



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

1650

CG

19 APR 2002

COMMANDING GENERAL'S POLICY LETTER 2-02

From: Commanding General, Marine Corps Base Hawaii
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII (MCBH) AWARDS PROGRAM

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 1650.1G
(b) MCO 1650.19J
(c) BaseO 1650.12B

1. I have recently reviewed the MCBH Awards statistics and have found a dramatic increase in the number of personal medals being recommended. A cursory review of the award recommendations also shows that narrative justifications all too often simply reiterate comments normally contained in section "P" of a fitness report. Said another way, we seem to be increasingly recommending awards to Marines and Sailors for simply doing their job in the manner expected. If true, we must reverse this trend lest we cheapen the awards system and fail those Marines and Sailors who are truly deserving.
2. I direct your attention to the references, especially the criteria to recognize only exceptionally meritorious service or superior achievement when recommending a personal award. Simply completing a tour and doing the job well does not qualify an individual for a medal. The Commandant put it best when he said, "the integrity of the system as well as the conservative manner in which we deal with awards throughout our Corps ensures that awards are recognition of achievement above and beyond the level of normal expectations." Simply put, all personal award recommendations must comply with the references.
3. An equally disturbing trend is the timeliness, sloppiness, generalities, and poor articulation of far too many award recommendations. If a Marine's performance is worthy of recognition, the originating official should put forth the effort to prepare a quality award recommendation. We are falling short of this mark. The MCBH Adjutant and Staff Secretary are rewriting virtually every award citation for my signature and almost every narrative justification and citation for recommendations being forwarded to U.S. Marine Forces Pacific for action.
4. Effective immediately, I am directing the Adjutant to return poorly documented and/or written award recommendations to the originating command or department for rewrite without Awards Board action. We can no longer afford to waste our time on poor staff work. We will not.
5. None of the above is intended to impede the recognition of our truly deserving personnel, especially those retiring after 20 or more years of active duty. The MCBH Awards Program is intended to reward truly deserving individuals who have significantly contributed to the Command.
6. Filing Instructions. A copy of this policy shall be incorporated into unit directives and orders.


J. C. McABEE

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