

Commendations and Awards

1014.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Special recognition may be in order whenever a member performs their duties in an exemplary manner. Citizens may at times perform a meritorious act that deserves recognition. This procedure provides general guidelines for commending exceptional member performance or the meritorious acts of citizens.

Command officers and supervisors are encouraged to identify and acknowledge the exceptional performance of individual members and acts of assistance provided to the Department by citizens. Furthermore, department members are encouraged to nominate their co-workers for recognition by the Department for acts which demonstrate professionalism, outstanding performance, and/or a commitment to the organization or the community.

1014.2 WHO MAY MAKE COMMENDATIONS

Any department member may nominate another member or citizen for a department award by submitting a written nomination to the nominated member's respective division commander, or in the case of nomination for a citizen award, to the nominating member's division commander. Nominations for all department awards must be made within one year of the incident which led to the nominated members or citizens actions unless otherwise authorized by a division commander.

A written commendation may also be made by a member of the public regarding any department member.

Written recommendations for a citizen's meritorious acts may be made by any member of this department or any member of the public.

1014.3 MERITORIOUS OR COMMENDABLE ACTIONS

A meritorious or commendable act by a member of this department may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) Superior handling of a difficult situation.
- (b) Conspicuous bravery or outstanding performance.
- (c) Any action or performance that is above and beyond the typical duties of a member.

1014.3.1 AWARD NOMINATIONS

All nominations submitted to a division commander must include the following:

- (a) Member name or citizen name, division and assignment at the date and time of the nomination, if applicable.
- (b) A detailed description of the member's or citizen's commendable action with official reports associated with the nomination included, as appropriate.

Fargo Police Department

Policy Manual

Commendations and Awards

- (c) A recommendation from the nominating member as to which award the nominated member or citizen is being nominated for.

Completed nomination reports should be forwarded to the appropriate Division Commander for review. The Division Commander shall sign and forward the report to the Department's Awards Nomination Review Committee for review.

The Department's Awards Nomination Review Committee will review and give thoughtful consideration to the awards nominations they receive. The committee shall provide the division commander who forwarded the nomination on to the committee with a written recommendation relative to their review and consideration of the nomination. The division commander will then forward the committee's recommendation along with the division commander's written concurrence or non-concurrence to the Chief of Police, who shall make the final determination relative to the award. The Chief of Police has the discretion to bypass the Department's Awards Nomination Review Committee for extraordinary award events.

Recommendations for letters of recognition, or citizen letters of appreciation may be submitted to the Awards Nomination Review Committee if appropriate or forwarded directly via the chain-of-command to the Chief of Police. If an award is approved, a copy of the award citation will be placed into the member's personnel file.

1014.3.2 AWARDS NOMINATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Division commanders shall appoint personnel from within their respective divisions to serve on the department's Awards Nomination Review Committee, which shall be chaired by the Professional Standards Division (PSD) Professional Accountability Unit (PAU) Lieutenant. Each department member appointed to the committee shall serve a term not to exceed three (3) consecutive years. The committee shall consist of the following department personnel:

- Neighborhood Services Division - one sergeant, one police officer from the Patrol Unit, and one member from the Specialized Services Unit.
- Criminal Investigations Division - one sergeant, one detective or investigator, and one civilian member.
- Professional Standards Division - one lieutenant (chair), one sergeant, and one civilian member.

The Awards Nomination Review Committee shall convene no less than quarterly throughout the calendar year to review the awards nominations forwarded to the committee unless otherwise directed by a the committee's chairperson.

