



DoD INSTRUCTION 1348.33

DoD MILITARY DECORATIONS AND AWARDS PROGRAM

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Purpose: In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive (DoDD) 5124.02, this issuance establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and provides procedures for administering the DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program.

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SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

1.1. APPLICABILITY. This issuance applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands (CCMDs), the Office of 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 as the “DoD Components”).

1.2. POLICY. It is DoD policy that:

a. Service members serving in a DoD Component, through the DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program:

(1) Will be recognized with the applicable personal military decorations (PMDs) for qualifying acts of valor, non-combat heroism, or meritorious service or achievement. Eligibility criteria for DoD-wide PMDs and DoD joint decorations and awards are specified in Volumes 1, 3, and 4 of DoD Manual (DoDM) 1348.33.

(2) Will be recognized with the applicable DoD-wide campaign, expeditionary, or service (CE&S) medal for qualifying service in military campaigns, expeditions, or other significant military operations, and for otherwise meritorious military service. Eligibility criteria for CE&S medals are specified in Volume 2 of DoDM 1348.33.

b. Military units, through the DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program, will be recognized with the applicable unit award for qualifying meritorious combat service or specific achievements.

c. No PMD, medal, or device in place thereof, may be awarded or presented to a person whose service after they distinguished themselves has not been honorable in accordance with Section 1136 of Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), and Section 8 of this issuance.

d. Individual members and units of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations may be recognized with a PMD or valorous unit award, respectively, in accordance with Section 9 of this issuance provided the valorous acts, non-combat heroism, extraordinary achievement, or meritorious service:

(1) Were of significant benefit to the United States; or

(2) Materially contributed to the successful prosecution of a DoD military operation or campaign.

e. Decorations and awards proffered to members of the military services or military units by foreign governments may be accepted only in recognition of combat service, or outstanding or unusually meritorious performance. Activities normally undertaken by the Military Services in support of a friendly foreign nation during peacetime are not considered sufficient to merit

foreign individual or unit decorations. Refer to Section 10 of this issuance for additional information regarding acceptance of foreign decorations and awards.

f. Military decorations and awards:

(1) May be awarded posthumously in accordance with applicable statute, Executive orders (E.O.s), or policy for the specific decoration or award. Refer to Volumes 1 through 4 of DoDM 1348.33 for additional guidance for specific awards.

(2) Will be replaced in accordance with Sections 1135, 7277, 7281, 8303, and 9281 of Title 10, U.S.C., and Section 12 of this issuance.

g. Commissioned officers of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) may be awarded military ribbons, decorations, and service medals in accordance with Section 213 of Title 42, U.S.C., the December 30, 1992 Presidential memorandum on awarding military decorations to commissioned officers of the USPHS, and Section 13 of this issuance.

h. The Institute of Heraldry, Department of the Army, establishes regulations and standards governing control in the manufacture and quality assurance of U.S. military medals and ribbons. U.S. medals and ribbons will only be produced by manufacturers certified by the Institute of Heraldry.

(1) With the exception of the Medal of Honor (MOH), all full-size and miniature military medals may be sold commercially in accordance with Parts 507.6 through 507.9 of Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) The MOH and all accessories of the MOH are controlled items and not authorized for commercial sale.

i. Recipients of the MOH, Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), Navy Cross (NX), Air Force Cross (AFC), and Silver Star Medal (SSM) will be added to the DoD Valor Website (located at <https://valor.defense.gov/>) in accordance with Section 14 of this issuance unless national security or privacy considerations preclude such publicity. The appropriate member of Congress (MOC) will be notified regarding awards of the MOH, DSC, NX, AFC, and SSM in accordance with Section 15 of this issuance.

1.3. SUMMARY OF CHANGE 7. The change to this issuance is administrative and updates language to comply with Executive Order 14168.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS (ASD(M&RA)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)), the ASD(M&RA):

a. Oversees the:

(1) DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program.

(2) Management of the DoD Valor Website located at <https://valor.defense.gov>.

b. Ensures the DoD Components' implementing guidance adheres to pertinent statute, E.O.s, Federal regulations, and DoD policy.

c. Adjudicates exception to policy (ETP) requests not specifically delegated to personnel in Paragraphs 2.2. through 2.11.

d. Establishes policy and procedures regarding the acceptance, retention, and authority to wear decorations proffered by foreign governments.

e. Approves:

(1) United Nations Medals (UNM) for specific United Nations (UN) missions and actions for acceptance and wear by Service members.

(2) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) campaign and service medals for specific NATO operations and actions.

(3) Regulations and instructions submitted by the Military Departments regarding award and eligibility criteria for the SSM, Legion of Merit (LOM), Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC), Purple Heart (PH), Bronze Star Medal (BSM), or the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) in accordance with E.O.s 13830, 11016, 11046, and 11448.

(4) Requests from DoD Component heads, who are also Service members, to accept decorations or awards from foreign governments.

f. Requests annual CJCS review of DoD CE&S medals for currency to ensure that CE&S medals continue to appropriately recognize Service members pursuant to applicable statutes, E.O.s, Federal regulations, and DoD policy.

2.2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS. Under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R), the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs acts as the awarding authority for DoD CE&S medals to USPHS officers assigned, attached, or detailed for full-time duty to:

- a. OSD.
- b. DoD Field Activities.
- c. Defense Agencies.
- d. Joint duty activities that report directly to OSD Principal Staff Assistants.
- e. The Joint Staff or agencies and activities reporting through the CJCS, including the CCMDs.

2.3. PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OFFICER AND DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT (PIO/DA&M). The PIO/DA&M:

a. Processes all individual DoD joint PMD recommendations not administered by the CJCS or Combatant Commanders (CCDRs), including all Defense Distinguished Service Medals (DDSMs), and other DoD joint PMDs originating from within OSD, the Defense Agencies, and the DoD Field Activities.

b. Adjudicates:

(1) Individual ETP requests for all DoD joint PMD recommendations not managed by the CJCS. This authority may be delegated to the Director, Washington Headquarters Services (WHS), but may not be delegated further.

(2) Joint Meritorious Unit Award (JMUA) recommendations for joint duty activities that do not report directly to or through the CJCS, including ETP requests. This authority may be delegated to the Director, WHS, but may not be delegated further.

(3) Requests for award authority delegation for DoD joint PMDs based on existing policy for joint duty activities that do not report directly to or through the CJCS.

c. Provides guidance governing issuance of the OSD Identification Badge.

d. Procures, administers, and issues the OSD Identification Badge.

2.4. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY (USD(P)). The USD(P):

a. Processes LOM recommendations for foreign personnel requiring Secretary of State concurrence in accordance with E.O. 13830 and to that end will:

(1) Obtain a statement of concurrence from the Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designated representative, for each award recommendation.

(2) Request that the Department of State (DoS) get the applicable foreign country's clearance for the United States to award the PMD to the nominee, if necessary.

b. Provides, upon the ASD(M&RA)'s request, a recommendation regarding the merit of DoD approving any foreign CE&S medals offered for award to Service members by a foreign country, government, or organization (excluding the UN and NATO).

2.5. DIRECTOR, DIA. Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security and in addition to the responsibilities in Paragraph 2.8., the Director, DIA, reviews recommendations and provides statements of concurrence for award of U.S. military decorations to foreign personnel in accordance with procedures in Section 9 of this issuance.

2.6. DIRECTOR, DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY. Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and in addition to the responsibilities in Paragraph 2.8., the Director, Defense Logistics Agency procures and stocks DoD joint PMDs for procurement by the DoD Components.

2.7. DIRECTOR, DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY (DTRA). Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, and in addition to the responsibilities in Paragraph 2.8., the Director, DTRA is responsible for establishing and managing the DoD's Atomic Veterans Service Certificate (AVSC) Program in accordance with guidance contained in Section 17 of this issuance.

2.8. DOD COMPONENT HEADS. The DoD Component heads:

a. Approve or deny acceptance of decorations or awards from foreign governments for Service members, military units, or activities of their components. If the recipient of the foreign decoration or award is a Service member and a DoD Component head, the request for acceptance must be forwarded to the ASD(M&RA).

b. Develop Component procedures to comply with Section 10 of this issuance for the acceptance, retention, and wearing of decorations offered by foreign governments.

2.9. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS. In addition to the responsibilities in Paragraph 2.8., the Secretaries of the Military Departments:

a. Personally endorse their Department's MOH recommendations to the Secretary of Defense.

b. Establish policies and procedures in their respective Departments to ensure compliance with pertinent statutes, E.O.s, Federal regulations, and the policies and procedures outlined in this instruction.

c. Ensure Military Department and Service award guidance (e.g., regulations, instructions, manuals) specifically references this issuance and any supporting guidance.

- d. Submit any proposed changes to internal Military Department guidance regarding criteria and eligibility for the SSM, LOM, DFC, PH, BSM, or the MSM for approval to the ASD(M&RA), in accordance with E.O.s 11016, 11046, 11448, and 13830.
- e. Ensure approved decorations and awards are recorded in official military personnel files.
- f. Establish means to measure valor award timeliness in comparison to goals and standards outlined in Section 4.
- g. Provide updates to the ASD(M&RA) through the Director, Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management (OEPM), for the DoD Valor Website in accordance with Section 14 of this issuance.
- h. Comply with the provisions of Section 1130 of Title 10, U.S.C., regarding proposals for the award or presentation of a decoration (or the upgrading of a decoration), either for an individual or unit, that is not otherwise authorized to be presented or awarded due to limitations established by law or policy.
- i. Enforce the DoD's rights to prevent the unauthorized incorporation of designs or likenesses of approved designs in commercial articles of all DoD medals, decorations, and the Gold Star Lapel Button by third parties.

2.10. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY. In addition to the responsibilities in Paragraphs 2.8. and 2.9., the Secretary of the Army:

- a. Prescribes regulations governing control, manufacture, and quality of heraldic items authorized by Section 7594 of Title 10, U.S.C., and advises other Federal departments and agencies on matters of heraldry.
- b. Administers the Cold War Certificate of Recognition (CWCRC) Program in accordance with the June 18, 1998 Secretary of Defense Memorandum that designated the Secretary of the Army as the Executive Agent for the CWCRC.

2.11. CJCS. In addition to the responsibilities in Paragraph 2.8., the CJCS:

- a. Processes all DoD joint PMD and JMUA recommendations for Service members and units assigned to the Office of the CJCS and the Joint Staff in accordance with procedures outlined in Volumes 2 through 4 of DoDM 1348.33.
- b. Adjudicates individual ETP requests regarding:
 - (1) Award of the Defense Superior Service Medal (DSSM) and below to Service members assigned to joint commands or organizations reporting to or through the CJCS, to include the CCMDs.

(2) Award of JMUAs to joint commands or organizations reporting to or through the CJCS, to include the CCMDs.

c. Recommends to the Secretary of Defense, through the USD(P&R), the establishment of new campaign medals and designation of military operations for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Expeditionary Medal, GWOT Service Medal, and Armed Forces Service Medal.

d. Upon the ASD(M&RA)'s request, annually reviews CE&S medals for currency and makes recommendations to the ASD(M&RA) whether:

(1) Any new campaign medals should be created.

(2) Any existing campaign medals should be terminated or transitioned to an expeditionary medal.

(3) Any new campaign phases are warranted for existing campaign medals.

(4) Any existing expeditionary medals should be terminated or transitioned to the Armed Forces Service Medal.

(5) The periods of award are correct for any military operation associated with a CE&S medal.

(6) The geographic areas of eligibility and military operation(s) associated with CE&S medals are correct and still meet applicable medal eligibility criteria.

SECTION 3: AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

3.1. PMDS; CE&S MEDALS; AND UNIT AWARDS.

a. Overall Restrictions.

(1) In general, only one decoration or service medal of the same type (PMD, CE&S medal, or unit award) is authorized for the same act, achievement, or period of service.

(a) A PMD for valor, heroism, or specific achievement within a longer period of meritorious service is not considered duplication, provided the citation for the meritorious service or the accompanying documentation justifying the award does not cite any of the actions for which the valor, heroism, or specific achievement PMD was awarded.

(b) A PMD for deployed meritorious service (e.g., BSM) within a longer period of service is not considered duplication, provided the citation or the accompanying documentation justifying an award for the longer period of meritorious service does not cite any of the actions for which the deployed meritorious service PMD was awarded.

