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MARINE CORPS ORDER 1650.60

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE CORPS GROUND AWARDS PROGRAM (MCGAP)

Ref: (a) MARADMIN 498/13
(b) SECNAV M-5210.1
(c) 5 U.S.C. 552a
(d) SECNAVINST 5211.5E
(e) MCWP 3-11.2 w/Ch 1, "Marine Rifle Squad," November 27, 2002
(f) NAVMC 3500.44C
(g) MCRP 3-10A.4, Marine Rifle Squad
(h) FM 6-30, "Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Observed Fires,"
July 16, 1991
(i) MCO 3574.2L
(j) MCO 3591.2K
(k) SECNAV Notice 5210
(l) MCO 5210.11F

Encl: (1) Leftwich Trophy for Outstanding Leadership
(2) Hulbert Trophy for Outstanding Leadership
(3) Douglas A. Zembiec Award for Outstanding Leadership in Special
Operations
(4) Sergeant Clyde A. Thomason Marine Special Operator of the Year
(5) Division Marine of the Year
(6) Marine Corps' Annual Rifle Squad Competition
(7) Marine Corps Annual Tiger Competition (TIGERCOMP)

1. Situation. This Order establishes the Marine Corps Ground Awards Program (MCGAP), provides procedural guidance regarding the subject program, and consolidates several previous ground awards orders into a single order. The MCGAP is administered by the Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies and Operations (DC PP&O) and consists of individual and squad-level awards for excellence in ground combat arms, special operations, and overall outstanding performance while serving in Marine Corps Divisions in accordance with references (a) through (l). Specific award criteria, submission guidance, and biographies of award namesakes for whom the individual awards are dedicated are provided herein and in enclosures (1) through (7).

a. Awards for excellence in the Ground Combat Arms community include the Lieutenant Colonel William G. Leftwich Trophy for Outstanding Leadership ("Leftwich Trophy") and the Marine Gunner Henry L. Hulbert Trophy for Outstanding Leadership ("Hulbert Trophy").

b. Awards for excellence in the Special Operations community include the Major Douglas A. Zembiec Award for Outstanding Leadership in Special Operations ("Zembiec Award"), and the Sergeant Clyde A. Thomason Marine Special Operator of the Year Award ("Thomason Award").

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c. The award for outstanding performance while serving in Marine Corps Divisions is the Division Marine of the Year (MOY) for each Marine Division.

d. The award for most proficient infantry rifle squad is the Annual Rifle Squad Competition Award for each Marine Division.

e. The award for the top shooting crew in the tank community is the Annual Tiger Competition (TIGERCOMP).

2. Cancellation. This Order cancels MCO 1650.32E, MCO 1650.49A, MCO 1650.54, MCO 1650.55 and MCO 3590.14F.

3. Mission. The MCGAP recognizes Marines from the divisions, ground combat arms, and special operations communities who best exemplify outstanding leadership, courage, and/or technical and tactical expertise. The awards are designed to commend individual noteworthy achievements and squad level operational proficiency.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. Commanders with personnel who meet the criteria of this Order are encouraged to nominate individual Marines for competitive selection as recipients of the ground combat awards listed in enclosures (1) through (5). Division Commanding Generals (CG) are responsible for identifying the most proficient rifle squad organic to the command via the annual division competitions (per enclosure (6)).

(2) Concept of Operations. Nominations shall be forwarded to the awarding authority through the nominee's administrative chain of command, per the guidance contained in this Order and in enclosures (1) through (6).

(a) Nominations. Written nominations for individual awards must include: an official photograph of the nominee taken within 12 months of the convening date of the respective award board in accordance with reference (a), biographical information of the nominee, and a summary of performance supporting the nominee's qualifications for the award. Squad rosters will be forwarded to CG Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC) 45 days prior to the award presentations and will include the full name, EDIPI, grade, and Table of Organization (T/O) billet for each team member. All nomination submissions shall include nominating unit's address, point of contact name/email, and phone number.

(b) Eligibility

1. Successive individual awards for the same Marine will not be approved. Previous recipients are ineligible for re-nomination for the same award. Individuals previously nominated but not selected are eligible for subsequent nominations if they meet all award criteria.

