



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *Awards Program*

Number: *120 - C*

Effective Date: *April 1, 2009*

Revised Date: *02-07-17*

Rescinds: *120 Awards Program*
120-A Awards Program
120-B Awards Program

Dated: *04-01-09*
10-06-14
11-19-15

Approved By:

PURPOSE

To recognize the achievements of department personnel.

DISCUSSION

The Myrtle Beach Police Department will work in coordination with the South Carolina Police Chief's Association to award officers and employees of the department with proper recognition for outstanding work performance. The department will incorporate the criteria established by the SC Police Chief's Association as a guide to the awarding of various certificates, honor bars and award bars. In addition, the department will recognize the award bars presented to officers by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. Myrtle Beach Police Department may also present a Military Service award bar as well as other award bars representing significant events or accomplishments.

REGULATION GUIDELINES

1. Award requests must be submitted to the SC Police Chief's Association within one year of the act or achievement.
2. Each award request must be accompanied by written documentation to the Chief's Office through the Chain of Command.
3. All awards submitted to the SC Police Chief's Association must be submitted by the Chief or his/her authorized designee.

4. No award will be issued to an individual who has not been faithful, honest, or conducted themselves with honor. If an award is issued and it is later determined that this section of the regulation was violated, the award/honor will be revoked.
5. Only one award per individual per act, or achievement will be given. Officers eligible for a second similar award for a separate and distinct event will receive a number to affix to the honor or award bar.
6. Awards will be presented by the Chief of Police or his/her designee at a time and place to be determined by the circumstances.
7. The cost of the awards will be the responsibility of this department.
8. All sworn and civilian personnel are eligible to receive awards.
9. The SC Police Chief's Association has total discretion in determining the presentation of these awards.
10. With the exception of #4 above, awards issued by the SC Criminal Justice Academy are exempt from these guidelines.

HONORS AND AWARDS DEFINED: (Also see Regulation 201-J as amended).

1. Medal of Honor - Presented to an officer who distinguishes himself/herself by gallantry and action at the risk of his/her own life, above and beyond the call of duty, while on duty as an officer of this department. The deed must have been one of personal sacrifice, clearly above that of normal duty. The officer would have sustained serious injury or loss of life. This is the highest honor awarded and is considered an HONOR bar.
2. Medal of Valor - Presented to an officer, who during the performance of his/her duties, risks his/her life, sustaining no serious injury, to save that of another individual(s). This will be during the course of his/her duties as an officer. This would not have been a life threatening situation to the officers, but an act that involved the threat of bodily harm. This is the second highest honor awarded and is considered an HONOR bar.
3. Purple Heart - Presented to an officer who has been wounded or killed in the line of duty. The injury must be the result of an incident while enforcing the law that involved a suspect(s). This award will not be awarded for auto accidents not related to criminal activity, or incidents not related to conflict with a perpetrator. This is the third highest honor awarded and is considered an HONOR bar.

4. Merit - Presented to officers who have rendered exceptional service, saved lives through no personal risk, or clearly distinguished himself/herself above the normal duties of other officers, thereby bringing favorable recognition and pride to this department. This is considered an AWARD bar.
5. Life Saving - Presented to officers who within, and beyond the scope of his/her duty, was directly responsible for saving the life of another, or prolonging a life through life saving efforts. This is considered an AWARD bar.
6. Veteran's Combat - Presented to officers who were called into active duty while a full-time member of this department, and served during a conflict in a foreign country. The officer must have served on foreign soil in what were considered combat areas or situations. This is considered an AWARD bar.
7. Honor Guard - Presented to officers who serve on the department Honor Guard. This is considered an AWARD bar.
8. Police Shield - Presented to any officer who through diligent application of proper police procedures, clears major crimes by arresting suspects. This is considered an AWARD bar.
9. Officer of the Year - Presented to any officer selected to receive the annual award for Police Officer of the Year or Support Services Officer of the Year as determined by the selection committee of the civic group responsible for each awards program, or the City of Myrtle Beach Police Department Employee of the Year award. This officer must be loyal to the department, obedient to his/her supervisors, supportive of department programs and regulations, and perform and conduct himself/herself in a manner that reflects favorably upon the department. This is considered an AWARD bar.
10. Military Service – Presented to officers who meet the definition of a military veteran. A military veteran is defined as 1) Any person who has previously served in an active duty or active reserve status in any branch of the United States Military or Coast Guard or their respective Guard/Reserve units and have been discharged or released under honorable conditions; or 2) A person who is currently honorably serving in an active reserve status in a Guard/Reserve unit of any of the United States Military or Coast Guard. This is considered an AWARD bar. Military Service award should not be worn if the officer has been awarded the Military Veteran's Combat award bar.
11. Hurricane/Natural Disaster – Presented to officers and staff members who thru considerable sacrifice to their personal life worked thru the duration of a hurricane or natural disaster. The Chief of Police will determine if a Hurricane or Natural Disaster meets the criteria of having a special bar designed to

commemorate the hard work and dedication put forth by the employees who worked the event. This will be considered an AWARD bar.

SCCJA Awards are given based on a determination pursuant to SCCJA criteria and will not be defined herein; however, they will be given the utmost importance and honored accordingly. They are defined as AWARD bars.

At the discretion of the Chief of Police, additional award bars may be considered for exceptional circumstances; however, the list above identifies those award and honor bars that are permitted to be displayed affixed to department uniforms.

Honor and Award bars are worn in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Regulation 201-J as amended. The above listing is in order of highest honor. Officers will wear the bars from the officer's left to right with the highest honor or award bar being closest to the officer's heart, and the award bars are always subordinate to the honor bars.

Honor and Award bars will be maintained in a serviceable condition demonstrating the honor and respect afforded to the program and to the officer's exemplary performance. Lost or damaged bars can be replaced by submitting the proper written request through the chain of command to the Chief's Office.

A copy of the awards/honors presented to each officer will be listed in each officer's personnel file.