From: Commandant of Midshipmen, U.S. Naval Academy

Subj: JOHN JOHNSON AWARD FOR MENTAL TOUGHNESS

Ref: (a) USNANOTE 1650
(b) COMDTMIDNINST 1650.4E

1. Purpose. To establish policy concerning the nomination, selection, and presentation procedures for the John Johnson Award for Mental Toughness.

2. Scope and Applicability. This instruction applies to personnel of the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) involved in the nomination, selection, and presentation of reference (a).

3. Award Contents. The awardee will receive a Naval Officer’s sword, engraved with Midshipman Johnson’s name on one side and their own name on the other; and a $600 customized Luminox Watch, made in the same design as their line of Navy SEAL watches. It will be inscribed with “John Johnson Award for Mental Toughness” on the case back, and bear the USNA Crest and colors on the watch face.

4. Background. After the passing of Midshipman Johnson, his father and family requested to create an award in his honor, to be presented annually in memory of his life and legacy. John Johnson consistently achieved excellence in every aspect of the USNA mission. As a Trident Scholar and Honors Mathematics major, John represented mental toughness through his superior academic achievement. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Association Leadership Award for Academic Year 2019, which is peer-selected by the top ranked midshipmen in each class within each battalion. First Class Johnson was selected for the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) program shortly before his passing. He set the example for what is expected of future officers in the NSW community. The John Johnson Mental Toughness awardee should demonstrate this mental toughness through excellence in leadership, academics, and the physical mission of USNA.

5. Eligibility for Award. In addition to demonstrated success in the academic and physical mission of USNA, the recipient will be selected based on demonstrated resilience and fortitude in the face of adversity. Examples would include a midshipman who overcame significant adversity, who rose to meet an unanticipated challenge, or who persevered and excelled through the everyday “grind” of Academy life. Stories and descriptions of this demonstrated heartiness will be submitted by any Company Officer, Faculty, or Staff across the Yard.
6. **Method of Nomination and Selection.** A call for nominees will be disseminated by the Chair of the Leadership, Ethics, and Law Department. The Chair will then head a selection committee comprised of all NSW and Explosive Ordinance Disposal Faculty and Staff, to determine the recipient based solely on the criteria above.

7. **Procurement and Presentation.** The sword will be procured and engraved using existing authorized funds previously provided by Midshipman 1/C Johnson's father. The Chair of the Leadership, Ethics, and Law Dept. will coordinate the procurement and engraving of the sword, to be presented at the LEAD Division Awards ceremony at the end of each Academic year.

8. **Records Management**

   a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned for the standard subject identification codes (SSIC) 1000 through 13000 series per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx.

   b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact your local records manager or the DON/AA DRMD program office.

9. **Review and Effective Date.** Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, the Deputy Commandant of LEAD will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or canceled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.

   [Signature]

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Releasability and distribution: This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically via the USNA Commandant Web Page, https://www.usna.edu/Commandant/comdinst.php