



# Department of Defense INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 1348.33

July 1, 2004

*Incorporating Change 2, Effective July 8, 2014*

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PUSD(P&R)

SUBJECT: Military Awards Program

- References:
- (a) DoD Instruction 1348.33, "Military Awards Program," August 26, 1985 (hereby cancelled)
  - (b) DoD 1348.33-M, "Manual of Military Decorations and Awards," varies by Volume
  - (c) DoD Instruction 5025.01, "DoD Directives Program," October 28, 2007
  - (d) ~~Office of the Secretary of Defense (Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management) Memorandum, "Manufacture and Sale of Military Decorations," December 2, 1993-Section 507, Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations~~
  - (e) Title 10, United States Code

## 1. PURPOSE

This Instruction:

- 1.1. Reissues reference (a).
- 1.2. Authorizes the publication of reference (b) pursuant to reference (c).

## 2. APPLICABILITY

This Instruction applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the "DoD Components").

## 3. POLICY

It is DoD policy that:

3.1. Members of the Military Services serving with the DoD Components shall, through the DoD Military Awards Program, receive appropriate tangible recognition for acts of valor or heroism, meritorious service, or specific achievement through award of personal and/or individual performance awards, DoD service awards (Campaign, Expeditionary, and Service (CE&S) medals), and unit awards.

3.2. Recommendations for personal and/or individual performance and unit awards must be placed into official channels as stated by official guidance for that particular decoration or award.

3.3. Only one award or decoration is authorized for the same act, achievement, or period of service for any individual or unit. However, a personal and/or individual performance award 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 valorous or specific achievement award was given. Additionally, a personal and/or individual performance award for deployed wartime meritorious service (e.g., Bronze Star Medal) within a longer period of 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 deployed wartime meritorious service award was given. The fact that a unit received a unit award or an individual received a DoD CE&S medal during the same period does not limit the awarding of a personal and/or individual performance award.

3.4. Eligibility for CE&S medals differs from personal and/or individual performance awards in that Service members are not recommended for DoD CE&S medals, but are eligible for awards based on service record verification that they met the eligibility requirements specified in Volume 2 of DoD Manual 1348.33. Requests for determination of eligibility for DoD CE&S medals must be processed through each current or former Service member's respective Military Department.

3.5. The Institute of Heraldry (TIOH), Department of the Army, is designated to act on behalf of the Department of Defense in establishing regulations governing control in the manufacture and quality assurance of military decorations. Medals can only be produced by manufacturers certified by TIOH. With the exception of the Medal of Honor (MOH), all full-size and miniature military medals may be sold commercially in accordance with ~~the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management) Memorandum section 507 of Title 32, Code of Federal Regulations~~ (Reference (d)). The MOH and all appurtenances are not authorized for sale.

3.6. Specific policies with respect to DoD Defense/Joint decorations and awards apply to the Defense/Joint decorations and awards, and to the Service members eligible to receive them.

3.6.1. Unless otherwise stated, only those Service members who have rendered superior meritorious service while permanently assigned to a joint duty activity (JDA) or assigned to a joint task force (JTF) headquarters shall be eligible for consideration of a Defense/Joint decoration. A JTF commander, the staff, and other Service members assigned and/or attached to

a JTF as individuals (not as members of a Service unit) may also be eligible for Defense/Joint decorations and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (JMUA) to recognize exceptional service or achievement. Members of Service-unique units assigned and/or attached to a JTF are not eligible for Defense/Joint decorations or awards, but retain eligibility for award of personal and/or individual performance and unit awards from their respective Military Departments. They may not be awarded Defense/Joint decorations nor included in the award of the JMUA.

3.6.2. Service members permanently assigned to staff or faculty positions of joint-Service schools are eligible for Defense/Joint decorations; students of such schools are not.

3.6.3. Eligibility for Defense/Joint decorations does not constitute eligibility for Joint Duty Assignment credit, pursuant to section 668 of title 10, United States Code (Reference (e)).

3.6.4. Individual mobilization augmentees permanently assigned to joint activities are eligible for Defense/Joint decorations.

3.6.5. Being under operational control of a JDA or JTF does not constitute Defense/Joint decoration eligibility. Personnel who are assigned to Military Department components that are subsequently attached to a JDA or JTF for administrative or exercise purposes shall not be eligible for Defense/Joint decorations. (Individual Service members performing as part of a unit whose mission is Service-specific (e.g., mobile training teams) are not eligible for Defense/Joint decorations.)

3.6.6. Defense/Joint decorations are typically awarded to Service members permanently assigned to a qualifying JDA to recognize periods of superior meritorious service (12 months or more and encompassing an individual's entire joint assignment). However, they may also be awarded as impact awards to recognize an outstanding achievement.