1014.4 AWARDS

Any department member may be the recipient of an award pursuant to this policy. The following awards. listed in order of precedence, may be bestowed:

- **Medal of Honor**

Fargo Police Department

Policy Manual

Commendations and Awards

- Sworn officers, who give their life in the line of duty while performing an act of honor, valor, or bravery, are automatically eligible to receive the Medal of Honor, posthumously, OR
- Sworn officers, who distinguish themselves by an act above and beyond the call of duty involving extreme risk to their life are eligible to receive the Medal of Honor.
- The award shall consist of a Medal of Honor medal, a Medal of Honor certificate, and a Medal of Honor ribbon to be worn on the police uniform.
- **Medal of Valor**
 - Sworn officers, who distinguished themselves by an act above and beyond the call of duty involving substantial risk to their life, are eligible to receive the Medal of Valor.
 - The award shall consist of a Medal of Valor medal, a Medal of Valor certificate, and a Medal of Valor ribbon to be worn on the police uniform.
- **Police Officer's Silver Star**
 - Sworn officers, who distinguish themselves by an act above and beyond the call of duty, in which the circumstances indicate an act of bravery or heroism was performed, are eligible to receive the Police Officer's Silver Star.
 - The award shall consist of a Police Officer's Silver Star medal, a Police Officer's Silver Star certificate, and a Police Officer's Silver Star ribbon to be worn on the police uniform.
- **Distinguished Service Medal**
 - Sworn officers, who distinguish themselves by an act above and beyond the call of duty, in which the circumstances indicate an act which brings acclaim to the officer or the department was performed, are eligible to receive the Distinguished Service Medal.
 - Sworn officers and civilian members serving the Fargo Police department in a distinguishable manner for twenty (20) years or more are also eligible to receive this award.
 - The award shall consist of a Distinguished Service medal, a Distinguished Service certificate, and a Distinguished Service ribbon to be worn on the police uniform. For civilian members not in uniform, the award shall consist of a Distinguished Service Medal, and a Distinguished Service certificate.
- **Purple Heart Medal**
 - Sworn officers, who are seriously injured or seriously wounded in the line of duty are eligible to receive the Purple Heart.
 - The award shall consist of a Purple Heart medal, a Purple Heart certificate, and a Purple Heart ribbon to be worn on the police uniform.
- **Combat Cross Medal**

Fargo Police Department

Policy Manual

Commendations and Awards

- Sworn officers, who distinguish themselves during an encounter with an adversary in which a perceived or actual deadly threat presents a direct and significant threat to the officer's life or the officer had an objectively reasonable fear of imminent serious bodily injury or death, are eligible to receive the Combat Cross Medal.
 - A deadly weapon is considered to be any object used by an adversary in a manner which is likely to have caused death or serious injury to the officer.
- The award shall consist of a Combat Cross medal, a Combat Cross certificate, and a Combat Cross ribbon to be worn of the police uniform.
- **Chief's Medal**
 - Sworn or civilian members, who distinguish themselves with an act which significantly benefits the Department or the community are eligible to receive the Chief's Medal.
 - Demonstrating outstanding leadership, professionalism, community service, or any other act deemed by the Chief of Police to have significantly benefited the Department towards the accomplishment of its mission and goals are considerations for this award.
 - The award shall consist of a Chief's medal, a Chief's medal certificate, and a Chief's medal ribbon to be worn on the police uniform. For civilian members not in uniform, the award shall consist of a Chief's medal, and a Chief's medal certificate.
- **Life Saving Award**
 - Sworn or civilian members, who distinguish themselves by an act which contributes to the saving of a person's life or substantially prolonging life are eligible to receive the Lifesaving Award. The lifesaving effort should involve the application of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, the Heimlich maneuver, control of severe bleeding, or automated external defibrillator (AED). The award is reserved for cases where the victim faces an imminent risk of death and should not be granted solely for the administration of Narcan.
 - The award shall consist of a Lifesaving Award medal, a Lifesaving Award certificate, and a Lifesaving Award ribbon to be worn on the police uniform. For civilian members not in uniform, the award shall consist of a Lifesaving Award medal, and a Lifesaving Award certificate.
- **Sworn Supervisor, Police Officer, Detective/Investigator, and Civilian Member of the Year Awards**
 - Any sworn supervisor, police officer, detective/investigator or civilian member is eligible to be nominated for one of these annual awards as appropriate. This award shall be presented to a sworn supervisor, officer, detective/investigator, and a civilian member in recognition for outstanding service, professionalism, and contribution to the department for the preceding year.

