



VERDUGO FIRE ACADEMY

CHALLENGE COIN REGULATIONS



History of the Challenge Coin

The following story, which dates the history of military coins back to the 1st World War, was passed on throughout the network of senior enlisted Marines via email. During World War I, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy young men who left colleges such as Yale and Harvard in order to enlist in the military.

In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered solid bronze medallions embossed with the squadron emblem for every member of his squadron. He carried his medallion in a small leather sack about his neck. Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the lieutenant's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire during a mission. He was forced to land behind enemy lines where he was captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck.

He was eventually taken to a small French town near the front lines where he managed to escape during a night bombardment. During the attack, he donned civilian clothes and fled without personal identification. After escaping, the brave pilot succeeded in avoiding German patrols until he reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land and stumbled into a French Outpost. Unfortunately, the French in this sector had been plagued by German saboteurs, who sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him.

Just in time, the American remembered his leather pouch containing the bronze medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners. When the French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion, they gave the pilot enough time to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him, they gave him a bottle of wine. Eventually the pilot made it back to his squadron, where it became a tradition to ensure all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through a challenge. A service member would ask to see the coin. If the challenger could not produce his coin, he was required to purchase a drink of choice for the member who had challenged him.

If the challenged member produced his coin, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink. This tradition continued through the war and for many years after while surviving members of the squadron were still alive. Today, military service members often trade these coins while deployed. In some cases a coin can be earned meritoriously for a job well done. Regardless of how they are required, the history of the challenge coin remains a part of military tradition, and Marines will continue to display them proudly for years to come.



VERDUGO FIRE ACADEMY

CHALLENGE COIN REGULATIONS



VFA Coin Regulations

1. (2) coins per Cadet upon certification. Coins shall be presented to all VFA Cadets at a time that all Cadets have certified.
2. VFA Staff/Instructors receive (1) coin
3. Coins should be presented along with plaques to outside agencies that support the VFA training;. Chevron, Miramar, LA Co. etc.
4. The coins going to these agencies should only be given to the personnel that are directly involved with the training.
5. A copy of the history of the challenge coin to be presented along with the coin (tradition)
6. A copy of challenge coin rules also presented along with coin (tradition)
7. Coins may be presented to special guest an example would be someone from a fire department that has talked to the VFA for recruitment purposes, guests lecturers, visiting chief officers, etc.
8. Additional coins may be handed out at the discretion of the Academy Director and Academy Coordinator.
9. A log of all coins presented to be kept for accountability. The log is to be kept on the desktop in the VFA office (may also be kept in a written logbook in the VFA office.)



VERDUGO FIRE ACADEMY

CHALLENGE COIN REGULATIONS



Challenge Rules

1. Challenge is made by displaying your VFA Coin first.
2. The VFA member challenged must produce the VFA Coin within 1 minute of Challenge.
3. If the VFA member challenged has a VFA Coin, the challenger is obligated to perform 10 Push-ups (and buy a drink).

Exceptions:

- If the challenged member's coin has a lower class number than challenger's coin, the member challenged wins. In other words, coins have power and significant according to the number on the coin.
 - The generic, 1st edition VFA coin has the least significant over any other coin.
 - Special issue coins (those issued by an individual Instructor with the Instructors name and/or rank on it, take precedence over all other coins. In the case of two Instructor coins being presented, the coin bearing the name and rank of the highest rank member wins,
4. If the challenged VFA member does not have a VFA Coin they are obligated to perform 10 Highly Motivated Truly Dedicated Push-ups! (Three count VFA push-ups)
 5. If the VFA member challenged does not have a VFA coin in their possession at the time of the challenge, they may recite the VFA Creed for immunity from the challenge. The VFA Creed is to be recited in the first person for challenge purposes only. This rule is only valid for Cadets, not Instructors.
 6. Any VFA Member can participate in a challenge. In regards to Cadets that have not yet earned the coin, the Creed shall be the acceptable response.
 7. VFA members may be challenged at any time and especially at special events. So ensure that you carry your coin with you at all times and be ready to challenge and be challenged!

Definition:

VFA Member – Any VFA Cadet, current or past and all Instructors including Staff



VERDUGO FIRE ACADEMY

CHALLENGE COIN REGULATIONS



VFA Creed

Who are we?

Verdugo Fire Academy Cadets

What Class?

Class Eleven

What do we do?

We are committed to saves lives and protect property;
It is our duty to serve our community to the best of our ability;
We courageously risk our lives to save others;
We are professionals;
We are firefighters to the end;
We will never forget and we will always honor;
Verdugo Fire Academy;
Courage, Commitment, Professionalism

VFA Creed (modified)

I am a Verdugo Fire Academy Cadet- Class _____

I am committed to saves lives and protect property;

It is my duty to serve my community to the best of my ability;

I courageously risk my life to save others;

I am a professional;

I am a firefighter to the end;

I will never forget and I will always honor;

Verdugo Fire Academy;

Courage, Commitment, Professionalism