



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

FEB 13 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: DISTRIBUTION LIST

SUBJECT: Distinguished Warfare Medal

It gives me great pleasure to announce the creation of the Distinguished Warfare Medal (DWM). The DWM provides distinct Department of Defense (DoD)-wide recognition for extraordinary achievement, not involving acts of valor, directly impacting combat operations or other military operations, such as operations authorized by a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Execute Order, as approved by me.

The DWM provides an avenue to recognize appropriately extraordinary direct impacts on combat operations warranting recognition above the Bronze Star Medal. Since September 11, 2001, technological advancements have, in some cases, dramatically changed how we conduct and support combat and other military operations. Accordingly, the DWM award criteria intentionally does not include a geographic limitation on award, as it is intended for use as a means to recognize Service members who meet the criteria, regardless of the domain used or the member's physical location. Given the DWM's level-of-precedence, immediately below the Distinguished Flying Cross, the member's actions must have resulted in an accomplishment so exceptional and outstanding as to clearly set the individual apart from comrades or from other persons in similar situations.

The DWM may not be awarded for actions prior to September 11, 2001. Each Military Department Secretary is the approval authority for award of the DWM. This authority may not be delegated. Subsequent to the date of this memorandum, each Military Department Secretary shall establish procedures for processing requests for award of the DWM within their respective Military Department.

Award criteria are attached and will be incorporated into the next revision of DoD Manual 1348.33-V3, "Manual of Military Decorations and Awards," Volume 3.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. M. ...", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Attachment:
As stated



OSD001488-13

DISTRIBUTION:
SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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DISTINGUISHED WARFARE MEDAL

a. Introduction. The Distinguished Warfare Medal (DWM) is authorized by the Secretary of Defense to provide distinct DoD-wide recognition for extraordinary achievement, not involving acts of valor, directly impacting combat operations or other military operations such as operations authorized by a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) Execute Order (EXORD), as approved by the Secretary of Defense.

b. Award Category. Department of Defense-wide Award (Personal/Individual Performance Award).

c. Eligibility Requirements

(1) Eligibility Criteria

(a) The DWM is awarded in the name of the Secretary of Defense to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who distinguish themselves, on or after September 11, 2001, by extraordinary achievement, not involving acts of valor, directly impacting, through any domain, combat operations or other military operations, including Title 10 United States Code (U.S.C.) support of non-Title 10 operations, and operations authorized by an approved EXORD, under any of the following circumstances:

(1) while engaged in military operations against an enemy of the United States; or

(2) while engaged in military operations involving conflict against an opposing foreign force; or

(3) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in military operations with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

(b) The extraordinary achievement must have resulted in an accomplishment so exceptional and outstanding as to clearly set the individual apart from comrades or from other persons in similar situations.

(c) The DWM may not be awarded for valor in combat under any circumstances.

(d) Award will be made only to recognize single acts of extraordinary achievement and will not be made in recognition of sustained operational activities or service.

(e) The DWM may be awarded posthumously.

(2) Definitions.

(a) Directly impacting: “hands-on” employment of a weapons system, including remote employment, or other activities in any domain, that had direct, immediate, and on-site

effects on the outcome of an engagement or other operation intended to have an effect upon the target.

(b) Domain: Described as air, land, maritime, space, and cyberspace domains (Joint Publication 1-02, Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms). While domains are useful constructs for visualizing and characterizing the physical environment in which operations are conducted (the operational area), the use of the term “domain” is not meant to imply or mandate exclusivity, primacy, or command and control of any domain.

(c) Employment: The strategic, operational, or tactical use of forces (Joint Publication 1-02).

(d) Weapon system: A combination of one or more weapons with all related equipment, materials, services, personnel, and means of delivery and deployment (if applicable) required for self-sufficiency (Joint Publication 1-02).

(e) See DoD Manual 1348.33-V3, Glossary, for other definitions.

d. Foreign Military Personnel. The DWM is only awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

e. Procedures. Each Military Department shall prescribe appropriate regulations for administrative processing, awarding, and wearing of the DWM, ribbon, and appurtenances for members in their respective department.

(1) Procedures shall include verification of impacts prior to award.

(a) Impacts shall be verified, in writing, by the applicable Service component of the applicable Combatant Command that has geographic responsibility for the region where the impacts occurred (e.g., U.S. Army Central Command would verify the direct impacts of actions taken by Soldiers occurring in the U.S. Central Command geographic area of responsibility.).

(b) In the case of special operations missions, verification of direct impacts may be made by the applicable Service component of the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).

(c) In the case of operations that do not fall under the purview of a geographic Combatant Command or USSOCOM, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned shall determine verification procedures.

(2) Nominations originating from other federal agencies shall be submitted to the Military Department of the Service member concerned.

f. Approval Authority. The Military Department Secretary for the Service member concerned. This authority may not be delegated. Award of this decoration shall be in compliance with applicable Service instructions for awards to U.S. military personnel.

(1) Army. Army Regulation 600-8-22, "Military Awards."

(2) Navy and Marine Corps. Secretary of the Navy Instruction 1650.1, "Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual."

(3) Air Force. Air Force Instruction 36-2803, "The Air Force Awards and Decorations Program."

g. Order of Precedence. The DWM is worn immediately following the Distinguished Flying Cross.

h. Subsequent Awards

(1) Individuals are only presented a DWM upon initial award.

(2) Subsequent awards are denoted by wearing the appropriate device on the suspension and service ribbon of the medal.

i. Authorized Devices. Refer to the applicable Military Department regulation for specific guidance on wear of authorized devices. Authorized devices are:

(1) Oak-Leaf Cluster (bronze and/or silver).

(2) 5/16 Inch Star (gold and/or silver).

j. Illustration and Description.



Distinguished Warfare Medal: A brass pendant, 1 7/8 inches in height with a laurel wreath encircling a domed and grid-lined globe. At center the Department of Defense (DoD) Eagle surmounts a diamond shape and at top a six pointed starburst. On the reverse the laurel wreath encircles an engraving plaque between the inscriptions "DISTINGUISHED WARFARE" and "DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE". **Symbolism**: The wreath honors the recipient's significant meritorious achievement to battlefield operations. The globe and gridlines signify that the operational support or other military engagement may be performed remotely. The diamond shape symbolizes the four corners of the globe, representing the operational reach of our armed forces in the defense of liberty and justice. The DoD Eagle indicates the medal is presented in the name of the Secretary of Defense. Operational magnitude and mission success are denoted by the six pointed star, symbolizing an ordinance burst and target neutralization.