



COMDTINST 1650.17

23 MAY 2016

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 1650.17

Subj: ANCIENT TRIDENT AWARD

- Ref: (a) Military Qualifications and Insignia Manual, COMDTINST M1200.1 (series)  
 (b) Invitational Travel Orders, COMDTINST 12570.3 (series)  
 (c) Joint Travel Regulations (JTR)  
 (d) Financial Resource Management Manual (FRMM), COMDTINST M7100.3 (series)

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction establishes policies, procedures, and standards for the administration of the Ancient Trident Award (Gold and Silver).
2. ACTION. All Coast Guard unit commanders, commanding officers, officers-in-charge, deputy/assistant commandants, and chiefs of headquarters staff elements will comply with the provisions of this Instruction. Internet release is authorized.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None.
4. DISCUSSION. The Ancient Trident Award is hereby established to honor the officer (Gold) and enlisted (Silver) member with the longest time in the Marine Safety program. This award not only recognizes Marine Safety longevity, but also extols the officer and enlisted member whose personal character and performance standards honor the most venerable practitioners of Marine Safety and reflect our core values.
  - a. The Steamboat Inspection Service was created in 1871 as an organized federal maritime inspection service as a result of a significant number of deaths from a series of boiler explosions, fires, and collisions involving steam driven passenger ships. Nine supervisory inspectors, each responsible for a specific geographic region, were appointed to inspect commercial steam vessels in order to safeguard lives and property at sea.
  - b. The Steamboat Inspection Service was combined with the Bureau of Navigation in 1932. This new organization was renamed the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation in 1936. As a wartime measure, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9083 on February 28,

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1942, temporarily transferring the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the control of the Coast Guard. This transfer was made permanent by Reorganization Plan Number 3 on July 16, 1946.

- c. Since the transfer of the Marine Safety mission to the Coast Guard, it has been modified and expanded to meet the needs of the Nation, and now includes vessel and port safety and security, the protection of the marine environment, and facilitation of maritime transportation. The Marine Safety mission was divided between Prevention and Response competencies following the standup of Sector units across the Coast Guard in 2005, but the traditions and spirit of the original Steamboat Inspectors and the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation remain within the Service.
  - d. The Ancient Trident Award honors the heritage and progression of Marine Safety from the Steamboat Inspection Service, to the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, and finally to the Coast Guard. The term Trident is used to represent the three pronged approach to our mission: Prevention, Preparedness, and Response.
5. **DISCLAIMER.** This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is intended to provide operational guidance for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.
  6. **ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS.**
    - a. The development of this Instruction and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed by the originating office in conjunction with the Office of Environmental Management, and are categorically excluded (CE) under current USCG CE # 33 from further environmental analysis, in accordance with Section 2.B.2. and Figure 2-1 of the National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts, COMDTINST M16475.1 (series).
    - b. This Instruction will not have any of the following: significant cumulative impacts on the human environment; substantial controversy or substantial change to existing environmental conditions; or inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local laws or administrative determinations relating to the environment. All future specific actions resulting from the general policies in this Instruction must be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DHS and Coast Guard NEPA policy, and compliance with all other environmental mandates.
  7. **DISTRIBUTION.** No paper distribution will be made of this Instruction. An electronic version will be located on the Commandant (CG-612) web site. Internet: <http://www.uscg.mil/directives/>, and CGPortal: <https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx>.
  8. **RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS.** This Instruction has been evaluated for potential records management impacts. The development of this Instruction has been thoroughly reviewed during the directives clearance process, and it has been determined there are no further records scheduling requirements, in accordance with Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.,

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requirements, and Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series). This policy does not have any significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.

