

Personnel-General

Military Awards

Rapid Action Revision (RAR) Issue Date: 24 June 2013

**Headquarters
Department of the Army
Washington, DC
11 December 2006**

UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY of CHANGE

AR 600-8-22
Military Awards

This rapid action, dated 24 June 2013--

- o Updates the supplementation and suggested improvements paragraphs (title page).
- o Establishes awards policy, criteria, and procedures for processing combat awards under stability operations (para 3-7).

**Headquarters
Department of the Army
Washington, DC
11 December 2006**

***Army Regulation
600-8-22**

Effective 8 July 2007

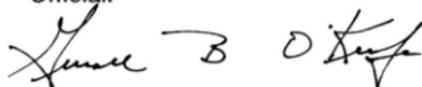
Personnel-General

Military Awards

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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Chief of Staff

Official:



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History. This publication is a rapid action revision. This rapid action revision is effective 24 June 2013. The portions affected by this rapid action revision are listed in the summary of change.

Summary. This regulation provides Department of the Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual military decorations, Good Conduct Medal, service medals and ribbons, combat and special skill badges and tabs, unit decorations, and trophies, and similar devices awarded in recognition of accomplishments. It prescribes the policies and procedures concerning United States Army awards to foreign military personnel and foreign decorations to United States Army personnel.

Applicability. This regulation applies to the Active Army, the Army National

Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the United States Army Reserve unless otherwise stated. It also applies to retired military personnel of all branches, foreign military personnel, and Department of Defense civilians as indicated.

Proponent and exception authority. The proponent of this regulation is the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1. The proponent has the authority to approve exceptions or waivers to this regulation that are consistent with controlling law and regulations. The proponent may delegate this approval authority, in writing, to a division chief within the proponent agency or its direct reporting unit or field operating agency, in the grade of colonel or the civilian equivalent. Activities may request a waiver to this regulation by providing justification that includes a full analysis of the expected benefits and must include formal review by the activity's senior legal officer. All waiver requests will be endorsed by the commander or senior leader of the requesting activity and forwarded through their higher headquarters to the policy proponent. Refer to AR 25-30 for specific guidance.

Army management control process. This regulation contains management control provisions in accordance with AR 11-2, but it does not identify key management controls that must be evaluated.

Supplementation. Supplementation of this regulation and establishment of command or local forms are prohibited without prior approval from Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, through Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Awards and Decorations Branch (AHRC-PDP-A), 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408.

Suggested improvements. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Awards and Decorations Branch (AHRC-PDP-A), 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408 or via electronic mail to: usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-awards@mail.mil.

Distribution. The publication is available in electronic media only and is intended for command levels A, B, C, D, and E for the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the United States Army Reserve.

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*This regulation supersedes Army Regulation 600-8-22, dated 25 February 1995; AR 672-7, Armed Forces Decorations for Foreign Military Personnel, 1 May 1985; and AR 672-9, Distinguished U.S. Army Service School Award, 19 June 1968. This edition publishes a rapid action revision of AR 600-8-22.

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Table 2-6
Steps for processing a recommendation for award of the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Step	Work Center	Required Action
1	Recommender	Complete blocks 1, 2, 3, and Part I (blocks 4 through 11 and 13) of DA Form 638. Complete Part II (blocks 14 and 19). A signature is required for block 19. Complete Part III. Block 20 will be used to list Soldier's volunteer service. One or all blocks may be used. Complete block 21. The proposed citation will be used when the award is presented to Soldier. The proposed citation will be limited to six lines. Forward recommendation through Soldier's immediate supervisor, unit commander, or staff officer.
3	Company Commander, OIC, or Supervisor	Forwards recommendation to PSC for verification of eligibility (flagging) data.
4	PSC or Admin Clerk	Checks to see if Soldier is flagged. If flagged, check AR 600-8-2 for award eligibility. If ineligible, return action through Company Commander, OIC or supervisor to recommender. If eligible, certify by signature and date on separate memorandum and return to Soldier's immediate supervisor or unit commander.
5	Company Commander, OIC, or Supervisor	Complete block 23 indicating approval or disapproval of award and forwards to next higher commander, supervisor, headquarters.
6	Immediate authority	Complete blocks 24 and 25, as applicable. If the chain is such that more blocks are required, additional endorsements will be completed on 8 1/2 by 11 -inch bond paper and enclosed as an addendum to the form. Forward to award approval authority.
7	Award approval authority	Final award approval authority will complete block 26 indicating approval or disapproval, and return original form through the intermediate commander to the BN S1.
8	PAC/Admin Clerk	If award is disapproved, make copies of the DA Form 638 for PSC records and return the original through intermediate commander (if any) to BN S1. The PAC will make copies for recommender, individual and BN (unit) files. The BN S1 will update the ORB or ERB showing award of the MOVSM and return original DA Form 638 to recommender.
9	Recommender	Arrange and conduct presentation ceremony.

