

## Commendations and Awards

### 1012.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides general guidelines for recognizing commendable or meritorious acts by members of the Fresno State Police Department.

### 1012.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Fresno State Police Department to recognize and acknowledge exceptional individual or group achievements, performance, proficiency, heroism and service of its members through commendations and awards.

### 1012.3 COMMENDATIONS

The Supervisor Incident Report shall be used to document specific acts of the employee and will be completed by the immediate supervisor or other appropriate supervisor whenever an incident takes place in which employee action may be considered for recognition. The report will contain the employee's name and assignment at the date and time of the action warranting the commendation, a description of the activity, type of action or occurrence and relate facts indicating the degree of hazard involved and the qualities demonstrated (courage, initiative, judgment, etc.). The completed report shall then be forwarded, in a timely fashion, through the chain of command to a Patrol Operations Lieutenant for further action.

### 1012.4 SYSTEM WIDE PROCEDURE

When employees of the Fresno State Police Department are engaged in activities that go above and beyond the course of normal duties and result in honor being brought to themselves and the Department, the Chief of Police will initiate an investigation into the facts surrounding the incident. If the Chief concludes that the employee is eligible for one or more of the California State University System Major Awards, the Chief will make a recommendation to the Chief's Council for review.

The Chief of Police will write a formal Commendation and recommend the appropriate Major Award. The Commendation will be forwarded to the Chiefs' Council, who will review the Commendation for consistency with other awards throughout the System as well as ensuring that the appropriate medal/(s) are awarded. Once approved, the First Chair will prepare a correspondence to the Office of the Chancellor requesting that the appropriate medal/(s) be awarded by the Chancellor.

The Office of the Chancellor will then coordinate the date for the appropriate Awards Ceremony.

### 1012.5 MAJOR AWARDS

System wide Major awards will consist of:

# Fresno State Police Department

## POLICY MANUAL

### *Commendations and Awards*

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- (a) Medal of Honor
- (b) Medal of Valor
- (c) Purple Heart
- (d) Lifesaving Medal
- (e) Meritorious Service Medal

Multiple acts occurring during the same incident will be considered for a single award, with the exceptions of the Medal of Honor or Purple Heart which may be awarded concurrently with the Medal of Valor.

#### 1012.5.1 MEDAL OF HONOR

This award may be conferred to an employee who loses their life in the course of duty.

- The award will consist of a medal, ribbon, and certificate that will be presented by the Chancellor of the CSU and awarded to the officer's next-of-kin at an appropriate awards ceremony.

#### 1012.5.2 MEDAL OF VALOR

This award may be conferred to an employee who demonstrates conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity under hazardous circumstances and at great risk to their life and safety above and beyond the call to duty, and where the employee is aware of the danger while engaged in a volatile or violent event.

- The award will consist of a medal, ribbon, and certificate that will be presented by the Chancellor of the CSU and awarded to the employee at an appropriate awards ceremony.

#### 1012.5.3 PURPLE HEART

This award may be conferred to an employee who sustains a traumatic physical injury as a result of a suspect's action/(s) during an on-duty tactical situation.

- The award will consist of a medal, ribbon, and certificate that will be presented by the Chancellor of the CSU (or designee) and awarded to the employee at an appropriate awards ceremony.

#### 1012.5.4 LIFESAVING MEDAL

This award may be conferred to an employee who is responsible for saving a person's life, who might have expired without the direct action taken by the employee (the subject must survive this incident).

- The award will consist of a medal, ribbon, and certificate that will be presented by the Chancellor of the CSU (or Designee) and awarded to the employee at an appropriate awards ceremony.

#### 1012.5.5 MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

This award and may be awarded to an employee who distinguishes themselves by performing exceptional service in a duty of great responsibility or of critical importance to law enforcement.

# Fresno State Police Department

## POLICY MANUAL

### *Commendations and Awards*

---

- The award will consist of a medal, ribbon, and certificate that will be presented by the Chancellor of the CSU (or designee) and awarded to the employee at an appropriate awards ceremony.

#### **1012.6 ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Additional employee recognition includes:

- (a) External entity awards:
  1. VC 10851
  2. VC 23152
- (b) Assignment Pins
- (c) Prior agency awards

##### **1012.6.1 VC 10851 AWARD**

This award is sponsored by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) in conjunction with the California State Automobile Association (CSAA) and is awarded when an officer:

- (a) Recovers six stolen vehicles in twelve month period, all six of which result in a suspect in custody, or
- (b) Recovers twelve stolen vehicles in a twelve month period, and at least three of the twelve results in a suspect in custody, or
- (c) Develops information about an auto theft ring resulting in ten stolen vehicle recovered and at least two suspects arrested.

The VC 10851 pin may be worn following presentation of the award.

##### **1012.6.2 VC 23152 AWARD**

This award is sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

- (a) Every January, the Awards Committee will meet and review the driving under the influence (DUI) arrests from the preceding calendar year. The sworn member of the department with the highest number of DUI arrests will be nominated to represent the department at the MADD Awards Ceremony and receive an award.
- (b) The VC 23152 pin may be worn following presentation of the award.

##### **1012.6.3 ASSIGNMENT PINS**

Authorized unit pins may be worn when an officer is assigned to one of the Department's specialized units. These specified units include:

- (a) Field Training Officer (FTO)
- (b) Critical Response Unit (CRU)
- (c) Motor Officer Unit (Motor Wings)

These unit pins shall only be worn during an officer's assignment to the unit.

# Fresno State Police Department

## POLICY MANUAL

### *Commendations and Awards*

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#### 1012.6.4 PRIOR AGENCY AWARDS

Major awards conferred to individual members by P.O.S.T. certified law enforcement agencies during previous tours of duty, may be worn with Class A uniforms upon prior approval by the Chief of Police or their designee.

#### **1012.7 DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION PROCEDURES**

- (a) Major Awards shall be presented in a public ceremony, and when not presented by the Chancellor of the CSU, shall be presented by the Chief of Police, and
- (b) The circumstances of the action leading to the award shall be documented and become a part of the employee's personnel record. A photograph of the employee and award citation shall be placed in the department in a place designated for that purpose to remain with other honored employees as a permanent visual record of honorees.
- (c) Award ceremonies shall be held as soon as possible after the review and recommendation of the Chief's Council.
- (d) Additional employee recognition awards may occur without the ceremony prescribed for the presentation of Major Awards.
- (e) The responsibility for implementation of these requirements shall be vested with a Patrol Operations Lieutenant.