(c) Receipt of a unit award or CE&S medal for a given period does not preclude an individual from receiving a PMD for the same period.

(2) Typically the most appropriate means to recognize Service members serving in any capacity with the DoD Components, including those assigned to non-military organizations, is through the DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program. Service members:

(a) Must be recognized for acts of valor with a military decoration for valor. Service members are not authorized to wear non-military decorations or awards specifically intended to recognize valorous actions on their military uniform.

(b) Are not authorized to wear non-military decorations or awards specifically intended to recognize participation in campaigns, expeditions, or fulfillment of specific service requirements on their military uniform.

(c) May only accept non-military decorations and awards in accordance with procedures outlined in Section 11 of this issuance.

(3) The decision to recommend an individual for a PMD must be performance-based. It must not be based solely on the completion of a tour of duty or deployment, nor based solely on the individual's grade.

b. PMDs and the PH.

(1) PMDs include individual awards for valor, meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions, remote impacts on combat operations, non-combat heroism, and non-combat meritorious service or achievement. Table 1 lists the PMDs and their authorized uses.

Table 1. PMDs and Authorized Uses.

Title of Decoration	Valor Only	Valor “V” Device	Meritorious Service or Achievement Under Combat Conditions, “C”	Remote Combat Impacts “R” Device	Non-Combat Heroism	Other Specific Achievement	Other Meritorious Service
MOH ¹	•						
DSC (Army)	•						
NX	•						
AFC	•						
DDSM			•			•	•
Distinguished Service Medal ¹			•			•	•
SSM	•						
DSSM			•	•		•	•
LOM			•	•		•	•
DFC		•	•		•	•	
Soldier’s Medal ²					•		
Navy and Marine Corps Medal ²					•		
Airman’s Medal ²					•	•	•
BSM ³		•					
Defense Meritorious Service Medal (DMSM) ⁴				•		•	•
MSM ⁴				•		•	•
Air Medal		•	•		•	•	•
Joint Service Commendation Medal (JSCM)		•	•	•	•	•	•
Military Department-specific Commendation Medals ⁵		•	•	•	•	•	•
Joint Service Achievement Medal (JSAM) ⁶			•	•		•	•
Military Department-specific Achievement Medals ^{6, 7}			•	•		•	•

¹. Each Military Department has its own distinct design of this medal.

² The “V” and “C” devices are not authorized; these PMDs are awarded for non-combat heroism. If the heroism to be recognized was performed under combat conditions, a PMD for valor is the appropriate award. This determination must be made solely on the specific circumstances of the event. The fact that the heroic act occurred within a combat zone, a combat zone tax exclusion area, or an area designated for imminent danger pay (IDP), hostile fire pay (HFP), or hazardous duty pay (HDP) does not satisfy the definition of “under combat conditions”.

³ The “C” device is not authorized. All awards for non-valorous achievement or service must satisfy the requirements for personal exposure to hostile action or significant risk of exposure to hostile action.

⁴ The “V” and “C” devices are not authorized. These medals are of equivalent level to the BSM. Accordingly, if the achievement or service was performed under combat conditions, the BSM is the appropriate award.

⁵. Includes Army Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Air Force Commendation Medal.

⁶. Achievement medals are not authorized for award to recognize combat valor.

⁷. Includes Army Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Air Force Achievement Medal.

- (a) Refer to Section 4 for information on PMDs for individual acts of valor.
- (b) Refer to Section 5 for information on PMDs for meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions.
- (c) Refer to Section 6 for information on PMDs for remote combat impacts.
- (d) Refer to Volumes 1, 3, and 4 of DoDM 1348.33 for additional guidance regarding specific PMDs.

(2) Eligibility for the PH differs from other PMDs. Service members are entitled to the PH upon determination by the Military Department Secretary concerned that the award criteria were met. Refer to Volume 3 of DoDM 1348.33 for additional information regarding the PH.

c. CE&S Medals. CE&S medals (Table 2) recognize Service members for participation in military campaigns, expeditions, or other significant military operations, and for otherwise meritorious military service. Section 7 of this issuance provides additional information regarding CE&S medals. Unless otherwise stated, eligibility for CE&S medals differs from PMDs in that Service members are not recommended for DoD CE&S medals, but are authorized award based on confirmation that eligibility criteria were met through service record verification. Eligibility criteria for CE&S medals are specified in Volume 2 of DoDM 1348.33.

Table 2. CE&S Medals.

Title of Decoration¹	Sub-category of CE&S Medals
Southwest Asia Service Medal ²	Campaign Medal
Kosovo Campaign Medal	Campaign Medal
Afghanistan Campaign Medal	Campaign Medal
Iraq Campaign Medal	Campaign Medal
Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal	Campaign Medal
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal	Expeditionary Medal
GWOT Expeditionary Medal	Expeditionary Medal
Antarctic Service Medal	Deployed Service Medal
Armed Forces Service Medal	Deployed Service Medal
Korea Defense Service Medal	Deployed Service Medal
National Defense Service Medal	Individual Service Medal
Armed Forces Reserve Medal	Individual Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal	Individual Service Medal
Prisoner of War Medal	Individual Service Medal
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal	Individual Service Medal
GWOT Service Medal	Individual Service Medal
¹ This list is not all inclusive. Military Departments also have CE&S medals (e.g., Navy Expeditionary Medal; Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon).	
² Before DoD established comprehensive CE&S medal policy, the naming conventions for DoD CE&S medals was inconsistent. This resulted in several medals with names and eligibility criteria that do not match the CE&S medal category to which they are assigned.	

d. Unit Awards. Unit awards (Table 3) must not be awarded based on the actions of a few individuals or subordinate units within the larger unit. Refer to Volumes 3 and 4 of DoDM 1348.33 for additional information regarding unit awards.

Table 3. Unit Awards

Title of Decoration¹	Category of Award
Presidential Unit Citation ²	DoD-wide unit award
Joint Meritorious Unit Award	DoD joint unit award
¹ This list is not all inclusive. The Military Departments also have unit awards (e.g., Valorous Unit Award–Army; Navy Unit Commendation; Air Force Gallant Unit Citation).	
² Each Military Department has a distinct design of the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon.	

3.2. REQUIREMENTS FOR REVIEWING RECOMMENDATIONS.

a. Recommendations for decorations and awards must be reviewed if they are placed into official channels in accordance with the statute, Executive order, and regulatory guidance for that particular award.

b. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned must, upon a MOC request in accordance with Section 1130 of Title 10, U.S.C., review a proposal for the award or upgrade of a previously awarded decoration, either for an individual or a unit, that is not otherwise authorized to be presented or awarded due to time limitations established by law or policy.

(1) Determinations under this section must be made in accordance with the same procedures applicable to recommendations submitted in a timely manner as prescribed by law or regulation. Refer to Volumes 1, 3, and 4 of DoDM 1348.33 for information regarding specific military decorations.

(2) The Secretary of the Military Department concerned must make a determination as to the merits of approving the award. Upon making a determination, the Secretary concerned must submit a detailed discussion of the rationale supporting the determination to the Senate Armed Services Committee, House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, and requesting MOC. If the determination includes a favorable recommendation for the award of the MOH, the Secretary of Defense, instead of the Secretary of the Military Department concerned, submits the rationale to the Senate Armed Services Committee, House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, and requesting MOC.

c. Recommendations requesting the upgrade or revocation of a previously approved award, or reconsideration of a previously reviewed award recommendation, require:

(1) Presentation of new, substantive, and relevant material evidence that was not available or known at the time the original recommendation was considered. For upgrade requests, the information forming the basis for upgrade must have been previously unknown and not considered by the awarding authority. New information that merely adds details to what was previously provided in the original award recommendation will not meet the “new and relevant” requirement; or

(2) Evidence of material error or impropriety in the processing or adjudication of the original award recommendation. Examples might include loss of accompanying or substantiating documents or witness statements during the original routing of the recommendation; clearly incorrect application of official policy; or substantiated discrimination based on sex, religion, or race.

(a) Any conclusion that material error or impropriety occurred must be supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

(b) For MOH nominations previously considered by the Secretary of Defense or Secretary of a Military Department:

1. The Secretary of Defense determines whether material error or impropriety existed in any prior award case adjudicated within OSD.

2. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned determines whether material error or impropriety existed in any case previously adjudicated within their Department. This authority must not be delegated.

3.3. DOD JOINT PMDS AND THE JMUA.

a. Unless otherwise stated, only Service members assigned to a joint duty activity (JDA) or joint task force (JTF) headquarters, are eligible for the DoD joint PMDs. The DoD joint PMDs are the DDSM, DSSM, DMSM, JSCM, and JSAM.

(1) For JTF headquarters, DoD joint PMD eligibility is limited to the JTF commander, members of the JTF commander's staff, and members assigned, attached, or detailed to the JTF headquarters as individuals (not as members of a Service unit).

(2) Individual mobilization augmentees assigned to a JDA or JTF headquarters are eligible for DoD joint PMDs.

(3) Service members attached, detailed, or assigned on temporary orders to a JDA or JTF as individuals are eligible for DoD joint PMDs for outstanding achievement. Such impact awards, also referred to as meritorious achievement awards, should be rare and only awarded for truly outstanding achievement.

(4) Service members permanently assigned to staff or faculty positions of joint Service schools are eligible for DoD joint PMDs; students of joint Service or Service-specific schools are not.

(5) Members of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations assigned, detailed, or attached to a JDA or JTF are eligible for the DMSM, JSCM, and JSAM. See Section 9 of this issuance for further guidance on awards to members of foreign militaries.

(6) Being under the operational control of a JDA or JTF does not constitute eligibility for a DoD joint PMD or the JMUA.

(7) Members of Military Service-specific units (i.e., Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space Force) assigned or attached to a JDA or JTF, or under the operational control of a JDA or JTF, are not eligible for DoD joint PMDs or the JMUA, but retain eligibility for PMDs and unit awards from their respective parent Military Service.

(a) Personnel assigned to Military Service Components that are subsequently attached to a JDA or JTF for administrative or exercise purposes are not eligible for DoD joint PMDs or the JMUA.

(b) Individual Service members performing as part of a unit whose mission is Military Service-specific (e.g., mobile training teams) are not eligible for DoD joint PMDs or the JMUA.

b. Eligibility for DoD joint PMDs or the JMUA does not constitute eligibility for joint duty assignment credit in accordance with Section 668 of Title 10, U.S.C.

c. DoD joint PMDs are typically awarded for meritorious service, recognizing an individual's entire period of assignment to a JDA or JTF headquarters. Under exceptional circumstances DoD joint PMDs may be awarded as impact awards to recognize a specific act or outstanding achievement separate and distinct from regularly assigned duties.

(1) Impact award recommendations should be submitted only when the achievement is of such magnitude that delaying such recognition until completion of the individual's tour of duty would diminish the significance of the recognition.

(2) Only under the most unusual circumstances will the DDSM, DSSM, or DMSM be awarded as an impact award for outstanding achievement to members temporarily assigned to a JDA or JTF headquarters. The DDSM, DSSM, and DMSM are intended to recognize an individual's accomplishments over a sustained period.

d. DoD joint PMDs may **not** be awarded to any Service member for an act, achievement, or period of service for which a Service-specific PMD has been awarded. Likewise, no Service-specific PMD may be awarded to a Service member for an act, achievement, or period of service for which a DoD joint PMD has been awarded.

e. Service members who meet DoD joint PMD eligibility criteria may be awarded a DoD joint PMD upon separation or retirement.

(1) Retirement must not be used to justify a higher level decoration than the actual Service member's service or achievement in the JDA or JTF assignment supports.

(a) The period of award must only cover the member's tenure in the joint assignment.

(b) Award recommendations must be based purely on the nominee's achievements or service during their current joint tour, and not on the nominee's previous assignments or entire career.

(2) In lieu of a DoD joint PMD, a Service member may be awarded a PMD from their parent Military Service if the Service member's retirement from military service coincides with the conclusion of their JDA or JTF assignment. However, this exception does not permit a Service member to receive multiple PMDs for the same period of service.

f. Unless otherwise stated, a Service member who is individually assigned, detailed, or attached to a JDA or JTF will not be recommended for a PMD through their parent or a sister Service unless an appropriate DoD joint PMD does not exist.

