



Reserve Info Bulletin



COVID-19: Temporary Policy Change to Modify Eligibility Requirements for the Reserve Good Conduct Medal (RGCM)

As discussed in the below ALCOAST message, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted opportunities for Reserve members to schedule drills which may result in an inability to obtain the 70 retirement points required for a Reserve Good Conduct Medal (RGCM).

Effective 01 March 2020 until a date to be determined, paragraph 5.A.2.a.(2) in the Coast Guard Medals and Awards Manual, COMDTINST M1650.2E, is temporarily modified to reduce the requirements for a qualifying year to 50 points vice 70 points. The requirement to apply the standard in place at the beginning of the anniversary year does not apply to this temporary reduction in points.

For personnel who are at risk of a good year for retirement due to COVID restrictions there may be relief. Both House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY21 included a reprieve to allow SecDEF and SecHLS to provide up to 35 points to a reservist who was already on track for a good retirement year. More information to follow.

As a reminder, there are various other methods in which Reserve members can accumulate points, such as EBDL, funeral honors duty, and remote drills. Consult your chain of commands for opportunities.

Questions regarding the Reserve Good Conduct Medal should be directed to CG PSC-PSD-ma at: ARL.Medals@uscg.mil.

Reserve specific COVID FAQs and answers can be found at: <https://www.uscg.mil/Coronavirus/Reserve/>

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TO ALCOAST

UNCLAS //N01650//

ALCOAST 358/20

COMDTNOTE 1650

SUBJ: COVID-19: TEMPORARY POLICY CHANGE TO MODIFY THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESERVE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (RGCM) DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A. Coast Guard Medals and Awards Manual, COMDTINST M1650.2E

1. As a result of disruptions caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, Reserve member opportunities and scheduling of drills have been impacted. This may result in Reserve members being unable to obtain the required 70 retirement points for the RGCM as required in REF (A).

2. This ALCOAST temporarily modifies REF (A) by reducing the requirement for a qualifying year to 50 points vice 70 points in paragraph 5.A.2.a.(2). This change is effective 1 MAR 2020 until a date to be determined. The requirement to apply the standard in place at the beginning of the anniversary year does not apply to this temporary reduction in points. All other provisions of REF (A) remain in effect.

3. Reserve members are reminded that during these challenging times other points may be accumulated through Electronic Based Distributed Learning (EBDL), funeral honors duty, remote drills, and various other methods. Members should consult their chain of command for specific opportunities.

4. Questions regarding the RCGM should be directed to CG PSC-PSD-ma at: ARL.Medals@uscg.mil.

5. RADM J. M. Nunan, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources, sends.

6. Internet release is authorized.