



1650

## MEMORANDUM

From: C. W. Ray, VADM  
CG PACAREA (PAC-00)

PACAREA Awards  
Terry.G.Brown@uscg.mil

To: CGD SEVENTEEN

Subj: AUTHORIZATION TO WEAR THE COAST GUARD SPECIAL OPERATIONS  
SERVICE (SOS) RIBBON

Ref: (a) Your memo 1650 of 14 Dec 2015  
(b) Medals and Awards Manual, COMDTINST M1650.25D

1. In reply to reference (a), and in accordance with reference (b), I approve award of the Coast Guard Special Operations Service (SOS) Ribbon to eligible personnel for participation in ARCTIC SHIELD 2015, from 15 February to 15 October 2015.

2. I commend your meritorious service while providing exceptional support to ARCTIC SHIELD 2015. Participating forces conducted a broad spectrum of complex operations in the harsh and austere Arctic domain. Operations included; outreach and engagement with native Alaskan tribal governments, maritime search and rescue and oil spill pollution response operations and exercises. Operation ARCTIC SHIELD 2015 advanced multi-agency collaboration among various federal, state, tribal, and local partners and forward deployed Cutters ALEX HALEY, BOUTWELL, HEALY, SYCAMORE, and WAESCHE while conducting Arctic patrols in support of Maritime Domain Awareness, community relations, and maritime law enforcement missions.

3. Please include a copy of this authorization letter and the enclosure when forwarding the award to personnel, including those who have transferred.

4. Please note for presentation purposes, there is no citation to accompany the SOS ribbon.

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Enclosure: D17 memo 1650 of 14 Dec 2015

Copy to: CG PSC (PSD M&A)

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
Seventeenth District

PO Box 25517  
Juneau, AK 99802-5517  
Staff Symbol: dx  
Phone: (907) 463-2226  
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1650

DEC 14 2015

## MEMORANDUM

From: *V/rep D. B. Abel*  
D. B. Abel, RADM  
CGD SEVENTEEN

Reply to: CGD17 (dx)  
Attn of: CAPT T. R. Styrwold

To: CG PACAREA

Subj: COAST GUARD SPECIAL OPERATIONS SERVICE RIBBON

Ref: (a) Medals and Awards Manual, COMDINST M1650.25D

1. In accordance with reference (a), request the Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon be awarded for participation in Operation Arctic Shield 2015.
2. The narrative justification is enclosed.
3. The eligible personnel listed in the enclosed roster served a minimum of 21 days participating in Operation Arctic Shield 2015.
4. The specific geographic area is the CGD SEVENTEEN area of responsibility.

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Enclosures: (1) Narrative Justification  
(2) Eligibility Roster for the CG Arctic Service Medal ISO Arctic Shield 2015

COAST GUARD SPECIAL OPERATIONS SERVICE RIBBON  
NARRATIVE JUSTIFICATION  
OPERATION ARCTIC SHIELD 2015

Comprised of active, reserve, and civilian components, Operation Arctic Shield (OAS) 2015 projected Coast Guard presence into the Arctic region. From 15 February to 15 October 2015, participating forces conducted a broad spectrum of complex operations in the harsh and austere Arctic domain. Operations included: outreach and engagement with native Alaskan tribal governments, maritime SAR and oil spill pollution response operations and exercises, and continuous assessment of Coast Guard Arctic capabilities. Operation Arctic Shield advanced multi-agency collaboration among various federal, state, tribal, and local partners and forward deployed USCGCs HEALY, ALEX HALEY, WAESCHE, BOUTWELL, MAPLE and SYCAMORE to conduct Arctic patrols for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), community relations, and law enforcement missions, while also supporting several important scientific and R&D initiatives. During a 30 day safety zone enforcement surge operation in Dutch Harbor, AK, Sector Anchorage leveraged both active and reserve forces to execute 57 multi-unit patrols, totaling over 200 resource hours, and maintained full accessibility of the Maritime Transportation System. In Nome, AK, Marine Inspectors evaluated 89 gold dredge vessels, and issued 59 inspection decals. In Deadhorse AK, a Forward Operating Location (FOL) was established from June through October with an aviation detachment consisting of two MH-60 Helicopters and a rotating crew of over 150 crewmembers that conducted Arctic community engagement, marine mammal survey and MDA missions, and maintained a 24/7 SAR readiness posture while meeting all Arctic training requirements. A North Slope Liaison Officer (NSLO) was deployed to Barrow, AK. The NSLO served as "the face of the Coast Guard" and coordinated logistics, facilitated distinguished visitor trips, and maintained key information sharing relationships with federal, state, local, and tribal partners. NSLO efforts to de-conflict CG and subsistence hunting operations were lauded by North Slope tribal representatives as a model to be adopted by other federal and state agencies. Throughout the operation, embedded national media outlets captured Coast Guard operations with positive coverage that reached over 18 million people and an Arctic Fusion Center was created to enhance information flow between the Coast Guard and its various partners. The Fusion Center became an effective repository of information that informed intelligence products, monitored real-time vessel movements, and consolidated important industry updates. Additionally, OAS deployed multiple outreach teams that presented water safety training to over 3,300 students, teachers, staff and residents in 30 remote Arctic communities. An oil spill response exercise and safety training were also conducted in the village of Kotzebue, AK. The exercise successfully united a diverse group of state, local, and tribal entities and provided an excellent opportunity for participants to increase their understanding of various Agency authorities, procedures, and capabilities related to Arctic oil spill response operations. The success of Operation Arctic Shield 2015 left a lasting positive impression of the Coast Guard as an engaged, concerned, and highly capable leader in the emerging Arctic environment.

