



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

MCO 1650.54
SOD
11 APR 11

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1650.54

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES COMMAND NONCOMMISSIONED
OFFICER CRITICAL SKILLS OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ref: (a) SECNAV M-5210.1

1. Situation. This Order provides information and instruction regarding the subject award. The Marine Special Operations Forces Command (MARSOC) Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Critical Skills Operator (CSO) of the Year Award for Outstanding Leadership in Special Operations is an award presented annually.

2. Mission. To recognize the Marine NCO who best exemplifies outstanding leadership as a team member in the Marine Corps Special Operations Community.

3. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent

(a) Commander, United States Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command (COMMARFORSOC) will establish a board of senior officers to review nominees' records and make appropriate recommendations to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC). Additionally, Deputy Commandant (DC), Plans, Policies, and Operations (PP&O), Special Operations Directorate (SOD) will provide liaison as sponsor of the subject award.

(b) Commanding Officer, Marine Special Operations Regiment (MSOR), MARSOC is requested to nominate two NCOs from each Marine Special Operations Battalion (MSOB) using the eligibility and award criteria stated below.

(c) Written nominations must include an official photograph of the nominee taken within six months of the convening date of the board, biographical information of the

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nominee, and a summary of performance supporting the nominee's qualifications for the award. Include nominating unit's address, point of contact, and phone number.

(d) Nominations shall be submitted annually to COMMARFORSOC to arrive no later than 15 February. One copy of each nomination shall be forwarded directly to Deputy Commandant, Manpower & Reserve Affairs (DC, M&RA) (MMRB) for file in the official records of the nominees.

(e) COMMARFORSOC will select the nominee and forward to DC, PP&O, (Attn: PO-SOD), 3000 Marine Corps Pentagon, Washington, DC 20350-3000, no later than 05 March.

(f) The nominee will be approved by CMC.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) Eligibility

1. A Marine NCO serving as a CSO in MARSOC.

2. Successive awards will not be made as the recipient becomes ineligible to be re-nominated after receiving the award. NCOs previously nominated but not selected are eligible for subsequent nominations if they still meet all award criteria.

3. Posthumous awards may be made provided the NCO nominated would meet all eligibility and award criteria stated in paragraph (2).

(b) Award Criteria

1. The NCO recommended for the CSO of the Year Award should be recognized by his seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as the NCO who has made a significant contribution to the Special Operations Community and epitomizes the quintessential CSO.

2. The NCO must demonstrate the ideals of courage, resourcefulness, perseverance, and concern for the Special Operations Force Community and the well being of our Corps.

3. The NCO, through personal example, must set the standards that all other NCOs seek to emulate.

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

b. Presentation. Presentation of the MARSOC NCO CSO of the Year Award will be made by CMC, or his designated representative, at an appropriate ceremony.

c. DC, PP&O will:

(1) Provide funding for the award winner and his spouse to attend the presentation ceremony to receive the award.

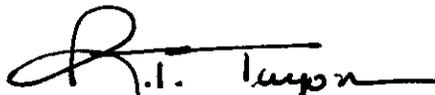
(2) Provide funding to package and ship the trophy to the award winner's unit or current home of record, should the award winner be unable to transport the trophy home after the ceremony.

4. Administration and Logistics. 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 (a).

5. Command and Signal.

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

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



R. T. TRYON
Deputy Commandant for
Plans, Policies & Operations

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