Fargo Police Department

Policy Manual

Commendations and Awards

- Sworn supervisors, police officers, detectives/investigators, and civilian members may be nominated for this award by their peers, supervisors, or command officers. Nominations for this award must be submitted in writing to the nominated member's respective division commander by December 15th of each year.
- The Department Awards Nomination Review Committee shall review all of the recommendations submitted for the award and provide the Chief of Police with a final recommendation consisting of no more than one finalists for each award.
- The Chief of Police shall select the recipient(s) of each annual award.
- For a sworn supervisor, detective/investigator, police officer the award shall consist of a medal, an Of the Year certificate,, and a ribbon to be worn on the police uniform. For civilian members the award shall consist of an Of the Year certificate and plaque.
- **Combat Action Award**
 - Sworn officers, who have competently performed their duties as a police officer, in a critical incident involving hostile gunfire from a suspect or suspects. Sworn officers may qualify for this award even if no direct fire was taken as long as there was risk of lethal danger.
 - The award shall consist of a Combat Action Award certificate, and a Combat Action Award ribbon to be worn on the police uniform.
- **Police Officer's Bronze Star**
 - The award shall consist of a Police Officer's Bronze Star medal, a Police Officer's Bronze Star certificate, and a Police Officer's Bronze Star ribbon to be worn on the police uniform.
 - Sworn officers who exhibit exceptional professional skills and conduct, and distinguish themselves through an act that exemplifies the Department's vision, mission, and values while performing police duties under some degree of hazard, are eligible to receive the Police Officer's Bronze Star.
- **Police Training Officer (PTO) Service Award**
 - Sworn officers, who demonstrate exemplary service and dedication to the department by serving as a Police Training Officer (PTO) for an extended period of time are eligible to receive the Police Training Officer Service Award.
 - Sworn officers who have satisfactorily served as a Police Training Officer for a minimum of five (5) years are eligible to receive the Police Training Officer Service Award.
 - The award shall consist of a Police Training Officer Service Award certificate and a Police Training Officer Service Award ribbon to be worn on the police uniform.
- **SWAT Service Award**

Fargo Police Department

Policy Manual

Commendations and Awards

- Sworn officers, who demonstrate exemplary service and dedication to the department by serving as a member of the SWAT team for an extended period of time are eligible to receive the SWAT Service Award.
- Sworn officers who have satisfactorily served as a member of the SWAT team for a minimum of five (5) years are eligible to receive the SWAT Service Award.
- **K-9 Service Award**
 - Sworn officers, who demonstrate exemplary service and dedication to the department by serving as a member of the Canine (K-9) Unit for an extended period of time are eligible to receive the K-9 Service Award.
 - Sworn officers who have satisfactorily served as a K-9 handler for a minimum of five (5) years are eligible to receive the K9 Service Award.
- **Crowd Management Service Award**
 - Sworn officers, who demonstrate exemplary service and dedication to the department by serving as a member of the Crowd Management Team (CMT) for an extended period of time are eligible to receive the CMT Service Award.
 - Sworn officers who have satisfactorily served as a member of the CMT for a minimum of five (5) years are eligible to receive the CMT Service Award.
- **Honor Guard Service Award**
 - Sworn officers, who demonstrate exemplary service and dedication to the department by serving as a member of the Honor Guard for an extended period of time are eligible to receive the Honor Guard Service Award.
 - Sworn officers who have satisfactorily served as a member of the Honor Guard for a minimum of five (5) years are eligible to receive the Honor Guard Service Award.
- **Emergency Service Unit Citation**
 - Sworn officers and civilian members, who demonstrated outstanding service and dedication to the City of Fargo, while performing extended police emergency operations during a natural or human disaster are eligible to receive the Emergency Service Unit Citation.
 - The award shall consist of an Emergency Service Unit Citation ribbon to be worn on the police uniform. For civilian members not in uniform, the award shall consist of a Emergency Service Unit Citation certificate.
- **Commendable Service Award**
 - Sworn officers and civilian members, who distinguish themselves with an act which exemplifies the goals, values, and mission of the department are eligible to receive the Commendable Service Award. An act above and beyond the expectations of a sworn officer or civilian member's assignment may be consideration for this award.
 - The Chief of Police or a division commander shall present the Commendable Service Award to the recipient.

