Armed Forces
DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

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INTRODUCTION

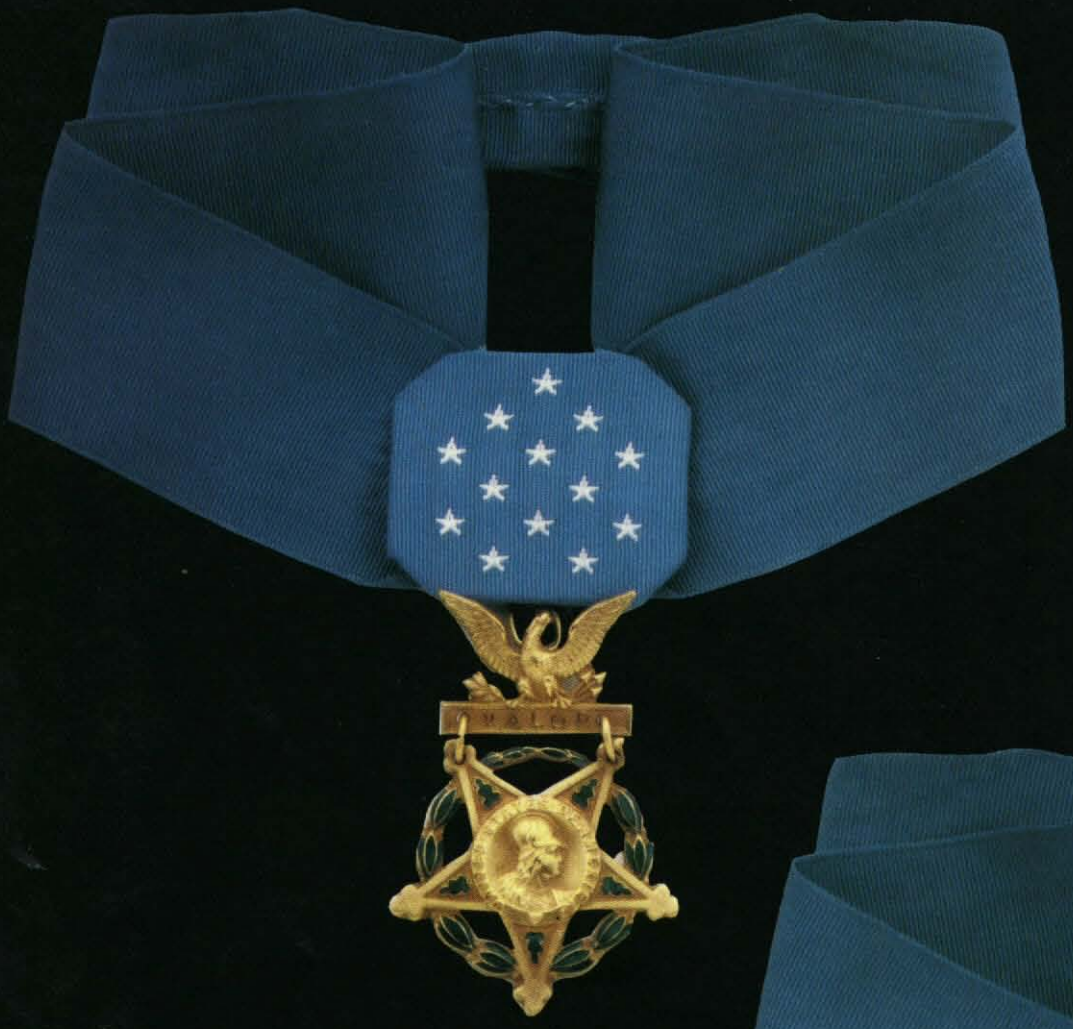
The Badge of Military Merit, established by Gen. George Washington on Aug. 7, 1782, was the first authorized U.S. military decoration. A piece of cloth in the form of a heart, this decoration was intended to recognize servicemen who displayed unusual gallantry or extraordinary fidelity. Only three are known to have been awarded, and the award fell into disuse after the Revolutionary War. Gen. Douglas MacArthur revived it as the Purple Heart in 1932.

The Medal of Honor was the next decoration to be specifically designed and authorized for U.S. service members. It was established on Dec. 21, 1861, by President Abraham Lincoln for enlisted men of the Navy and Marine Corps. Its use was later expanded to include enlisted men and officers of all services.

Since that time, many decorations have evolved. Changes in eligibility criteria have been made over the years, and, in some cases, decorations have fallen into disuse. However, the basic hierarchy remains unchanged. The Medal of Honor remains the highest military decoration that this nation can bestow upon a service member, and lesser degrees of recognition are acknowledged by other decorations in descending order.