2. Posthumous awards may be presented, provided the nominee meets all eligibility and award criteria in this Order and the respective enclosure.

3. Previous recipients of the rifle squad competition and TIGERCOMP awards are eligible for successive awards and remain eligible as long as they meet awarding criteria.

(c) Criteria. The award period covers the calendar year immediately preceding the nomination due date. Other criteria is outlined in enclosures (1) through (7).

(d) Ground Combat Arms Awards. Nominations for the Leftwich Trophy and Hulbert Trophy shall be submitted annually to DC PP&O, Ground Combat Element Branch (POG) via the chain of command as directed in the announcement Marine Administrative Message (MARADMIN). Nominations must arrive by the deadline published in the message for these awards. The published deadline will be a date no later than the last day in February.

(e) Special Operations Awards. Nominations for the Zembiec and Thomason Award shall be submitted by the operating forces or Joint Special Operations Command annually to Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command (COMMARFORSOC), and must arrive by the deadline published in the announcement MARADMIN for these awards. The published deadline will be a date no later than 15 January.

(f) Division Marine of the Year (MOY). Each of the Marine Divisions, in accordance with locally established procedures, recognizes outstanding performance by Marines in their respective divisions, to include selection of a Division MOY. The Division MOY awards package submission process must allow adequate processing time for proper recognition of award recipients. CGs of the four Marine Divisions shall identify the Division MOY from their respective division and submit MOY recognition packages as detailed in enclosure (5) to DC PP&O no later than 15 March each year.

(g) Annual Rifle Squad Competition. The rifle squad competition will be conducted annually at the Marine Division level. The intent of the competition is to provide a Marine Corps-wide means to stimulate the operational proficiency of the infantry rifle squad under simulated combat conditions. The competition will be designed to emphasize those related tactics, techniques, and procedures promulgated in references (e) and (f).

(h) Annual Tiger Competition (TIGERCOMP). TIGERCOMP will be conducted annually and evaluated by a Tank Gunnery Evaluation Team comprised of Army and Marine Master Gunners. The intent of the competition is to stimulate tank crew proficiency in armor employment, gunnery accuracy, team work, and small unit leadership under simulated combat conditions.

(i) Official records. One copy of each nomination shall be forwarded directly to DC, Manpower & Reserve Affairs for file into the official record of each nominee.

b. Subordinate & Coordinating Element Tasks

(1) Commanders. Commanders will nominate those Marines most worthy of recognition who best exemplify the criteria established for each award. Commanders will ensure strict compliance with nomination submission format and established deadlines. Commanders are also encouraged to recognize individual nominees and recipients locally by utilizing their Communication Strategy and Operations Office (formerly Public Affairs and Combat Camera) for internal and external awareness.

(2) Marine Forces and Division Commanders

(a) The Commander, Marine Corps Forces Command (MARFORCOM), Commander, Marine Corps Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC), the Commander, Marine

Corps Forces Reserve, COMMARFORSOC, and the four Marine Division CGs will screen, select, and forward individual award nominations in quantities not to exceed those outlined in Table 1 below. The respective Commanders and CGs will ensure compliance with established deadlines.

(b) The spirit and intent of the annual infantry rifle squad competition is to identify and commend the most proficient infantry rifle squad in each Marine Division. It is not intended to develop "Super Squads" in order to win the event. Competitions conducted by 4th Marine Division may vary from the active component divisions due to unique challenges of time and space within the reserve component. The standards and intent of the competition will remain the same.

(c) The nomination will be reserved for the division whose crew becomes the top shooting crew for the tank community.

Command	Leftwich Trophy	Hulbert Trophy	Zembiec Award	Thomason Award	Division MOY	Rifle Squad Comp	Tiger Comp
MARFORCOM	2 per MEF	1 per MEF	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MARFORPAC	2 per MEF	1 per MEF	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MARFORRES	2	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
TECOM	n/a	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MCICOM	n/a	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MARFORSOC MRR PO-SOD	n/a	n/a	2 per MRB, 2 for external billets	2 per MRB, 2 for external billets	n/a	n/a	n/a
1st MarDiv	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1
2d MarDiv	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1
3d MarDiv	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	n/a
4th MarDiv	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	1	1

Table 1. Award Nominee Quantities

(3) Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command (COMMARFORSOC)

(a) COMMARFORSOC will establish a board of senior officers and enlisted Marines to review the records of the Zembiec and Thomason Award nominees. The board will forward recommended recipients to CMC via DC PP&O. Recipients will be approved by CMC.

