# GENERAL ORDER 203

## DEPARTMENT AWARDS

**ORDER TYPE:** NEED TO REFER  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 18 APR 2011  
**REVIEW DATE:** ANNUAL

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### PURPOSE
The Purpose of this Order is to establish a formal system to recognize superior conduct or service within the Yale University Police Department.

### POLICY
It is the policy of the Yale University Police Department to formally recognize superior conduct, service or extraordinary contributions to public safety by its members and others through the issuance of department awards.

### ELIGIBILITY
- All members of the Department are eligible to receive recognition upon successful nomination for on or off duty actions.
- Members of other law enforcement agencies are eligible to receive recognition upon successful nomination.
- Members of the community are eligible to receive recognition upon successful nomination.

### AWARDS COMMITTEE
The Chief of Police will appoint a standing Department Awards Committee, to include a member of the YPBA executive board or their designee and a chairperson. All Committee members shall serve their term(s) at the pleasure of the Chief of Police.

The chairperson shall schedule all regular and special meetings, preside at all meetings, and sign all correspondence on behalf of the committee. Three (3) Committee members constitute a quorum.

The Committee has the authority to review nominations for major awards (medals) and:
- Recommend the issuance of a Department Award
- Recommend against the issuance of a Department Award
- Table a nomination pending receipt of additional information

The Chairperson will forward a report to the Chief of Police on the Committee’s actions. This report will include a synopsis of all nominations, the recommendation of the committee on each nomination and nominations tabled or not yet acted upon.

The Chief of Police will review the report of the Chair. The decision of the Chief on each recommendation of the Committee shall be final. The Chief may direct the Chairman of the Committee to award Certificates of Commendation or Community Service Awards without Awards Committee Action.
AWARDS
The following constitute the official medals, awards and criteria of the Yale University Police Department:

MEDAL OF HONOR:
The Medal of Honor is awarded to a sworn police officer who distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty. The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit. The award consists of a medal, certificate and citation bar.

MEDAL OF VALOR:
The Medal of Valor is awarded to a sworn police officer who distinguishes himself or herself by extraordinary heroism not justifying the award of a Medal of Honor. The act or acts of heroism must have been so notable and have involved risk of life so extraordinary as to set the individual apart from his or her comrades. The award consists of a medal, certificate and citation bar.

POLICE CROSS MEDAL:
The Police Cross Medal is awarded to a sworn police officer who, in the line of duty, performing a police function, receives a life threatening or disabling injury. This award is primarily intended to recognize members who are injured as the result of an assault, but the committee may consider injuries from other, non-intentional events such as fires, explosions, collisions, etc., as valid justification. The award consists of a medal, certificate and citation bar.

LIFE SAVING MEDAL:
The Life Saving Medal is awarded to sworn police officers for heroic achievement in the saving of a life. The award consists of a medal, certificate and citation bar.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION:
The Certificate of Commendation is awarded to police employees who perform outstanding and unusually effective police accomplishments beyond normal expectancy. The award consists of a certificate and citation bar.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD:
The Community Service Award is issued to police employees who display extraordinary efforts in serving the community. The award consists of a certificate and a citation bar.

DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD:
The Dedicated Service Ribbon is issued to Department members who have contributed at least five years service and is updated in five year increments. The award consists of a citation bar.
NOMINATION PROCEDURE

- All members of the Department are encouraged to bring acts of commendable service to the attention of supervisory personnel.
- Supervisors will forward nominations to the Chief of Police on a Notation of Commendable Service form.
- All nominations will be accompanied (as best as possible) by evidence of the action or act of commendable service.
- Nominations should be made within (30) days of the event.

ISSUANCE OF AWARDS

The Chief of Police will arrange for appropriate individual, group or department ceremonies.

CITATION BARS

Citation bars will be issued and authorized for wear on the uniform. As of the effective date of this order, only YPD issued citation bars will be authorized.

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<th>OUTSIDE AGENCY</th>
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PER ORDER OF

[Signature]

CHIEF RONNELL A. HIGGINS

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