

**THE MERCENARY GUILD:
THE OFFICIAL FOUR HORSEMEN UNIVERSE FAN ASSOCIATION**



LA MUERTE NEGRA AWARDS GUIDE

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The Mercenary Guild (TMG) is a fan-based organization dedicated to uniting fans of the Four Horsemen Universe, based on the books written by Chris Kennedy and Mark Wandrey. It is TMG's intended purpose to support, promote, and recognize the ideas and philosophies reflected in the 4HU mythos in a fun and "realistic" fashion through organized fandom. La Muerte Negra is a chapter of The Mercenary Guild.

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The contents of this handbook are subject to change without notice. Please check the TMG Website and/or one of the club officers for a copy of the latest version. Notice regarding updates will be announced as soon as practicable in all official TMG communication forums.

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This manual is dedicated to Mark Wandrey, Chris Kennedy, Kacey Ezell, Kevin Ikenberry, Marisa Wolf, and all the other wonderful authors who have allowed us to immerse ourselves in their universe. Our history is a direct result of their phenomenal efforts.

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THE LA MUERTE NEGRA AWARDS GUIDE

Merit Awards available to members of La Muerte Negra

Version 1.0

This document serves as a supplement to “The Mercenary Guild Awards Manual.”

This document lists the ten kinds of awards for meritorious service and accomplishment that are available for the La Muerte Negra company of The Mercenary Guild, the Official Four Horsemen Universe Fan Association.

The awards are:

Precedence	Award	Ribbon	Issued by
1	Order of Supreme Valor		Mercenary Guild Colonel
2	Honore Legioni		LTC Merc Guild Recognitions Department**
3	Dwa Krzyże		LTC Merc Guild Recognitions Department**
4	Order of Valor		Guild Colonel or Merc Guild Department LTCs**
5	Order of Merit		Guild Colonel, Department LTCs, or LMN CO*
6	Guild Commendation Medal		Guild Colonel, Department LTCs, or LMN CO*
7	Guild Achievement Medal		Guild Colonel, Department LTCs, or LMN CO*
8	Legión de Los Muertos		LMN CO*
9	Desert Star		LMN CO*
10	Cochise Stronghold		LMN CO*

*La Muerte Negra Commanding Officer

**LTC = Lieutenant Colonel

The Order of Supreme Valor, the Honore Legioni, the Dwa Krzyże, the Order of Valor, the Order of Merit, the Guild Commendation Medal, and the Guild Achievement Medal are described in “The Mercenary Guild Awards Manual” that is available to members of all Mercenary Guild companies. The remaining three awards that are unique to La Muerte Negra are described in this document.

The “Issued by” column in the list above describes who can issue each award.

Any member of La Muerte Negra may nominate another member for an award.

When deciding which award you should request, evaluate the individual’s meritorious act or service and determine where it falls on the precedence scale. The most prestigious award has precedence “1”, with descending precedence down to “10”. The Order of Supreme Valor and the Honore Legioni are extremely rare throughout the Mercenary Guild, and the Dwa Krzyże is very uncommon. Also, the awarding of the Legión de Los Muertos should be extremely rare.

To nominate an individual for an award, you must prepare an award request. Your request must be sent to:

The Commanding Officer of La Muerte Negra. Use Facebook Messenger or email.

The Colour Sergeant of La Muerte Negra. Use Facebook messenger or email.

The Lieutenant Colonel in charge of the Mercenary Guild Recognitions department

(LTCRecognitions@gmail.com).

Even if the award is to be issued by the La Muerte Negra CO, the policy in the Mercenary Guild is that award requests always be submitted to the Guild Recognitions Department so the LTC in charge has the option of presenting the member a higher level award than the one originally requested.

If the nomination is for an award that is to be presented *to* the La Muerte Negra CO, the award request should be sent to the unit Executive Officer (XO) instead of the CO, and also to the Colour Sergeant and the Recognitions LTC.

If the nomination is for an award that is to be presented to the La Muerte Negra Colour Sergeant, the award request should be sent to the unit Executive Officer (XO) instead of the Colour Sergeant, and also to the LMN CO and the Recognitions LTC.

PREPARING THE AWARD REQUEST

Please provide the following information.

Subject: "Award nomination for [first name and last name], TMG-xx-xxxxx". Identify the member who is the proposed recipient (who the award is for). Include name and Member Number TMG-xx-xxxxx.

The name of the award being requested.

Identify who you wish the award to be issued by.

Identify the nominating individual(s) (your name, plus whoever else is participating in the nomination). Include name and Mercenary Guild Member Number for each.

Provide a description of the specific action or period of activity that merits the award.

Date(s) of meritorious action or activity.

Who was involved.

