



FSA Bravery

the briefly lived Federation of South Arabia instituted Order of the South Arabia and medals for Gallantry, Military Service and a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. With the departure, from the south, of the British in 1967, all of the local awards became obsolete and the socialist regime instated its own series of awards with the primary awards being the Orders of the Revolution (14 October), Bravery, Corrective Movement (22 June), Independence (30 November), Devotion, The Earth, Friendship of Peoples and the Hero of Yemen

Star. These awards were manufactured in Moscow, Berlin and Budapest. With the unification of Yemen all awards became obsolete and a new series of awards were instituted to serve the newly unified nation – the Republic of Yemen. These were formally instituted by Republican Resolution for Act No. 41 of 1991 in respect of Orders & Medals. In order of seniority the awards of the nation are as follows: Order of the Republic; Order of 22nd May (to commemorate unification); Order of 26th September (1962 Revolution); Order of the 14th October (1964 Revolution) and the Order of 30th November (1967 Independence). In addition there are various civilian and military awards.

As can be seen from this very brief resume there is a very complex history to the current Yemeni system of honours and awards. All of the awards I have mentioned recognise the service, either civil or military, to the nation that has become the Republic of Yemen. The study of these awards provides a great historical insight into the development of the unified nation over the past hundred years.

Draft OMSA PDRY
Order of Bravery

- Do you have other studies and researched in the future. In which field are they and why?

In general my interest in medals covers the awards of the Arab world but I have researched further afield into other Muslim awards and a particular interest I have concerns the awards of Imam Shamil of Chechnya and Daghestan from the 1840's and 1850's – these awards represent the one of the first formal system of honours of the Muslim world and I hope to have a book published on these awards in the near future. Over the past few years I have had the good fortune to have published many articles on the awards of the Arab world in the journals of both the British and American medal collecting societies. These articles include research on the awards of



Lahej Star



Order of the Republic

various historical parts of the Arab world – the Kingdom of the Hijaz, the Kingdom of Iraq, the Kingdom of Egypt and the Sultanate of Oman from the time of Sultan Taimour – the grandfather of the Sultan Qaboos. Research on more modern awards include the awards of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – the latter is particularly complex including awards relating to individual emirates – Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ras Al Khaima and Umm Al Qwain. With regard to the awards of Yemen I am currently working on a draft for the awards of the Yemen Arab Republic and also the now unified Republic of Yemen.

In general the main obstacle that I face is the lack of published sources on the awards of the Arab world and usually I try and get copies of the laws instituting awards but at times even this is difficult. Of course I would like to expand my collection to include examples of all of the awards of Yemen but this is an impractical hope as many are only awarded to very distinguished individuals such as Heads of State, Ministers and senior military and civil personnel – pictures will have to suffice. I have though been fortunate to meet with Staff Colonel Sharaf Ghaleb Luqman the Director of the Military Museum in Sana'a who along with Lt. Ali Mohammed Al Taefi have helped me in my research.

- Do you plan to visit Yemen again?

I always look forward to visiting Yemen again and meeting up with old and new friends and I hope next to visit in early 2010. By this time I hope to have completed my draft on the awards of the Yemen Arab Republic and made progress in my research on the awards of the Republic of Yemen.