



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the **LEGION OF MERIT** to

CAPTAIN PETER W. DAMISCH
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE



for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service as Commander, Joint Reserve Unit Western Region, Operating Base Los Angeles, Defense Human Intelligence Service Directorate for Human Intelligence, Defense Intelligence Agency, from October 2001 to September 2003. In this senior position holding significant responsibility of national importance, Captain Damisch provided exceptional leadership on behalf of the Agency's Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Naval Reserve personnel throughout the western half of the United States. Immediately upon assuming command, he creatively, fundamentally and successfully restructured the entire operational focus of the Joint Reserve Unit, resulting in critically important increases in reserve support to the active duty warfighter. Captain Damisch's dynamic direction, keen judgment, and inspiring devotion to duty reflected great credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

V.E. CLARK

Admiral, United States Navy
Chief of Naval Operations

LEGION OF MERIT

Authorized in 1942, the Legion of Merit is normally awarded to a high ranking officer of staff or flag rank. It was the first U.S. decoration created specifically for award to citizens of other nations for service to the United States and is awarded to members of the United Nations Armed Forces for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the United States. Recipient must occupy a position of great responsibility and would normally be a high ranking officer of staff or flag rank. Foreign awardees include foreign generals or admirals, high ranking civil authorities, foreign attaches, chiefs of state or heads of government, or to foreign recipients who are equivalent to a chief of staff in the United States, or to a leader lower than a head of state.

The Legion of Merit is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States without reference to degree who have distinguished himself or herself by exceptionally meritorious conduct and achievement in the performance of outstanding service to the United States. The performance must have been such as to merit recognition of individuals in key positions for service rendered in a clearly exceptional manner. Performance of duties normal to the grade, branch, specialty, or assignment, and experience of an individual is not an adequate basis for this award. Superior performance of normal duties will not alone justify award of this decoration

For service not related to actual war, the term "key individuals" applies to a narrower range of positions than would be the case in time of war and requires evidence of significant achievement. In peacetime, service should be in the nature of a special requirement or of an extremely difficult duty performed in an unprecedented and clearly exceptional manner. It is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service.

Examples include: service in an extremely difficult duty that is performed in a clearly exceptional manner, if such service is of marked national or international significance to the Department of Defense (DoD), service that has aided the United States in furthering its national policies, service which has furthered the interest of the security of the United States, or any nation allied or associated with the United States or during a period of national emergency declared by the President or Congress. Normally, only general officers or senior officers serving in the grade of colonel (O-6) would qualify for the award. Generally, individuals considered for the LOM must have a minimum of 24 months time-in-grade, and 24 months of service in an extremely responsible position

Justification of the award may also accrue by virtue of exceptionally meritorious service in a succession of important positions. When the degree of achievement or service rendered, although meritorious, is not sufficient to award the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal should be considered.

Order of Precedence

The Legion of Merit is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States without degree and is worn:

after or below Silver Star &
Defense Superior Service Medal

and

before or above Distinguished Flying Cross,
Bronze Star & Purple Heart



First Legion of Merit Recipients:

Generalissimo Chiang Kaishek from China / Taiwan

General Sir Kenneth A.N. Anderson, British Army Commander in North
Africa

Brigadier General Amaro Soares Bittencourt, Chairman of Joint Chiefs, Brazil

Colonel Johanes K. Meijer of the Royal Netherlands Army in Surinam

Major General Herbert J. Thompson of the British Army

Major Stephan M. Dobrowalski of the Polish Army

Lieutenant Ann A. Bernatitus, U.S. Navy for service at Bataan and Corregidor

Lieutenant de Vaisseau A. Bergeret of the Free French Navy & commander of the Corvette *Roselys*



Other Legion of Merit Recipients include:

Admiral Richard Byrd, First Flight over North Pole, 1926

Admiral (then LT) Robert J Bulkley, Jr., 1943

Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander Southeast Asia; 1943

Vice Admiral (then Capt) Momsen, commanding U.S. Navy's first wolf pack in enemy waters, 1943- 44

1st Lt. (Then Staff Sargent) Audie Murphy, U.S. Army, 1944 - 45

CDR Earl Trosino, leader of reinforcing boarding party to capture German U-505 submarine, 1944

