



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 1650.24D
N98
5 Dec 2013

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1650.24D

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AVIATION RELATED AWARDS

Encl: (1) Gray Eagle Trophy Award
(2) Gray Owl Trophy Award
(3) Commander Theodore G. Ellyson Aviator Production
Excellence Award

1. Purpose

a. To issue policy and procedures for Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) aviation related awards.

b. This revision updates responsibilities for the award of the Gray Eagle and Gray Owl Trophy in enclosures (1) and (2). Enclosure (3) has been revised for changes in the award criteria calculation and routing procedures and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1650.24C.

3. Action

a. Awards should be presented by the CNO or a designated representative at a ceremony offering maximum publicity.

b. The Gray Eagle Trophy Award and the Gray Owl Trophy Award shall be managed by the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) Director, Air Warfare (N98) as outlined in enclosures (1) and (2).

c. The Commander Theodore G. Ellyson Aviator Production Excellence Award shall be managed by the Commander, Naval Air Forces (COMNAVAIRFOR) as outlined in enclosure (3).

4. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. C. Manazir", is located below the text of the instruction.

M. C. MANAZIR
Director, Air Warfare

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GRAY EAGLE TROPHY AWARD

1. In 1960, Chance Vought Aircraft, Inc., (now the Northrop Grumman Corporation) proposed a company-sponsored award to honor the naval aviator on the active duty list, not recalled, who had held that designation for the longest period of time. When the incumbent retires, the award shall be passed to the next earliest designated naval aviator on the active duty list, not recalled. The proposal was accepted by the Navy, and the first formal presentation of the Gray Eagle Trophy was held in January 1961. The trophy is in the form of an aircraft carrier with an eagle landing on the deck.

a. The inscription on the trophy reads:
"In recognition of a clear eye, a stout heart, a steady hand, and a daring defiance of gravity and the law of averages."

b. The name of each recipient and the dates the title of Gray Eagle was held are appropriately engraved on the trophy.

2. Eligibility for the title of Gray Eagle and entitlement to the trophy is determined from the official active duty precedence list.

a. It shall be that naval aviator on active duty, not recalled, whose date of designation precedes that of any other naval aviator.

b. In the event that two or more aviators on active duty have been designated on the same date, the senior one qualifies as the Gray Eagle. The trophy is passed on to each succeeding Gray Eagle.

3. By virtue of being qualified for the Gray Eagle Trophy, which will invariably represent long years of dedicated service to the Navy or U.S. Marine Corps (USMC), the recipient will be a symbol of progress and prestige. As a result, the presentation ceremonies, while perhaps light, should be nonetheless dignified. Such presentations should be conducted as near as practicable to the official date of succession, with both the principals present, unless physically impossible.

4. OPNAV (N98) shall maintain the official precedence list of prospective Gray Eagles per the established rules, and when a

transfer of the trophy is forthcoming, should inform the principals of such an impending transfer well in advance of the date.

a. OPNAV (N98) shall notify the Special Assistant for Aviation History, Lineage and Insignia at the Naval History and Heritage Command of the new Gray Eagle.

b. OPNAV (N98) shall designate a command to arrange for appropriate ceremonies per the wishes of the principals involved.

5. The Gray Eagle Trophy may be kept in possession of and displayed by the command to which the Gray Eagle is assigned. Otherwise, it may be placed in the custody of the Director, National Naval Aviation Museum on a temporary basis until required for presentation to the successor.

GRAY OWL TROPHY AWARD

1. In 1979, Grumman Aerospace Corporation (now the Northrop Grumman Corporation) proposed a company-sponsored award to honor the naval flight officer (NFO) (132X/758X) on active duty who has held that designation for the longest period of commissioned service. When the incumbent retires, the award shall be passed to the next earliest designated NFO on active duty.

a. The proposal was accepted and the first formal presentation of the Gray Owl Trophy was held in June 1979.

b. This trophy is in the form of a sculpture of an owl mounted on a mahogany base. The name of each recipient and the date the title of Gray Owl was held are appropriately engraved on the trophy.

2. Eligibility for the title of Gray Owl and entitlement to the trophy is determined from the official precedence list.

a. Determination of date of designation shall take into account directly related designators that are recognized equivalent precursors of the 132X/758X/7576/7525 designators.

b. In the event that two or more NFO on active duty have been designated on the same date, the senior one qualifies as the Gray Owl.

