

## **NIAGARA FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **GENERAL ORDER**

EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/03/2013	SUBJECT: <b>AWARDS PROCEDURE</b>	Number 121.00 (NYSLEAP A-17-1)
RESCINDS: 04/15/2003		Number of pages 4

**I. Purpose:**

This policy is intended to explain the various types of awards and commendations available to members of the department and the public and the proper method of obtaining consideration for them.

**II. Policy:**

It shall be the policy of the Niagara Falls Police Department and the Niagara Falls Police Club Inc. to recognize and award those members who distinguish themselves in the line of duty.

The Niagara Falls Police Department will acknowledge those acts of bravery, courage, distinguishing conduct and service that are in line with the Department's mission of professionalism and service to the community. Sworn and civilian members of the Police Department and citizens of our community who help and assist their fellow citizens will, under the following procedures and in concert with the following awards and guidelines, be distinguished as a matter of pride and honor for their exceptional service.

**III. Awards Nominations:**

- A. Superiors must monitor the activities of their subordinates, and shall render in writing through proper channels, an account of any meritorious or praiseworthy action performed by a subordinate. (See Rules & Regulations article 1, section 7, paragraph 7). Department members that believe they are entitled to commendation may appeal in writing to the Superintendent of Police through the chain of command. (See Rules & Regulations article 1, section 7, paragraph 8)
- B. Any member of the police department that witnesses, or has knowledge of, an exemplary act by another member or a citizen may initiate a commendation. The member initiating another member or citizen will forward a description of the incident, names and addresses of witnesses

along with all pertinent information including reports, to a member of the Awards Committee. (See Awards Committee II).

IV. Awards Committee:

- A. The Awards Committee shall consist of the following members: One representative of police administration; one representative of supervisory staff; three representatives of the Police Club.

V. Awards and Commendations:

- A. Medal Of Honor: Awarded to an officer for outstanding act above and beyond the line of duty at imminent personal hazard of life, with full knowledge of the risk.
- B. Combat Cross: Awarded to an officer for an act of heroism, with imminent personal hazard of life in combat with an armed adversary.
- C. Wounded in Combat: Awarded for an injury to an officer in the line of duty, intentionally inflicted by an armed adversary.
- D. Legion of Honor: Awarded for injury sustained in the line of duty that resulted in preventing the officer from returning to duty for a period of at least three months.
- E. Meritorious Service: Awarded for conduct by an officer that prevents injury or death to a third party with risk or peril to the officer.
- F. Gallantry Star: Awarded to an officer for the arrest of a person who is a major threat to the welfare of the community or the officer.
- G. Croix De Negotiator: Awarded to an officer for composure, talk-down and wit, which under extreme circumstances prevents a life threat.
- H. Life Saving Medal : Awarded for acts performed that result in saving a life.
- I. Unit Citation: Awarded for a team effort by officers under combat conditions resulting in protection of life and or property.
- J. Honorable Service: Awarded to an officer for creditable act in the line of duty, showing initiative and accomplishment.

- K. K-9 Commendation: Officer / K-9 team successfully aiding and overcoming a dangerous encounter.
- L. Chief's Award: Awarded by the chief to an officer at his discretion.
- M. Outstanding Detective Award: This recipient of this award is selected by detectives and is presented to a detective that displays an outstanding dedication to duty, is committed to excellence and demonstrates exemplar investigative techniques.
- N. Leo Maj Memorial Award: Selected by uniformed officers the award is presented to a uniformed officer for his/her commitment to over-all excellence to duty, his community, co-workers and family.
- O. Distinguished Senior Officer Award: This award is presented to an officer with a minimum of five years of service, who exhibits a professional attitude, displays excellent investigative techniques and case preparation, consistently submits concise reports, fosters a rapport and interacts well with divisions other than his/her own.
- P. Jimmy Thompson Memorial Award: This award is presented to an officer with less than five years of service who demonstrates diligence and integrity to duty, a willingness to learn and advance in a law enforcement career. The recipient has a rapport with fellow officers and supervisors and displays a professional attitude at all times.
- Q. Distinguished Volunteer Service Award: This Award is presented to a member of the department that has voluntarily assisted and provided additional safety measures that improved services for the Niagara Falls Police Department and the community.
- R. Promotion of Grade Designation: Awarded for length in service; at least twenty years.
- S. Ready Commendation Designation: Awarded for length in service; at least fifteen years.
- T. FBI Academy Graduate Designation: Awarded to officers upon graduation from the National Academy.
- U. Certified Instructors Designation: Awarded to officers that successfully complete and attain a general topics instructor certification from the NYS DCJS.

- V. Emergency Response Team Designation: Awarded to officers that have been ERT certified and chosen for the ERT.
- W. FTO Designation: Awarded to certified field training officers.
- X. War Era Designation: Awarded to department members that are veterans of the armed forces of the United States that have served active duty.
- Y. Education Achievement Designation: Awarded for completion of at least sixty-five credit hours toward a college degree.
- Z. The Samaritan Award: Awarded for an act of humanity in a time of crisis and providing understanding and confidence.
- AA. Civilian Service Award: Awarded for personal assistance by a civilian in apprehending a criminal or in extending oneself beyond one's own safety to provide prompt action to aid persons in danger.

Note: Multiply awards of the same category will be distinguished in the following manner: Second occasion – Star; Third occasion –Oak Leaf; Fourth Occasion- Oak Leaf and Star; Fifth occasion- Acorn .