What happened.

Why it deserves an award.

Witness statement, if this is an act that reasonably should require one. The "why it deserves an award" can also serve as the witness statement if desired.

Any other appropriate documentation that supports an award being merited.

Subject: Award Nomination for Shoreh Patel, TMG-22-01047.

Award Requested: The Desert Star

Request that award be issued by: Commander, La Muerte Negra

Nominated by: Andrew Sivula, Commander, La Muerte Negra, TMG-19-00059.

Action that merits the award: From 15 January 2023 through 15 July 2024, Shoreh served as unit gaming coordinator and unit charity coordinator for the period. Members of the company met several times per month, on average, for gaming and social events lasting several hours each. Shoreh carefully documented all gaming instances during this period for each member, documenting names, hours, and other details, to facilitate the recording of promotion points. During social meetings, Shoreh briefed the company members about ongoing charity initiatives, making it easy for members to participate. Her enthusiasm during the period was an inspiration and contributed directly to the recruitment of four additional company members during this period.

Subject: Award Nomination for Phillip Demarco, TMG-21-00721.

Award Requested: Order of Merit.

Request that award be issued by: Commander, La Muerte Negra

Nominated by: Michael Malotte, Executive Officer, La Muerte Negra, TMG-21-00711.

Action that merits the award: Between April 1st and June 30th this year, Phillip enthusiastically supported the unit garrison challenge for creating as many first-time uniforms as possible. Skilled at creating and sewing garments, Phillip spent more than 150 hours creating La Muerte Negra uniforms for five members of the company. Phillip scheduled sessions for taking measurements, documented the uniform choices for each member. Using donated cloth and sewing supplies, Phillip performed all the sewing work without charging for his services. Phillip completed all five uniforms before the conclusion of the contract, enabling the company to successfully meeting the uniform challenge and score a number of bonus promotion points for each member. His efforts bring himself and the company great credit.

Subject: Award Nomination for Jane Anderson, TMG-20-00352.

Award requested: Honore Legioni with Citation for Heroism.

Request that award be issued by: Mercenary Guild Colonel.

Nominated by: David Fretz, Commander, La Muerte Negra, TMG-19-00054.

Action that merits the award: On September 14th, this year, Jane Anderson had taken the day off work. Around midday, she observed from her backyard patio that her neighbor's house was on fire, with thick smoke pouring out of several windows. Jane quickly dialed 9-1-1 on her cell phone, alerting the fire and rescue services, and ran to the boundary between her yard and her neighbors. From the fence line, she could hear her neighbor's two great danes barking and whimpering from inside her neighbor's garage. Jane knew her neighbor was away from home since he had left her a key to check on the dogs that evening. She observed that the fire was beginning to reach her neighbor's garage. Jane leaped her neighbor's fence and ran to the garage's side door and knocked frantically for a few moments, just in case someone was actually at home, calling her neighbor's name repeatedly. While she was knocking she called her neighbor on her cell phone, reaching Mr. Brown and quickly relating that the house was on fire. She then used the key and opened the garage side door, observing that the garage was filled with smoke and the dogs were visible cowering in a far corner. Jane lowered herself to the ground and rapidly crawled to the dogs. She quickly petted the dogs and gave them a chance to recognize her for a few seconds, which seemed to pull the dogs out of their terrified crouches. She led the dogs outside. The flames began to be visible on the outside of the house so she retreated with the dogs to the front of her own house. When the fire department arrived a minute later she quickly briefed them on the available doors to the house. Jane received an "Alert Citizen" community award from the fire department the following week. Jane's neighbor, Thomas Brown, the owner of the damaged home and the great danes, provided the La Muerte Negra command staff an account of Jane's actions.

Subject: Award Nomination for Alice Ramirez, TMG-19-00288.

Award Requested: Cochise Stronghold.

Request that award be issued by: Commander, La Muerte Negra

Nominated by: Jennie Posthumus, Colour Sergeant, La Muerte Negra, TMG-19-00076.

Michael Malotte, Executive Officer, La Muerte Negra, TMG-21-00711.

David Fretz, Executive Officer, La Muerte Negra, TMG-19-00054.

Action that merits the award: During the month of October last year, Ms. Ramirez designed and made morale patches for the Pioneers unit of La Muerte Negra. Several other members had voiced a desire to have morale patches displayed on their jackets during company meetings. Ms. Ramirez acted on the suggestion and designed an attractive unit patch, with the company name at the top and the unit motto at the bottom. She used a graphics package to create print-ready artwork, then commissioned an embroidery company to create three dozen patches with her own funds, planning to sell them over time at base cost to company members that wanted one. The patches were received with enthusiasm by members of the company, including all three members of the command triad, and contributed significantly to unit esprit de corps.