Chapter 3

U.S. Army Individual Decorations

Section I

Overview

3-1. Intent

a. U.S. Army military decorations are awarded in recognition of heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service.

b. In peacetime, U.S. Army military decorations recognize achievements which have significantly contributed to the readiness or effectiveness of a unit or organization, or have made notable contributions to the morale or esprit de corps of units or organizations. Exceptional command or leadership of a crew, team, section, squad, or similar unit may be considered meritorious achievement or service. Recommendations for awards must be based on specific achievement.

c. The decision to award an individual a decoration and the decision as to which award is appropriate are both subjective decisions made by the commander having award approval authority. Awards for meritorious achievement or

service will not be based upon the grade of the intended recipient. Rather, the award should reflect both the individual's level of responsibility and his or her manner of performance. The degree to which an individual's achievement or service enhanced the readiness or effectiveness of his or her organization will be the predominant factor.

d. No individual is automatically entitled to an award upon departure from an assignment. Awards presented in conjunction with a permanent change of station will be limited to exceptional cases. Certificates of Achievement and Letters of Commendation or Appreciation are appropriate means to recognize departing personnel.

e. No preconditions for an award may be established such as, for example, when Soldiers are informed in advance that attainment of specific goals will result in the automatic award of a given decoration. Military decorations will not be used as prizes in contests.

f. Limiting awards to a specific number per unit is not authorized.

3-2. Decorations authorized and order of precedence

a. The U.S. Army decorations authorized and the order of precedence are as follows:

- (1) Medal of Honor.
- (2) Distinguished Service Cross.
- (3) Distinguished Service Medal.
- (4) Silver Star.
- (5) Legion of Merit.
- (6) Distinguished Flying Cross.
- (7) Soldier's Medal.
- (8) Bronze Star Medal.
- (9) Meritorious Service Medal.
- (10) Air Medal.
- (11) Army Commendation Medal.
- (12) Army Achievement Medal.

b. The above awards are outlined in table 3-4 at the end of this chapter.

3-3. Personnel eligible

Decorations are awarded primarily to military personnel for services performed while in active Federal military service. However, established criteria for some decorations authorizes awards to personnel in other categories. The following additional instructions apply:

a. The Secretary of the Army may award specific decorations to members of the reserve components of the Army not in active Federal service. This would be to recognize exceptionally meritorious service or singular acts of heroism or achievement directly related to performance of duty as a member of such reserve components. The Secretary may also at his or her discretion award an appropriate decoration during occasional periods of active military service. To qualify, these acts, achievements, or services must not be related directly to membership in the reserve component. They must clearly be of significant benefit to the mission accomplishment of the Army.

b. Specific decorations may be awarded to U.S. citizen civilian personnel who are determined to be "serving with" the U.S. Army in a combat zone. (See table 3-6.)

c. Specific decorations may be awarded to foreign personnel for acts or services deemed to be beneficial to the U.S. Government. (See para 1-38.)

d. Awards of medals may be made following the death of the person being honored.

3-4. Who may recommend

It is the responsibility of any individual having personal knowledge of an act, achievement, or service believed to warrant the award of a decoration, to submit a formal recommendation into military command channels for consideration. The Army does not condone self-recognition; therefore, a Soldier may not recommend himself/herself for award of a decoration.

