

**APPROVED DESIGN FOR THE  
KOREA DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL**



**OBVERSE**



**REVERSE**

**RIBBON:** Dark green represents the land of Korea; blue indicates overseas service and commitment to achieving peace. Gold denotes excellence, white symbolizes idealism and integrity.

**OBVERSE:**

**Description:** A bronze-color disc bearing a Korean "circle dragon" within an encircling scroll inscribed "Korea Defense Service Medal" with, in base, two sprigs, laurel to dexter side, bamboo to sinister.

**Symbolism:** The four-clawed dragon is a traditional symbol of Korea and represents intelligence and strength of purpose. The sprig of laurel denotes honorable endeavor and victory; the bamboo refers to the land of Korea.

**REVERSE:**

**Description:** A representation of the landmass of Korea surmounted by two swords points up saltirewise within a circlet garnished of five points.

**Symbolism:** The swords placed saltirewise over a map of Korea signify defense of freedom in that country and the readiness to engage in combat to that end. The circlet enclosing the device recalls the forms of five-petal symbols common in Korean armory.