This booklet provides illustrations and brief descriptions of the decorations and awards that may be earned by members of the armed forces. Also included are descriptions of top civilian awards issued by DoD and the services as well as charts on the order of precedence for wearing individual decorations and awards. For complete information and official instructions about how decorations and awards are issued and worn, consult your service's regulations.

MEDALS



MEDAL OF HONOR
With Service Ribbon
(Army)
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty, in action involving actual conflict with an opposing armed force.

MEDAL OF HONOR
With Service Ribbon
(Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard)
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty, in action involving actual conflict with an opposing armed force.

The decorations and awards on these and subsequent pages are listed in DoD 1348.33-M (*Manual of Military Decorations and Awards*), published by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel).

They are listed in general order of precedence. However, precedence, and thus the appropriate order for wear on the uniform, is established by the service secretary; therefore, separate sections showing the order of precedence for individual services are shown elsewhere in this booklet.

These awards and decorations are those most *likely* to be found on the uniform of today's service member. For this reason, awards and decorations issued prior to 1950—generally before the Korean conflict—are not shown. For the same reason, foreign unit awards (such as the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation) are included, even though they are not listed in DoD Manual 1348.33-M.

MEDAL OF HONOR
With Service Ribbon
(Air Force)
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity of the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty, in action involving actual conflict with an opposing armed force.

Civil War—Navy

World War I—Navy

The Medal of Honor

The first formal system for rewarding acts of individual gallantry by the nation's fighting men was established by Gen. George Washington on Aug. 7, 1782. Designed to recognize "any singularly meritorious action," the award consisted of a purple cloth heart. Records show that only three persons received the award: Sgt. Elijah Churchill, Sgt. William Brown and Sgt. Daniel Bissel Jr.

The Badge of Military Merit, as it was called, fell into oblivion until 1932, when Gen. Douglas MacArthur, then Army chief of staff, pressed for its revival. Officially reinstituted on Feb. 22, 1932, the now-familiar Purple Heart was at first an Army award, given to those who had been wounded in World War I or who possessed a Meritorious Service Citation Certificate. In 1943, the order was amended to include personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Coverage was eventually extended to include all services and "any civilian national" wounded while serving with the armed forces.

Although the Badge of Military Merit fell into disuse after the Revolutionary War, the idea of a decoration for individual gallantry remained through the early 1800s. In 1847, after the outbreak of the Mexican-American War, a "certificate of merit" was established for any soldier who distinguished himself in action. No medal went with the honor. After the Mexican-American War, the award was discontinued, which meant there was no military award with which to recognize the nation's fighting men.

Early in the Civil War, a medal for individual valor was proposed to General-in-Chief of the Army Winfield Scott. But Scott felt medals smacked of European affectation and killed the idea.

The medal found support in the Navy, however, where it was felt recognition of courage in strife was needed. Public Resolution 82, containing a provision for a Navy medal of valor, was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on Dec. 21, 1861. The medal was "to be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen and marines as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seamanlike qualities during the present war."

Shortly after this, a resolution similar in wording was introduced on behalf of the Army. Signed into law July 12, 1862, the measure provided for awarding a medal of honor "to such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldierlike qualities, during the present insurrection."

Although it was created for the Civil War, Congress made the Medal of Honor a permanent decoration in 1863.

Almost 3,400 men and one woman have received the award for heroic actions in the nation's battles since that time.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS
(Army)
For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force. For service members serving in any capacity with the Army.

NAVY CROSS
(Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard)
For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force.

AIR FORCE CROSS
For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force.

DEFENSE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL
For award by the secretary of defense for exceptionally meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL
(Army)
For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL
(Navy-Marine Corps)
For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL
(Air Force)
For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL
(Coast Guard)
For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.

SILVER STAR
For gallantry in action against an opposing armed force.

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL
Awarded by the secretary of defense for superior meritorious service while in a position of significant responsibility while assigned to a joint activity.

LEGION OF MERIT
For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
For heroism or extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. Bronze "V" device is worn by Navy and Marine Corps personnel to denote valor.

SOLDIER'S MEDAL
For heroism by those serving with the Army in any capacity that involves the voluntary risk of life under conditions other than those of conflict with an opposing armed force.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL
For acts of heroism not involving actual conflict with an opposing armed force.

AIRMAN'S MEDAL
For heroism that involves the voluntary risk of life under conditions other than those of conflict with an opposing armed force.

COAST GUARD MEDAL
For acts of heroism not involving actual conflict with an opposing armed force.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL
For heroic or meritorious achievement of service, not involving aerial flight in connection with operations against an opposing armed force. Bronze "V" device worn to denote valor.

PURPLE HEART
Awarded for wounds or death as result of an act of any opposing armed force, as a result of an international terrorist attack or as a result of military operations while serving as part of a peacekeeping force.