Captain Hyman G. Rickover, developer of nuclear submarine, 1944 - 1945

Captain David McCampbell, U.S. Navy top fighter ace in World War II, 1945

1st Lt. Howard Bush, Commanding Officer of Trinity (Atomic Bomb) Base Camp; 1945

Lt. Col Paul W. Tibbets, Commander of >Enola Gay= first atom bomb aircraft; 1945

LT Don Walsh, U.S. Navy, piloted submarine Trieste to deepest place in the ocean, 35,800 feet, 1960

Astronauts Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, Charlie Duke, Richard Truly; 1960's,1970's, 1980's

Senator John McCain, Vietnam, 1969

Admirals Arleigh Burke, Elmo Zumwalt, Frank Kelso, James Watkins, Carlisle Trost & Jay Johnston,
Chiefs of Naval Operations >60's,70's, >80's

Captain W.R. Anderson, Commanding Officer of USS Nautilus during first trip under North Pole, 1959

Vice Admiral Richard Truly, Commander, first reusable Space Shuttle Mission, NASA Administrator, 1980

Captain Bruce McCandless, Astronaut, first untethered space walk, 1988

General Michel Roquejeoffre, Commander French Rapid Action Forces Action
during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, 1990 - 1991

Lieutenant General Hirotoishi Kan, Vice Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self Defense Force, 1997 -
1999

Rear Adm. Edgardo Acevedo Gonzalez, Commandant of the Chilean Marine Corps, 1998

Other Legion of Merit Recipients include:

General Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1990's

Admiral Thira Hao-Charoen, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy, 2000

General Tomas Medina, Uruguayan Defense Attaché in the United States, 2000-2002

Colonel Craig Manson, Air National Guard & Assistant Secretary of Interior, 2002

LEGION OF MERIT:

Exact Date Unknown:

Robert F. Seedlock

Builder of Burma Road in World War II

General George Patton

Commander, Third Army

General Dwight D. Eisenhower

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

General Normal Schwarzkoph

CENTOM Commander

General Tommy Franks

CENTCOM Commander

General Colin Powell

Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Secretary of State

Admiral Bobby Ray Inman

Director, National Security Agency

Dean Rusk

U.S. Secretary of State: 1961 - 1969

Walt Rostow

National Security Advisor 1966 - 1969

General Hugh Shelton

Chairman, Joints Chief of Staff 1997 - 2001

General Hoyt Vandenberg

Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force; CIA Director 1946 - 1947

Togo West

U.S. Secretary of the Army

General John Wickman

U.S. Army Chief of Staff 1983 - 1987

General Paul X. Kelley

Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps 1983 - 1987

Colonel Charles Beckwith

Founder of U.S. Army's Delta Force, 1977

Astronauts David Leetsma, Charles J. Precourt, Frank L. Culbertson, Jr, Karol J. Bobko, William F. Readdy;
1980's & 1990's

General Michael W. Hagee

Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps

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IN SERVICE

Capt. Peter W. Damisch, son of John and Harriet Damisch of Northfield, was awarded the Legion of Merit by President George W. Bush in January for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service as Commander Joint Reserve Unit Western Region, Defense Intelligence Agency.

As a Naval Reserve officer, Damisch provided leadership on behalf of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Naval Reserve personnel. His command provided intelligence and support for those members of the armed forces on active duty.

Damisch was raised in Northfield, attended Sunset Ridge grade School and graduated from New Trier West High School. He was appointed by U.S. Rep. Philip Crane, R-8th, to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Where he received a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering followed by an master's degree in nuclear engineering at the Navy's Nuclear Power School.

He was a nuclear power officer on the aircraft carrier, USS Nimitz, and later a

Damisch sailed on the Endeavour, a replica of the ship which explorer James Cook sailed throughout the Pacific in the 18th Century, from New Zealand to Sydney, Australia for the 2000 Olympic games.

combat information officer on the guided missile cruiser, USS Texas. Damisch was part of the armed forces= ill-fated attempt to rescue the hostages that were held in Iran in 1980.

Damisch attended Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management where he received a masters of business administration and ranked first in his class. He worked for FMC in charge of making components for nuclear powered submarines being built at Groton, Conn. Damisch later established a sailing school and yacht chartering business in Marina del Rey, Calif. He maintained his naval reserve career from the time he left active duty, rising in rank to full captain with the command of reserve intelligence for all four branches of the military for the western half of the United States.

Damisch completed his reserve tour of duty and retired from the naval reserve last fall.

First authorized by Congress during World War II, the Legion of Merit is America's second highest award.