(b) The board shall consist of members of MARSOC and an officer and senior enlisted representative from DC PP&O, Special Operations Directorate (PO-SOD) or other appropriate joint Special Operations command. DC PP&O (PO-SOD) is the point of contact for the Zembiec and Thomason Award.

COMMARFORSOC will forward recommended recipients to DC PP&O (PO-SOD) via email no later than 1 March.

(4) Plans, Policies and Operations (PP&O) Ground Combat Element Branch (POG). POG will establish a board of senior officers to review the records of Leftwich Trophy and Hulbert Trophy nominees and make appropriate recommendations to CMC. The POG Branch Head will act as President of the respective selection boards for these awards. Recipients will be approved by CMC. POG is the point of contact for the Leftwich Trophy and Hulbert Trophy awards.

(5) Plans, Policies and Operations (PP&O) Special Operations Directorate (PO-SOD). PO-SOD will receive and forward nominations for Marines serving in external joint special operations billets to COMMARFORSOC.

(6) Commanding General Marine Corps Combat Development Command (CG MCCDC). Coordinate the procurement and engraving of the Rifle Squad Competition awards.

(7) Plans, Policies and Operations (PP&O) Armor Advocate (POG-50). Coordinate the procurement and engraving of the TIGERCOMP awards.

(8) Communication Strategy and Operations Office. Enhance distribution of communication products developed by subordinate Communication Strategy and Operations Office.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) DC PP&O will publish an annual MARADMIN in November soliciting nominees for the current calendar year. The MARADMINS will specify due dates, points of contact, and email addresses for submission. Questions regarding eligibility or submission requirements should be directed to the points of contact in the MARADMINS.

(2) Upon selection, PP&O will coordinate with units and individual award recipients regarding event logistics and completion of an awardee information form to support program and narration development.

5. Administration and Logistics

a. Publication. Special consideration will be given to the recipients of the Zembiec and Thomason Award. Their names, likeness in the form of photographs and images, units to which assigned, or associated actions will not be made public unless authorized by COMMARFORSOC, DC PP&O, and the individual recipient.

b. Presentation. Presentation of awards will be made by CMC, or his designated representative, at an appropriate ceremony such as the Ground Awards Dinner, hosted by DC PP&O.

(1) DC PP&O will provide funding for each Leftwich, Hulbert, Zembiec and Thomason award recipient or designated service-member representative, and their spouse (if applicable), to attend the appropriate ceremony and receive their respective awards.

(2) Marine Divisions will provide funding for their respective MOY award recipient or designated service-member representative, and their spouse (if applicable), to attend the appropriate ceremony and receive their award.

(3) Marine Divisions will provide funding for the TIGERCOMP award recipients and their spouse (if applicable), to attend the appropriate ceremony and receive the awards.

(4) DC PP&O will provide funding to package and ship the associated trophy to the award recipient's current unit or home of record, should the winner be unable to transport the trophy home after the ceremony.

(5) The winning infantry rifle squad from each Marine Division will be honored by their respective Division CG in an annual ceremony.

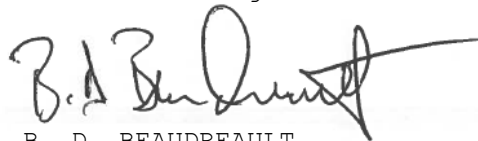
c. Records Management. Records created as a result of this Order shall be managed according to National Archives and Records Administration approved dispositions per references (b) and (k) to ensure proper maintenance, use, accessibility and preservation, regardless of format or medium. Refer to reference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

d. Privacy Act. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure of Personnel 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 will be balanced against the individuals' right to be protected against unwarranted invasion of privacy. All collection, use, maintenance, or dissemination of PII will be in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (reference (c)) and implemented per reference (d).

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.