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
Awarded in the name of the secretary of defense for recognition of non-combat meritorious achievement or service while assigned to a joint activity.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
For outstanding non-combat meritorious achievement or service to the United States.

AIR MEDAL
For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. Bronze "V" device worn to denote valor.

AERIAL ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
(Air Force)
For sustained meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL
For meritorious achievement or service while assigned to a joint activity.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL
Awarded by the Army for heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL
Awarded by the Navy and Marine Corps for heroic or meritorious achievement or service. Bronze "V" device worn to denote valor.

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL
Awarded by the Air Force for outstanding achievement, meritorious service or acts of courage.

COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL
Awarded by the Coast Guard for meritorious service resulting in unusual or outstanding achievement.

JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
For meritorious achievement or service while assigned to a joint activity after Aug. 3, 1983.

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
Awarded to members of the Armed Forces who, while serving in any capacity with the Army in a non-combat area on or after Aug. 1, 1981, distinguish themselves by meritorious service or achievement.

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
(Navy-Marine Corps)
For junior officers and enlisted personnel whose professional and/or leadership achievements on or after May 1, 1961, are clearly of a superlative nature.

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
Awarded by the Air Force for meritorious service or achievement after Sept. 30, 1981.

COAST GUARD ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
For military personnel whose professional achievements and/or leadership on or after April 1, 1967, are of a clearly superlative nature.

POW MEDAL
Awarded to any person who was taken prisoner of war and held captive after April 5, 1917, during World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam conflicts and Operation Desert Storm.

COMBAT READINESS MEDAL
(Air Force)
Awarded for completion of an aggregate of two years of sustained individual combat or mission readiness or preparedness for direct weapon system deployment.

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL
(Army)
Awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity while on active duty.

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL
(Navy)
Based on conduct for four-year periods of continuous active service.

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL
(Marine Corps)
Based on conduct for three-year periods of continuous active service.

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL
(Air Force)
Awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity during a three-year period of service.

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL
(Coast Guard)
Based on conduct for three-year periods (after Jan. 1, 1980) of continuous active service.

COAST GUARD RESERVE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL
Based on conduct for three-year periods of continuous Reserve service. Replaces the Coast Guard Reserve Meritorious Service Ribbon.

ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
For exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity while serving as a member of an Army National Guard or Reserve Troop Program Unit.

NAVAL RESERVE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
Awarded to Navy reservists who fulfill with distinction the obligations of inactive reservists during any four consecutive years.

AIR RESERVE FORCES MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
(Air Force)
Awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity during a four-year period while serving in an enlisted status in the Air Force Reserve Forces.

SELECTED MARINE CORPS RESERVE MEDAL
Awarded for four consecutive years service in Selected Marine Corps Reserve.

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
For opposed landing on foreign territory or operations deserving special recognition for which service no other campaign medal has been awarded.

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
For opposed landing on foreign territory or operations deserving special recognition for which service no other campaign medal has been awarded.

ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL
(Army-Air Force)
For 30 consecutive days service after World War II at a normal post of duty while assigned to an army of occupation.

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL
(Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard)
For occupation service during and after World War II.

CHINA SERVICE MEDAL
(Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard)
For service in China, July 7, 1937, to Sept. 7, 1939, (Navy-Marine Corps) and Sept. 2, 1945, to April 1, 1957 (Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard).

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL
For active federal service in the armed forces, including the Coast Guard, between June 27, 1950, and July 1954; from Jan. 1, 1961, to Aug. 14, 1974; and from Aug. 2, 1990, to a date to be determined. Also awarded to members of the National Guard and Reserve who were part of the Selected Reserve in good standing during the period from Aug. 2, 1990, to a date to be determined.

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL
For participation in operations in the Korean area between June 27, 1950, and July 27, 1954.

ANTARCTICA SERVICE MEDAL
For participating in an expedition, operation or support of a U.S. operation in Antarctica after Jan. 1, 1946, to date to be announced.

COAST GUARD ARCTIC SERVICE MEDAL
For participating in an expedition, operation or support of an operation in excess of 21 consecutive days in the Arctic.

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
For participating in designated operations after July 1, 1958.

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL
For service in Southeast Asia and contiguous waters or air space thereover from July 4, 1965, through March 28, 1973.

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL
For service in Southwest Asia and contiguous waters or air space thereover from Aug. 2, 1990, until a date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense.

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL
For meritorious direct participation in a significant military act or operation of a humanitarian nature performed after April 1, 1975.

ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL
For 10 years of honorable service in Reserve components of the armed forces.

NAVAL RESERVE MEDAL
Awarded for 10 years of honorable service in the Naval Reserve (prior to Sept. 12, 1958).

