

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
51704(a)	46 App.:1295d(c)(1).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XIII, §1305(c), as added Pub. L. 101-595, title VII, §712, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2998.
51704(b)	46 App.:1295d(c)(2)(A), (4).	
51704(c)	46 App.:1295d(c)(2)(B), (3).	

In subsection (c)(5), the words “or titled under the law of a State” are substituted for “documented under the laws of . . . any State” for consistency with the terminology in 46 U.S.C. 2101(46) (which is being moved to chapter 1 of the revised title) and 46 U.S.C. ch. 125.

§ 51705. Training for use of force against piracy

The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall certify a training curriculum for United States mariners on the use of force against pirates. The curriculum shall include—

- (1) information on waters designated as high-risk waters by the Commandant of the Coast Guard;
- (2) information on current threats and patterns of attack by pirates;
- (3) tactics for defense of a vessel, including instruction on the types, use, and limitations of security equipment;
- (4) standard rules for the use of force for self-defense as developed by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating under section 912(c) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-281; 46 U.S.C. 8107 note), including instruction on firearm safety for crewmembers of vessels carrying cargo under section 55305 of this title; and
- (5) procedures to follow to improve crewmember survivability if captured and taken hostage by pirates.

(Added Pub. L. 112-213, title V, §502(a), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1574.)

DEADLINE

Pub. L. 112-213, title V, §502(b), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1575, provided that: “The Secretary of Transportation shall certify the curriculum required under the amendment made by subsection (a) [enacting this section] not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 20, 2012].”

CHAPTER 519—MERCHANT MARINE AWARDS

- Sec. 51901. Awards for individual acts or service.
- 51902. Gallant Ship Award.
- 51903. Multiple awards.
- 51904. Presentation to representatives.
- 51905. Flags and grave markers.
- 51906. Special certificates for civilian service to armed forces.
- 51907. Provision of decorations, medals, and replacements¹
- 51908. Prohibition against unauthorized manufacture, sale, possession, or display of awards.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-181, div. C, title XXXV, §3523(a)(5)(B), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 599, substituted

¹ So in original. Probably should be followed by a period.

“Provision of decorations, medals, and replacements” for “Manufacture and sale of awards and replacements.” in item 51907.

§ 51901. Awards for individual acts or service

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Transportation may award decorations and medals of appropriate design (including ribbons, ribbon bars, emblems, rosettes, miniature facsimiles, plaques, citations, or other suitable devices or insignia) for individual acts or service in the merchant marine of the United States. The design may be similar to the design of a decoration or medal authorized for members of the armed forces for similar acts or service.

(b) SPECIFIC AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may award—

- (1) a Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal to an individual for outstanding acts, conduct, or valor beyond the line of duty;
- (2) a Merchant Marine Meritorious Service Medal to an individual for meritorious acts, conduct, or valor in the line of duty, but not of the outstanding character that would warrant the award of the Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal;
- (3) a decoration or medal to an individual for service during a war, national emergency proclaimed by the President or Congress, or operations by the armed forces outside the continental United States under conditions of danger to life and property; and
- (4) a decoration or medal to an individual for other acts or service of conspicuous gallantry, intrepidity, and extraordinary heroism under conditions of danger to life and property that would warrant a similar decoration or medal for a member of the armed forces.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1584.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
51901(a)	46 App.:2001.	Pub. L. 100-324, §§2, 3, 5(d), May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 576, 577.
51901(b)	46 App.:2004(d). 46 App.:2002.	

§ 51902. Gallant Ship Award

(a) AWARDS TO VESSELS.—The Secretary of Transportation may award a Gallant Ship Award and a citation to a vessel (including a foreign vessel) participating in outstanding or gallant action in a marine disaster or other emergency to save life or property at sea. The Secretary may award a plaque to the vessel, and a replica of the plaque may be preserved as a permanent historical record.

