Board under Brigadier General Emile Moses, the earliest predecessor of today's Marine Corps Systems Command, persisted in discussions with Mr. Roebling, who agreed to design an Alligator with "military characteristics." The sum of \$20,000 was allocated from the Navy's Bureau of Ships for the effort. It was interesting to note that Mr. Roebling used only \$16,000 to build his model - and spent considerable time and effort attempting to return the unused \$4,000 which he eventually was able to accomplish. Subsequent Navy and Marine Corps vehicle resulted in the final principle modification, which was a departure from the use of aluminum hulls in favor of an all-steel amphibian. The first all-steel vehicle came off the assembly line in July 1941. Marines were trained and the 1<sup>st</sup> Amphibian Tractor Battalion was formed as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division on 16 February 1942.

AWARD SUBMISSION FORMAT

1. Submitting Unit Data
  - a. Unit Address
  - b. Point of contact
  - c. Point of contact phone number and e-mail address
2. Personal Data on Nominee
  - a. Full Name of Nominee
  - b. Home of Record
  - c. Place and Date of Birth
3. Schools Attended
  - a. High School
  - b. College(s)
  - c. Military School(s)
  - d. Acquisition Education
  - e. Acquisition Certification Level
4. Awards (Personal and Service)
5. Chronological List of Assignments (Present to Past)
6. Summary of Performance. Submit in narrative form using Courier New font, 12 point, not to exceed three pages that will support the nominee's qualifications for the award.
7. Photograph (optional for civilian nominees). The photograph will normally be a standard promotion photograph using the current edition of reference (a) as a guide. In the event that submission of a photograph is not feasible, a standing or seated bust photograph may be submitted with a brief explanation of the extenuating circumstances included as a footnote on the bottom of the photograph page.