3-5. Peacetime award approval authority

a. Awards for peacetime service are made by the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Army. When peacetime criteria apply, authority to award decorations is automatically delegated as shown in table 3-5 at the end of this chapter.

b. Approval authorities must be in command or serving as head of a principal HQDA agency. Authority is extended to include those individuals occupying vacant positions of approval authorities listed in table 3-5, regardless of grade. For example, a LTC assigned on orders as a Brigade Commander (an authorized Colonel position) is authorized to act on recommendations for award of the Army Commendation Medal. This authority may not be delegated to subordinate officials (that is, executive officer, chief of staff, deputy commander, and so forth). In instances where the incumbent

commander is not available to act on recommendations (hospitalization, extended temporary duty or leave) the acting commander, regardless of grade, may take final action provided a formal official assumption of command has taken place. In such cases, the acting commander will sign documents using the title "Acting Commander."

c. The delegation of military award approval authority to certain senior civilian leaders is governed by memorandum from the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army.

d. Commanders having authority to approve an award may delegate disapproval (to include downgrade) authority to their immediate subordinate commanders, provided those subordinate commanders have authority to approve the next lower award. This delegation must be in writing and should be accomplished with each change of command. Commanders reporting directly to HQ, USAHRC and officials reporting directly to a principal HQDA agency are delegated disapproval authority for current recommendations for award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, and Air Medal. Such commanders and HQDA officials may also disapprove service and other achievement award recommendations, provided they have authority to approve the next lower award. This disapproval authority includes awards for non-Army personnel.

e. The Chief of Staff, Army and Vice Chief of Staff, Army have authority to disapprove a recommendation to award a general officer the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM). Also, four-star major Army commanders have authority to disapprove or downgrade all recommendations to award the DSM to general officers. Commanders and heads of principal Army agencies may recommend disapproval of the DSM for a general officer.

f. Award approval authority applies equally to Army element commanders in Joint, unified and combined commands in accordance with the grade of the Army element commander and applies only within the headquarters concerned for approval of Army awards to Army personnel assigned to that headquarters. If an individual is recommended for an award higher than the Army element commander may approve, the recommendation will be processed through Joint command channels to the Commander, USAHRC, AHRC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471, or to an intermediate Joint headquarters in which the senior U.S. commander is a U.S. Army general officer with the requisite approval authority, for final action. In those cases where the Army element commander is not the senior United States commander in the headquarters, concurrence of that senior commander, regardless of branch of Armed Forces, will be obtained prior to approval of the award. Army awards approval authority does not apply within the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) or the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (OJCS) but does include Defense OJCS Activities. Where an Army element commander has not been formally designated, the senior Army general officer within the headquarters will exercise awards approval authority commensurate with his or her grade.

g. Major Army commanders and CONUS armies, with awards approval authority, are authorized to award applicable decorations to unit and non-unit reserve component personnel under their command in accordance with the authorized grade of the commanders concerned. For attached Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA) or non-unit Reserve personnel attached to U.S. Army Reserve or active Army units for ADT, active duty for special work, inactive duty training, or in active Guard Reserve (AGR) status, whose records are maintained by HRC-St. Louis, the unit of attachment will obtain concurrence from Commander, HRC-St. Louis, AHRC-PAP-R, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200, and any previous awards, proper oak leaf cluster, period of award, derogatory information, flagging action and or other applicable information from personnel files. A copy of the permanent order granting the award will be provided the Commander, HRC-St. Louis, AHRC-PSP-R, One Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200, for inclusion in the individual's Official Military Personnel File (OMPF).

h. State adjutants general and commanders of Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve commands may award applicable decorations to personnel under their command, including active component and full time AGR personnel performing full time duty under their command.

i. The Secretary of the Army delegated awards approval authority to the military and civilian program, project, and product managers (PMs) and Program Executive Officers (PEOs) assigned to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)); and the military PMs assigned to the Army Materiel Command. The approval authorities are outlined in table 3-1 below:

Table 3-1
Delegation of award approval authority to project, program and product managers, and program executive officers—peacetime criteria

Project, Program, and Product Managers, and Program Executive Officers	May award	To
Major Generals and their civilian equivalent Senior Executive Service (SES)	MSM, ARCOM, and AAM	Service members assigned to their projects (see footnote 1 and 2).
Brigadier Generals and their civilian equivalent SES	MSM, ARCOM, and AAM	Service members assigned to their projects (see footnote 1 and 2).
Colonel and their civilian equivalent General Schedule (GS) 15	ARCOM and AAM	Service members assigned to their projects (see footnote 1 and 2).

Table 3-1
Delegation of award approval authority to project, program and product managers, and program executive officers—peacetime criteria—Continued

Lieutenant Colonel	AAM	Service members assigned to their projects (see footnote 1 and 2).
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Notes:

¹ See AR 600-8-22, paragraph 1-37, for instructions on awarding Army decorations to members of other U.S. Services.

² Awards approval authority only applies to the civilian and military PMs and PEOs assigned to ASA (ALT) and the military PMs assigned to Army Materiel Command.

