

Excerpt from MCO 1020.34H with Changes to Device Guidance (in bold blue text)

b. On ribbon bars, stars are placed with one ray of each star pointing up. If one star is authorized, it will be centered on the ribbon bar. For more than one star, they will be evenly spaced in a horizontal line on the ribbon bar, except when multiple star attachments are worn. Silver star(s) worn with a bronze or gold star(s) will be worn as stated above, except the first bronze or gold star is placed to the wearer's left of the silver star(s) with additional stars alternating to the right of the silver star and so on.

c. When stars are worn with other devices such as the bronze letter **"V", "C", and "R" Devices**, paragraph 5402 applies...

5402. LETTERS/NUMERALS

1. Manner of Wearing. A letter device is worn centered on the ribbon. These devices are block letters 1/4 inch high for large medal suspension ribbons or ribbon bars, and 1/8 inch high for miniature medal suspension ribbons.

2. Bronze Letter "M". Authorized Marines will wear the bronze "M" device, positioned on the ribbon and medal along with a number indicating the number of times the "M" Device has been awarded on the ribbon and suspension ribbon of the AFRM medal. Multiple periods of service during one contingency operation shall count as one "M" Device award. Appropriate wear of the AFRM and "M" Device shall be as follows:

a. Not entitled to "M" Device, but entitled to the AFRM: the AFRM with appropriate bronze/silver/gold hourglass is centered on the ribbon bar and suspension ribbon **of medal**.

b. Entitled to "M" Device and AFRM based upon qualifying years of service: the "M" Device is centered on the AFRM with the appropriate hourglass device positioned on the wearer's right **on the ribbon bar or centered on the suspension ribbon of the medal with qualifying years centered vertically below "M" device**.

c. Entitled to "M" device, but not otherwise entitled to the AFRM: The "M" Device is centered on the ribbon bar and suspension ribbon. The ribbon is authorized upon receipt of the "M" Device despite having served less than ten years.

d. Entitlement to numerous "M" Devices and AFRM: the "M" Device is centered on the ribbon bar **with the appropriate hour glass to the wearer's right and a bronze Arabic numeral to the wearer's left. On the suspension ribbon of medal, the hourglass is centered vertically above the "M" device, "M" device centered vertically, and qualifying years centered vertically below "M" device**. Numerals will **be worn in lieu of second award and all subsequent awards** begin with the second award (2).

3. Bronze Letter "V", "C", and "R" Devices

a. Personal Military **Decorations (PMD) shall have no more than five devices on an individual ribbon or medal. Only bronze "V", "C",**

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and "R" devices are authorized for wear for DoN PMDs as outlined in SECNAV M-1650.1

b. Precedence for devices in case of DoN PMDs from highest to lowest: "V", "C", "R", Silver Star, Gold Star. The only exception to the precedence for device placement applies to the Air Medal. For the Air Medal, device placement order, from the wearer's right to left on the ribbon bar, and top to bottom on the suspension ribbon of the medal, is as follows: Gold Arabic Numerals in lieu of subsequent individual awards, "V", "C", and Bronze Arabic Numerals indicating the number of strike/flight medals awarded.

c. Precedence for devices in case of DoD PMDs from highest to lowest: "V", "C", "R", Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster. Only one "V", "C", "R" will be worn. Gold, bronze or silver stars or oak leaf clusters will be worn to indicate subsequent awards and are evenly spaced in a vertical line above the "V", "C", "R" device at the center of suspension ribbons of large and miniature medals. They will be evenly spaced in a horizontal line on the ribbon bar with the "V", "C", "R" device at the approximate center and the stars arranged symmetrically in relation to the device; the first star to the wearer's right, the second to the wearer's left and so on. When the "C" device is worn in combination with oak-leaf clusters and the total number of devices exceeds four, then Gold Arabic numerals are worn in place of the oak-leaf clusters to indicate the number of subsequent awards.

d. Subsequent "V", "C", or "R" devices shall be denoted with either a gold / or silver star in lieu of subsequent award or gold numeral in lieu of subsequent award with "V", "C", "R".

(1) No PMD shall have more than one "V", "C", or "R" device. "V", "C", or "R" devices do not count into total number of awards a service member received. For example, the wear of the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (NAM) with a "C" device and a gold star indicates the award of two NAMs, at least one of these was authorized Meritorious Achievement Under Combat Conditions.

(2) When only one "V", "C", or "R" device is worn and a subsequent award is authorized: gold, bronze, or silver stars, or oak leaf clusters worn to indicate subsequent awards are evenly spaced in a vertical line above and below "V", "C", or "R" device at the center of suspension ribbons of large and miniature medals. Devices will be evenly spaced in a horizontal line on the ribbon bar with the "V", "C", or "R" at the approximate center and the stars arranged symmetrically in relation to the "V", "C", or "R"; the first star to the wearer's right, the second to the left, and so on.

(3) When more than one "V", "C", or "R" device is worn and a subsequent award is authorized: the higher precedent award will remain at the approximate center of the suspension ribbons of large and

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miniature medals and lower precedent devices evenly space, alternating above and below the center device. They will be evenly spaced in a horizontal line on the ribbon bar with the highest precedent device at the approximate center and the lower precedent arranged symmetrically in relation to the "V", "C", or "R"; the first device to the wearer's right, the second to the left, and so on.

e. The approved bronze letter "V" is gold in color. Black or darkened devices may continue to be worn until the individual's awards require remounting, at which time the appropriate gold-colored "V" will be worn.

f. Whenever the "V", "C", or "R" device is authorized, the citation must contain a statement of authorization. The bronze letter "V" awarded under previous criteria may continue to be worn on all awards if the citation specifically authorizes its wear.