



# Department of Defense **INSTRUCTION**

**NUMBER** 1348.19

February 3, 2014

Incorporating Change 1, Effective May 5, 2020

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USD(P&R)

**SUBJECT:** Award of Medals, Trophies, Badges, and Similar Honors in Recognition of Accomplishments

**References:** See Enclosure 1

1. **PURPOSE.** This instruction reissues DoD Directive 1348.19 (Reference (a)) as a DoD instruction in accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5124.02 (Reference (b)) and implements section 1125 of Title 10, United States Code (Reference (c)) to establish policy, assign responsibilities, and prescribe procedures for awarding medals, trophies, badges, and similar honors to members, units, or agencies of the Military Services and DoD units for excellence in accomplishments or Service-related competitions.

2. **APPLICABILITY.** This instruction applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (referred to collectively in this instruction as the "DoD Components").

3. **POLICY.** It is DoD policy that:

- a. Medals, trophies, badges, and similar honors will be awarded as uniformly as possible.
- b. Accomplishments or competitions recognized in accordance with this instruction will be officially established and announced, and should recur regularly.
- c. Awards may be given on a one-time basis where the accomplishment is unique and clearly contributes to increased effectiveness or efficiency of service.
- d. Cash prizes awarded in accordance with Subchapter 451 of DoD Instruction 1400.25 (Reference (d)) are specifically excluded from this instruction.

#### 4. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and Force Management. Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and Force Management develops policy and monitors compliance with this instruction.

b. DoD Components Heads. The DoD Component heads:

(1) Exercise the authority granted to the Secretary of Defense by Reference (c) to use appropriated funds to purchase medals, trophies, badges, and similar honors to be awarded to Service members and units under their jurisdiction. This authority may be further delegated only to:

(a) Senior Service commanders.

(b) Heads of elements of the Joint Staff for directly related accomplishments.

(2) Issue implementing guidance as appropriate to ensure that the competition, criteria, and awarding of trophies and similar honors is documented and is as uniform as possible.

#### 5. PROCEDURES

a. The selection process for awards must be coordinated to prevent one individual or unit from receiving multiple awards when other candidates are equally qualified.

b. Defense Agency and DoD Field Activity-wide trophies and similar honors must be prominently and appropriately displayed.

6. RELEASABILITY. **Cleared for public release.** This instruction is available on the Directives Division Website at <https://www.esd.whs.mil/DD/>.

7. SUMMARY OF CHANGE 1. The change to this issuance updates references and removes expiration language in accordance with current Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense direction.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This instruction is effective February 3, 2014.

  
Jessica L. Wright  
Acting Under Secretary of Defense for  
Personnel and Readiness

Enclosure  
References

ENCLOSURE

REFERENCES

- (a) DoD Directive 1348.19, "Award of Trophies and Similar Devices in Recognition of Accomplishments," May 12, 1989 (hereby cancelled)
- (b) DoD Directive 5124.02, "Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R))," June 23, 2008
- (c) Section 1125 of Title 10, United States Code
- (d) DoD Instruction 1400.25, Volume 451, "Awards," November 4, 2013