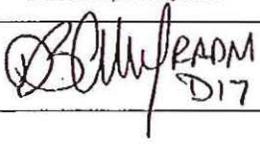
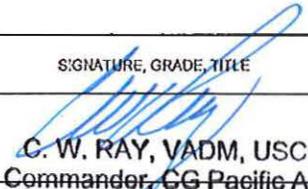
<b>COAST GUARD AWARD RECOMMENDATION</b>		1. RECOMMENDED AWARD COAST GUARD SPECIAL OPERATIONS SERVICE RIBBON	
2. PERIOD BEING RECOGNIZED (DATES INCLUSIVE) February 15, 2015 - October 15, 2015		3A. INDICATE IF SUBSEQUENT AWARD (FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, ETC.) VARIES	3B. *O* DEVICE YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>PERSONAL AWARD INFORMATION</b> (FOR CIVILIAN AWARDS COMPLETE SECTION 14 ALSO)			
4. NAME (LAST, FIRST, MI) N/A		10. PREVIOUS AWARDS EARNED DURING PERIOD BEING RECOGNIZED (ATTACH COPY) N/A	
5. EMPLID N/A		11. PRESENT DUTY STATION (AUX: DIVISION/FLOTILLA) N/A	
6. BRANCH OF SERVICE USCG	7. STATUS AUXILIARY <input type="checkbox"/> CIVILIAN <input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> RESERVE <input type="checkbox"/>		
8. GRADE/RANK (FOR CIVILIANS: POSITION TITLE, SERIES, AND GRADE) (AUX: POSITION TITLE) N/A		12. NEW DUTY STATION (HOME ADDRESS IF SEPARATION ANTICIPATED) N/A	
9A. PRESENTATION DATE N/A	9B. RETIREMENT YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
		13. OTHER PERSONNEL RECOMMENDED FOR SAME ACTION AND AWARD RECOMMENDED N/A	

<b>14. FOR CIVILIAN RECOMMENDATIONS ONLY</b>	
14A. PREVIOUS AWARDS DURING PAST 3 YEARS N/A	14B. RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF AWARD (IF APPLICABLE) N/A
	14C. RECOMMENDED AMOUNT OF TIME OFF (IF APPLICABLE) N/A

<b>UNIT/TEAM AWARD INFORMATION</b>	
15. NAME OF UNIT/TEAM OPERATION ARCTIC SHIELD 2015	16. LOCATION OF UNIT/TEAM AT TIME OF ACTION CGD17 AOR
17. LIST OF UNIT/TEAM PERSONNEL RECOMMENDED FOR AWARD (USE ADDITIONAL PAGE OR ATTACH ROSTER IF NECESSARY). PROVIDE NAME, SSN, GRADE/RATE, STATUS, AND PRESENT DUTY STATION. SEE ATTACHED ROSTERS.	

18. NAME, GRADE, TITLE OF ORIGINATOR CAPT T. STYRWOLD D17(dx)	PHONE NO. (907) 463-2226	SIGNATURE 	DATE 10NOV15
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19. FORWARDING ENDORSEMENTS BY VIA ADDRESSEE(S). ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY.					
VA	COMMAND	RECOMMENDED AWARD	*O* DEVICE	SIGNATURE, GRADE, TITLE	DATE
1.	CGD SEVENTEEN	CG-SOS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	 / RADM D17	12/14/15
2.			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
3.			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
20. DISPOSITION BY AWARDING AUTHORITY AWARD APPROVED CG 505		*O* DEVICE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	SIGNATURE, GRADE, TITLE  / C. W. RAY, VADM, USCG Commander, CG Pacific Area	DATE 1/20/16

21. SUMMARY OF ACTION:

ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET, IN NARRATIVE OR BULLET STYLE, TO MORE EFFECTIVELY CONVEY ACTION. AT A MINIMUM, MUST ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: (1) WHAT WAS THE SPECIFIC ACT/SERVICE PERFORMED? (2) WHERE AND WHEN DID THE ACTION/SERVICE HAPPEN? (3) WHAT WAS THE VALUE/EFFECT OF THE MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTION? (SEE COMDTINST M1650.25 (SERIES))

FOR CIVILIAN AWARDS: SHOULD NOT EXCEED THREE PAGES: SEE COMDTINST M12451.1 (SERIES) FOR GUIDANCE ON SPECIFIC AWARDS. CITATION IF APPLICABLE.