3-6. Wartime conditions award approval authority

a. The Medal of Honor is awarded only by the President. Other decorations are awarded by the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Army. When wartime conditions erupt, authority to further delegate decorations approval authority will be requested from the Secretary of the Army. Initial delegation will be requested consistent with the award approval authority outlined in table 3-6, at the end of this chapter. Initial delegation authority is not absolute, but is provided for contingency planning purposes only. Delegation of awards approval authority will be reviewed at 30 day intervals after combat commences to determine if further delegation would be expedient and justified. Award authority is gradually increased as the length and intensity of conflict increases, and the number of Soldiers committed to the combat theater increases.

b. Combat and wartime conditions present opportunities and events which lead to award of decorations, service medals, and badges to Soldiers. Most of these awards and decorations are inactive until the commencement of hostilities. The immediate requirement by commanders to recognize deserving personnel generates heavy administrative requirements throughout all echelons.

(1) To help meet the demand and to expedite recognition of combat deeds, delegation of wartime awards approval authority commences and is delegated to commanders based on level of command (see table 3-6).

(2) As larger elements or armies are committed, authority to approve higher level awards is granted based on the seniority level of Army commanders.

(3) Delegated awards authority creates the requirement for additional reporting of approved awards.

(4) Special reporting procedures will be necessary for all Medal of Honor recommendations.

3-7. Stability operations

a. *Policy.* Army policy is to recognize appropriately the meritorious service, achievements, and valorous and heroic acts of personnel and units performed when participating in stability operations. Stability operations encompass various military missions, tasks, and activities conducted outside the United States in coordination with other instruments of national power to maintain or reestablish a safe and secure environment, provide essential Government services and emergency reconstruction of infrastructure, and humanitarian relief. Determination of the appropriate awards to recognize Servicemembers for participation in stability operations is extremely difficult because these operations include, but are not limited to, arms control, combating terrorism, national assistance, noncombatant evacuations operations, peace operations, humanitarian service, insurgency support operations, counterdrug operations, riot control, and civil support operations. Additionally, stability operations are often conducted jointly with other Services and/or international or multinational organizations (for example, NATO, the United Nations). Often, even if a stability operation involves armed conflict, the operation is not explicitly referred to as a “combat” operation. Accordingly, it is difficult for commanders to determine if valor awards (for example, the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star with “V” device, Presidential Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, and so forth) may be used to recognize participation in a specific stability operation.

b. *Evaluation of award criteria.* Award recommendations for stability operations must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if award criteria in section II are met. However, as a general rule, valorous unit and personal awards may be awarded only for specific actions while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. If the litmus test for a valorous award is met, then it is likely that the Bronze Star Medal without “V” device is appropriate to recognize meritorious service in conjunction with that specific stability operation. However, caution must be exercised because a stability operation may begin with armed conflict that meets valor award criteria, but then changes into an operation without armed conflict, for which valor awards are not appropriate.

c. *Rules for processing awards under stability operations.* Award recommendations submitted under stability operations conditions will be authenticated and verified via endorsement by the requesting commander. The nominating official should provide concrete evidence and official documents of the operations, and identify the specific action for which the award is considered. Commanders will verify that award recommendations meet the criteria for each award in accordance with section II and other policies published by higher headquarters for that specific operation or

contingency. Recommendations from the theater of operations will be submitted from the task force commander or theater commander through the commander of the operations to the Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (AHRC-PDP-A), 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408. HQDA will approve all recommendations unless the Secretary of the Army delegates award approval authority to the operational commander.

(1) Recommendations will be submitted from the recommender with appropriate endorsement (brigade, division, or corps commander) to the operational commander. The operational commander will process all recommendations through the peacetime G-1 or S1 with all supporting documents to the Commander, HRC.

(2) Extracts or full copies of the deployment directives, task force organization, and operations orders will be used to substantiate the events for the award and must accompany each recommendation. Documents that are marked for official use only or classified will be submitted through appropriate channels with prior coordination with the Awards and Decorations Branch (AHRC-PDP-A).

d. Award of the Purple Heart for stability operations. The Purple Heart may be awarded to individuals who are wounded as the direct result of enemy action and will continue to be processed by the Commander, HRC (AHRC-PDP-A). HQDA will approve all recommendations unless the Secretary of the Army delegates award approval authority to the operational commander. Commanders are required to submit detailed information about the operations, threat or hostile force, and armed force or struggle that resulted in the casualty or injury. For command and unit awareness, information on factions, hostile forces, or threat may be in the form of the following and must be included in the “enemy or threat annex” of the operational order or operational plan:

(1) *Threat of terrorism.* Submit the documents that identify the terrorists and their activities causing a threat to the operation.