3.6.6.1. Impact awards for outstanding achievement are rare and intended to recognize a single specific act or accomplishment, separate and distinct from regularly assigned duties, such as a special project. The achievement must be of a truly outstanding nature. They are not intended to provide a means to authorize additional decorations or a decoration when the conditions for a completed period of service have not been fulfilled. An outstanding achievement covers a short period of time with definite beginning and ending dates. A recommendation for an outstanding achievement award should be submitted only when the achievement is of such magnitude that it cannot be recognized in any other way than by award of a decoration, and to delay such recognition until completion of the individual's period of service would diminish the significance of the accomplishment.

3.6.6.2. Defense/Joint decorations may be awarded to recognize the outstanding achievement of Service members on temporary duty (TDY) to a joint activity but are not intended as an automatic award for these members. Only under the most unusual circumstances will the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (DDSM), Defense Superior Service Medal (DSSM), or Defense Meritorious Service Medal (DMSM) be awarded as an impact award for outstanding TDY achievement. The DDSM, DSSM, and DMSM are specifically intended to

recognize exceptionally distinguished service and exceptionally superior service, respectively, and to honor an individual's accomplishments over a sustained period.

3.6.7. No Defense/Joint decoration shall be awarded or presented to any Service member whose entire service during or after the time of the distinguished act, achievement, or meritorious service has not been honorable.

3.6.8. Any Defense/Joint decoration for a distinguished act, achievement, or meritorious service may be revoked if facts, later determined, would have prevented original approval of the decoration. Commanders or staff directors becoming aware of any such instances must immediately report the circumstances and make recommendations, through channels, to the awarding authority for review and determination of appropriate action. Awarding authorities must seek advice from their legal staff in all cases where there is doubt as to the appropriateness of the award action. A Defense/Joint decoration should also be revoked if the basis for which it was awarded no longer exists (e.g., the Service member's permanent change of station (PCS) assignment was canceled). When the awarding authority has determined that a Defense/Joint decoration should be revoked, the original orders should be revoked and the Service member notified of the revocation by their respective Military Department.

3.6.9. The number of decorations that may be awarded to a Service member is not limited; however, only one decoration is awarded for the same act, achievement, or period of service. Additionally, Defense/Joint decorations may not be awarded to any Service member for an act, achievement, or period of service for which a Military Department decoration has been awarded. Additionally, no Military Department decoration may be awarded to any Service member for an act, achievement, or period of service for which a Defense/Joint award has been awarded.

3.6.10. Retirement or separation from military service, while assigned to a qualifying organization under which the retiring Service member is eligible for a Defense/Joint decoration.

3.6.10.1. Any of the Defense/Joint decorations may be awarded upon the retirement or separation of an eligible Service member.

3.6.10.2. Retirement shall not be used to request or justify a higher level decoration than the actual service, achievement, or tenure in the joint assignment supports. In other words, Defense/Joint decoration recommendations must be based purely on the tour of joint service and not the Service member's entire career or previous assignments.

3.6.10.3. In those instances where the length of the joint duty assignment, or degree of responsibility, would not qualify a Service member for an appropriate level Defense/Joint decoration upon retirement, the recommending official may recommend the Service member for an appropriate decoration from the Service member's respective Military Department in lieu of recommending the individual for a Defense/Joint decoration.

3.7. Conforming to the consent of Congress, awards from foreign governments may be accepted only in recognition of active combat service or for outstanding or unusually meritorious

performance. Activities normally undertaken by the Military Services in support of an ally during peacetime are not considered sufficient to merit foreign individual or unit decorations.

3.8. Individual acts of heroism, extraordinary achievement, or meritorious achievement on the part of members of the armed forces of friendly foreign nations or valorous actions of foreign units shall be recognized when such acts have been of significant benefit to the United States or materially contributed to the successful prosecution of a military operation or campaign by the Military Services. Such acts or achievements shall be recognized through the award of a personal and/or individual U.S. performance or valor award or the valorous unit award.

#### 4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall develop, publish, and maintain a DoD publication that shall provide the guidance and procedures for the following:

4.1.1. Awarding of Defense decorations and Service awards.

4.1.2. Acceptance of U.S. nonmilitary decorations.

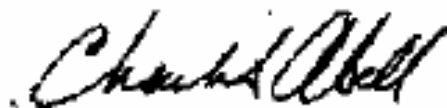
4.1.3. Acceptance of foreign decorations by U.S. Service members.

4.1.4. Awarding of U.S. decorations to foreign military personnel.

4.2. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall regulate under applicable statutes and Executive orders the military service awards within their Departments.

5. RELEASABILITY. UNLIMITED. This Instruction is approved for public release and is available on the Internet from the DoD Issuances Website at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Instruction is effective immediately.



Charles S. Abell  
Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense  
for Personnel and Readiness