(b) AWARDS TO CREWS.—The Secretary of Transportation may award an appropriate citation ribbon bar to the master and each individual serving, at the time of the action, on a vessel issued an award under subsection (a).

(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Transportation shall consult with the Secretary of State before awarding an award or citation to a foreign vessel or its crew under this section.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1584.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51902	46 App.:2003.	Pub. L. 100-324, §4, May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 576.

In subsection (a), the words “a vessel (including a foreign vessel)” are substituted for “a United States vessel or to a foreign-flag vessel” to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 51903. Multiple awards

An individual may not be awarded more than one of any type of decoration or medal under this chapter. For each succeeding act or service justifying the same decoration or medal, a suitable device may be awarded to be worn with the decoration or medal.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1585.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51903	46 App.:2004(a).	Pub. L. 100-324, §5(a), May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 576.

§ 51904. Presentation to representatives

If an individual to be issued an award under this chapter is unable to accept the award personally, the Secretary of Transportation may present the award to an appropriate representative.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1585.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51904	46 App.:2004(b).	Pub. L. 100-324, §5(b), May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 577.

§ 51905. Flags and grave markers

Except as authorized under another law, the Secretary of Transportation may issue, at no cost, a flag of the United States and a grave marker to the family or personal representative of a deceased individual who served in the merchant marine of the United States in support of the armed forces of the United States or its allies during a war or national emergency.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1585.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51905	46 App.:2005.	Pub. L. 100-324, §6, May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 577.

§ 51906. Special certificates for civilian service to armed forces

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Maritime Administrator may issue a special certificate to an individual, or the personal representative of an individual, in recognition of service of that individual in the merchant marine of the United States, if the service has been determined to be active duty under section 401 of the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-202; 38 U.S.C. 106 note).

(b) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Issuance of a certificate under subsection (a) does not entitle an individual to any rights, privileges, or benefits under a law of the United States.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1585.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51906	46 App.:2006.	Pub. L. 100-324, §7, May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 577.

§ 51907. Provision of decorations, medals, and replacements

The Secretary of Transportation may provide—

(1) the decorations and medals authorized by this chapter and replacements for those decorations and medals; and

(2) replacements for decorations and medals issued under a prior law.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1585; Pub. L. 109-163, div. C, title XXXV, §3510, Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3557; Pub. L. 110-181, div. C, title XXXV, §3523(a)(5)(A), (b), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 599, 600.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
51907	46 App.:2004(c).	Pub. L. 100-324, §5(c), May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 577.

The Secretary’s authority to provide decorations and medals at cost, or to authorize the sale of decorations and medals at reasonable prices, is restated to apply only to replacement awards because Congress probably did not intend that recipients being honored would pay for their decorations and medals.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-181, §3523(b), repealed Pub. L. 109-163, §3510. See 2006 Amendment note below.

Pub. L. 110-181, §3523(a)(5)(A), incorporated the substance of the amendment by Pub. L. 109-163, §3510, into this section by amending section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Secretary of Transportation may—

“(1) authorize private persons to manufacture decorations and medals authorized under this chapter or a prior law; and

“(2) provide at cost, or authorize private persons to sell at reasonable prices, replacements for those decorations and medals.”

See 2006 Amendment note below and section 18(a) of Pub. L. 109-304, set out as a Legislative Purpose and Construction note preceding section 101 of this title.

2006—Pub. L. 109-163, §3510, which directed the amendment of section 2004(c) of the former Appendix to this title from which this section was derived, was repealed by Pub. L. 110-181, §3523(b). See 2008 Amendment notes and Historical and Revision notes above.

§ 51908. Prohibition against unauthorized manufacture, sale, possession, or display of awards

(a) PROHIBITION.—Except as authorized by this chapter or the Secretary of Transportation, a person may not manufacture, sell, possess, or display a decoration or medal provided for in this chapter.

(b) CIVIL PENALTY.—A person violating this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$2,000.