9. **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.** Recipients are charged with keeping a close watch to ensure that the traditions and time-honored reputation of the Coast Guard and the professionalism of the men and women in the Marine Safety program are maintained. In their capacity as officer or enlisted Ancient Trident, recipients should be invited by Area, District, Sector, and unit commanders to attend or take part in any official ceremony that involves the Marine Safety program, such as a unit change of command or a unit commissioning. Recipients shall notify Commandant (CG-741) at least annually listing the events they wish to attend in their capacity as Ancient Trident. The Ancient Trident, both officer and enlisted, shall also advise the Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy (CG-5P) , Assistant Commandant for Response Policy (CG-5R), and the Assistant Commandant for Capability (CG-7) on issues that involve the Marine Safety program.
10. **AWARD DESCRIPTION.** Two large bronze and wooden display plaques, one representing the Ancient Trident Gold and the other representing the Ancient Trident Silver. Both plaques will have the seal of the Steamboat Inspection Service (located on the left side of the plaque), and the seal of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation (located on the right side of the plaque) representing the historic agencies and background of Marine Safety. Located at the center and top of the plaque will be the Shield and Trident representing the Marine Safety profession. Each plaque will be engraved with each recipient's name, rank and the date the recipient received this honor. A set of these perpetual plaques (Gold and Silver) will be conspicuously displayed at Coast Guard Headquarters in the Office of Shore Forces (CG-741) and in the Marine Safety Branch at Training Center Yorktown. A miniature version of these plaques is presented to each new recipient upon transfer of the award.
  - a. The officer Ancient Trident (Gold) will receive a gold trimmed hat with an Anchor and Ring Buoy Insignia and the words "USCG ANCIENT TRIDENT" attached to the center of the hat above the rim.
  - b. The enlisted Ancient Trident (Silver) will receive a silver trimmed hat with an Anchor and Ring Buoy Insignia and the words "USCG ANCIENT TRIDENT" attached to the center of the hat above the rim.
  - c. The award recipients will also be given a nametag, which is an authorized item for the prescribed uniform of the day, excepting ODUs. The nametag is 5/8 inch by 3-3/16 inch in size and has black lettering on a gold background for the officer Ancient Trident and on a silver background for the enlisted Ancient Trident. The lettering size will be 1/4 inch for the individual's last name and 3/16 inch for the legend "USCG ANCIENT TRIDENT."
  - d. The recipients are authorized to wear these items during change of command ceremonies, unit commissioning and decommissionings, and other appropriate gatherings in his/her capacity as Ancient Trident.

- e. Award items (other than nametag) will not be worn as a replacement for authorized uniform parts during unit inspections, daily routine or as part of civilian clothing.

11. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. To be eligible for the Gold (officer) and Silver (enlisted) Ancient Trident Award, candidates must meet the following minimum requirements:

- a. Ancient Trident Award (Gold) is awarded to an officer who:
  - (1) Has served continuously on active duty. Members with broken active component service but who maintained continuous selected reserve status are considered to have continuous active duty for the purposes of eligibility; however, active duty Coast Guard service must represent at least 80 percent of cumulative military service. Candidates with periods of nonmilitary status for more than four years during their entire military service period are ineligible.
  - (2) Has earned the Permanent Marine Safety Insignia.
  - (3) Has not received a derogatory Officer Evaluation Report (OER).
  - (4) Has 10 or more years of accumulated service time in the Marine Safety program while on active duty in the Coast Guard. Officers who are prior enlisted and served in the Marine Safety program may include up to five years of their enlisted service time to qualify for the Gold Award. Qualifying Marine Safety service is listed in Chapter 6 of reference (a). In addition, legacy Marine Safety Office (MSO) experience qualifies.
  - (5) Has a distinguished record of knowledge, performance, and leadership in the Marine Safety program.
  - (6) Is eligible to hold the distinction for at least one calendar year from the official award date.
- b. Ancient Trident Award (Silver) is awarded to the enlisted member who:
  - (1) Has continuously served on active duty. Members with broken active component service but who maintained continuous selected reserve status are considered to have continuous active duty for the purposes of eligibility; however, active duty Coast Guard service must represent at least 80 percent of cumulative military service. Candidates with periods of nonmilitary status for more than four years during their entire military service period are ineligible.
  - (2) Has earned the Permanent Marine Safety Insignia.
  - (3) Has maintained Good Conduct eligibility, and has not received a mark of “3” or less in the professional dimensions of Integrity, Loyalty, and Respecting Others on their enlisted evaluations.
  - (4) Has 10 or more years of accumulated service time in the Marine Safety program while on active duty in the Coast Guard. Qualifying Marine Safety service is listed in Chapter 6 of reference (a). In addition, legacy Marine Safety Office (MSO) experience qualifies.