(2) *Threat from foreign intelligence.* Provide evidence that details the threat from the foreign intelligence operatives.

e. Rules for requesting delegation of awards authority. Commanders may continue to authorize awards they have approval authority for in accordance with peacetime criteria in table 3-5. In the event that hostilities erupt, authority to delegate awards approval authority will be requested from the Secretary of the Army as follows:

(1) The senior Army commander will submit a request through the Commander, HRC (AHRC-PDP-A). Initial delegation will be requested consistent with the award approval authority outlined in table 3-6.

(2) When supporting a Joint task force, the Joint Staff will provide policy on all awards to be issued to the force. The Army will provide input as appropriate.

(3) Awards for personnel of other Services will be processed in accordance with paragraph 1-37.

f. Awards to foreign military personnel. Foreign military personnel may be recommended for an award, provided the Secretary of the Army or designee has granted an approved delegation. See paragraph 1-38 for additional information on recommending and processing awards for foreign military personnel.

g. Campaign and service medals. Campaign and service medals, such as the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or Armed Forces Service Medal, may be requested in accordance with existing regulations. Commanders will justify their request by submitting complete documents as required in paragraph *c*, above. Other medals or decorations may be authorized by the CJCS. The Office of the CJCS will coordinate with the Army on awards initiated by their headquarters.

h. Unit awards. Unit awards during stability operations are considered on a case-by case basis. Commanders have four unit awards to consider: Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and Army Superior Unit Award. See chapter 7 for criteria and submission requirements.

Section II

U.S. Army Individual Decorations—Authority and Criteria

3-8. Medal of Honor

a. The Medal of Honor, 10 USC 3741, was established by Joint Resolution of Congress, 12 July 1862 (amended by acts 9 July 1918 and 25 July 1963).

b. The Medal of Honor is awarded by the President in the name of Congress to a person who, while a member of the Army, distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or 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. The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

3-9. Distinguished Service Cross

a. The Distinguished Service Cross, 10 USC 3742, was established by Act of Congress 9 July 1918 (amended by act of 25 July 1963).

b. The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the Army, distinguished himself or herself by extraordinary heroism not justifying the award of a Medal of Honor; while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing or foreign force; or 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. The act or acts of heroism must have been so notable and have involved risk of life so extraordinary as to set the individual apart from their comrades.

3-10. Distinguished Service Medal

a. The Distinguished Service Medal, 10 USC 3743, was established by Act of Congress 9 July 1918.
b. The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army, has distinguished himself or herself by exceptionally meritorious service to the Government in a duty of great responsibility. The performance must be such as to merit recognition for service which is clearly exceptional. Exceptional performance of normal duty will not alone justify an award of this decoration.

c. For service not related to actual war, the term "duty of great responsibility" applies to a narrower range of positions than in time of war and requires evidence of conspicuously significant achievement. However, justification of the award may accrue by virtue of exceptionally meritorious service in a succession of high positions of great importance.

d. Awards may be made to persons other than members of the Armed Forces of the United States for wartime services only, and then only under exceptional circumstances with the express approval of the President in each case.

3-11. Silver Star

a. The Silver Star, 10 USC 3746, was established by Act of Congress 9 July 1918 (amended by act of 25 July 1963).

b. The Silver Star is awarded to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army, is cited for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The required gallantry, while of a lesser degree than that required for the Distinguished Service Cross, must nevertheless have been performed with marked distinction.

c. It is awarded upon letter application to Commander, USAHRC, AHRC-PDO-PA, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471, to those individuals who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army, received a citation for gallantry in action in World War I published in orders issued by a headquarters commanded by a general officer.

3-12. Legion of Merit

a. The Legion of Merit was established by Act of Congress 20 July 1942 (Public Law 671-77th Congress). Executive Order 9260, 29 October 1942 prescribed the criteria for the award and was amended by Executive Order 10600, 15 March 1955.

b. The Legion of Merit is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or a friendly foreign nation who has distinguished himself or herself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

c. Criteria for members of the Armed Forces of the United States are as follows:

(1) The performance must have been such as to merit recognition of key individuals for service rendered in a clearly exceptional manner. Performance of duties normal to the grade, branch, specialty, assignment, or experience of an individual is not an adequate basis for this award.