Fargo Police Department

Policy Manual

Commendations and Awards

- The award shall consist of a Commendable Service Award certificate signed by the Chief of Police.

See attachment: [FPD AWARDS LIST Attachment.pdf](#)

Citizen awards may be bestowed upon members of the public. These awards include:

- **Citizen Citation for Distinguished Service**
 - Citizens who provide assistance to the department which involves risk to the citizen's life, or where the citizen contributes to the saving of another person's life, are eligible to receive the Citizen Citation for Distinguished Service.
 - The award shall consist of a Citizen Citation for Distinguished Service plaque and a Commendation Letter from the Chief of Police.
- **Citizen Recognition Award**
 - Citizen's who assist the department in accomplishing the organization's mission and goals are eligible to receive the Citizen Recognition Award.
 - The award shall consist of a Letter of Recognition from the Chief of Police.
- **Citizen Letter of Appreciation**
 - Citizens who provide assistance to the department are eligible to receive a Citizen Letter of Appreciation. Once reviewed and authorized by the nominating member's division commander, the nominating member may present this award to the recipient.
 - This award shall consist of a Letter of Appreciation from a command officer, supervisor, or from the department member recommending the award.

1014.5 REVISION DATE 05/20/2025

Attachments

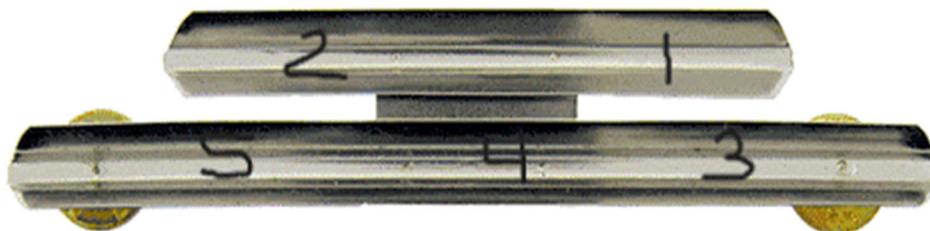
FPD AWARDS LIST Attachment.pdf

AWARDS LIST

Order of Precedence for Ribbons Highest to Lowest

Ribbon bars should be worn with the highest ribbon being closest to your heart

Example: (1) is highest ribbon and (5) is lowest.



Medal of Honor



Medal of Valor



Police Officer's Silver Star



Distinguished Service Medal



Purple Heart Medal



Combat Cross Medal



Chief's Medal



Life Saving Medal



Officer/Detective-Investigator/Supervisor/
Civilian of the year



Combat Action Award



Police Officer's Bronze Star



AWARDS LIST

Police Training Officer Service Award*



SWAT Service Award*



K-9 Service Award*



Crowd Management Team Service Award*



Honor Guard Service Award*



Emergency Service Unit Citation



Subsequent/Duplicate Awards

In the event a sworn officer or civilian employee receives a second or subsequent medal/ribbon previously awarded to them, a star or other denotation will be added to the commendation ribbon worn on the police uniform.

* A star or other denotation will be added to the commendation ribbon associated with any Service Award for every five years of satisfactory service (beyond the first five years) an officer serves in a major secondary assignment, or when an officer satisfactorily serves a minimum of five years in an additional major secondary assignment.