B. D. BEAUDREULT
Deputy Commandant
Plans, Policies, and Operations

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LEFTWICH TROPHY FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

CATEGORY: Ground Combat Arms/Individual/Officer

HISTORY: Presented annually in memory of Navy Cross recipient Lieutenant Colonel William Groom Leftwich, USMC, killed in action in the Republic of Vietnam in November 1970. The trophy is provided to the Marine Corps by Lieutenant Colonel Leftwich's fellow Marines and other friends and sponsored by The H. Ross Perot Foundation.

ELIGIBILITY: A Marine Captain in the Ground Combat Arms community serving on active duty as a company/battery commander within the Ground Combat Element of the Operating Forces during the period of eligibility.

CRITERIA: -Recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as the officer who most exemplifies outstanding leadership.
-Clearly and dramatically demonstrates the ideals of courage, resourcefulness, perseverance, and concern for the well-being of our Corps and enlisted Marines.
-Exhibits officer-like qualities that made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps and loyalty within the unit.
-Through personal example, sets the standards that all other officers seek to emulate.

PERIOD: 1 Jan - 31 Dec of preceding calendar year

SELECTION/
PRESENTATION: Selection is recommended by board of senior officers established by PP&O; award is approved and presented by CMC.

NOMINATION DUE
DATE: Due to CMC (POG) as published via annual MARADMIN; will be a date NLT 29 February.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM GROOM LEFTWICH, JR., USMC

Lieutenant Colonel William G. Leftwich, Jr., was commissioned a Marine Second Lieutenant on June 5, 1953, upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy. As Brigade Captain during his senior year at the Naval Academy, he was commended at graduation for exemplary officer-like qualities, which contributed... "to the development of naval spirit and loyalty within the Brigade."

Lieutenant Colonel Leftwich completed The Basic School in January 1954, and later served as a rifle platoon commander with the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. During 1955-56 he served with the 3d Marine Division in Okinawa. On his return to the United States, he was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, where he was promoted to Captain in July 1957. He began a 3-year assignment at the Naval Academy, serving as a company officer. An excellent athlete, he performed collateral duties as assistant varsity tennis coach and battalion football coach.

In 1960, he rejoined the 2d Marine Division, serving as a company commander until 1962, when he was named aide-de-camp to the Commanding General. In June 1963, he was assigned as aide to the Commandant, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia. He reported for duty in Vietnam in January 1965, as Assistant Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Brigade.

Lieutenant Colonel Leftwich participated in 27 major operations against the Viet Cong in the central highlands of Vietnam, and spent more than 300 days in the field. He was wounded in the battle of Hoai An, March 9, 1965, and in addition to receiving the Purple Heart, was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism. According to his citation, he "...played a major part in all phases of the successful relief of the village of Hoai An which was under heavy enemy attack by two Viet Cong battalions... By his own personal example..., he led the attack... Despite injuries by enemy machine gun bullets in the back, cheek, and nose, he went to the aid of a mortally wounded comrade... and delayed his own evacuation until he could call for additional air strikes and brief the task force commander of the situation."

Upon his return to the United States in January 1966, he served as an instructor at The Basic School. He completed the Command and Staff College in June 1967, and was named to the school's honor list. Assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in November 1967, while serving as a systems analyst with the Manpower Management Information Branch, G-1 Division.

In 1968, Lieutenant Colonel Leftwich was selected by the Under Secretary of the Navy to be his special assistant and Marine Corps aide. He served in this capacity under the Honorable Charles F. Baird, and Mr. Baird's successor as Under Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable John W. Warner.

In April 1970, he began his second tour of duty in Vietnam, serving initially as an infantry battalion commander with the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines. On June 30, he assumed duty as the Commanding Officer of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced).

On November 18, 1970, Lieutenant Colonel Leftwich was, per his practice of accompanying every emergency extraction called for by his reconnaissance teams, serving as senior "extract officer" for such a mission on the day of his death. The team had incurred casualties and requested an emergency extraction from enemy-infested territory, in an area being enveloped by dense fog. The team was extracted under Lieutenant Colonel Leftwich's personal

supervision. As the helicopter began its ascent, it crashed into a mountainside in enemy territory, killing all aboard.

Lieutenant Colonel Leftwich's medals and awards include: the Navy Cross, the Silver Star (posthumous), the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and two gold stars, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with one gold star, the Purple Heart with two gold stars, and various personal awards from the Republic of Vietnam.