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL
(Korea)
For service in the Korean area in support of UN action from June 27, 1950, to July 27, 1954; and those who are also eligible for the Korean Service Medal.

INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD MEDAL
Awarded for at least one year of service on the IADB in selected positions.

UNITED NATIONS MEDAL
For not less than six months' service with UN Observers Group in Lebanon, UN Truce Supervisory Organization in Palestine, UN Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan, or UN Security Forces, Hollandia.

MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS MEDAL
Awarded for service with the Multinational Force and Observers Organization for at least 90 consecutive days.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL
For six months direct combat support or service in South Vietnam between March 1, 1961, and March 28, 1973. Also for those wounded, captured or killed in action or in the line of duty during the same period.

KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL
(Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
Awarded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for direct participation in Operation Desert Storm between Jan. 17, 1991, and Feb. 28, 1991.

COAST GUARD COMMANDANT'S LETTER OF COMMENDATION RIBBON BAR

For military personnel whose personal achievements merit recognition to a lesser extent than an Achievement Medal.

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON (Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard)

For active participation in ground or surface combat subsequent to March 1, 1961, while in the grade of captain/colonel or junior thereto.

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (Army-Air Force)

For service in a unit cited in the name of the president for extraordinary heroism in action occurring on or after Dec. 7, 1941.

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard)

For service in a unit cited in the name of the president for outstanding performance in action.

JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD

Recognizes joint units or activities for meritorious achievement or service superior to that which would normally be expected during combat or declared national emergency or under extraordinary circumstances that involve the national interest.

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD (Army)

Awarded to units for extraordinary heroism in action on or after Aug. 3, 1963.

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION (Navy-Marine Corps)

For outstanding heroism in action or extremely meritorious service not involving combat, but in support of military operations.

COAST GUARD UNIT COMMENDATION

Awarded to a unit for meritorious service rendering it outstanding compared to others providing similar services.

AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

In recognition of exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement of a numbered unit whether in peacetime or wartime.

AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

In recognition of exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement of an organization or activity whether in peacetime or wartime.

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION (Army)

Awarded to a unit for at least six months of outstanding service during a period of combat on or after Jan. 1, 1944.

ARMY SUPERIOR UNIT AWARD

For outstanding meritorious performance by a unit of a difficult and challenging mission.

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION (Navy-Marine Corps)

For valorous or meritorious achievement or service that renders the unit outstanding as compared to other units performing the same service.

COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

Awarded to a unit for meritorious service rendering it outstanding compared to others providing similar services. Gold stars denote subsequent awards.

NAVY "E" RIBBON (Navy)

To denote permanent duty on/with ships or squadrons that won the battle efficiency competitions subsequent to July 1, 1974.

COAST GUARD "E" RIBBON

Awarded to personnel serving aboard their unit for more than 50 percent of the period during which it undergoes Refresher Training and earns the overall operational readiness "E" award.

COAST GUARD BICENTENNIAL UNIT COMMENDATION

Awarded to all Coast Guard members serving satisfactoriuly during any period from June 4, 1989, to Aug. 4, 1990.

OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR RIBBON

Awarded to airmen selected to represent their major air commands/separate operating agencies/direct reporting units in the annual 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Program.

AIR FORCE LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD

For four years active service. Oak leaf clusters denote subsequent awards.

SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON (Navy-Marine Corps)

To recognize the unique and demanding nature of sea service and the arduous duty attendant with deployment subsequent to Aug. 15, 1974.

NAVY ARCTIC SERVICE RIBBON

For participation in operations in support of the Arctic Warfare Program on or after Jan. 1, 1982.

NAVAL RESERVE SEA SERVICE RIBBON

For any combination of active or Selected Reserve service after Aug. 14, 1974, aboard a Naval Reserve ship or its Reserve unit or an embarked active or Reserve staff for a cumulative total of 36 months.

MARINE CORPS RESERVE RIBBON

Awarded for 10 years of service in the Marine Corps Reserve (prior to Dec. 18, 1965).

AIR FORCE RECOGNITION RIBBON

Awarded to named individual Air Force recipients of special trophies and awards listed in AFR 900–29.

NCO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RIBBON (Army)

Awarded to members of the United States Army for successful completion of designated non-commissioned officer professional development courses.

ARMY SERVICE RIBBON

Awarded as of Aug. 1, 1981, to members of the U.S. Army for successful completion of initial-entry training.

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON (Army)

Awarded to members of the U.S. Army for successful completion of overseas tours.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

For 12 months consecutive or accumulated active duty at an overseas duty station; or for 30 consecutive days or 45 cumulative days of active duty for training or temporary active duty after Aug. 14, 1974.

