

F. HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL

1. Eligibility Requirements

a. General. The Humanitarian Service Medal, authorized by E.O. 11965, (reference (m)), may be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their Reserve components who, subsequent to April 1, 1975, distinguished themselves as individuals or as members of U.S. military units or ships by meritorious, direct, non-routine participation in a significant military act, or operation of a humanitarian nature. Direct participation is defined as "hands-on" activity at the site, or sites, of the military act or operation. For example, the individual must be physically present at the designated location, having contributed to and influenced the action. Specifically excluded from eligibility for this medal are Service members or elements remaining at geographically separated military Headquarters. Award of the Humanitarian Service Medal does not preclude or conflict with other medals or ribbons awarded on the basis of unit achievement, or of individual valor, achievement, or meritorious service. No Service member shall be entitled to more than one award of the Humanitarian Service Medal for participation in the same military act or operation of a humanitarian nature.

b. Specific. The following types of military acts or operations may qualify for award of the Humanitarian Service Medal:

- (1) Significant assistance in the event of national or international disasters, natural or man-made, such as, but not limited to, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, typhoons, or conflagrations.
- (2) Relief to a starvation area.
- (3) Evacuation of personnel from an area threatened by a hostile force.
- (4) Support or resettlement of refugees or evacuees.
- (5) Other significant military activities, directly related to humanitarian service, as designated in Military Service regulations.

(6) Acts or operations of a similar nature, as determined by the Secretary of Defense; the Secretary of Transportation; or the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard.

c. Guidelines. Services rendered in the act or operation being considered must meet the following criteria:

(1) Be above and beyond normal duties, and of a major significance.

(2) Provide immediate relief, relieve human suffering, and should save lives (property may be a factor).

(3) Must have affected the outcome of the situation (non-action could produce definite consequences).

(4) Must have specific dates.

(5) Must have evidence that the emergency assistance was:

(a) Requested by the President of the United States for assistance within the United States (such as, Presidential Emergency Declaration or established contingency plans issued under Presidential authority).

(b) Requested by the Department of State (DoS) for overseas areas.

d. Exclusions. The Humanitarian Service Medal may not be awarded for services rendered in domestic disturbances involving law enforcement, equal rights demonstrations, or protection of properties.

2. Submission of Recommendations

a. Recommendations for the Humanitarian Service Medal involving the following activities shall be submitted through command channels to the DASD(MM&PP), as follows:

(1) For Defense Agencies, through the responsible OSD Principal Staff Assistant.

(2) For the Military Departments, through the Secretary concerned.

(3) For Unified, Specified, and Combined Commands, through the Director, Joint Staff.

b. Recommendations for the Humanitarian Service Medal involving U.S. Coast Guard, units or personnel shall be submitted to the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard.

c. When multi-Service participation is involved, the originating activity (subparagraph F.2.a., above) shall, before submission of the recommendation to the approving authority, obtain the concurrence of the Departments concerned, to include the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, when Service members of the U.S. Coast Guard are involved. Such concurrence shall include verification of their Service member's participation and the specific recommendations for approval or disapproval.

d. Recommendations must be entered into command channels within 2 years of the military act or operation to be recognized.

3. Recommendations. Recommendations for the Humanitarian Service Medal must include the following:

a. A written justification fully explaining the humanitarian aspects of the services rendered by Service members in the act or operation being recommended. The specific eligibility requirements and guidelines in paragraph F.1., above, must be addressed.

b. A listing of ships or units that participated directly in the act or operation, including dates of involvement and locations.

c. A listing of Service members detailing full name, rank and/or rate, social security number, branch of Service, and permanent unit at the time of the act or operation.

d. Concurrence by the Departments concerned, when multi-Service participation is involved.

e. Forwarding endorsements that make specific recommendations for approval or disapproval.

4. Award Approval Authority

a. Award of the Humanitarian Service Medal for DoD Components shall be authorized by the DASD (MMPP) on behalf of the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary of Transportation has delegated approval authority to the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, and this authority may not be delegated further.

b. Authority to disapprove recommendations for award of the Humanitarian Service Medal for noncompliance with established criteria contained in this Manual is hereby delegated to the Secretary concerned, or designee, and the Director, Joint Staff.

5. Eligible Operations. See appendix G for those acts or operations that have been approved by the Department of Defense for award of the Humanitarian Service Medal.

6. Subsequent Awards. No more than one Humanitarian Service Medal shall be awarded to any Service member. For subsequent acts or operations justifying award of the medal, service stars shall be awarded and worn on the suspension and service ribbon of the medal.

7. Manner of Wearing. The Humanitarian Service Medal shall be worn immediately after the Vietnam Service Medal.

8. Posthumous Awards. The Humanitarian Service Medal may be awarded posthumously and, when so directed, may be presented to such representatives of the deceased as the Secretary concerned or the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, considers appropriate.