



**Las Cruces Police Department
GENERAL ORDERS
ADMINISTRATION VOLUME 1
GO-145 AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS (Daily)
Revised 12/15/2005**

145 AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

POLICY

It is the policy of the Las Cruces Police Department to recognize and report outstanding actions or exceptional performance by Departmental personnel. All personnel, regardless of rank, are urged to report outstanding or heroic actions of which they have knowledge.

PROCEDURES

Any Departmental personnel who witness an exemplary act by another employee may initiate a request for Departmental recognition by citing the circumstances of the incident on a Recognition / Award Nomination Form which is available on the Departmental intranet server. The form should include a description of the incident, the names and addresses of any witnesses in the event that further investigation is necessary, the reasons for which the recognition or award is being recommended, and, in the case of commissioned personnel, the name of the recognition or award for which the employee is being recommended.

Recommendations shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the Chief of Police. Each supervisor through whom the form passes should comment on the incident and merits of the award nomination.

All recommendations shall then be forwarded to the Awards Committee consisting of employees representing a cross section of the Department. In the event of a tie vote, the Chief shall cast the deciding vote to determine the recipient of any award.

The Awards Committee shall:

1. Meet on at least a quarterly basis.
2. Review all recommendations for Departmental awards, and
3. Endorse the recommendation as submitted, or
4. Choose another appropriate award to be presented, or
5. Request additional documentation be submitted, and / or
6. Determine that no award will be presented, or



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7. In the case of non-commissioned personnel, determine whether to return the nomination to the Chief for Departmental recognition or to retain it for Awards Committee recognition.

145.01 AWARDS FOR COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL

Medal of Valor

The Medal of Valor may be awarded to a member of the Las Cruces Police Department who intelligently, and in the line of police duty, gives his / her, or distinguishes himself / herself by the performance of an act of courage involving the risk of imminent danger to his / her life, with knowledge of the risk, above and beyond the call of duty. Such an act must have been performed for the purpose of saving or protecting human life.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award may be presented to a member of the Las Cruces Police Department who intelligently, and in the line of police duty, distinguishes himself / herself in the performance of an act of courage involving risk of imminent serious personal injury with knowledge of the risk, for the purpose of saving or protecting human life; or who, in the course of an extended investigation of a nature where he / she is continuously and singly exposed to grave personal hazard, willingly accepts such risk in the service of the Department; or who performs an extraordinarily creditable and unusual police accomplishment.

Commendation Award

The Commendation Award may be presented to a member of the Las Cruces Police Department who distinguishes himself / herself by a meritorious achievement, act or service to the Department, performed in a manner substantially beyond normal expectations in similar circumstances.

Police Purple Heart Medal

The Police Purple Heart Medal may be awarded to a member who, in the line of police duty, sustains a serious injury as a result of hostile behavior by another person; or, posthumously, to a member of the Department who is killed in the performance of his / her duty. The Police Purple Heart may be awarded in addition to any other Department Award.

Life Saving Award



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The Life Saving Award may be presented to a member of the Las Cruces Police Department who, in the performance of his / her duty, renders medical first aid of a distinguished or unusually creditable nature to a person whose life is in immediate jeopardy, and does so in a manner that most certainly sustained the person and enabled such person to be delivered alive to a medical facility. The recommendation for this award must include a statement from the attending physician attesting to the fact that such a person was in immediate jeopardy, that the medical first aid rendered did sustain such person, and that the person would likely have expired without the said medical intervention.

Excellent Police Service Award

The Excellent Police Service Award may be presented to a member of the Las Cruces Police Department who performs:

1. An act of intelligent and valuable police service demonstrating special faithfulness or perseverance, or
2. Highly creditable acts of police service over a period of time, or
3. An intelligent act materially contributing to a valuable accomplishment, or
4. Submission of a device or method designed to increase efficiency in an administrative or tactical procedure and subsequently adopted by the Department, or outstanding proactive police work.

Unit Commendation Award

The Unit Commendation Award may be presented to a section or unit, or to part of a section or unit, that distinguishes itself by a meritorious achievement, act or service to the Department, performed in a manner substantially beyond normal expectations in similar circumstances.

145.02 AWARDS PRESENTATION

Notification

After each Awards Committee meeting, personnel selected to receive the Medal of Valor, Distinguished Service Medal, Commendation, or Excellent Police Service Award shall receive a letter from the Chief of Police notifying them of their selection.



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145.03 SPECIFICATIONS, MEDALS AND BARS

The Commendation Bar shall measure 1 ½ inches in length and ¼ inch in width.

The remaining Departmental recognition bars shall measure 1 ½ inches in length and 5/16” in width and shall have a gold colored border surrounding any inlaid colors.

The Medal of Valor shall consist of a gold colored six-point crest bearing the inscription “Medal of Valor” in the center of, which is affixed, an elliptical disc bearing a miniature Police Department badge. For presentation, the medal will be suspended by a ring from a 2 inch long ribbon attached to a gold bar pin bearing three equal vertical enamel inlays of red, white and blue. A matching bar pin shall be presented for uniform wear.

The Distinguished Service Award shall consist of a gold bar pin bearing three equal vertical enamel inlays of blue, gold and blue.

The Commendation Award shall consist of a gold bar pin having the word “COMMENDATION” embossed upon its face.

The Police Purple Heart Medal shall consist of a heart shaped purple enameled crest with a gold colored border to the face of which is affixed a miniature Las Cruces Police Department badge. The medal will be suspended from a 2-inch long ribbon attached to a gold bar pin bearing three equal purple enamel inlays.

A matching bar pin shall be presented for uniform wear.

The Life Saving Award shall consist of a gold colored bar pin bearing three equal red enamel inlays.

The Excellent Police Service Award shall consist of a gold colored pin bearing three vertical enamel inlays of yellow, blue and yellow.

The Unit Commendation Award shall consist of a gold bar pin bearing three equal vertical enamel inlays of green, gold and green.

145.04 SPECIAL PRIVILEGES OF THE CHIEF



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Nothing contained in this General Order shall prevent the Chief of Police from granting immediate Departmental recognition to any employee who has performed an act consistent with the standards contained herein.