HULBERT TROPHY FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

CATEGORY: Ground Combat Arms/Individual/Officer (Gunner)

HISTORY: Presented annually in memory of Medal of Honor recipient Marine Gunner Henry Lewis Hulbert, USMC, killed in action at Blanc Mont Ridge, France, on October 4, 1918. While presented to an individual, its establishment recognizes the vital contributions that Marine Gunners make to the Infantry and Ground Combat Element as a whole.

ELIGIBILITY: A CWO2 or CWO3, Infantry Weapons Officer (0306 Marine Gunner) serving in a Marine Gunner billet on active duty in the active or reserve component during the period of eligibility. Must have successfully graduated the Infantry Weapons Officer Course and have served at least one year as a Marine Gunner in a Marine Gunner billet. CWO4 Gunners are eligible provided their actions were performed only as a CWO3.

CRITERIA: -Recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as the officer who most exemplifies outstanding leadership, courage, and technical, tactical, and doctrinal expertise within the Marine Gunner community.
-Clearly and distinguishably demonstrates the ideals of courage, resourcefulness, perseverance, and concern for the well-being of the Corps and their fellow Marines.
-Exhibits qualities that made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps, infantry advocacy, and the refinement of infantry and combat marksmanship doctrine.
-Possesses extensive technical and tactical infantry weapons and combat marksmanship expertise.
-Through personal example, sets the standards that all other Marine Gunners and enlisted Marines seek to emulate.

PERIOD: 1 Jan - 31 Dec of preceding calendar year

SELECTION/
PRESENTATION: Selection is recommended by board of senior officers established by PP&O; award is approved and presented by CMC.

NOMINATION DUE
DATE: Due to CMC (POG) as published via annual MARADMIN; will be a date NLT 29 February.

GUNNER (FIRST LIEUTENANT) HENRY LEWIS HULBERT, USMC

A native of Yorkshire, England, Henry Lewis Hulbert enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 31 on March 28, 1898. Upon graduation from recruit training at Mare Island, California, he was assigned to the Marine Guard, *USS Philadelphia*. Within a year of his assignment to the *USS Philadelphia*, American and British forces landed a joint force in Samoa to protect their consulates. During a clash with natives on April 1, 1899, Gunner Hulbert was a member of a small rear guard which held off attackers while the remainder of the column moved back to the beach. With two Marines killed and their Colt automatic gun disabled, the other members of the rear guard withdrew. Despite being wounded in the attack, he continued his mission, conducting a one-man delaying action that enabled the wounded men and civilians to reach safety. For his actions he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Following his service aboard the *USS Philadelphia* in 1902, Gunner Hulbert (then Sergeant Hulbert) served in a succession of billets ashore and afloat. He was awarded the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal for every enlistment period and never fired less than Expert Rifleman in his regular service rifle re-qualifications.

By 1917 Gunner Hulbert had attained the grade of Sergeant Major and was serving on the personal staff of Major General George Barnett, Commandant of the Marine Corps. It was also in 1917, shortly before America's entry into World War I, that Hulbert appeared before an examining board to determine his fitness for appointment to the newly established grade of Marine Gunner. On March 24, 1917, with the enthusiastic recommendation of the president of the examining board, Brigadier General John A. Lejeune, Henry Lewis Hulbert became the first Marine to don the bursting bomb insignia of a Marine Gunner.

As the United States entered World War I, Gunner Hulbert, then 50 years old, pressed his commanders to be assigned to service in a combat unit. After continued petitions he finally won the approval of MajGen Barnett and sailed for France with the 5th Marine Regiment in July 1917.

Not long after his assignment to the 5th Marines, Gunner Hulbert, was assigned as a platoon leader with the 66th Company (later C Co), 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Wounded in his regiment's first major engagement, at Belleau Wood on June 6, 1918, Gunner Hulbert was twice cited in official dispatches for acts of bravery. On one occasion, armed only with a rifle, he single-handedly attacked German machine-gun positions where he "left seven of the enemy dead and put the remainder to flight." A second dispatch commended him for continuing to lead his platoon in attacks that routed the defenders of a series of strong points despite being painfully wounded himself.

