



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

*GCMA/83*

MAILING ADDRESS:  
 U.S. COAST GUARD (G-OSR-1/73)  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590  
 PHONE: (202) 426-1896

COMDTINST 1650.24

22 NOV 1978

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 1650.24

Subj: Ancient Mariners Awards

1. PURPOSE. This instruction disseminates information concerning the Ancient Mariners Awards and promulgates procedures for handling these awards.
2. BACKGROUND.
  - a. The origins of Coast Guard seamanship date back to the founding of the Revenue Marine on 4 August 1790. In that year, an Act of Congress provided for ten cutters to interdict the growing smuggling trade along the coast of the new republic. On 21 March 1791, Hopley Yeaton was the first master assigned to command one of these cutters.
  - b. The organization, structure, resources and mission areas of the modern-day Coast Guard have since grown far more extensive and complex than the Revenue Marine. Although ships today are equipped with an array of aids to navigation the early mariners could only dream of, the same high degree of seamanship demanded of our early sailors is required of our cuttermen in executing missions today. To be a cutterman is an assignment of great responsibility. Cuttermen are called upon to go forth in all weather, submit to the wilds of the elements, with only their skill and experience to carry them through their missions safely home. In recognition of all those who have chosen to accept this responsibility and to develop these skills, it is thought fitting to establish an award recognizing the most venerable practitioners of the ancient and honorable art of seamanship.

DISTRIBUTION - SDL No. 107

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
A	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
B	1	3	20		10	15	11	6	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	2	2	7	1	1						
C	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
D	1	1	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1
E		1	1				1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1			1	1			
F																										
G																										
H																										

NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

22 NOV 1978

3. DESCRIPTION.

- a. The name of these two awards are the "Ancient Mariner Awards".
- b. Each award is in the form of a large bronze and wooden wall plaque with a miniature version being given on an individual basis. The inscription on the wall plaque reads:

ANCIENT MARINER

THIS AWARD IS PRESENTED TO THE COAST GUARD CUTTERMAN ON ACTIVE DUTY HOLDING THE EARLIEST DESIGNATION IN RECOGNITION OF A SPIRITED KINSHIP WITH THE PORPOISE AND ITS KIN AS FELLOW MASTERS OF THE OCEAN REALM WHILE IN THE PURSUIT OF TIME-HONORED COAST GUARD DUTIES.

- c. The name of each recipient and the date the title is awarded will be appropriately engraved on the awards.

4. QUALIFICATIONS.

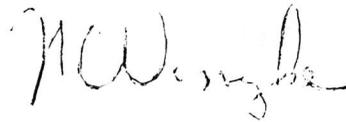
- a. Eligibility for the title of Ancient Mariner and entitlement to the award will be determined by ascertaining that officer and enlisted Coast Guardsman on active duty whose date of designation as a cutterman precedes in point of time that of any other active duty Coast Guard cutterman. The date of designation will be retroactive according to the eligibility requirements for the Cutterman's Award. If two or more candidates were designated on the same day, the award shall be presented to the candidate who is senior by rank on the day the award is to be presented.
- b. A separate plaque will be maintained for the officer and enlisted recipients of the award.
- c. The plaque is to be passed on to each succeeding Ancient Mariner. An individual plaque will be presented to each holder as a personal memento to be retained.

5. CEREMONIES. This award is a symbol of long dedication and service to the Coast Guard and our Nation. It is fitting that an appropriate ceremony be conducted as near the official date of succession as practicable and when both the principals are present, if at all possible.

22 NOV 1978

6. ACTION.

- a. The Commandant will determine the designees and advise the commands that will be responsible for arranging the ceremonies to pass the awards along when the occasion arises.
- b. The commanding officer of the designated command shall arrange for appropriate ceremonies and keep Commandant (G-0) advised of progress. The plaques will be awarded by or in the name of the Commandant.
- c. The Ancient Mariners Awards will be kept for display by Commandant (G-0) except when required for presentation to the next succeeding Ancient Mariner.



**N. C. VENZKE**  
**Chief, Office of Operations**