(1) DoD joint PMDs will not be used to recognize valorous acts meriting recognition above the JSCM-level. Members assigned to JDAs or JTFs who perform valorous acts warranting recognition above the JSCM-level will be recommended for the appropriate PMD for valor through their respective parent Service. Refer to Section 4 of this instruction for information regarding valor recognition.

(2) In accordance with E.O. 12019, the DMSM is awarded for "non-combat meritorious service or achievement." The DMSM will not be used to recognize meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions. The BSM is the appropriate PMD to recognize meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions at the DMSM level. Such BSM recommendations will be submitted through the Service member's parent Service. Refer to Section 5 of this instruction for additional information regarding recognition for meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions.

g. ETP requests for award of the DSSM, DMSM, JSCM, or JSAM should be limited to those Service members who, in the opinion of the award authority, are performing joint duties in accordance with the definition of joint matters contained in Section 668 of Title 10, U.S.C.

h. Refer to Volume 4 of DoDM 1348.33 for additional guidance regarding criteria, eligibility, authorization to award, and preparation and submission of DoD joint PMD and JMUA recommendations.

SECTION 4: VALOR RECOGNITION

4.1. GENERAL INFORMATION. Providing distinctive recognition to Service members for acts of valor is the top priority of the DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program.

a. Valor is an act or acts of heroism by an individual above what is normally expected while engaged in direct combat with an enemy of the United States, or an opposing foreign or armed force, with exposure to enemy hostilities and personal risk.

b. A Service member who performs an act(s) of valor will be accorded appropriate recognition based solely on the merits of their actions.

c. The Service member's grade will not be a factor in determining the type or level of valor recognition accorded, nor will any quotas be established limiting the number of valor decorations that may be recommended or approved.

4.2. DECORATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL VALOR. The five PMDs that solely recognize valor are the MOH, DSC, NX, AFC, and SSM. The MOH, the highest-precedence and most prestigious U.S. military PMD, is normally awarded by the President of the United States.

4.3. MULTI-PURPOSE PMDS USED TO RECOGNIZE VALOR.

a. Several multi-purpose PMDs are also used to recognize valor. When these medals are used to recognize valor, they are awarded with the "V" device. The multi-purpose PMDs that may be used to recognize valor with the "V" device are the DFC, BSM, Air Medal, JSCM, Army Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

b. Any use of the "V" device other than to denote valor is prohibited in accordance with the January 7, 2016 Secretary of Defense Memorandum that standardized the use of the "V" device as a valor-only device.

4.4. VALOR DECORATION TIMELINESS.

a. Each valor decoration recommendation will be acted on within 20 work days of receipt at each echelon in the review process.

b. DoD goals for initiating and processing valor decoration recommendations:

(1) Initiate valor decoration recommendations within 90 days of the act justifying award. Timely initiation helps ensure witness statements and other evidence justifying the decoration is collected as close to the date of the combat action as possible.

(2) Military Departments forward endorsed MOH recommendations to the Secretary of Defense within 12 months of decoration initiation.

(3) The award authority concerned take final action on recommendations for Military Service Cross, SSM, and lower-level valor decorations within 12 months of award initiation.

c. Valor decoration authorities must establish means to measure valor decoration timeliness in relation to the DoD goals in accordance with the aforementioned January 7, 2016 Secretary of Defense Memorandum.

d. Though better decoration initiation and processing timeliness are desired, the Department's preeminent goal is that all Service members who perform valorous acts receive appropriate recognition. The goals stated above must not be used to avoid processing any recommendation that is initiated within statutory or regulatory time limits. Whether an individual decoration recommendation meets the DoD timeliness goals must not be a factor in determining the level of the decoration approved. The level of the decoration approved must be based solely on the merits of the act(s).

4.5. PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF MOH RECOMMENDATIONS.

a. The President is the MOH approval authority and normally presents the MOH at a formal ceremony in Washington, District of Columbia (D.C.). The White House makes the initial public announcement of an approved MOH.

(1) Premature public disclosure of information concerning MOH recommendations, processing, and approval or disapproval actions is a potential source of embarrassment to those recommended and the U.S. Government.

(2) In the case of approved recommendations, premature disclosure of MOH awards could diminish the impact of Presidential notification or official MOH presentation.

b. To prevent premature disclosure, public comments must not be made on any MOH case under consideration. The processing of MOH recommendations will be handled on a "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY" basis until the awards are announced officially by the White House.

c. Pending MOH recommendations are deliberative, pre-decisional and are exempt from public release in accordance with Section 552(b)(5) of Title 5, U.S.C., also known as the "Freedom of Information Act."

4.6. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR VALOR AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS.

a. Valor award recommendations must, at a minimum, contain:

(1) Award recommendation form. Forms vary by Military Service, but all contain vital information about the nominee, the command making the nomination, and the place and time of the action.

- (2) Narrative or summary of action.
 - (3) Proposed citation.
 - (4) Sworn statement(s) detailing the nominee's valorous act(s).
 - (5) Other evidence that provides necessary context or supports the veracity of the recommendation (e.g., maps, drawings, photographs, or video).
 - (6) Copies of any investigations related to the combat engagement during which the valorous actions were performed, for instance an Army Regulation 15-6 investigation, Judge Advocate General Manual investigation, or after-action report.
- b. Further guidance regarding submission of valor awards is contained in Volumes 1, 3, and 4 of DoDM 1348.33.

4.7. MANDATORY REVIEW OF VALOR DECORATIONS. To ensure consistent and appropriate recognition of Service members who perform acts of valor:

- a. All DSC, NX, and AFC medals awarded by an authority other than the Secretary of the Military Department concerned will be reviewed against MOH award criteria by the applicable Military Department's higher headquarters organization that is responsible for the final processing of MOH recommendations. The review will be accomplished within 120 days of award to ensure the Service member's extraordinary combat heroism does not justify award of the MOH pursuant to Sections 7272, 8292, or 9272 of Title 10, U.S.C.
- b. All SSMs awarded by an authority other than the Secretary of the Military Department concerned will be reviewed against MOH and Service Cross award criteria by the applicable Military Department's higher headquarters organization that is responsible for the final processing of Service Cross recommendations. The review will be accomplished within 120 days of award to ensure the Service member's gallantry in action does not warrant award of the MOH or pertinent Service Cross pursuant to Sections 7272, 7276, 8292, 8294, 9272, or 9276 of Title 10, U.S.C.
- c. If the Military Department's higher headquarters review, in accordance with Paragraph 4.7.a. or 4.7.b., results in a recommendation to upgrade the originally awarded valor decoration, then the basis for the upgrade request may be based solely on the merit of the original recommendation (i.e., there is no requirement for new and substantive material information, or an error or injustice with processing of the original award recommendation). In such cases, the initially approved valor decoration will be considered an interim award.

SECTION 5: RECOGNITION FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE OR ACHIEVEMENT UNDER COMBAT CONDITIONS

5.1. GENERAL INFORMATION. Service members will receive appropriate recognition for qualifying meritorious service or achievement performed under combat conditions. Although such performance does not rise to the level of valor, it deserves to be distinguished from performance in peacetime or other situations where Service members are not directly exposed to hostile action or the significant risk of hostile action.

5.2. “C” DEVICE.

a. The “C” device is placed on multi-purpose PMDs to denote the award recognizes meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions. The “C” device is only authorized if the service or achievement was performed while the Service member was personally exposed to hostile action, or was at significant risk of exposure to hostile action:

- (1) While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;
- (2) While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- (3) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

b. Table 1 lists, in order of precedence, the multi-purpose PMDs that may be awarded with the “C” device.

c. The “C” device is not authorized for wear on the BSM, as each award is understood to have occurred while the awardee was exposed to hostile action, or was at significant risk of exposure to hostile action.

d. Award of the “C” device is determined solely on the specific circumstances under which the service or achievement was performed. The award is not determined by geographic location.

(1) The fact that the service was performed in a combat zone, a combat zone tax exclusion area, or an area designated for IDP, HDP, or HFP is not sufficient to qualify for the “C” device.

(2) The Service member must have been personally exposed to hostile action, or was at significant risk of exposure to hostile action.

e. The Service member’s grade must not be a factor in determining whether award of the “C” device is warranted, nor will any quotas, official or unofficial, be established limiting the number of “C” devices authorized for a given combat engagement, a given operation, or cumulatively within a given expanse of area or time.

SECTION 6: RECOGNITION FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT HAVING REMOTE IMPACT ON COMBAT OPERATIONS

6.1. GENERAL INFORMATION. Service members will receive appropriate recognition for qualifying exceptional achievements that have a direct and immediate impact on the outcome of a combat engagement or other military operation, albeit from a location where the Service member was neither personally exposed to hostile action, nor at significant risk of exposure to hostile action.

6.2. “R” DEVICE.

a. The “R” device is placed on multi-purpose PMDs to denote the decoration was awarded for the direct hands-on employment of a weapon system or other warfighting activities that had a direct and immediate impact on a combat operation or other military operation (i.e., outcome of an engagement or specific effects on a target). Other military operations include Title 10, U.S.C., support of non-Title 10, U.S.C., operations, and operations authorized by an approved execute order.

b. The action must have been performed through any domain, in circumstances that did not expose the individual to hostile action, or place them at significant risk of exposure to hostile action:

- (1) While engaged in military operations against an enemy of the United States;
- (2) While engaged in military operations involving conflict against an opposing foreign force; or
- (3) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in military operations with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

c. The “R” device is only authorized on PMDs awarded for specific meritorious achievement. The “R” device is not authorized on medals awarded for sustained meritorious service (e.g., end-of-tour or retirement decorations). Table 1 lists, in order of precedence, the PMDs authorized the “R” device.

SECTION 7: DoD CE&S MEDALS

7.1. AWARD PROCEDURES.

a. CE&S medals distinctly recognize Service members for qualifying participation in military campaigns, expeditions, and significant military operations, or for other qualifying military service.

b. Eligibility criteria for CE&S medals, as outlined in Volume 2 of DoDM 1348.33, are based on a Service member's:

- (1) Degree of personal risk;
- (2) Degree of personal hardship;
- (3) Degree of participation in designated military operations; and
- (4) Extent of military service during specified periods or types of duty.

c. In general, CE&S medals differ from PMDs in that Service members are not recommended for CE&S medals, but are entitled to them based on service record verification that the eligibility requirements were met. Unless otherwise stated, eligibility determinations are processed by the individual's respective Military Service.

d. Service members are not authorized award of more than one DoD CE&S medal for the same act or period of service, except as authorized in Volume 2 of DoDM 1348.33.

7.2. CATEGORIES OF CE&S MEDALS. Table 2 lists the CE&S medals and their associated categories. The four DoD CE&S medal categories are:

a. Campaign Medals. Campaign medals recognize deployed participation in large-scale or long-duration combat operations. Campaign medals are associated with the highest level of personal risk and hardship. They are awarded to Service members who are deployed to the geographic areas where the combat is actually occurring. Service members deployed to areas where combat is occurring as a result of prolonged or large-scale military combat operations should be recognized with a separate and distinct campaign medal.

b. Expeditionary Medals. Expeditionary medals recognize deployed participation in small-scale or short-duration combat operations or military operations where there is an imminent threat of hostilities. Expeditionary medals are also awarded to Service members deployed in support of combat operations, but who are not in the geographic area where the actual combat is occurring. Expeditionary medals are associated with high levels of personal risk and hardship.

c. Deployed Service Medals. Deployed Service medals recognize deployment or assignment to a designated area of eligibility to participate in, or directly support, a designated

military operation where there is no foreign armed opposition or imminent threat of hostile action.

d. Individual Service Medals. Individual Service medals recognize individual merit; direct participation in a DoD approved military activity, undertaking, event, or operation; or service during a specified period. Some individual service medals, such as the Prisoner of War Medal, may recognize service involving significant personal risk and hardship, while others recognize active military service during a particular period of time.