NAVY RECRUITING SERVICE RIBBON

Awarded for completion of a successful tour of Navy recruiting duty after January 1, 1980.

AIR FORCE OVERSEAS RIBBON (Short Tour)

Awarded for completion of an overseas short tour.

AIR FORCE OVERSEAS RIBBON (Long Tour)

Awarded for completion of an overseas long tour.

ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS OVERSEAS TRAINING RIBBON

Awarded to members of the U.S. Army Reserve components for successful completion of annual training or active duty for training for a period not less than 10 consecutive duty days on foreign soil.

NCO PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION GRADUATE RIBBON

For graduation from a certified accredited Air Force non-commissioned officer professional military education school, Phases II, III and IV.

USAF BASIC MILITARY TRAINING HONOR GRADUATE RIBBON

Awarded to honor graduates of BMT who have demonstrated excellence in all phases of academic and military training.

AIR FORCE TRAINING RIBBON

Awarded for completion of Air Force initial military-accession training on or after Aug. 14, 1974.

SMALL ARMS EXPERT MARKSMANSHIP RIBBON (Air Force)

Awarded to Air Force personnel who qualify as expert in small arms marksmanship.

COAST GUARD SPECIAL OPERATIONS SERVICE RIBBON

For participation in a Coast Guard special operation approved by the area commander or commandant.

COAST GUARD SEA SERVICE RIBBON

For completion of two years or more of cumulative sea duty on a U.S. Coast Guard cutter 65 feet or more in length in an active status, in commission or in service.

COAST GUARD RESTRICTED DUTY RIBBON

For completion of a permanent-change-of-station tour of duty where accompanying dependents are not authorized.

COAST GUARD BASIC TRAINING HONOR GRADUATE RIBBON

For members in the top 3 percent of each Coast Guard recruit training graduating class.

PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

For service in defense and liberation of the Philippines during World War II. Also subsequently awarded to Army, Navy-Marine Corps units for selected disaster relief operations.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

For service in Korea from June 27, 1950, to July 27, 1953.

VIETNAM PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

For humanitarian assistance given during August–September 1954 in evacuation of civilians from North and Central Vietnam.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS WITH PALM UNIT CITATION

Awarded by the Republic of Vietnam to units for valorous combat achievement.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CIVIL ACTIONS UNIT CITATION

Awarded by the Republic of Vietnam to units in recognition of meritorious civil action service.

DEVICES

Devices are affixed to service or suspension ribbons to denote additional awards or participation in a specific event. Numerous devices have been authorized for the various decorations and service awards awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States. In most instances, the services determine the manner in which these devices shall be worn; however, in the case of defense awards, the devices to be worn are determined by the assistant secretary of defense (force management and personnel). These are the devices authorized for wear on the service and suspension ribbons of defense awards.

BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER
The bronze oak leaf cluster represents second and subsequent entitlements of awards.

SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER
A silver oak leaf cluster is worn for the sixth, 11th, or in lieu of five bronze oak leaf clusters.

BRONZE SERVICE STAR
The bronze five-pointed service star represents participation in campaigns or operations, multiple qualification or an additional award to any of the various ribbons on which it is authorized.

SILVER SERVICE STAR
Worn in the same manner as the bronze star, but each silver star is worn in lieu of five bronze service stars.

GOLD STAR
Denotes each subsequent award of the same Navy decoration.

SILVER STAR
Worn in the same manner as the gold star, in lieu of five gold stars.

HOURGLASS DEVICE
Used for each succeeding award of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

WINTERED OVER
For wintering over on the Antarctic continent, a clasp for Antarctica Service Medal, suspension ribbon and a disc for the service ribbon of bronze for first winter, gold for second winter, silver for third winter.

"V" (VALOR) DEVICE
This metallic bronze letter "V" represents valor and does not denote an additional award. Only one may be worn on any ribbon.

NOTE: *A maximum of four devices may be worn on any ribbon. Devices to be worn on ribbons must be worn in a specific manner. For example, oak leaf clusters are worn with the stem pointing to the right of the wearer. Appropriate service regulations describe their proper placement and wear.*

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE — U.S. ARMY

LEFT SIDE

MEDAL OF HONOR

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

DEFENSE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

SILVER STAR

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

LEGION OF MERIT

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

POW MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

ANTARCTICA SERVICE MEDAL

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL

ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL

NCO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RIBBON

ARMY SERVICE RIBBON

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS OVERSEAS TRAINING RIBBON

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS MEDAL

MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL
(Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

RIGHT SIDE

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

ARMY SUPERIOR UNIT AWARD

PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

VIETNAM PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CIVIL ACTIONS UNIT CITATION

DEVICES

BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER
The bronze oak leaf cluster represents second and subsequent entitlements of awards.

SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER
A silver oak leaf cluster is worn for the sixth, 11th, or in lieu of five bronze oak leaf clusters.

BRONZE SERVICE STAR
The bronze five-pointed service star represents participation in campaigns or operations, multiple qualification or an additional award to any of the various ribbons on which it is authorized.

SILVER SERVICE STAR
Worn in the same manner as the bronze star, but each silver star is worn in lieu of five bronze service stars.

WINTERED OVER
For wintering over on the Antarctic continent, a clasp for Antarctica Service Medal, suspension ribbon and a disc for the service ribbon of bronze for first winter, gold for second winter, silver for third winter.

"V" (VALOR) DEVICE
This metallic bronze letter "V" represents valor and does not denote an additional award. Only one may be worn on any ribbon.

HOURGLASS
Issued for each succeeding award of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

GERMANY AND JAPAN CLASPS
Worn on the suspension ribbon of the Army of Occupation Medal.

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL CLASP
Number of loops and color denote number of awards of Good Conduct Medal. Bronze, second–fifth awards; silver, sixth–10th; gold, 11th–15th.

BRONZE ARABIC NUMERAL
Denotes subsequent awards of the Air Medal, Multinational Force and Observers Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon and Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon and level of non-commissioned officer professional military education.

ARROWHEAD
Awarded for participation in an initial assault landing. Worn on the service and suspension ribbons of the appropriate campaign or service medal. Only one may be worn on any ribbon.

The above display represents the correct order of precedence for ribbons most likely to be worn today on the Army uniform. Devices worn on these ribbons must be worn in a specific manner and are used to denote additional awards or participation in a specific event. For additional information about the proper order of display, placement of devices or about ribbons not shown, refer to AR 670–1.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE — U.S. NAVY

MEDAL OF HONOR

NAVY CROSS

DEFENSE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

SILVER STAR

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

LEGION OF MERIT

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

NAVY "E" RIBBON

POW MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

NAVAL RESERVE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

FLEET MARINE FORCE RIBBON

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

CHINA SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

ANTARCTICA SERVICE MEDAL

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL

SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON

NAVY ARCTIC SERVICE RIBBON

NAVAL RESERVE SEA SERVICE RIBBON

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

NAVY RECRUITING SERVICE RIBBON

ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL

NAVAL RESERVE MEDAL

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CIVIL ACTIONS UNIT CITATION

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS MEDAL

MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS MEDAL

INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

EXPERT RIFLEMAN MEDAL

EXPERT PISTOL SHOT MEDAL

DEVICES

GOLD STAR

Denotes each subsequent award of the same Navy decoration.

SILVER STAR

Worn in the same manner as the gold star, in lieu of five gold stars.

BRONZE SERVICE STAR

The bronze five-pointed service star represents participation in campaigns or operations, multiple qualification or an additional award to any of the various ribbons on which it is authorized. Also worn to denote first award of the single mission air medal after Nov. 22, 1989.

SILVER SERVICE STAR

Worn in the same manner as the bronze star, but each silver star is worn in lieu of five bronze service stars.

BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER

The bronze oak leaf cluster represents second and subsequent entitlements of awards.

SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER

A silver oak leaf cluster is worn for the sixth, 11th, or in lieu of five bronze oak leaf clusters.

HOURGLASS

Issued for each succeeding award of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

EUROPE AND ASIA CLASPS

Worn on the suspension ribbon of the Navy Occupation Service Medal.

WINTERED OVER

For wintering over on the Antarctic continent, a clasp for Antarctica Service Medal, suspension ribbon and a disc for the service ribbon of bronze for first winter, gold for second winter, silver for third winter.

STRIKE/FLIGHT DEVICE

Bronze arabic numeral denotes the total number of strike/flight awards of the Air Medal earned subsequent to April 9, 1962.

"V" DEVICE

The metallic bronze letter "V" is authorized for acts or service involving direct participation in combat operations.

FLEET MARINE FORCE COMBAT OPERATIONS INSIGNIA

For Navy personnel attached to fleet Marine force units participating in combat operations.

The above display represents the correct order of precedence for ribbons most likely to be worn today on the Navy uniform. Devices worn on these ribbons must be worn in a specific manner and are used to denote additional awards or participation in a specific event. For additional information about the proper order of display, placement of devices or about ribbons not shown, refer to SECNAVINST 1650.1F and U.S. Navy Uniform Regulation (NAVPERS 1566.5G).

