



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

MCO 1650.57A  
CD  
14 Nov 2024

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1650.57A

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE CORPS FLEET MUSIC AWARDS PROGRAM

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 1650.1J  
(b) SECNAV M-5210.1 CH-1  
(c) MCO 5210.11F  
(d) 5 U.S.C. 552a  
(e) SECNAVINST 5211.5F  
(f) MCO 5211.5

1. Situation. Bands have been an integral part of the Marine Corps throughout history and continue to be of great value to the service and the Department of Defense (DoD). Fleet Marine Bands not only provide music support to military ceremonies, but they also serve as a unique soft power asset and powerful marketing tool for Commanders/Commanding Generals, by demonstrating the discipline and professionalism of the force to national and international audiences, key publics, and uniformed members alike. It is fitting to recognize the contributions that Marine musicians make to the service. This order is in accordance with references (a) through (f).

2. Cancellation. MCO 1650.57.

3. Mission. To establish and maintain a program that will permit the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) to annually honor one sergeant or below as the "Marine Musician of the Year" and one Staff Noncommissioned Officer (SNCO) as the "Staff Noncommissioned Officer Musician of the Year."

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. To recognize meritorious individual achievement each calendar year and emphasize the importance of music to the Marine Corps. This order establishes a process to determine the recipients of each award based on overall musical, technical, and military proficiency.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) Commands nominate individual Marines for each award by submitting the nomination package to Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) Communication Directorate (CD), Fleet Marine Music Branch per the coordinating instructions.

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(b) HQMC CD, Fleet Marine Music Branch will organize and conduct the "Marine Musician of the Year" and "Staff Noncommissioned Officer Musician of the Year" selection boards.

(c) The Board will select one sergeant or below as the "Marine Musician of the Year" and one SNCO as the "Staff Noncommissioned Officer Musician of the Year."

(d) The "Marine Musician of the Year" will be awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the "Staff Noncommissioned Officer Musician of the Year" will be awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. These awards will be sent to the respective commands for presentation at an appropriate ceremony.

b. Subordinate Element Tasks

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

Commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa  
Commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific  
Commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve  
Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force  
Commanding General, 1st Marine Division  
Commanding General, 2nd Marine Division  
Commanding General, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing  
Commanding General, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing  
Commanding General, Training Command  
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 Installation National Capital Region-Marine Corps Base Quantico

(2) Director, Communication Directorate (CD), Fleet Marine Music Branch

(a) Coordinate and conduct all aspects of the board process, to include the award routing process following the board.

(b) Appoint a Selection Board consisting of no less than three senior enlisted Marines or officers from the 55XX Occupational Field as Board Members, with the Director, Fleet Marine Music Branch, serving as the Board President.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Nomination package contents include: an appropriate level Summary of Action from the Marine's Officer-in-Charge highlighting professional and personal achievements during the calendar year for which the nomination is submitted; a current Basic Training Record (BTR) and Education Page; and an audio recording chosen at the Marine's discretion showcasing the nominee's musical abilities. The audio recording may be excerpt based or a traditional solo and should be approximately 3-5 minutes in length. Musical

accompaniment may be utilized. While consideration may be given to abilities regarding composing, arranging, or recording, the primary focus of the Marine Corps Fleet Music Awards Program is MOS proficiency, as part of professional achievement. Selections must be recorded during the calendar year for which the nomination is submitted. Fleet Marine Music Program Managers will communicate specific requirements and/or restrictions for the recordings annually via separate correspondence.

(2) The deadline for package submission is 15 December, or as specified by the Fleet Marine Music Program Managers.

(3) All Marines nominated for the Marine Corps Fleet Music Awards Program who are not selected as the "Marine Musician of the Year", or "Staff Noncommissioned Officer Musician of the Year" will receive a Certificate of Commendation in recognition of their achievements. These awards will be sent to the respective commands for presentation at an appropriate ceremony.

(4) The Fleet Marine Music Branch will submit the "Marine Musician of the Year" and "Staff Noncommissioned Officer Musician of the Year" awards to be processed at HQMC. Awards will be sent to the respective commands for presentation at an appropriate ceremony.

## 5. Administration and Logistics

a. Records Management. Records created as a result of this Order shall be managed according to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)-approved dispositions per reference (b), to ensure proper maintenance, use, accessibility, and preservation, regardless of format or medium. Records disposition schedules are located on the Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at:

<https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>. Refer to reference (c) for records management policy and procedures.

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

c. Forms. No forms used in this directive.

### d. Records Dispositions

(1) This directive is assigned record schedule 5000-8.

(2) No records schedules are used within this directive.

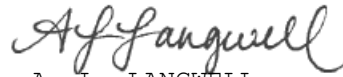
e. Updates. Updates made to this directive shall be done in accordance with the current iteration of MCO 5215.1, Marine Corps Directives Management Program.

f. Recommendations. Recommendations concerning the contents of this order are welcomed and may be forwarded to Communication Directorate, Marine Corps Fleet Music Branch.

6. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is not applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve, U.S. Marine Band, or the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

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



A. L. LANGWELL  
Director  
Communication Directorate

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