7.3. TIERS OF CE&S MEDAL RECOGNITION FOR MAJOR GWOT COMBAT OPERATIONS. CE&S medal categories provide three tiers of recognition:

a. Tier 1. Campaign medals recognize Service members who are deployed to the geographic area where major GWOT combat is actually occurring. Members awarded campaign medals have the highest degree of personal risk and hardship as they are conducting the combat operations and are deployed to the area where the combat is actually occurring.

b. Tier 2. The GWOT Expeditionary Medal recognizes Service members deployed to areas supporting the major GWOT combat operations. Expeditionary medals recognize the personal hardship and risk associated with deployment to a potentially hostile foreign environment; however, the personal hardship and risk is less than that incurred by members deployed to the area where the combat is actually occurring.

c. Tier 3. Service medals (e.g., GWOT Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal) recognize members supporting GWOT combat operations from locations where the level of personal hardship and risk differs little from that endured in normal military service.

SECTION 8: REQUIREMENT FOR HONORABLE SERVICE

In accordance with Section 1136 of Title 10, U.S.C., no military decoration, including a medal, cross, or bar, or an associated emblem or insignia (e.g., device), may be awarded or presented to any person, or to a representative of the person, if the service of the person after the person distinguished themselves has not been honorable.

a. The determination that a person's service has not been honorable should be limited to those cases where the person's actions:

(1) Are not compatible with continued military service (e.g., dismissal of a commission officer from military service);

(2) Result in criminal convictions;

(3) Result in determinations that the person did not serve satisfactorily in a specific grade or position; or

(4) Result in a discharge from military service that is characterized as "Other Than Honorable," "Bad Conduct," or "Dishonorable."

b. PMDs should be revoked if subsequently determined facts would have prevented the original approval or presentation of the award.

c. The revocation of PMDs under the "Honorable" service requirement should be limited to those cases where the Service member's actions are not compatible with continued military service (e.g., dismissal of a commissioned officer from military service), result in criminal convictions, result in determinations that the Service member did not serve satisfactorily in a specific grade or position, result in a discharge from military service that is characterized as "Other Than Honorable," "Bad Conduct," or "Dishonorable."

SECTION 9: AWARD OF U.S. MILITARY DECORATIONS TO FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL OR UNITS

9.1. INTRODUCTION.

a. In accordance with Paragraph 1.2.d. of this instruction, individual members and units of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations may be recognized with a PMD or valorous unit award if the valorous acts, non-combat heroism, extraordinary achievement, or meritorious service:

(1) Were of significant benefit to the United States; or

(2) Materially contributed to the successful prosecution of a DoD military operation or campaign.

b. CE&S medals, including Military Department-specific CE&S medals, are **not** authorized for award to foreign nationals except for the Antarctica Service Medal.

c. Members of friendly foreign armed forces assigned, attached, or detailed to a U.S. military unit are eligible for a unit decoration on the same basis as U.S. military personnel assigned to the unit, unless prohibited by statute, E.O., or policy.

d. The provisions of this section do not apply to:

(1) Emblems, badges, or trophies awarded for the attainment of a prescribed degree of skill, proficiency, or excellence of performance.

(2) Other recognition awarded in accordance with the DoD Incentive Awards Program outlined in Volume 451 of DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1400.25.

e. Unless otherwise stated, the Secretary of Defense approves all proposals to award U.S. military decorations to foreign nationals.

9.2. DECORATIONS FOR VALOR.

a. Members of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations who perform valorous or heroic acts in combat in direct support of U.S. military operations may be awarded the PMDs listed in Table 4.

b. The BSM may only be awarded, in accordance with Section 1133 of Title 10, U.S.C., for actions or events that occurred in an area where:

(1) HFP or IDP is authorized in accordance with Section 310 of Title 37, U.S.C.; or

(2) HDP is authorized in accordance with Paragraph (1) or (3) of Section 351(a) of Title 37, U.S.C.

Table 4. Valor Decorations Authorized for Award to Foreign Military Personnel.

DSC
NX
AFC
SSM
DFC with “V”
BSM with “V”
Air Medal with “V”
JSCM with “V”
Military Department-specific Commendation Medal with “V”

c. Decorations listed in Table 4 will only be awarded to foreign military personnel for valorous acts that would justify award of the same decoration to a U.S. Service member.

d. Approval authorities and procedures:

(1) The Secretary of Defense must approve an ETP before any valor award listed in Table 4 may be awarded to foreign general and flag officers in equivalent U.S. pay grades of O-7 and above. Submit ETP requests to the Secretary of Defense in accordance with procedures in Paragraph 9.6.b.

(2) For the Service Crosses, SSM, DFC, BSM, Air Medal, and Military Department-specific commendation medals (MDSCM) the Secretary of the Military Department concerned may approve awards for foreign personnel in the equivalent U.S. pay grade of O-6 and below. Award recommendation requirements are contained in Paragraph 9.6.a.

(3) For the JSCM, approval authorities and procedures are contained in Paragraph 9.4.e.(5).

9.3. DECORATIONS FOR NON-COMBAT HEROISM.

a. Members of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations who perform acts of non-combat heroism while in direct support of U.S. military operations may be awarded the PMDs listed in Table 5.

Table 5. Non-Combat Heroism Decorations Authorized for Award to Foreign Military Personnel.

DFC
Soldier’s Medal (Army)
Navy and Marine Corps Medal
Airman’s Medal (Air Force)
Air Medal
JSCM
MDSCMs

b. Awards will only be made in recognition of heroic acts that would justify award of the same decoration to a U.S. Service member.

c. Approval authority and procedures.

(1) The Secretary of Defense must approve an ETP before any non-combat heroism award listed in Table 5 may be awarded to foreign general or flag officers in equivalent U.S. pay grades of O-7 and above. Submit ETP requests to the Secretary of Defense in accordance with procedures in Paragraph 9.6.b.

(2) For the DFC, Soldier's Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Airman's Medal, Air Medal, and MDSCMs, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned may approve awards for foreign personnel in the equivalent U.S. pay grade of O-6 and below. Award recommendation requirements are contained in Paragraph 9.6.a.

(3) For the JSCM, approval authorities and procedures are contained in Paragraph 9.4.e.(5).

9.4. DECORATIONS FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR MERITORIOUS SERVICE.

a. General. Members of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations who distinguish themselves by meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services to the United States may be awarded the PMDs listed in Table 6.

Table 6. Achievement or Meritorious Service Decorations for Foreign Military Members.

LOM ¹
DFC
BSM
DMSM
MSM
Air Medal
JSCM
MDSCM
JSAM
Military Department-specific achievement medals (MDSAMs)
¹ The LOM is awarded to eligible foreign personnel in the following degrees: Chief Commander; Commander; Officer; and, Legionnaire.

b. LOM. The LOM is the highest U.S. military decoration that may be awarded to eligible foreign military personnel in recognition for achievement or meritorious service.

(1) In accordance with Section 1121 of Title 10, U.S.C., as governed by E.O. 13830, the LOM may be awarded to members of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations who, after September 8, 1939, have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious conduct in performing outstanding services to the United States.

(2) The LOM for foreign personnel is awarded in four degrees. Eligibility and approval authority for each degree is based on the grade and position of the nominee (see Table 7).

(3) An example LOM award recommendation staff package with award citation and certificate requirements can be found at: <https://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/Inside-M-RA/MPP/OEPM/>.

Table 7. LOM Degree, Eligibility, and Award Authority.

Degree Type ¹	Award Authority	Eligible Nominees	Procedures
Chief Commander	The President, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Defense and concurrence of the Secretary of State	Foreign chiefs of state or heads of government	Submit award recommendations in accordance with procedures in Paragraph 9.6.b.
Commander	Secretary of Defense, after concurrence by the Secretary of State	Individuals holding a position equivalent to a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but not to chiefs of state.	Submit award recommendations in accordance with procedures in Paragraph 9.6.b.
Officer	Secretary of Defense, after concurrence by Secretary of State	1. General or flag grade officers in equivalent U.S. pay grades of O-7 or above serving in positions below the equivalent of a U.S. Military Service Chief of Staff; 2. Officers in grades equivalent to U.S. pay grade of O-6 (e.g., colonel or captain), for service in positions comparable to those normally held by general or flag officers in the Military Services; or 3. Foreign military attachés.	Submit award recommendations in accordance with procedures in Paragraph 9.6.b.
Legionnaire	Secretary of Defense, after concurrence by Secretary of State.	All other eligible members of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations.	Submit award recommendations in accordance with procedures in Paragraph 9.6.b.
¹ Listed in order from highest to lowest degree.			

c. DFC and Air Medal.

(1) The DFC and Air Medal may be awarded for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight.

(2) Award will be based on an act or service that would justify award of the same decoration to a U.S. Service member.

(3) Approval authority and procedures.

(a) The Secretary of Defense must approve an ETP before any DFC or Air Medal may be awarded to foreign general and flag officers in equivalent U.S. pay grades of O-7 and above. Submit ETP requests to the Secretary of Defense in accordance with procedures in Paragraph 9.6.b.

(b) The Secretary of the Military Department concerned may approve awards for foreign personnel in the equivalent U.S. pay grade of O-6 and below. Award recommendation requirements are contained in Paragraph 9.6.a.

d. BSM, MSM, MDSCMs, and MDSAMs.

(1) The BSM, MSM, MDSCMs, and MDSAMs may be awarded to a member of the armed forces of a friendly foreign nation who distinguishes himself by extraordinary achievement or meritorious service.

(2) Award will be based on acts or service that would justify award of the same decoration to a U.S. Service member.

(3) The BSM may only be awarded, in accordance with Section 1133 of Title 10, U.S.C., for actions or events that occurred in an area where:

(a) HFP or IDP is authorized in accordance with Section 310 of Title 37, U.S.C.; or

(b) HDP is authorized in accordance with Paragraphs (1) or (3) of Section 351(a) of Title 37, U.S.C.

(4) MDSCMs and MDSAMs are not authorized for award to foreign general or flag officers serving in equivalent U.S. pay grades of O-7 or above.

(5) The appropriate non-valorous award for a foreign general or flag officer serving in equivalent U.S. pay grades of O-7 or above is the LOM of appropriate degree.

(6) Approval authority and procedures:

(a) The Secretary of Defense must approve an ETP before the BSM or MSM may be awarded to a foreign general or flag officer in equivalent U.S. pay grade of O-7 and above. Submit ETP requests to the Secretary of Defense in accordance with procedures in Paragraph 9.6.b.

(b) The Secretary of the Military Department concerned may approve awards for foreign personnel in the equivalent U.S. pay grades of O-6 and below. Award recommendation requirements are contained in Paragraph 9.6.a.

e. DMSM, JSCM, and JSAM.

(1) The DMSM, JSCM, or JSAM may be awarded to a member of the armed forces of a friendly foreign nation assigned, attached, or detailed to the Joint Staff, CCMDs, or other JDA or JTF, who distinguishes himself by meritorious achievement or service. The DDSM and DSSM are not authorized for award to foreign personnel.

(2) Award will be based on acts or service that would justify award of the same decoration to a Service member.

(3) The DMSM and JSCM are not authorized for award to foreign general or flag officers serving in equivalent U.S. pay grades of O-7 or above.

(4) The JSAM is not authorized for award to foreign military personnel serving in equivalent U.S. pay grades of O-6 or above.

(5) Approval authority and procedures:

(a) The CJCS is the award authority for foreign military personnel assigned to the Joint Staff. This authority may be delegated no lower than the Vice Director of the Joint Staff. Award recommendation requirements are contained in Paragraph 9.6.a.

(b) The applicable CCDR is the award authority for foreign military personnel assigned to their respective headquarters or to JDAs directly under their control. This authority may be delegated in writing to the CCDR's chief of staff and to subordinate operational commanders in the pay grades of O-8 and above. Award recommendation requirements are contained in Paragraph 9.6.a.

(c) The PIO/DA&M is the award authority for foreign military personnel assigned to OSD or Defense Agencies and DoD Field Activities reporting to or through the OSD. Award recommendation requirements are contained in Paragraph 9.6.a. Forward award recommendations for PIO/DA&M approval to the Assistant Director, Military Personnel, Human Resources Directorate, WHS.

9.5. UNIT AWARDS AUTHORIZED FOR AWARD TO FOREIGN UNITS OR PERSONNEL.

a. The Presidential Unit Citation and Military Department unit awards may be awarded to units of friendly foreign nations for qualifying combat action in direct support of U.S. military operations.

b. Award will be based on unit actions that would justify award of the same decoration to a U.S. Service unit.

c. Approval authority is the Secretary of the Military Department concerned.