Subject: Award Nomination for Toni Parker-Lowell, TMG-21-00640.

Award Requested: Order of Valor.

Request that award be issued by: LTC for Recognitions

Nominated by: Andrew Sivula, Commander, La Muerte Negra, TMG-19-00059.

Action that merits the award: During the SciFi Nation Convention in August of this year, Corporal Parker-Lowell honored the La Muerte Negra company and the entire Mercenary Guild by staffing the Mercenary Guild fan club table in the convention atrium for 19 hours over the three days of the convention. They wore either a La Muerte Negra utility uniform or a TMG Cadre service uniform for the entire convention, greeting convention goers and sharing the experience of membership in the Mercenary Guild fan club. They distributed flyers and recorded the name, phone number, and email address for interested candidates. The Mercenary Council coordinator gave a very favorable report of Corporal Parker-Lowell's service and recommended the Corporal for the position of table-supervisor at future conventions.

Subject: Award Nomination for John Jackson, TMG-20-00411.

Award Requested: Order of Merit.

Request that award be issued by: LTC for Recognitions.

Nominated by: Susan LaForte, member of La Muerte Negra, TMG-21-00699.

Action that merits the award: For the period from November 10th last year through March 15th this year, John personally coordinated a charity drive involving La Muerte Negra, and two other companies of the Mercenary Guild. John provided all participants with detailed information for making contributions of cash and goods to support a local food bank. John collected all donated food and clothing goods and made repeated trips to the charity collection station in his county to drop off the donations, coordinating with the charity representatives and receiving receipts and documentation for each donation. John regularly provided status reports and various anecdotes to energize and inspire the companies during the charity drive months.

See attached letters of endorsement from the Commanders of La Muerte Negra, Neptune Rangers, and the Sagittarian SeaBees.

SPECIFIC AWARDS

Descriptions and criteria follow in the sections below for each award that is unique to La Muerte Negra:

The Legión de Los Muertos.

The Desert Star.

Cochise Stronghold.



Legión de Los Muertos
“The Legion of The Dead”
Award for members of La Muerte Negra

Order of Precedence: this award is first (1st) in precedence for La Muerte Negra unique awards, eighth (8th) when counting all Mercenary Guild merit awards. Note that all standard Mercenary Guild award have a higher precedence than this award.

Issuing Authority: La Muerte Negra Chapter Command

Criteria: This award is La Muerte Negra’s highest. It is awarded to a member of the unit who demonstrates exceptionally meritorious service of the highest caliber. This can be due to a single meritorious act involving superior sacrifice and/or effort, or to a sustained period of exceptional service to the unit. The meritorious acts or services must be accomplished or performed in a manner well above that normally expected of a member, and sufficient to distinguish the individual well above those have received The Desert Star or lesser awards. The Legión de Los Muertos shall be awarded rarely and infrequently, to only those whose service has earned this special level of recognition.

Heritage: *The Legión de Los Muertos (Legion of The Dead)* was first awarded to Regimental Sergeant Major (Chief Warrant Officer) Wayne O’Halloran of La Muerte Negra. CWO O’Halloran was a Highlander who was formerly an infantry soldier with the Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada and was an instructor in the Royal Canadian Regiment Battle School until his retirement. A decorated parachute assault veteran, he was coaxed back into service as the top non-commissioned officer for Joint Task Force Pershing, the multinational unit formed to counter the threat posed by the Los Zetas drug cartel that murdered the entire population of Why, Arizona, then sacked and burned the town. After the successful conclusion of that operation he was instrumental in transforming the unit over to the mercenary company **La Muerte Negra** in preparation for a bid on the Alpha Contracts. CWO O’Halloran successfully fielded the first two fully trained platoons for L.M.N. but tragically died during subsequent live fire exercises where he saved the lives of three troopers. The *Legion of the Dead* was created and awarded posthumously to CWO O’Halloran with full military honors.

Notably, the *Legión de Los Muertos* was also presented to Master Warrant Officer Angela Garza and Platoon Sergeant Primero (1SGT) Louis Lopez of L.M.N. **Second (Bravo) Platoon**, both former Mexican Armed Forces parachute fusiliers, following reports of heroic actions those members undertook in support of their unit. Second Platoon was ultimately reported missing with all hands as a conclusion to La Muerte Negra’s first off-world contract, one of the Alpha Contracts for Earth mercenary companies in 2026 C.E. Today, La Muerte Negra’s active members wear a large 20 or 50 Peso coin honoring Second Platoon, chosen as L.M.N.’s participant in the Alpha Contracts based on a fateful coin toss.