3. By virtue of being qualified for the Gray Owl Trophy, which will by definition represent long years of dedicated service to the Navy or USMC, the recipient will be a symbol of stalwart and intrepid professionalism.

a. As a result, the presentation ceremonies, while perhaps light, should be nonetheless dignified.

b. Such presentation would be conducted as near as practicable to the official date of succession with both the principals present, unless physically impossible.

4. OPNAV (N98) shall maintain the official precedence list of prospective Gray Owls per the established rules and, when a transfer of the trophy is forthcoming, shall inform the principals of such an impending transfer well in advance of the date.

a. OPNAV (N98) shall notify the Special Assistant for Aviation History, Lineage and Insignia at the Naval History and Heritage Command of the new Gray Owl.

b. OPNAV (N98) shall designate a command to arrange for appropriate ceremonies per the wishes of the principals involved.

5. The Gray Owl Trophy may be kept in possession of and displayed by the command to which the Gray Owl is assigned. Otherwise, it may be placed in the custody of the National Naval Aviation Museum on a temporary basis until required for presentation to the successor.

COMMANDER THEODORE G. ELLYSON AVIATOR PRODUCTION EXCELLENCE
AWARD

1. The award is named in honor of Commander Theodore G. Ellyson, United States Navy, who was the first naval officer to undergo aviation training and who was designated Naval Aviator #1 in January 1914. Throughout his career, Commander Ellyson was instrumental in the development of all facets of naval aviation including the establishment of the first flight training sites, which were termed naval aviation camps, at Annapolis and San Diego.

a. The sponsor of this award is the Consolidated Analysis Center, Incorporated (CACI) based in Alexandria, Virginia.

b. A CACI representative will present a plaque to each of the five awardees at the Association of Naval Aviation annual convention.

2. All Navy and USMC fleet replacement squadrons (FRS), USMC aviation training units and all Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) training squadrons are eligible for the Ellyson Aviator Production Excellence Award.

3. Selection of the winners shall be based on the squadron point total using the following criteria (100 points maximum):

a. FRS and USMC aviation training units: Awarded to the most efficient Commander, Naval Air Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet (COMNAVAIRLANT), Commander, Naval Air Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMNAVAIRPAC) and Marine squadrons based on a percentage of cockpit chart metrics and completion criteria:

(1) Meeting fleet requirement fiscal year production plan output for category 1 pilots and NFOs: 40 percent maximum graduated downward (percentage of goal attained times 0.40 equals score).

(2) Time-to-train: 40 percent maximum graduated downward 1 point per 2 percent in excess of entitlement (CNO syllabus plus entitled pre-load time).

(3) Type commander, headquarters and USMC recommendation: 20 percent maximum based on production

mitigation strategies as a result of resource and or execution barriers external to the command. Recommended points shall be graduated down.

b. CNATRA squadrons: Awarded to the most efficient training squadrons (one primary training squadron and one advanced training squadron) based on the following criteria:

(1) Meeting naval aviator production plan production numbers as determined by OPNAV integrated production plan: 50 percent maximum graduated downward comparing actual monthly production against the monthly requirement (20 percent) and projection (30 percent).

(2) Average production time to train: 25 percent maximum graduated downward 2 percent for weekly deviations to the entitlements in the following three categories:

(a) Syllabus production time to train (15 percent).

(b) Post load entitlement (5 percent).

(c) Combined time to train plus post load (5 percent).

(3) Meeting production plan inputs: 10 percent maximum graduated downward for actual student starts against the monthly requirement (5 percent) and the monthly projected student starts (5 percent).

NOTE: Late deliveries from the supplier shall not be penalized.

(4) CNATRA recommendation: 15 percent max to include production mitigation strategies as a result of resource and or execution barriers external to the command.

4. No additional written or statistical data is required from FRS or training squadrons.

5. Action:

a. By March 15, COMNAVAIRLANT, COMNAVAIRPAC and the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) for Aviation shall submit

one nominee each to CNATRA. COMNAVAIRFOR shall compile production time to train statistical data for all Navy FRSs.

NOTE: USMC FRS and aviation training units will provide their applications directly to Commanding General, Training Command, Aviation Production Branch for evaluation. Commanding General, Training Command, after receiving CMC for Aviation concurrence, shall forward one USMC recommendation to CNATRA.

b. CNATRA shall consolidate all inputs for award presentation, coordinate release of naval message announcing the winners and coordinate the presentation or delivery of plaques and citations to the winning squadrons.