9.6. PROCEDURES FOR U.S. AWARDS TO FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL.

a. Awards Approved by Secretaries of Military Departments, the CJCS, CCDRs, or PIO/DA&M. The following procedures do not apply to LOMs. Follow procedures in Paragraph 9.6.b. for LOM recommendations. Before award, the Secretary of the Military Department, CJCS, CCDR, or OSD Principal Staff Assistant initiating the award will, at a minimum:

(1) Provide the full name of the nominee in all award recommendation correspondence.

(2) Obtain a statement of concurrence from the U.S. Defense Attaché from the nominee's home country to ensure award of the U.S. military decoration is consistent with U.S. interests.

(3) Obtain a counterintelligence record check on the award nominee to ensure they have not committed an act, or engaged in any activity that would cause embarrassment to the U.S. Government were a U.S. military decoration to be presented. The organization performing the check will provide a statement of concurrence or non-concurrence with the award recommendation.

(a) Military Departments obtain the counterintelligence record check from the pertinent military counterintelligence organization.

(b) All organizations, other than the Military Departments, must obtain the required counterintelligence record check from DIA. The DIA requires 30 calendar days to process reviews.

(c) The counterintelligence record check must have been accomplished no more than 6 months before the award approval date.

b. Awards Requiring Presidential or Secretary of Defense Approval. The Secretary of the Military Department, CJCS, CCDR, or OSD Principal Staff Assistant initiating the award will:

(1) Provide a fully staffed and coordinated award recommendation package to the WHS, Executive Services Directorate (ESD), Correspondence Management Division (CMD), within 6 months of the date of the action or period of service justifying award. LOM recommendations for foreign personnel will be formatted in accordance with the example at <https://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/Inside-M-RA/MPP/OEPM/>. Incomplete recommendations will be returned without action.

(2) Award recommendation packages will contain, at a minimum:

(a) A signed action memorandum to the Secretary of Defense written in accordance with Volume 1 of DoDM 5110.04, that:

1. Recommends award or ETP approval.

2. Justifies why award approval is in the best interest of the U.S. Government and DoD.

3. Explains why the award is late (required if over 6 months from the date of the distinguishing act or period of meritorious service).

(b) For actions requiring Secretary of Defense endorsement to the President, a memorandum from the Secretary of Defense to the President recommending award approval.

(c) An award narrative that includes:

1. The nominee's full name.

2. The period of award.

3. The nominee's duty position(s) or title(s) during the period of award.

4. The nominee's accomplishments justifying award.

(d) For LOM recommendations, an award citation and certificate printed on official award cardstock.

1. Prepare the LOM citation and certificate in accordance with procedures outlined in the example LOM recommendation at <https://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/Inside-M-RA/MPP/OEPM/>.

2. WHS/ESD/CMD provides blank LOM certificates to organizations initiating the award recommendation, but will not provide medal sets. It is the submitting organization's responsibility to obtain the medal set.

(e) A brief biography of the award nominee.

(f) A memorandum from the DIA concurring with award based on the results of its counterintelligence check.

1. Request the DIA counterintelligence check via a memorandum to DIA. A template request memorandum is at <https://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/Inside-M-RA/MPP/OEPM/>. E-mail a copy of the request memorandum to do_tasking@dodiis.mil.

2. The DIA requires 30 calendar days to complete the required counterintelligence check. The DIA concurrence memorandum expires 6 months from the date of issue.

(g) USD(P) and DoS concurrence. The USD(P) obtains DoS concurrence required by E.O. 13830.

1. Following DIA concurrence, forward a copy of the complete nomination package via the Correspondence and Task Management System (CATMS) to the USD(P) for

coordination (CATMS trigraph “USP”). Organizations without access to CATMS must e-mail the nomination package to osd.pentagon.ousd-policy.mbx.execsec@mail.mil.

2. The USD(P) requires 30 calendar days to provide required coordination. USD(P) and DoS concurrences expire 6 months from the date of issue.

(3) Following DIA, USD(P), and DoS concurrence, forward the hard copy of the fully staffed and coordinated award recommendation to WHS/ESD/CMD, Pentagon, Room 3C843.

(a) For organizations:

1. With access to CATMS, upload the award recommendation and associated attachments to the tasker assigned to the USD(P) and copy WHS/ESD/CMD (CATMS trigraph “CMD”). Upload the award citation in Microsoft Word document format.

2. Without access to CATMS, e-mail a Microsoft Word version of the award citation to whs.pentagon.esd.mbx.cmd-correspondence@mail.mil.

(b) CCDRs will forward award recommendations to their respective Pentagon liaison office for review and delivery to WHS/ESD/CMD. CCDRs will provide an information copy of the award recommendation to the CJCS.

(c) WHS/ESD/CMD requires a minimum of 14 work days to process an award recommendation. Verbal award approvals are not authorized or provided. Presentation ceremonies and public announcements are prohibited until after the Secretary of Defense has signed and approved the award recommendation.

(d) Upon Secretary of Defense approval, WHS/ESD/CMD will:

1. Notify the originating organization to pick up the signed award certificate and citation.

2. Provide a color electronic version of the signed certificate and citation to the action officer identified on the action memorandum.

SECTION 10: RECEIPT OF FOREIGN DECORATIONS AND AWARDS BY SERVICE MEMBERS

10.1. INTRODUCTION.

a. Foreign governments or multilateral organizations on occasion proffer foreign military CE&S medals to the U.S. Government or the DoD. Foreign governments or multilateral organizations also occasionally proffer foreign PMDs to Service members for specific individual actions or service.

b. Section 7342 of Title 5, U.S.C., allows employees of the U.S. Government, including Service members, to accept awards or decorations from a foreign government under certain conditions.

(1) The provisions of this instruction will apply to all DoD employees as defined in DoDD 1005.13.

(2) Service members may **not** request, or otherwise encourage, the offer of an award or decoration from a foreign government.

(3) Whenever possible, foreign awards or decorations not approved in advance by the recipient's DoD Component will be refused. When it appears that refusal of the gift or decoration may offend or embarrass the donor, or could affect adversely the foreign relations of the United States, the gift or decoration may be accepted on behalf of the United States. The gift or decoration then becomes the property of the United States and will be deposited with the employing DoD Component in accordance with the procedures set forth in DoDD 1005.13. Before returning to the original donor a foreign decoration that has been accepted, the DoD Component will consult with the DoS.

(4) Refer to DoDD 1005.13 for further guidance regarding the acceptance of gifts from foreign governments.

10.2. SPECIFIC PROVISIONS.

a. The provisions of Section 7342 of Title 5, U.S.C., do **not** apply to:

(1) Foreign awards presented or awarded posthumously to a deceased former Service member, or to their next of kin (NOK).

(2) Foreign awards for services performed while the recipient was a member of the armed forces of a friendly foreign nation, provided the award was made before their U.S. military or civilian employment by the U.S. Government.

(3) Foreign awards in the nature of individual skill badges, awards, or similar devices presented as a result of exemplary participation in official military exchange programs.

(4) Awards for service in the Republic of Vietnam accepted on or after March 1, 1961, but no later than March 28, 1974.

b. Service medals from a multilateral organization other than the UN may be accepted only with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, in accordance with E.O. 11446.

c. An award accepted without the approval of the Service member's DoD Component becomes the property of the United States and must be reported as a gift. Awards that become U.S. property and are not retained by the Service member's DoD Component must be reported to the General Services Administration as excess personal property under the procedures established in Section 7342 of Title 5, U.S.C.

10.3. PROCEDURES.

a. Foreign Decorations or Awards Offered to Individual Service Members.

(1) Foreign government representatives typically notify senior U.S. Government representatives in advance of the intent to proffer an award or decoration to an individual Service member.

(a) Upon such notification, the DoD employing Component must determine whether the Service member is authorized to accept the award.

(b) If the intended recipient receives the initial notification, they must notify their DoD Component to determine whether acceptance is authorized.

(2) Circumstances may arise where advance authorization to accept the award cannot be made. In such cases:

(a) Service members may make token acceptance of the award presented by or for a friendly foreign government or multilateral organization.

(b) Token acceptance does not constitute an official acceptance, which may only be authorized by the Service member's DoD Component.

(c) The Service member must immediately submit a request in accordance with Paragraph 10.3.c. to their DoD Component for permission to accept the award.

(d) Failure to request permission to accept and retain the award will result in the award becoming U.S. property, requiring the recipient to provide the award to their employing DoD Component for disposal, as prescribed by law.

(3) Requests to accept and retain a foreign award will, at a minimum, contain:

(a) Full name, grade, and Military Service of the applicant.

(b) Title of the foreign award, country proffering it, date and place of award presentation, and the name and title of the person presenting the award.

(c) The applicant's organization, station, and a brief description of the duty assignment during the period of award.

(d) A copy of the award citation, translated to English if necessary. If no citation accompanied the award, the applicant should state so and include a brief description of the service or actions that justified the award.

b. Foreign CE&S Medals.

(1) Foreign government or multilateral organizational representatives typically notify senior U.S. Government representatives in advance of the intent to proffer a foreign campaign, expeditionary, or service medal (e.g., Kuwait Liberation Medal, Korea War Service Medal) to the U.S. Government or the DoD.

(2) Procedures for processing requests to accept UNMs and NATO medals are contained in Paragraphs 10.4.a. and 10.4.b., respectively. For all other such requests, the receiving organization, upon notification, should notify the ASD(M&RA), who will work to obtain detailed information (e.g., name of the medal, medal design and physical description, reason for award, award criteria, estimated number of qualifying Service members, number of medals being provided by the foreign government or multilateral organization) regarding the foreign CE&S medal being proffered by the foreign government or multilateral organization.

(3) The ASD(M&RA) will work with the USD(P) and the DoS to determine if acceptance of the CE&S medal is in the best interest of the U.S. Government. The DoD will not approve foreign CE&S medals for acceptance and wear by Service members unless the medal(s) are fully funded and provided by the proffering foreign government or multilateral organization.

c. Foreign Unit Awards.

(1) Foreign government or multilateral organizational representatives typically notify senior U.S. Government representatives in advance of the intent to proffer a foreign unit award (e.g., Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation).

(2) The Secretaries of the Military Departments are authorized to establish procedures for accepting foreign unit awards for the military units of their respective Military Departments in accordance with this issuance. If the foreign unit award includes Service members from more than one Military Department, the Secretaries of the Military Departments concerned will jointly determine if the foreign unit award will be approved for acceptance and wear by Service members.

10.4. AUTHORIZED FOREIGN SERVICE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS. These non-U.S. service medals have been authorized for acceptance as indicated:

a. UNM and Service Ribbon.

(1) Authorized by the UN Secretary General for specific UN missions and actions.

(2) The Secretary of Defense, in accordance with E.O. 11139, approves the UNM and service ribbon for acceptance and wear by Service members who meet award criteria specified by the UN Secretary General.

(3) UNM is an all-encompassing term used to describe the basic bronze medallion, with the UN emblem and the letters UN on the obverse, suspended from a ribbon.

(a) Each UN mission, or action for which a UNM is awarded, is commemorated by a suspension and service ribbon of unique colors and design.

(b) The ribbon and medallion combination take on the name of the specific operation for which the combination was created.

(c) The list of DoD approved UNMs and unique service ribbons associated with specific UN missions and actions is at: <https://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/Inside-M-RA/MPP/OEPM/>.

(4) Service members are only authorized to wear a UNM and service ribbon approved for acceptance and wear by the ASD(M&RA).

(a) Service members only wear the initial UNM and associated service ribbon awarded.

(b) Subsequent UNMs awarded for separate UN missions or actions are denoted by wearing a bronze service star on the suspension and service ribbon of the initial UNM awarded.

(5) ASD(M&RA) approval of a UNM for acceptance and wear by Service members does not constitute authority for U.S. personnel to award UNMs on behalf of the UN.

(a) UNMs will normally be awarded by the chief of the UN mission to qualifying Service members before their departure from service with the UN.

(b) U.S. personnel are not authorized to award a UNM to Service members without a specific by-name authorization from the chief of the UN mission.

(6) Procedures for requesting DoD approval of a UNM and service ribbon for acceptance and wear.

