



COMDTINST 1650.5A
JAN 27 2006

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 1650.5A

Subj: FIREMAN FIRST CLASS PAUL CLARK BOAT FORCES ENGINEERING AWARD

Ref: (a) U. S. Coast Guard Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Manual, Volume I,
COMDTINST M16114.32 (series)
(b) Medals and Awards Manual, COMDTINST M1650.25 (series)

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Instruction is to establish policies, procedures, and standards for the administration of the Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineering Award.
2. ACTION. Area and district commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistics commands, commanding officers of headquarters units, assistant commandants for directorates, Chief Counsel, and special staff offices at Headquarters shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this instruction. Internet Release Authorized.
3. DIRECTIVE AFFECTED. Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineering Award, COMDTINST 1650.5, is canceled.
4. BACKGROUND. The award's namesake, Fireman First Class Paul Clark, was honored with the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism while serving as engineer of a landing boat during an assault on and occupation of French Morocco in 1942. When a hostile aircraft strafed his boat with machinegun fire, mortally wounding the bowman and severely injuring the coxswain, Fireman Clark quickly assumed control of the craft and immediately withdrew from the beach. He sped to an offshore ship, placed the wounded men aboard and; although his craft was riddled with enemy gunfire, courageously returned to his station at the beach and completed his boat's mission.

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No. 144

	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																
B		2	2		1		1							2				1								
C					1				1		2			2		1							1		2	
D		1		2				1																		
E																		1	1							
F																										
G			1																							
H																										

NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

5. DISCUSSION. The intent of the Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineer Award is to recognize exemplary boat forces engineers. Only those engineers who demonstrate sustained superior performance, proficiencies and leadership should be nominated for the Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineer Award. Nominees must reflect our Core Values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty and be a role model whom his or her crew members strive to emulate. The award nominee's activities shall have occurred during the designated calendar year. Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineer Award winner will hold the distinction for one year.
6. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. All nominees must be:
 - a. Active duty or reserve; E-3 (with designator) through E-6.
 - b. Boat engineer certified in accordance with reference (a).
 - c. Assigned to a Boat Forces unit during the entire eligibility period. For the purpose of this Instruction, eligible Boat Forces units shall include Sectors (Stations, Aids to Navigation Teams, Marine Safety Units, and Sector Field Offices), Maritime Safety and Security Teams, Maritime Security Response Teams, Strike Teams, Port Security Units, and Cutters.
 - d. In compliance with Coast Guard weight standards.
 - e. No non-judicial punishment, no civil convictions, have a mark of "Satisfactory" in Conduct, and no mark less than four on their Enlisted Performance Evaluation Form (CG-3788) during the entire eligibility period.
7. SELECTION CRITERIA. The award recipient will be the candidate who possesses the strongest combination of the following criteria:
 - a. Leadership.
 - b. Proficiencies.
 - c. Performance of Duty.
8. NOMINATIONS. The Office of Boat Forces will solicit nominations during the month of February each year. All nominations shall be submitted by the nominee's commanding officer/officer in charge to the Office of Boat Forces via the chain of command using the format provided in enclosure (1). Nominations shall not exceed three pages.
9. SELECTION PROCESS: The Office of Boat Forces will convene a selection panel during March.
 - a. The selection panel will consist of representatives from the Office of Boat Forces, Boat Forces Center, and National Motor Lifeboat School, the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, and the Machinery Technician's Rating Force Master Chief.
 - b. The panel will select an award recipient based on the criteria in paragraph seven of this instruction.

- c. The selection panel will select the award recipient and forward the recommendation to the Office of Boat Forces by 30 March.
10. CEREMONY. The Office of Boat Forces will announce the Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineering Award recipient via message in April. An award ceremony will be held at an appropriate time and location, as soon after the announcement as practical.
 - a. Travel expenses for the award recipient, as well as travel for their spouse, will be funded by the Office of Boat Forces.
 - b. The award recipient will receive a miniature plaque which depicts an original lifeboat with a brief inscription.
 - c. The award recipient will have their name inscribed on a large bronze and wooden plaque permanently displayed at Machinery Technician "A" School in Yorktown, Virginia, and Coast Guard Headquarters.
 11. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS. This instruction will be incorporated into the next change of reference (b). Questions should be directed to the Office of Boat Forces, Commandant (G-RCB-1).
 12. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. Environmental considerations were examined in the development of this Instruction and have been determined to be not applicable.
 13. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

R. D. Sirois /s/
Assistant Commandant for Response

Encl: (1) Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineering Award Nomination Format
(2) Navy Cross Citation to Fireman First Class Paul Clark

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge
(Unit)

Unit Address
City, State, Zip
Phone:
Fax:

1650
Date

MEMORANDUM

From: x. x. xxxx, BMx
(Unit Abbreviation)

Reply to
Attn of: xxxxxx xxxxxx

To: COMDT (G-RCB)
Thru: (1) (Unit Abbreviation)
(2) (Unit Abbreviation)

Subj: NOMINATION OF MKx xxxxxx xxxxxx FOR THE 20xx FIREMAN FIRST CLASS
PAUL CLARK BOAT FORCES ENGINEERING AWARD

Ref: (a) Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineering Award,
COMDTINST 1650.5A

1. It is my distinct pleasure to nominate MKx xxxxxx xxxxxx for the 20xx Fireman First Class Paul Clark Boat Forces Engineering Award.
2. MKx xxxxxx meets the eligibility requirements as outlined in reference (a):
3. MKx xxxxxx is an exemplary boat engineer as demonstrated by:
 - a. Leadership.
 - b. Proficiencies.
 - c. Performance of Duty.
4. Summary of Action.

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Enclosure (2) to COMDTINST 1650.5A

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the NAVY CROSS to:

PAUL LEAMAN CLARK, FIREMAN FIRST CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

for services as set forth in the following

CITATION:

“The Navy Cross is presented to Paul Leaman Clark, Fireman First Class, U.S. Coast Guard, for extraordinary heroism while serving as engineer of a landing boat attached to the U.S.S. Joseph T. Dickman during the assault on and occupation of French Morocco from November 8 to 11, 1942. When a hostile plane strafed his boat with machinegun fire, mortally wounding the bow man and severely injuring the coxswain, Clark with quick initiative immediately withdrew from the beach. Speeding toward the U.S.S. Palmer, he placed the wounded men aboard and, although his craft was riddled by enemy bullets, courageously returned to his station at the beach and completed his boat's mission.”

For the President

/S/ Frank Knox
Secretary of the Navy