- (5) Has a distinguished record of knowledge, performance, and leadership in the Marine Safety program.
- (6) Is eligible to hold the distinction for at least one calendar year from the official award date.

## 12. SELECTION PROCESS.

- a. Commandant (CG-741) will solicit new candidates for the Ancient Trident Award via Administrative Notification when the incumbent award holder retires, is released from active duty, or is documented to have unsatisfactory conduct. This Administrative Notification will announce the beginning of the selection process and will include the earliest known date that eligible members were assigned to a qualifying Marine Safety billet. Any member with an earlier date of assignment may contact Commandant (CG-741) and provide copies of their Employee Summary Sheet (ESS) and other relevant documentation showing their eligibility and date of assignment.
- b. Commandant (CG-741) will request that PSC (OPM for Gold or EPM for Silver) convene a panel to review the military records of the Ancient Trident candidates to ensure that their qualification and performance of duty reflects the program criteria. The Ancient Trident Gold and Silver recipients will be chosen from the group of officer and enlisted candidates that meet the above eligibility requirements and have the earliest dates of assignment to a qualifying Marine Safety billet. Qualifying Marine Safety service is listed in Chapter 6 of reference (a). In addition, legacy Marine Safety Office (MSO) experience qualifies. The award (Gold or Silver) may only be earned once. The selection panel shall include:
  - (1) Commandant (CG-741) or a designated representative to serve as President.
  - (2) Commandant (CG-5P) designated representative.
  - (3) Commandant (CG-5R) designated representative.
  - (4) Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, MST Rating Force Master Chief, or a designated representative.
  - (5) PSC representative.
- c. PSC will forward a report with the name of the recommended Gold and/or Silver award recipient and first alternate to Commandant (CCG) for final approval along with a draft message that announces the selection.
- d. After approval, Commandant (CCG) or a designated representative will notify and congratulate each recipient and release an Administrative Notification announcing the next Gold and Silver Ancient Trident.

13. CEREMONY. The incumbent's command will host an official ceremony to recognize the transfer of this title. It should be conducted on, or immediately prior to, the incumbent's official date of retirement or release from active duty. The incumbent's command and Commandant (CG-741) will each assign a project officer to liaise and assist with the planning.

- a. The ceremony for Ancient Trident Award (Gold and Silver) will proceed utilizing the following guidance:
  - (1) The Commandant (or designated representative) will be invited to serve as the primary speaker of the ceremony.
  - (2) The Assistant Commandant for Capability (CG-7), or designated representative, will serve as the Master of Ceremony.
  - (3) The origin and history of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety mission will be presented.
  - (4) The accomplishments of the Ancient Trident (Gold and/or Silver) within the Marine Safety program will be read.
  - (5) The Ancient Trident (Gold and/or Silver) will receive the Ancient Trident hat, nametag, and plaque which officially designates the recipient as the Coast Guard's Ancient Trident.

14. FUNDING.

- a. Commandant (CG-5P) and Commandant (CG-5R), in coordination with Commandant (CG-831), shall transfer travel ceiling and other required recurring funding to Commandant (CG-741) to cover all appropriate costs as outlined below.
  - (1) Travel and per diem for the prospective Ancient Trident selectee to proceed to the location of the relief ceremony on the designated date in accordance with references (b) and (c).
  - (2) Travel and per diem for the spouse of the prospective Ancient Trident selectee to proceed to the location of the relief ceremony on the designated date in accordance with references (b) and (c).
  - (3) Procurement of all personal plaques, nameplates and accoutrements prior to the commencement of each ceremony.
- b. The incumbent's command is responsible for all planning costs associated with the Ancient Trident ceremony. The procurement of invitations and postage, programs, seating, tents, and reception items, etc. shall be governed by reference (d).
- c. Commandant (CG-7) will serve as the Travel Approving Official for all Invitational Orders for the Ancient Trident Award Ceremony in accordance with references (b) and (c).

15. FORMS. None.

16. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. All requests for changes should be directed to Commandant (CG-741).

J. P. NADEAU /s/  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Assistant Commandant for Capability