(a) The Secretary of the Army is the DoD Executive Agent for DoD Support to UN Missions in accordance with DoDD 2065.01E. The U.S. Military Observer Group-Washington, the Secretary of the Army's staff agent responsible for military personnel assigned to UN missions, upon assignment of U.S. personnel to a UN mission for which a UNM has been authorized, initiates a request to the ASD(M&RA) for DoD approval of the UNM and associated service ribbon.

(b) The Office of the ASD(M&RA) staffs the UNM request and obtains the DoS concurrence required by E.O. 11139 by forwarding the request to the Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, DoS.

b. NATO Campaign and Service Medals (excludes the NATO MSM).

(1) Authorized by the NATO Secretary General to recognize qualifying participation in specific NATO operations and actions.

(2) The Secretary of Defense, in accordance with E.O. 11446, approves NATO medals for acceptance and wear by Service members who meet award criteria specified by the NATO Secretary General.

(3) Service members are only authorized to wear a NATO medal awarded for actions or operations approved by the ASD(M&RA).

(a) Service members only wear the initial NATO medal awarded.

(b) Service members are **not** authorized to wear any ribbon clasps on the NATO medal suspension ribbon.

(c) Subsequent NATO medals awarded for separate NATO operations or actions are denoted by wearing a bronze service star on the suspension and service ribbon of the initial NATO medal awarded.

(d) The list of DoD approved NATO medals and service ribbons associated with specific NATO operations and actions is at: <https://prhome.defense.gov/M-RA/Inside-M-RA/MPP/OEPM/>.

(4) ASD(M&RA) approval of a NATO medal for acceptance and wear by Service members does not constitute authority for U.S. personnel to award the NATO medal on behalf of NATO.

(a) NATO medals are normally awarded to qualifying Service members before their departure from service with NATO by a theater commander who has been delegated NATO medal award authority by NATO.

(b) U.S. personnel are not authorized to award a NATO medal to Service members unless specifically delegated award authority by the NATO Secretary General or NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

(c) Requests for award of a NATO medal to a Service member or unit must be routed to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe J-1 for approval through the Service member's Military Service Component to U.S. European Command and the NATO military representative.

(5) The NATO Medal ranks immediately after the UNM and before the Multinational Force and Observers Medal in order of precedence.

(6) Procedures for requesting DoD approval of a NATO medal for acceptance and wear:

(a) The U.S. military representative to the NATO Military Committee initiates a request to the ASD(M&RA) for DoD approval of that NATO medal, once U.S. Service members are assigned to a NATO operation or action for which a NATO medal has been authorized.

(b) The Office of the ASD(M&RA) staffs the NATO medal request, including obtaining DoS concurrence required by E.O. 11446, by forwarding the request to the Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, DoS.

(7) The NATO MSM is a personal award and is not covered under this section. Requests for acceptance and wear of NATO MSMs must be processed individually by each Military Department following policy guidance in Paragraph 10.3.a.

c. Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) Medal and Ribbon.

(1) The IADB medal and ribbon is authorized for acceptance and wear by Service members.

(2) The IADB medal and ribbon is awarded permanently to Service members who have served on the IADB for at least 1 year, as the chair of the board, delegates, advisors, officers of the staff, officers of the secretariat, or officers of the Inter-American Defense College.

(3) The IADB ribbon must have the same precedence as the UNM, but the IADB ribbon will rank below the UNM when the wearer has been awarded both awards.

(4) The IADB medal or badge is worn in accordance with Military Service policy. For each 5 years of service to the IADB, a gold star will be worn.

d. Multinational Force and Observers Medal.

(1) Awarded to Service members who served with the Multinational Force and Observers for at least 90 cumulative days after August 3, 1981.

(2) Service members are authorized to accept and wear the Multinational Force and Observers Medal.

(3) Award is not authorized for service in Lebanon.

e. Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia).

(1) Authorized by the government of Saudi Arabia to members of the Coalition Forces who participated in Operation DESERT STORM. Service members are authorized to accept and wear the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia).

(2) To be eligible, U.S. Service members must:

(a) Have served in support of Operation DESERT STORM between January 17 and February 28, 1991, in one or more of these areas:

1. The Persian Gulf;

2. The Red Sea;
3. The Gulf of Oman;
4. That portion of the Arabian Sea that lies north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees east longitude;
5. The Gulf of Aden; or
6. The total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Omar, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

(b) Have been:

1. Attached to or regularly serving for 1 or more days with an organization participating in ground or shore operations;
2. Attached to or regularly serving for 1 or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations;
3. Actually participating as a crew member in 1 or more aerial flights supporting military operations in the areas designated in Paragraph 10.4.e.(2)(a); or
4. Serving on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days during this period. That time limitation may be waived for people participating in actual combat operations.

(3) The Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia) may be awarded posthumously.

(4) The Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia) will follow the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal in order of precedence.

(5) The Military Departments will prescribe appropriate regulations for the administrative processing, awarding, and wearing of the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), ribbon, and appurtenances.

f. Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait).

(1) Authorized by the government of Kuwait to Service members who participated in Operations DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM, and the Cease Fire Campaign. Service members are authorized to accept and wear the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait).

(2) To be eligible, U.S. Service members must:

(a) Have served in support of Operations DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM or the Cease Fire Campaign between August 2, 1990, and August 31, 1993, in one or more of these areas:

1. The Arabian Gulf.

2. The Red Sea.

3. The Gulf of Oman.

4. That portion of the Arabian Sea that lies north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees east longitude.

5. The Gulf of Aden.

6. The total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Omar, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

(b) Have been:

1. Attached to or regularly serving for 1 or more days with an organization participating in ground or shore operations;

2. Attached to or regularly serving for 1 or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations;

3. Actually participating as a crew member in 1 or more aerial flights directly supporting military operations in the areas designated above; or

4. Serving on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days during this period. That time limitation may be waived for people participating in actual combat operations.

(3) The Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait) may be awarded posthumously.

(4) The Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, of each Service, and the Director, Joint Staff, for the CJCS, are authorized to grant ETPs for award of the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait). However, since the eligibility period and geographic boundaries were specified by the government of Kuwait, those criteria may not be waived.

(5) The Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait) will follow the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia) in order of precedence.

(6) The Military Departments will prescribe appropriate regulations for the administrative processing, awarding, and wearing of the medal, ribbon, and appurtenances.

g. Prior Statutory Authority. The statutes below authorize Service members to accept awards proffered by friendly foreign governments in recognition of service performed during the periods indicated in Paragraphs 10.4.g.(1) through 10.4.g.(4). However, the awards must have been presented and accepted by the intended recipient before the expiration date of the applicable law.

(1) World War II – December 7, 1941, through July 24, 1948, authorized by Public Law (P.L.) 80-314.

- 503.
- (2) Berlin Airlift – June 26, 1948, through September 20, 1951, authorized by P.L. 81-
 - (3) Korean Conflict – June 27, 1950, through July 27, 1955, authorized by P.L. 83-354.
 - (4) Vietnam Era – March 1, 1961, through March 28, 1974, authorized by P.L. 89-257.

SECTION 11: U.S. NON-MILITARY DECORATIONS AND SERVICE AWARDS

This section provides guidance specific to U.S. non-military decorations and awards. In accordance with Paragraph 1.2., the appropriate means to recognize a Service member serving with the DoD Components is through the DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program.

a. U.S. Non-military Valor Decorations. DoD personnel are **not** authorized to wear any U.S. non-military decoration or award specifically intended to recognize valor. The appropriate means to recognize a Service member's valorous act(s) is with a military decoration. The individual having knowledge of the member's valorous act(s) should contact the applicable Military Department to initiate a recommendation for a military valor decoration.

b. CE&S Medals. DoD personnel are **not** authorized to wear any U.S. non-Military Service award specifically intended to recognize participation in campaigns, expeditions, or fulfillment of specific service requirements.

c. Military Society Decorations and Medals. Service members of military societies recognized in accordance with Section 1123 of Title 10, U.S.C., may, on occasions of public ceremony, wear the distinctive decorations and awards of that society.

d. State Decorations and Awards. Service members on Federal active duty status may not wear decorations or service medals issued by any of the 50 States or any other territorial, local, or municipal government or entity within the United States.

e. Federal Agency Decorations and Service Medals. Service members may accept personal decorations proffered by Federal agencies. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned will determine if the Service member is authorized to wear the Federal agency personal decoration on their uniform, except for valor and CE&S decorations that are prohibited from wear by Paragraphs 11.a. and 11.b. of this section. This includes, but is not limited to, the awards of the:

- (1) National Intelligence Community.
- (2) Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- (3) Commissioned Corps of the USPHS.
- (4) Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- (5) Central Intelligence Agency.
- (6) Department of Commerce.
- (7) DoS.
- (8) National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(9) Department of Homeland Security.

(10) Department of Transportation.

f. Other U.S. Non-military Decorations. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned will establish policies for determining if Service members in their respective Department may accept and wear other U.S. non-military decorations and service medals not specifically addressed in this section.

g. Wearing of U.S. Non-military Decorations. U.S. non-military personal decorations approved for wear will be worn immediately preceding the Prisoner of War Medal.

(1) When approved for wear, such decorations will be worn in the order of date of acceptance.

(2) When two or more decorations from the same U.S. non-military organization or society are worn, the order will be in accordance with the precedence established by the awarding organization or society, regardless of the date of acceptance.

SECTION 12: REPLACEMENT OF MILITARY DECORATIONS

12.1. In accordance with Section 1135 of Title 10, U.S.C., and in addition to other authorities available to the Military Department Secretary concerned to replace a military decoration, the Military Department Secretary concerned will replace, on a one-time basis and without charge, a military decoration upon the request of the recipient of the military decoration or the immediate NOK, of a deceased recipient. 12.2. Upon request for a replacement military decoration in accordance with Sections 1135, 7277, 7281, 8303, 9277, or 9281 of Title 10, U.S.C., the Military Department Secretary concerned:

- a. Ensures all actions to be taken with respect to the request, including verification of the service record of the recipient of the military decoration, are completed within 1 year.

- b. Ensures the replacement military decoration is mailed to the person requesting replacement within 90 days after verification of the service record.

12.3. In accordance with Sections 7277 and 9277 of Title 10, U.S.C., the Departments of the Army and Air Force will replace, free of charge, any MOH, DSC, AFC, Distinguished Service Medal, or SSM, or any bar, ribbon, rosette, or other device issued for wear with or in place of these medals, that is stolen, lost, or destroyed, or becomes unfit for use, without fault or neglect of the person to whom it was awarded. 12.4. In accordance with Section 8303 of Title 10, U.S.C., the Secretary of the Navy may replace, free of charge, any MOH, NX, Distinguished Service Medal, SSM, or Navy and Marine Corps Medal, or any bar, ribbon, rosette, or other device issued for wear with or in place of any of these medals, that is stolen, lost, or destroyed, or becomes unfit for use, without fault or neglect of the person to whom it was awarded. 12.5. Requests for replacement decorations must be submitted in accordance with the procedures established by the Military Department concerned. The National Archives website provides information on requesting replacement decorations (see <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/awards-and-decorations>).

12.6. The DoD only replaces U.S. military decorations originally provided to the member or their immediate NOK. Military decorations not replaced by DoD include miniature medals, foreign decorations, and the decorations of multilateral organizations.

