

AUG 22 2006

5. Legion of Merit

a. Authorization. 10 U.S.C. §1121.

b. Eligibility Requirements. Awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who distinguish themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in performing outstanding service. To justify this decoration, the service rendered must have been comparable to that required for the Distinguished Service Medal, but in a duty of lesser, though considerable, responsibility. In general, the Legion of Merit will be awarded to officers in lesser commands at sea, or principal commands on shore, who have performed such exceptionally meritorious service as to justify the award of the Distinguished Service Medal, except as to degree of merit. However, this should not be interpreted to preclude the award of the Legion of Merit to any individual, regardless of grade or rate, whose acts or services meet the requirements. When the degree of achievement or service rendered, although meritorious, is not sufficient to warrant the award of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal should be considered.

c. Combat Distinguishing Device. The Combat Distinguishing Device was authorized for service subsequent to 17 July 1967. It was discontinued in April 1974, but reauthorized effective 17 January 1991.

6. Distinguished Flying Cross

a. Authorization. 10 U.S.C. §6245.

b. Eligibility Requirements. Awarded to individuals who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy or the Marine Corps, distinguish themselves by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight. To justify this decoration for heroism, an act in the face of danger, well above those actions performed by others engaged in similar flight operations, is required; for achievement, the results accomplished must be so exceptional as to render them conspicuous among those accomplished by others involved in similar circumstances.

(1) In adjudging the appropriate awards for the various members of a flight crew, it is considered that the pilot responsible for flying the aircraft is sometimes eligible for a higher award than other members of the flight crew.