Ribbon Attachments: a single Silver Crown device is used, centered on the ribbon. This is the only device attached to the ribbon; stars for multiple awards are not worn. This metal device represents the crown of Queen Elizabeth II (*Monarch of the United Kingdom, of Canada, and of Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, and Defender of the Faith*), honoring CWO O’Halloran, veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces and loyal subject of the Queen. O’Halloran was the first recipient of *The Legión de Los Muertos*. The crown serves to remind L.M.N. members of those before them who paid the ultimate price in the service of the unit, and of the reward in Valhalla that awaits all heroes who meet their test.

Points: This award confers 3 promotion points. [A member receives 3 points for each instance of the award.]



The Desert Star

Award for members of La Muerte Negra

Order of Precedence: this award is second (2nd) in precedence for La Muerte Negra, ninth (9th) when counting all Mercenary Guild merit awards. Note that all standard Mercenary Guild awards have a higher precedence than this award, as does *the Legión de Los Muertos*.

Issuing Authority: La Muerte Negra Chapter Command

Criteria: This is La Muerte Negra's mid-level award. It is awarded to a member of the unit who demonstrates meritorious service of a high caliber. This can be due to a single meritorious act involving significant sacrifice and/or effort, or to a sustained period of superior service to the unit. The meritorious acts or services must be accomplished or performed in a manner well above that normally expected of a member, and sufficient to distinguish the individual above those have received the Cochise Stronghold Award. The Desert Star shall be awarded less frequently than the Cochise Stronghold Award, to those whose service has earned this level of recognition.

Heritage: *The Desert Star* is an award that honors the legacy of La Muerte Negra's formation in Southern Arizona of the United States, in the territory originally obtained from Mexico as part of the "Gadsden Purchase." The colors of the award ribbon honor the browns of the desert basins and mountain ranges of the region, and the orange of the star in the Arizona State Flag.



Ribbon Attachments: a single 5/16" Gold Star, centered on the ribbon, for the first award.
Replace that star with two linked 5/16" gold stars for the second award.
Replace that with three linked 5/16" gold stars for the third award
Replace that with four linked 5/16" gold stars for the fourth award.
No additional stars are added for any award after the fourth.



Points: This award confers 2 promotion points. [A member receives 2 points for each instance of the award.]



Cochise Stronghold Award for members of La Muerte Negra

Order of Precedence: this award is third (3rd) in precedence for La Muerte Negra, tenth (10th) when counting all Mercenary Guild merit awards. Note that all standard Mercenary Guild awards have a higher precedence than this award, as do *the Legión de Los Muertos* and *the Desert Star*.

Issuing Authority: La Muerte Negra Chapter Command

Criteria: This is La Muerte Negra's lowest and most common award. It is awarded to a member of the unit who demonstrates meritorious service of a caliber that does not rise to the level of earning the Desert Star. This can be due to a single meritorious act involving sacrifice and/or effort, or to a sustained period of service to the unit. The meritorious acts or services must be accomplished or performed in a manner well above that normally expected of a member.

Heritage: The Dragoon Mountains are a range of mountains located in Cochise County, Arizona, to the north of the town of Tombstone. The name originates from the 3rd U.S. Cavalry Dragoons who battled the Chiricahua during the United States' Apache Wars. *Cochise Stronghold*, high in the Dragoon Mountains, is a rugged natural fortress that was the home and base of operations for 15 years for the famed Chiricahua Apache Chief, Cochise and his hundreds of warriors. This award honors the Chiricahua Apache scouts that assisted Joint Task Force Pershing during its campaign in southern Arizona and northern Mexico, and later joined La Muerte Negra as Pioneers and airborne soldiers.

Cochise Stronghold uses the colors black and yellow to signify that the members of La Muerte Negra are masters of armored combat in space and on the surface of worlds, in the black of night and in the midday sun. The colors announce that we are death to our enemies and golden to our employers.

Somos La Muerte Negra!...We are the Black Death!

Ribbon Attachments: none for the first award.

Add a 3/16" bronze star, centered on the ribbon, for the second award.

Replace that with two 3/16" bronze stars, centered on the ribbon, for the third award.

Use 3 bronze stars for a fourth award, and four bronze stars for a fifth award.

Replace that with a single 3/16" silver star, centered on the ribbon, for the sixth award.

Use 1 silver star and 1 bronze star for the seventh award.

Use 1 silver star and 2 bronze stars for the eighth award.

Use two silver stars for the 11th award.

Use three silver stars for the 16th award.

Use four silver stars for the 21st award.

Use individual stars, not linked stars, for attachments to this ribbon.

No additional stars are added for any award after the 21st.



Points: This award confers 1 promotion point. [A member receives 1 point for each instance of the award.]