12.7. If a replacement DoD joint decoration or award is unavailable through normal supply channels, the Military Department concerned should request it from WHS. The request must include supporting documents (e.g., DD Form 214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty"; or orders). Send replacement medal requests to:

Assistant Director, Military Personnel, Room 2D523
Human Resources Directorate
Washington Headquarters Services
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155

SECTION 13: MILITARY AWARDS TO COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE USPHS

13.1. GENERAL INFORMATION.

a. In accordance with Section 213 of Title 42, U.S.C., and the December 30, 1992 Presidential Memorandum, the President or Secretary of Defense may prescribe the conditions under which commissioned officers of the USPHS may be awarded military ribbons, medals, and decorations. In accordance with the December 30, 1992 Presidential Memorandum, no military ribbon, medal, or decoration may be awarded to a USPHS officer without the approval of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS).

b. On or after August 2, 1990, USPHS officers assigned, attached, or detailed for full-time or part-time duty to DoD and any of its components are eligible for U.S. military ribbons, medals, and decorations on the same basis as officers of the Military Services.

c. DoD policy precludes duplicate recognition for the same act or service. U.S. military ribbons, medals, or decorations are not authorized for award to USPHS officers who have been recognized for the same act or service through award of a USPHS ribbon, medal, or decoration, or by any other Federal agency award.

d. U.S. military ribbons, medals, or decorations are not authorized for award to USPHS officers without the concurrence of the Secretary of HHS. The concurrence of the Secretary of HHS must include confirmation that the USPHS officer did not or will not receive a USPHS ribbon, medal, or decoration for the same act or service for which the U.S. military ribbon, medal, or decoration is being proffered or awarded. The single point of contact for obtaining Secretary of HHS concurrence is:

DoD/DHHS Commissioned Corps Liaison Program Office
Defense Health Agency
7700 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 5101
Falls Church, VA 22042

13.2. PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING AWARDS TO USPHS OFFICERS.

a. PMDs. USPHS officers assigned, attached, or detailed for full-time or part-time duty to:

(1) A Military Department will be processed for a PMD under the policy and procedures established by the respective Military Department. Before award of a PMD, the award authority must obtain concurrence from the Secretary of HHS for the USPHS officer to accept and wear the award.

(2) The OSD, DoD Field Activities, Defense Agencies, or joint DoD activities that report directly to an OSD Principal Staff Assistant, the Joint Staff or those agencies and activities reporting through the CJCS, including the CCMDs will be processed for PMDs in accordance

with the policy and procedures established for the PMD in the applicable volume of DoDM 1348.33 and implemented by the applicable organization (e.g., Joint Staff, CCMDs, WHS), with the exception of the PH medal.

(a) Before award of a PMD, the award approval authority must obtain concurrence from the Secretary of HHS for the USPHS officer to accept and wear the award.

(b) The determination as to whether a USPHS officer is entitled to a PH medal will be made by the Secretary of the Navy. USPHS officers who believe they are entitled to a PH should forward documentation to:

Secretary of the Navy
Board of Decorations and Medals
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-2000

b. DoD CE&S Medals. A USPHS officer assigned, attached, or detailed for full-time duty:

(1) To a Military Department must have their eligibility for DoD CE&S medals verified by the applicable Military Department. Upon verification of eligibility, the Military Department concerned must forward documented eligibility for the applicable CE&S medal to the Secretary of HHS for concurrence before the USPHS officer may accept and wear the award.

(2) To the OSD, DoD Field Activities, Defense Agencies, joint DoD activities that report directly to an OSD Principal Staff Assistant, the Joint Staff or those agencies and activities reporting through the CJCS, including the CCMDs, must have their eligibility for DoD CE&S medals verified by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

(a) Specific eligibility for the DoD CE&S medals is contained in Volume 2 of DoDM 1348.33.

(b) Upon verification of eligibility, the applicable organization must forward documented eligibility for the CE&S medal to the Secretary of HHS for concurrence before the USPHS officer may accept and wear the award.

c. Unit Awards. A USPHS officer assigned, attached, or detailed for full or part-time duty to:

(1) A Military Department must have their eligibility for unit awards verified by the applicable Military Department. Upon verification of eligibility, the Military Department concerned must forward documented eligibility for the applicable unit award to the Secretary of HHS for concurrence before the USPHS officer may accept and wear the award.

(2) The OSD, DoD Field Activities, Defense Agencies, joint DoD activities that report directly to an OSD Principal Staff Assistant, the Joint Staff, or those agencies and activities reporting through the CJCS (including the CCMDs) must have their eligibility for unit awards verified by the applicable organization. Upon verification of eligibility, the award approval

authority must forward documented eligibility to the Secretary of HHS for concurrence before the USPHS officer may accept and wear the award.

SECTION 14: DoD VALOR WEBSITE

14.1. The publically accessible DoD valor awards website, <https://valor.defense.gov/>, identifies MOH and Military Service Cross recipients. The website also identifies recipients awarded the SSM for actions on or after September 11, 2001. Information on the website includes the name, grade and conflict or campaign of each recipient. The ASD(M&RA) maintains the website with input from the Military Department Secretaries. The Military Departments are responsible for the currency and accuracy of the names and information associated with the medal recipients contained on the website.

14.2. The Military Departments will notify the Director, OEPM, of MOH, Military Service Cross, and SSM recipients for addition to the website.

a. Each Military Department will designate a single, specific organization (e.g., Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Military Personnel) authorized to provide website updates to OEPM. The name, grade, and conflict or campaign of recipients will be provided as:

(1) MOHs and Military Service Crosses within 5 workdays of award presentation.

(2) SSMs not later than on the first duty day of the month following award presentation.

b. The website identifies award nominees based on their respective Military Service. Individuals awarded a Military Service Cross from a sister Military Service will be included on the parent Military Service's Service Cross list. For example, a Marine awarded an Army DSC will be identified on the Marine Corps' NX list as a DSC recipient.

14.3. Security, privacy, and administrative reasons prevent the DoD from including all award recipients on the website. Agencies with a requirement to verify valor award recipients should contact the appropriate Military Department.

a. The Military Departments will establish procedures to annually review, each January, the names of recipients excluded from publication on the website due to security or classification reasons to determine if the earlier justification for exclusion is still relevant.

b. If the justification for not including a recipient on the website is no longer relevant, award recipient names will be forwarded to OEPM for publication on the website.

14.4. The sole purpose of the information provided on the website is to publicly recognize MOH, Military Service Cross, and SSM recipients. In making this information public, the DoD does not represent that all persons who are entitled to wear these decorations are listed on the website.

- a. Due to privacy considerations, the DoD will not include certain information on the website often used to definitively identify specific individuals (e.g., date of birth, Social Security number).
- b. Organizations or agencies with a requirement to verify whether a particular person received a decoration should contact the appropriate Military Department.

SECTION 15: CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF VALOR AWARDS

15.1. When a Service member is awarded a MOH, Military Service Cross, or SSM, the Secretaries of the Military Departments will, subject to Paragraphs 15.2. through 15.4., provide the Service member's congressional representatives in the House and Senate the awardee's:

a. Grade.

b. Name.

c. Title of award.

d. Legal residence or domicile (voting district and State, or city and State, as determined by the Military Department concerned).

15.2. The information referred to in Paragraph 15.1. will be released:

a. When it will not compromise national security, ongoing military operations, or the overall security of the DoD. The information will not be released without concurrence from the appropriate Military Service intelligence or security office if the awardee is:

(1) Serving in an intelligence, counterintelligence, special mission or security position.

(2) Involved in sensitive programs or operations.

(3) In a unit or a position that frequently or regularly deploys overseas.

b. When it will not create an undue risk to the privacy and security of the awardees and their families. The information may be denied when such a risk is possible.

c. Only after official announcement or presentation of the award occurs. This is to prevent premature disclosure that could minimize the impact of ceremonies.

d. With this statement attached: "The information contained herein is provided to Congress in the event members wish to convey congratulations for valorous service to our great Nation. Geographic locations or units of assignment of awardees, while not classified, may potentially expose the member to risk if the information is publicized openly, or released without attention to purpose."

15.3. The citation and certificate of the awards will **not** be forwarded to Congress unless specifically requested by a MOC.

a. Upon receipt of a request for the award citation, the Military Departments must conduct a security and privacy review in accordance with DoDI 5400.04 and obtain concurrence to release from the appropriate Military Department's intelligence or security officials, and privacy offices.

b. In those situations where there is a risk of compromising classified information, the questionable information will be sanitized by removing or rewording the identifying particulars or the release may be denied.

c. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security is available to assist Military Service intelligence and security officials in reviewing those releases where security and the potential compromise of classified information are an issue.

d. The cover statement provided in Paragraph 15.2.d. must accompany all citation and certificate information provided to Congress.

15.4. Ensure all personally identifying identification is collected, maintained, disseminated, and used in accordance with DoD 5400.11-R and DoDI 5400.11.

SECTION 16: COLD WAR CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

16.1. P.L. 105-85 authorizes the DoD to recognize Service members and qualified Federal Government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era from September 2, 1945, to December 26, 1991 with a CWCR. The Secretary of the Army administers the CWCR program as the executive agent for the DoD in accordance with the June 18, 1998 Secretary of Defense Memorandum.

16.2. The DD Form 2774, “Cold War Certificate of Recognition,” (located at https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/forms/DD2500_2999) will be provided upon request to members who meet eligibility criteria. This includes military and civilian personnel of the DoD, personnel in the intelligence community, members of the Foreign Service, and other officers and employees of the U.S. Government contributing to the national security of the United States who served during the period of September 2, 1945, to December 26, 1991.

16.3. Applicants must present documentation of service or employment, such as a copy of a Discharge Certificate (DD Form 214) for Service members or a Standard Form 50, “Notification of Personnel Action” (located at <https://www.gsa.gov/forms>) for civilian personnel.

- a. One CWCR will be awarded per person.
- b. An individual who served in both civilian and military capacities may choose if they want to receive a certificate for service as a Service member or as a Federal civilian employee.
- c. For more information go to the CWCR Program Webpage at:
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Awards%20and%20Decorations%20Branch%20-%20Cold%20War%20Recognition%20Certificate%20Applications> or write to:

U.S. Army Human Resources Command
Cold War Recognition Program
ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, Department 480
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

16.4. The DD Form 2774 is signed by the Secretary of Defense. CWRCs with obsolete Secretary of Defense signatures will **not** be issued. Immediately upon the departure of a Secretary of Defense, the Army will send a request to WHS/ESD/CMD for authorization to use the new Secretary of Defense’s signature on the DD Form 2774. Once the new Secretary of Defense authorizes use of their signature on the DD Form 2774, CWRCs may be issued.

SECTION 17: AVSC

17.1. The Director, DTRA, manages the Nuclear Test and Personnel Review Program pursuant to DoDD 5105.62. Determining eligibility for the AVSC, authorized by Section 581 of P.L. 115-232, is consistent with the duties associated with managing the Nuclear Test and Personnel Review Program.

17.2. The Director, DTRA, is responsible for establishing and managing the DoD's AVSC program. The Director, DTRA, will establish an AVSC program that:

a. Allows retired and former Service members (hereafter referred to as 'veterans') to apply for the AVSC via an official DTRA form.

b. Publishes (e.g., publicly facing webpage, Federal Register) information on how a veteran or, in the case of a deceased veteran, their NOK, may apply for the AVSC. This will include information on how to obtain and submit the AVSC application form.

c. For each AVSC application form received:

(1) Makes a determination using the AVSC eligibility criteria as to whether the veteran's service qualifies for award of the DoD-approved AVSC.

(2) For each veteran whose service is deemed to meet AVSC eligibility criteria:

(a) Provides a DD Form 3065, "Atomic Veterans Service Certificate" (located at https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/forms/DD3000_3499), to the veteran who submitted the application, or, in the case of a deceased veteran, to the NOK who submitted the application. Only one AVSC will be provided for each veteran.

(b) Ensures correspondence to the qualifying veteran states, "Award of the Atomic Veterans Service Certificate is not intended to, and does not, confer any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, or officers."

(3) For veterans whose service is deemed not to meet AVSC eligibility criteria, notifies the veteran who submitted the application, or in the case of a deceased veteran, the NOK who submitted the application that the veteran's service did not meet eligibility requirements.

d. The DD Form 3065 is signed by the Secretary of Defense. AVSCs with obsolete Secretary of Defense signatures will **not** be issued. Immediately upon the departure of a Secretary of Defense, USD(P&R) will send a request to WHS/ESD/CMD for authorization to use the new Secretary of Defense's signature on the DD Form 3065. Once the new Secretary of Defense authorizes use of their signature on the DD Form 3065, AVSCs may be issued.

e. Maintains a historical record of the veterans whose military service met the AVSC eligibility criteria and who were awarded the AVSC.

17.3. AVSC Eligibility Criteria:

a. Pursuant to Section 581 of P.L. 115-232, the AVSC is awarded to ‘radiation-exposed veterans’ as defined in Section 1112(c)(3) of Title 38, U.S.C.

b. For award of the AVSC, the term ‘radiation-exposed veteran’ is further clarified in Section 3.309(d)(3) of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations.