A third act of heroism led him to be decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross, one of the first Marines to be so recognized. In his official report of the month-long fighting in Belleau Wood, Army Major General Omar L. Bundy, commanding general of the 2d Division in which the 5th Marines served as part of the famed Marine Brigade, singled out Hulbert, "for his extraordinary heroism in leading attacks against enemy positions on June 6th." General Bundy concluded, "No one could have rendered more valuable service than Gunner Hulbert."

On July 17, 1918, he was appointed a temporary Second Lieutenant, and on September 6, 1918 he was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant. Less than a month later during the Battle of Blanc Mont, in the Meuse-Argonne the 2d Division, having seized its initial objectives, fought off an onslaught of

German counterattacks. On October 4, 1918, while reorganizing his unit for one such counter-attack, Gunner Hulbert was killed by fire from an enemy machinegun. For his actions during this battle, in which he continually exposed himself to enemy fire while leading his men, he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

Gunner Hulbert was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his actions at Belleau Wood. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Gunner Hulbert's personal awards include the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Purple Heart (multiple awards), Good Conduct Medal, fourth award and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

DOUGLAS A. ZEMBIEC AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN SPECIAL OPERATIONS

CATEGORY: Special Operations/Individual/Officer

HISTORY: Presented annually in memory of Silver Star recipient Major Douglas A. Zembiec, USMC, killed in action in Iraq on May 11, 2007 to recognize the Marine officer who best exemplifies outstanding leadership in Special Operations.

ELIGIBILITY: A Marine officer serving as a Team Commander in MARSOC during the period of eligibility. A Marine officer who has successfully been screened, assessed, and completed an Operator Training Course sponsored by an external special operations command may also be considered during the period of eligibility.

CRITERIA: -Recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as the officer who most exemplifies outstanding leadership and tactical acumen in the Special Operations community.
-Exhibits qualities that made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps and teamwork within the unit.
-Through personal example, sets the standards that all other officers seek to emulate.

PERIOD: 1 Jan - 31 Dec of preceding calendar year

SELECTION/
PRESENTATION: Selection is recommended by board of senior officers established by COMMARFORSOC; award is approved and presented by CMC.

NOMINATION DUE
DATE: Due to COMMARFORSOC as published via annual MARADMIN; will be a date NLT 15 January.

MAJOR DOUGLAS ALEXANDER ZEMBIEC, USMC
(April 14, 1973 - May 11, 2007)

Douglas A. Zembiec was born on April 14, 1973, in Kealahou, HI. He attended the United States Naval Academy and graduated with the class of 1995. He was a two-time NCAA All-American Wrestler.

Upon graduation Major Zembiec was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps on May 31, 1995. After finishing The Basic School and the Infantry Officers Course, he was assigned to First Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment as a rifle platoon commander in April of 1996. In June of 1997, after successfully passing the force reconnaissance indoctrination, he was transferred to Second Force Reconnaissance Company, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he served for two and one half years as a platoon commander, eight months as an interim company commander, and one month as an operations officer. As a platoon commander, his force reconnaissance platoon was among the first conventional forces to enter Kosovo during Operation Joint Guardian in June of 1999.

In September of 2000, he transferred to the Amphibious Reconnaissance School (ARS) located in Ft. Story, Virginia, and served as the Assistant Officer-in-Charge (XO) for two years. From ARS, he was selected to attend the Expeditionary Warfare School (EWS) in Quantico, Virginia, graduating in May of 2003.

After Graduating EWS, he took command of Company "E", Second Battalion, First Marine Regiment in July of 2003. As a rifle company commander, he led 168 Marines and sailors in the first conventional ground assault into Fallujah, Iraq, during Operation Vigilant Resolve.

He turned over his command in November of 2004 and served as an assistant operations officer at the 1st Special Operations Training Group (1st SOTG) where he ran the urban patrolling/Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT), and tank-infantry training packages for the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit in preparation for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.

He transferred from 1st SOTG to the Regional Support Element, Headquarters, Marine Corps on June 10, 2005. His promotion to Major was effective on July 1, 2005.