(2) For service not related to actual war, the term "key individuals" applies to a narrower range of positions than in time of war and requires evidence of significant achievement. In peacetime, service should be in the nature of a special requirement or of an extremely difficult duty performed in an unprecedeted and clearly exceptional manner. However, justification of the award may accrue by virtue of exceptionally meritorious service in a succession of important positions.

(3) Award will be made without reference to degree.

d. Criteria for member of Armed Forces of foreign nations is in paragraph 1-38.

3-13. Distinguished Flying Cross

a. The Distinguished Flying Cross, 10 USC 3749, was established by Act of Congress 2 July 1926.

b. The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, distinguished himself or herself by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. The performance of the act of heroism must be evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty. The extraordinary achievement must have resulted in an accomplishment so exceptional and outstanding as to clearly set the individual apart from his or her comrades or from other persons in similar circumstances. Awards will

be made only to recognize single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement and will not be made in recognition of sustained operational activities against an armed enemy.

3-14. Soldier's Medal

a. The Soldier's Medal, 10 USC 3750 was established by Act of Congress 2 July 1926 amended 10 USC 3750.
b. The Soldier's Medal is awarded to any person of the Armed Forces of the United States or of a friendly foreign nation who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, including reserve component Soldiers not serving in a duty status, as defined in 10 USC 101(d), at the time of the heroic act, who distinguished himself or herself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. The same degree of heroism is required as that of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross. The performance must have involved personal hazard or danger and the voluntary risk of life under conditions not involving conflict with an armed enemy. Awards will not be made solely on the basis of having saved a life.

3-15. Bronze Star Medal

a. The Bronze Star Medal was established by Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944 (superseded by Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962, as amended by Executive Order 13286, 28 February 2003).

b. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy; or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. Title 10, United States Code, section 1133, (10 USC 1133) limits award of the Bronze Star Medal to service members receiving imminent danger pay.

c. Awards may be made for acts of heroism, performed under circumstances described above, which are of lesser degree than required for the award of the Silver Star.

d. The Bronze Star Medal may be awarded for meritorious achievement or meritorious service according to the following:

(1) Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit or meritorious service. The lesser degree than that required for the award of the Legion of Merit must nevertheless have been meritorious and accomplished with distinction.

(2) Award may be made to each member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after 6 December 1941, has been cited in orders or awarded a certificate for exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy between 7 December 1941 and 2 September 1945, inclusive, or whose meritorious achievement has been otherwise confirmed by documents executed prior to 1 July 1947. For this purpose, an award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge is considered as a citation in orders. Documents executed since 4 August 1944 in connection with recommendations for the award of decorations of higher degree than the Bronze Star Medal will not be used as the basis for an award under this paragraph. Veterans and retirees may submit letter application to National Personnel Records Center, NPRMA-M, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Soldiers who retired or were discharged after 1 October 2002 and the next of kin of Soldiers who died after 1 October 2002 should send their letter application to the Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, AHRC-CC-B, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200. The letter application should include documentary evidence, if possible.

(3) Upon letter application, award of the Bronze Star Medal may be made to eligible Soldiers who participated in the Philippine Islands Campaign between 7 December 1941 to 10 May 1942. Performance of duty must have been on the island of Luzon or the Harbor Defenses in Corregidor and Bataan. Only Soldiers who were awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation (Presidential Unit Citation) may be awarded this decoration. Letter application should be sent to the National Personnel Records Center, NPRMA-M, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Soldiers who retired or were discharged after 1 October 2002 and the next of kin of Soldiers who retired or were discharged after 1 October 2002 should send their letter application to the Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, AHRC-CC-B, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200.

3-16. Meritorious Service Medal

a. The Meritorious Service Medal was established by Executive Order 11448, 16 January 1969 as amended by Executive Order 12312, 2 July 1981, as amended by Executive Order 13286, 28 March 2003. It is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or to any member of the Armed Forces of a friendly foreign nation who has distinguished himself or herself by outstanding meritorious achievement or service.

b. After 16 January 1969 but prior to 11 September 2001, the Meritorious Service Medal is authorized to be awarded only for meritorious service or achievement while serving in a non-combat area.

3-17. Air Medal

a. The Air Medal was established by Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942 as amended by Executive Order 9242-A, 11 September 1942.

b. The Air Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the U.S. Army, will have