17.4. Instructions for completing the DD Form 3065 are:

a. In the space below the “TO” line on the AVSC, enter the recipient’s grade, first name, middle initial, last name, and Military Service (e.g., CAPTAIN FIRST M. LAST, USN; Colonel First M. Last, USAF). Grade may be abbreviated if necessary.

b. Print the AVSC in full-color on 8.5 x 11 inch cardstock (Note: Recommended cardstock colors and weights are listed in Table 8). Forms will **only** be printed on recommended or similar cardstock. Review the form to ensure it printed correctly and is suitable for signature and presentation to the member.

Table 8. Recommended 8.5 x 11 inch Cardstock for the DD Form 3065 and DD Form 3059.

Cardstock Type (Note 1)	Colors (Note 2)	Grams Per Square Meter (GSM)	Weight (lbs)
Bristol	Ivory; Cream; Warm White; Natural; or other similar off-white color	143 to 147 GSM	65 to 67 lbs
Index	Ivory; Cream; Warm White; Natural; or other similar off-white color	163 to 167 GSM	90 lbs
Index	Ivory; Cream; Warm White; Natural; or other similar off-white color	200 GSM	110 lbs
Cover	Ivory; Cream; Warm White; Natural; or other similar off-white color	147 GSM	65 to 67 lbs
Cover	Ivory; Cream; Warm White; Natural; or other similar off-white color	215 GSM	80 lbs
Note 1: Cardstocks will have a smooth surface.			
Note 2: Only solid colors are authorized (i.e., no marbling or flecks).			

SECTION 18: MILITARY WORKING DOG HANDLER (MWDH) CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION (CoC)

18.1. Each Military Department will establish a program as authorized by Section 582 of P.L. 115-232 to award the DoD MWDH CoC to qualifying MWDHs.

18.2. The Military Department MWDH CoC programs will:

a. Provide for award of a DD Form 3059, “Military Working Dog Handler Certificate of Commendation,” (hereafter referred to as “MWDH CoC,” and located at https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/forms/dd3000_3499), to the handlers of military working dogs under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Military Department concerned to recognize acts of valor or meritorious achievement performed on or after August 13, 2018 by such handlers and their military working dogs.

b. Allow for award of the MWDH CoC to the NOK in the event the handler of the military working dog is deceased.

c. Ensure that award of a MWDH CoC does not preclude the handler of a military working dog who is also a member of the Military Services from being recognized for their actions with a PMD pursuant to guidance contained in Sections 1 through 8 of this issuance. Award of a PMD to a MWDH will be based on the actions of the handler, not those of their military working dog.

18.3. Instructions for completing the DD Form 3059 are:

a. In the space below the “TO” line, enter the MWDH’s grade, first name, middle initial, last name, and Military Service (e.g., SFC FIRST M. LAST, USA; TSGT FIRST M. LAST, USAF). In the space below the “AND” line, enter the name and breed or type of the Military Working Dog (e.g., BULLET, GERMAN SHEPHERD; REX, Patrol-Explosive Detector Dog).

b. Print the DD Form 3059 in full-color on 8.5 x 11 inch cardstock (Note: Recommended cardstock colors and weights are listed in Table 8). CoCs will ONLY be printed on recommended or similar cardstock. Review the DD Form 3059 to ensure it printed correctly and is suitable for signature and presentation to the member.

c. Have the individual who has been delegated approval authority for the MWDH CoC sign the DD Form 3059 on the signature line above their signature block.

SECTION 19: USE OF UNOFFICIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY DECORATIONS

19.1. As required by Section 528 of P.L. 116-92, the unofficial sources of information identified in this section are authorized for use by the Military Departments and the Secretary of Defense in determining eligibility for military decorations only in cases where the Service member's records containing official sources of information are incomplete due to the July 12, 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center, or any subsequent incident while the Service member's records were in DoD possession.

19.2. To maintain the integrity and prestige of the DoD's Military Decorations and Awards Program, substantiating evidence (official or unofficial) must show that the Service member's service, actions, or condition met the applicable military decoration's associated award criteria. Determinations regarding decoration eligibility will be based on verifiable facts and not on subjective opinions or hearsay.

19.3. Affidavits (sworn, signed, and notarized) sourced from outside the DoD are unofficial sources of information authorized for use in determining eligibility for military decorations. There are two categories of affidavits:

a. Primary Affidavits. Affidavits from individuals, other than the award nominee, who personally witnessed (i.e., were with the Service member during the event and saw what the Service member did), or have first-hand knowledge of (e.g., were communicating with the Service member over the radio during the event) the Service member's service, actions, or condition.

(1) If the affidavit includes additional information that the individual did not personally witness, the affidavit must clearly distinguish those things that were witnessed from those that were not. For events or actions not personally witnessed, the affidavit must identify how the individual became aware of such information.

(2) Affidavits from the intended recipient(s) cannot form the basis of any PMD, unit decoration, or the PH, and will not be accepted and considered in making eligibility decisions regarding such decorations. This does not prohibit the Military Departments from considering affidavits from a Service member for purposes of determining eligibility for other CE&S awards.

b. Supporting Affidavits. Such affidavits are from subject matter experts (SMEs) who can provide salient contextual information regarding the Service member's service, actions, or condition. Affidavits from SMEs will be limited to the SME's area of expertise. Supporting affidavits that express opinions as to whether the Service member should receive a decoration, or which level of decoration, will not be accepted and not used to make any award determination. Military decorations will not be approved if supporting affidavits are the only factual basis for the award. 19.4. Unofficial sources of primary information are limited to those items that actually substantiate the Service member's service, actions, or condition (e.g., video or audio

recording of the event; photographs taken at the time and location of the event). Such information must be accompanied by an affidavit from the person who provided it attesting to its authenticity, as well as to the specific time and location and the things, persons, and actions depicted.

19.5. Unofficial sources of secondary information include those items from secondary sources that provide contextual information (e.g., newspaper and magazine articles; book excerpts; diaries). Such information may be considered to provide context, but cannot form the factual basis for approval of any military decoration. Such information, if provided, will clearly identify the passages in the text that are relevant to the Service member's service, actions, or condition. Secondary information based solely on subjective opinions or hearsay will not be accepted.

19.6. The intended recipients of a PMD or unit decoration may not officially nominate themselves for such decorations. Nominations may only be originated according to the policies and procedures published by the Military Department concerned.

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

ACRONYM	MEANING
AFC	Air Force Cross
ASD(M&RA)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs
AVSC	Atomic Veterans Service Certificate
BSM	Bronze Star Medal
CATMS	Correspondence and Task Management System
CCDR	Combatant Commander
CCMD	Combatant Command
CE&S	campaign, expeditionary, and service
CJCS	Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
CMD	Correspondence Management Division
CoC	Certificate of Commendation
CWCR	Cold War Certificate of Recognition
D.C.	District of Columbia
DDSM	Defense Distinguished Service Medal
DFC	Distinguished Flying Cross
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DIA	Defense Intelligence Agency
DMSM	Defense Meritorious Service Medal
DoDD	DoD directive
DoDI	DoD instruction
DoDM	DoD manual
DoS	Department of State
DSC	Distinguished Service Cross
DSSM	Defense Superior Service Medal
DTRA	Defense Threat Reduction Agency
E.O.	Executive order
ESD	Executive Services Directorate
ETP	exception to policy
GSM	grams per square meter
GWOT	Global War on Terrorism
HDP	hazardous duty pay
HFP	hostile fire pay
HHS	Health and Human Services

IADB	Inter-American Defense Board
IDP	imminent danger pay
JDA	joint duty activity
JMUA	Joint Meritorious Unit Award
JSAM	Joint Service Achievement Medal
JSCM	Joint Service Commendation Medal
JTF	joint task force
lbs	pounds
LOM	Legion of Merit
MDSAMs	Military Department-specific achievement medals
MDSCMs	Military Department-specific commendation medals
MOC	member of Congress
MOH	Medal of Honor
MSM	Meritorious Service Medal
MWDH	military working dog handler
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NOK	next of kin
NX	Navy Cross
OEPM	Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management
PH	Purple Heart
PIO/DA&M	Performance Improvement Officer and Director of Administration and Management
P.L.	Public Law
PMD	personal military decoration
SSM	Silver Star Medal
SME	subject matter expert
UN	United Nations
UNM	United Nations Medal
U.S.C.	United States Code
USD(P)	Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
USD(P&R)	Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
USPHS	United States Public Health Service
WHS	Washington Headquarters Services

G.2. DEFINITIONS. Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this issuance.

Armed Forces of the United States. Means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard.

“C” device. An appurtenance used to denote that a PMD was awarded for meritorious service or achievement performed under combat conditions.

combat heroism. Synonymous with valor.

direct impacts. “Hands-on” employment of a weapons system or other activities that had direct, immediate, and on-site effects on the outcome of an engagement or other operation intended to have an effect upon the target.

DoD military decorations and awards. Includes the medals and ribbons that are common to the Military Departments.

DoD joint decorations and awards. The subset of DoD-wide decorations and awards, which includes the DoD joint PMDs and the JMUA.

DoD-wide CE&S medals. The subset of DoD decorations and awards used to recognize participation in military campaigns, expeditions, or other significant military operations, and for otherwise meritorious military service.

DoD-wide PMDs. The subset of DoD decorations and awards that include the PMDs that are common to the Military Departments, including the MOH and Service Crosses.

domain. Described as air, land, maritime, space, and cyberspace domains in accordance with the DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms.

employee. Defined in DoDD 1005.13.

employing component. Defined in DoDD 1005.13.

foreign decoration. Foreign decoration will have the meaning defined in DoDD 1005.13. Although a foreign government may label or consider an item to be a decoration, this designation in itself does not mean the item will be considered a decoration by the U.S. Government. The key factor is if the item is similar in nature to individual decorations awarded by the U.S. Government.

foreign government. Defined in DoDD 1005.13.

impact award. An award that recognizes performance that exceeds that expected by virtue of grade and experience, based on a single specific act or accomplishment that covers a short period of time with definite beginning and ending dates.

JDA. For the eligibility of DoD joint decorations and awards, the term “joint duty” connotes activities, operations, or organizations in which elements of more than one Military Service, as reflected on joint manpower documents or joint duty assignment lists, perform joint missions under the auspices of the OSD; the CJCS; or the CCDR.

joint matters. Defined in Section 668 of Title 10, U.S.C.

meritorious achievement award. Also known as an impact award. See impact award.

meritorious service. Individual performance that exceeds that expected by virtue of grade and experience, based on accomplishments during an entire tour of duty.

meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions. Meritorious service or achievement while personally exposed to hostile action or while at significant risk of exposure to hostile action.

Military Services. Synonymous with the Armed Forces of the United States.

multi-purpose PMDs. The subset of PMDs that may be used to recognize valor, meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions, remote impacts on combat operations, non-combat heroism, or non-combat meritorious service or achievement.

NOK. In descending order, the surviving spouse; eldest surviving child (natural or adopted); surviving father or mother, unless legal exclusive (sole) custody was granted to a person by reason of a court decree or statutory provision; surviving blood or adoptive relative who was granted legal custody of the person by a court decree or statutory provision; eldest surviving brother or sister, eldest surviving half-brother or half-sister; eldest surviving grandparent; or eldest surviving step-child.

official sources of information. Any information produced by the DoD, including, but not limited to: affidavits; military assignment orders (temporary or permanent); pay documents; investigation reports; briefings; surveillance videos; autopsies; photographs; records briefings; audio recordings; unit logs; graphs; diagrams; situational reports; DoD or military forms; and, medical records.

PMD. A military decoration bestowed upon an individual to recognize valor, meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions, remote impacts on combat operations, non-combat heroism, or non-combat meritorious service or achievement.

“R” device. An appurtenance used to denote that a PMD was awarded for hands-on employment of a weapons system or other warfighting activities, performed remotely without personal physical combat risk that had a direct and immediate effects on the outcome of an engagement or specific effects on a target.

Service member. A member of the Military Services.

unit award. An award bestowed on a military unit to recognize the meritorious combat service or the specific achievements of the unit.

unofficial sources of information. Any information sourced from outside the DoD.

“V” device. An appurtenance used to denote that a multi-purpose PMD was awarded for valor.

valor. An act or acts of heroism by an individual above what is normally expected while engaged in direct combat with an enemy of the United States, or an opposing foreign or armed force, with exposure to enemy hostilities and personal risk.

weapons system. Defined in the DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms.

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