He was serving his fourth combat tour in Iraq when he was killed by small arms fire while leading a raid in Baghdad on May 11, 2007. Major Zembiec was leading a unit of Iraqi forces he had helped train. Reports from fellow servicemen that were present in the dark Baghdad alley where he was killed indicate that he'd warned his troops to get down before doing so himself and was hit by enemy fire. The initial radio report indicated "five wounded and one martyred" with Major Zembiec having been killed and his men saved by his warning.

Major Zembiec is survived by his wife, Pamela, and daughter, Fallyn Justice Zembiec. His awards include the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal with Distinguished Device, Purple Heart (2), Combat Action Ribbon (2), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), NATO Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal (2), and Kosovo Campaign Medal.

SERGEANT CLYDE A. THOMASON MARINE SPECIAL OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

CATEGORY: Special Operations/Individual/SNCO or NCO

HISTORY: Presented annually in memory of Medal of Honor recipient (posthumous) Sergeant Clyde A. Thomason, USMC, killed in action on Makin Island on August 17, 1942 to recognize the enlisted Marine SNCO/NCO who best exemplifies outstanding leadership as a Critical Skills Operator (CSO) in the Special Operations community.

ELIGIBILITY: An enlisted Marine SNCO/NCO serving as a CSO in MARSOC during the period of eligibility.
An enlisted Marine who has successfully been screened, assessed, and completed an Operator Training Course sponsored by an external special operations command may also be considered during the period of eligibility.

CRITERIA: -Recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as a Marine who has made a significant contribution to the Special Operations Community during the previous year and epitomizes the quintessential CSO.
-Demonstrates the ideals of courage, resourcefulness, perseverance, and concern for well-being of the Special Operations community, our Corps, and their fellow Marines.
-Exhibits qualities that have made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps, tactical and technical competence, and loyalty within the Special Operation Forces community.
-Through personal example, sets the standards that all other CSOs seek to emulate.

PERIOD: 1 Jan - 31 Dec of preceding calendar year

SELECTION/
PRESENTATION: Selection is recommended by a board of senior officers and enlisted Marines established by COMMARFORSOC; award is approved and presented by CMC.

NOMINATION DUE
DATE: Due to COMMARFORSOC as published via annual MARADMIN; will be a date NLT 15 January.

SERGEANT CLYDE A. THOMASON, USMC
(May 23, 1914 - August 17, 1942)

Clyde A. Thomason was born on May 23, 1914 in Atlanta, GA. In December of 1934 he enlisted in the Marine Corps in Savannah, GA. In addition to several posts in the United States, Sergeant Thomason served in China and at sea aboard the *USS Augusta* and *USS Henderson*. Thomason was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in 1939, at which time he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve as a Corporal.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Corporal Thomason returned to active duty with the Marine Corps in Albany, NY. Seeking immediate action, he volunteered for duty with LtCol Evans Carlson's storied Marine Raiders. Because of his height (6ft 4in), Thomason had to secure waivers from the Service for duty with the unit. He quickly started training at the Raider Training Center at Camp Pendleton, CA before departing for duty in the Pacific in April 1942. Thomason was promoted to Sergeant shortly thereafter, in May 1942.

As a member of Second Raider Battalion, Sergeant Thomason participated in the famed raid on the Japanese-held Makin Island on August 17, 1942. His commanding officer, LtCol Carlson, thought so highly of Thomason that he selected him to lead the advance element of the assault formation during the raid. According to his Medal of Honor award citation, "...Thomason disposed his men with keen judgment and discrimination and by his exemplary leadership and great personal valor, exhorted them to like fearless efforts."

During a second assault on another enemy position during the raid, Sergeant Thomason was killed in action by enemy machine gun fire. In a Saturday Evening Post interview in 1943 with his then-Platoon Commander, Lt W.S. Le Francois recollected that Thomason again fearlessly led his men in a devastating ambush on the approaching enemy before being cut down by heavy Japanese fire. As a result of his actions on the Makin raid, Thomason was awarded the Medal of Honor (posthumously) in January 1943.

Sergeant Thomason's remains were not able to be recovered at the time of his death; however he was repatriated in 1999, and subsequently interred at Arlington Cemetery in August 2001.