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE — U.S. MARINE CORPS

MEDAL OF HONOR

NAVY CROSS

DEFENSE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

SILVER STAR

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

LEGION OF MERIT

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

NAVY "E" RIBBON

POW MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

SELECTED MARINE CORPS RESERVE MEDAL

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

CHINA SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

ANTARCTICA SERVICE MEDAL

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL

SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON

NAVY ARCTIC SERVICE RIBBON

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL

MARINE CORPS RESERVE RIBBON

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CIVIL ACTIONS UNIT CITATION

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS MEDAL

MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

DEVICES

GOLD STAR

Denotes each subsequent award of the same Navy decoration.

SILVER STAR

Worn in the same manner as the gold star, in lieu of five gold stars.

BRONZE SERVICE STAR

The bronze five-pointed service star represents participation in campaigns or operations, multiple qualification or an additional award to any of the various ribbons on which it is authorized. Also worn to denote first award of the single mission air medal after Nov. 22, 1989.

SILVER SERVICE STAR

Worn in the same manner as the bronze star, but each silver star is worn in lieu of five bronze service stars.

BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER

The bronze oak leaf cluster represents second and subsequent entitlements of awards.

SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER

A silver oak leaf cluster is worn for the sixth, 11th, or in lieu of five bronze oak leaf clusters.

WINTERED OVER

For wintering over on the Antarctic continent, a clasp for Antarctica Service Medal, suspension ribbon and a disc for the service ribbon of bronze for first winter, gold for second winter, silver for third winter.

"V" (VALOR) DEVICE

This metallic bronze letter "V" represents valor and does not denote an additional award. Only one may be worn on any ribbon.

HOURGLASS

Issued for each succeeding award of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

EUROPE AND ASIA CLASPS

Worn on the suspension ribbon of the Navy Occupation Service Medal.

GOLD ARABIC NUMERAL

Denotes the total number of individual-mission Air Medals. Awarded prior to Nov. 22, 1989.

STRIKE/FLIGHT DEVICE

Bronze arabic numeral denotes the total number of strike/flight awards of the Air Medal earned subsequent to April 9, 1962.

FLEET MARINE FORCE COMBAT OPERATIONS INSIGNIA

For Navy personnel attached to fleet Marine force units participating in combat operations.

The above display represents the correct order of precedence for ribbons most likely to be worn today on the Marine Corps uniform. Devices worn on these ribbons must be worn in a specific manner and are used to denote additional awards or participation in a specific event. For additional information about the proper order of display, placement of devices or about ribbons not shown, refer to SECNAVINST 1650.1F, MCO 1650.19 and MCO P 1020.34.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE — U.S. AIR FORCE

MEDAL OF HONOR

AIR FORCE CROSS

DEFENSE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (AIR FORCE)

SILVER STAR

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

LEGION OF MERIT

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

AIRMAN'S MEDAL

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

AERIAL ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

Artist's concept

JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD

AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

POW MEDAL

COMBAT READINESS MEDAL

AIR FORCE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

AIR RESERVE FORCES MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR

AIR FORCE RECOGNITION RIBBON

ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

ANTARCTICA SERVICE MEDAL

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL

AIR FORCE OVERSEAS RIBBON–SHORT

AIR FORCE OVERSEAS RIBBON–LONG

AIR FORCE LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD RIBBON

ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL

AIR FORCE NCO PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION GRADUATE RIBBON

BASIC MILITARY TRAINING HONOR GRADUATE

SMALL ARMS EXPERT MARKSMANSHIP RIBBON

AIR FORCE TRAINING RIBBON

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS UNIT CITATION

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

DEVICES

BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER

The bronze oak leaf cluster represents second and subsequent entitlements of awards.

SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER

A silver oak leaf cluster is worn for the sixth, 11th, or in lieu of five bronze oak leaf clusters.

BRONZE SERVICE STAR

The bronze five-pointed service star represents participation in campaigns or operations, multiple qualification or an additional award to any of the various ribbons on which it is authorized.

SILVER SERVICE STAR

Worn in the same manner as the bronze star, but each silver star is worn in lieu of five bronze service stars.

WINTERED OVER

For wintering over on the Antarctic continent, a clasp for Antarctica Service Medal, suspension ribbon and a disc for the service ribbon of bronze for first winter, gold for second winter, silver for third winter.

"V" (VALOR) DEVICE

This metallic bronze letter "V" represents valor and does not denote an additional award. Only one may be worn on any ribbon.

HOURGLASS

Issued for each succeeding award of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

GERMANY AND JAPAN CLASPS

Worn on the suspension ribbon of the Army of Occupation Medal.

ARROWHEAD

Awarded for participation in an initial assault landing. Worn on the service and suspension ribbons of the appropriate campaign or service medal. Only one may be worn on any ribbon.

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL CLASP

Number of loops and color denote number of awards of Good Conduct Medal. Bronze, second-fifth awards; silver, sixth-10th; gold, 11th–15th.

