



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

MCO 1650.55
SOD
11 Apr 11

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1650.55

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: DOUGLAS A. ZEMBIEC AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP
IN SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Ref: (a) SECNAV M-5210.1

Encl: (1) Biographical Sketch

1. Situation. This Order provides information and instruction regarding the subject award. The Douglas A. Zembiec Award for Outstanding Leadership in Special Operations is an award presented annually in memory of Major Douglas A. Zembiec, U.S. Marine Corps, killed in action in Iraq in May 2007.

2. Mission. To recognize the Marine officer who best exemplifies outstanding leadership as a Team Leader 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 Operation Directorate (SOD) will provide liaison as sponsor of the subject award.

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

(c) Officer-in-Charge, Marine Corps Augmentation and
DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release;
distribution is unlimited.

11 Apr 11

Training Support Unit (MCATSU) is requested to nominate two officers serving in MCATSU using the eligibility and award criteria stated below.

(d) Nominations must include an official photograph of the nominee taken within six months of the convening date of the board, biographical information of the nominee, and a one page summary of performance in paragraph format supporting the nominee's qualifications for the award. Include nominating unit's address, point of contact, and phone number.

(e) 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 officers nominated.

(f) 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.

(g) The nominee will be approved by CMC.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) Eligibility

1. A Marine officer serving as Team Leader in MARSOC or an equivalent billet in MCATSU during period of eligibility.

2. Successive awards will not be made as the recipient becomes ineligible to be re-nominated after receiving the award. Officers 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 officer nominated would meet all eligibility and award criteria stated in paragraph (2).

(b) Award Criteria

1. The officer recommended for the Douglas A. Zembiec Award should be recognized by his seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as the officer who most exemplifies outstanding leadership and tactical acumen in the Special Operations Community.

APR 11 2011

3. The officer must exhibit qualities that have made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps and loyalty within the unit in which he serves.

4. The officer, through personal example, must set the standards that all other officers seek to emulate.

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

b. Presentation. Presentation of the Douglas A. Zembiec 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.

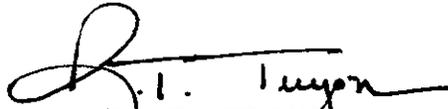
(2) Provide funding to package and ship the trophy to the award winner's unit or current home of record, should the award winner be unable to transport the trophy home after the ceremony.

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

DISTRIBUTION: 10202257000

Biographical Sketch

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.

APR 11 2011

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 personal awards include:

- 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)
- Kosovo Campaign Medal