In addition to the Special Operator of the year award, a U.S. Navy Destroyer Escort christened in 1943, and a Marine Corps facilities building in Albany NY also bear his namesake.

Sergeant Thomason is survived by his sister-in-law Jean, his niece Alice Thomason Bolster, and nephew Philip Thomason. His awards include: Medal of Honor (Posthumous), Purple Heart (Posthumous), China Service Medal, American Defense Service Medal, and Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal.

DIVISION MARINE OF THE YEAR

CATEGORY: Marine Division Award

ELIGIBILITY: A Marine serving within a respective division during the period of eligibility; may be an enlisted Marine from any occupational field in the active or reserve component.

CRITERIA: -Recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as the Marine who most exemplifies outstanding performance within their unit.

-Through personal example, sets the standards that all other Marines seek to emulate.

PERIOD: 1 Jan - 31 Dec of preceding calendar year

SELECTION/
PRESENTATION: Each division selects one Marine of the Year in accordance with locally established procedures. DC PP&O (POG) consolidates and reviews packages for completeness to support PP&O in the execution of the awards dinner and ceremony. Award is presented by CMC.

PACKAGE DUE
DATE: Due to DC PP&O (POG) as published via annual message; will be a date NLT March 15 following period of eligibility.

Marine Corps Annual Rifle Squad Competition

CATEGORY: Marine Division Award

ELIGIBILITY: Competing squads must consist of members as designated by the current fiscal year table of organization (T/O). No squad member will be above the T/O billet grade upon commencement of the competition.

RULES:

- The competition will be based on appropriate portions of references (e-g). Reference (h) will be the source for 60mm and 81mm mortar "call for fire" procedures. The marksmanship portion of the competition will be conducted utilizing references (i) and (j).
- Specific scenarios and tactical evolutions for the competition are the prerogative of the MarFor commanders; however, squads must be tested in the following general categories: offensive tactics, defensive tactics, patrolling, combat marksmanship, and physical fitness.
- One Marine, Lance Corporal or below, may be designated as an alternate and may accompany the squad throughout the competition. Use of the alternate will be determined by division level competition rules generated by the Division Gunner and approved by the Division Commander. A Marine who has served as the alternate for a winning squad will attend the recognition ceremony as a member of that squad.
- For competitions above the battalion level, all squads will be accompanied by one Navy Corpsman, Petty Officer Third Class or below, who is assigned to the medical platoon within the squad's parent battalion. The Corpsman will participate in all events.

PERIOD: 1 Jan - 31 Dec of preceding calendar year

SELECTION/
PRESENTATION: The winning rifle squad from each division will be honored by their respective Division Commanding General at an appropriate ceremony.

PACKAGE DUE
DATE: Squad rosters showing the full name, EDIPI, grade, and T/O billet of each Divisions' winning squad will be forwarded to Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command (CG MCCDC) 45 days prior to the date of the recognition ceremony.

Marine Corps Annual Tiger Competition (TIGERCOMP)

CATEGORY: TIGERCOMP Award

ELIGIBILITY: -Competing tank crews must consist of members as designated by the current fiscal year table of organization (T/O). No team member will be above the T/O billet grade upon commencement of the competition.

RULES: -Each battalion will select the T/O crew with the highest gunnery score from annual/semi-annual Tank Table re-qualification, an intra-battalion competition, or by the discretion of the Commanding Officer.

-The competition will be evaluated by a Tank Gunnery Evaluation Team led by the Senior Master Gunner from The Armor School in Fort Benning, GA. The team is comprised of Army and Marine Master Gunners whose decision is final.

-The competition will consist of simulated combat engagements where the crews will encounter stationary and moving armor, light armor, and dismounted targets from a stationary and moving tank up to three thousand meters. The crews will be evaluated on their ability to detect, identify, decide, engage and assess the targets presented in the time allotted.

-The crews must wear full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the competition

PERIOD: 1 Jan - 31 Dec of preceding calendar year

SELECTION/
PRESENTATION: The winning tank crew will be honored by CMC or his representative at the annual Ground Awards Dinner.

PACKAGE DUE
DATE: The Tank Crew roster and crew member biographies will be forwarded to DC PP&O (POG) for coordination with the Marine Corps Tanker Association for award production no later than 15 January following period of eligibility.