The above display represents the correct order of precedence for ribbons most likely to be worn today on the Air Force uniform. Devices worn on these ribbons must be worn in a specific manner and are used to denote additional awards or participation in a specific event. For additional information about the proper order of display, placement of devices or about ribbons not shown, refer to AFR 35-10 and AFR 900-48.

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE — U.S. COAST GUARD

MEDAL OF HONOR

NAVY CROSS

DEFENSE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

SILVER STAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GOLD MEDAL

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

LEGION OF MERIT

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

COAST GUARD MEDAL

GOLD LIFESAVING MEDAL

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

AIR MEDAL

SILVER LIFESAVING MEDAL

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SILVER MEDAL

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BRONZE MEDAL

JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

COAST GUARD ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

COMMANDANT'S LETTER OF COMMENDATION

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD

COAST GUARD UNIT COMMENDATION

COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

COAST GUARD "E" RIBBON

COAST GUARD BICENTENNIAL UNIT COMMENDATION

POW MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

COAST GUARD RESERVE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

NAVAL RESERVE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

CHINA SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

ANTARCTICA SERVICE MEDAL

COAST GUARD ARCTIC SERVICE MEDAL

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL

HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL

COAST GUARD SPECIAL OPERATIONS SERVICE

COAST GUARD SEA SERVICE

COAST GUARD RESTRICTED DUTY

COAST GUARD BASIC TRAINING HONOR GRADUATE

ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL

NAVAL RESERVE MEDAL

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS UNIT CITATION

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CIVIL ACTIONS UNIT CITATION

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS MEDAL

MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS MEDAL

INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL
(Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

DEVICES

GOLD STAR
Denotes each subsequent award of the same Coast Guard decoration.

SILVER STAR
Worn in the same manner as the gold star, in lieu of five gold stars.

BRONZE SERVICE STAR
The bronze five-pointed service star represents participation in campaigns or operations, multiple qualification or an additional award to any of the various ribbons on which it is authorized.

SILVER SERVICE STAR
Worn in the same manner as the bronze star, but each silver star is worn in lieu of five bronze service stars.

HOURGLASS
Issued for each succeeding award of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

COAST GUARD OPERATIONAL DISTINGUISHING DEVICE
Denotes performance under operational conditions.

The above display represents the correct order of precedence for ribbons most likely to be worn today on the Coast Guard uniform. Devices worn on these ribbons must be worn in a specific manner and are used to denote additional awards or participation in a specific event. For additional information about the proper order of display, placement of devices or about ribbons not shown, refer to the *Coast Guard Medals and Awards Manual*, CMDTINST M1650.25.

CIVILIAN AWARDS

These are the top awards that may be earned by DoD and Coast Guard civilian personnel. They are arranged in order of precedence.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DoD DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

Awarded competitively for exceptional devotion to duty and extremely significant contribution of broad scope to efficiency or other improvements in the operation of the Department of Defense.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

Awarded to those who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service of major significance to the Department of Defense.

ARMY

EXCEPTIONAL CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For clearly exceptional performance of duties, exceptional achievements of major significance, exhibiting great courage or providing outstanding leadership.

MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For performance of duties in an exemplary manner, demonstrating unusual initiative and skill, achieving outstanding results in improving the morale and performance of workers, exhibiting unusual courage in an emergency or rendering service of unique or distinctive character.

SUPERIOR CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For superior service or achievement or heroism of a lesser degree than that recognized by the Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

NAVY/MARINE CORPS

DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For those distinguishing themselves through contributions of major significance and/or extraordinary service to the Navy.

SUPERIOR CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For superior service or contributions resulting in exceptional values and/or benefits to the Navy.

MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For meritorious service or contributions resulting in high value and/or benefits to the Navy.

AIR FORCE

EXCEPTIONAL CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For exceptionally meritorious service of major significance to the Air Force in the performance of duties in a manner clearly exceptional to others.

OUTSTANDING CIVILIAN CAREER SERVICE AWARD

For outstanding career service of major significance to the Air Force meriting recognition at the time of retirement.

MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For outstanding service to the Air Force in the performance of duties in an exemplary manner.

COAST GUARD*

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For exceptionally outstanding leadership or service that is distinguished by achievements of marked national or international significance and which reflect great credit on the Department of Transportation and the federal government.

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For exceptionally meritorious service to the Department of Transportation or the federal government or for exceptional achievement that substantially contributed to an accomplishment of the Department of Transportation mission or major program.

VALOR AWARD

For acts of heroism or courage involving great risk under unusual circumstances.

**These are Department of Transportation awards. When the Coast Guard operates as part of the Navy in wartime, civilians are eligible for that service's civilian awards.*

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