























# THE INSTITUTE OF HERALDRY

## ARMY DECORATIONS HIERARCHY


















MILITARY DECORATIONS						CIVILIAN SERVICE DECORATIONS			PUBLIC SERVICE DECORATIONS		
Medal	Description	Authority	Medal	Description	Authority	Medal	Description	Authority	Medal	Description	Authority
	Defense <b>Distinguished</b> Service Medal	Secretary of Defense only		<b>Distinguished</b> Service Medal	Chief of Staff of the Army		<b>Distinguished</b> Civilian Service Medal	Secretary of the Army		<b>Distinguished</b> Public Service Medal	Secretary of the Army
	Defense <b>Superior</b> Service Medal	DCMO for DoD & CJCS for Joint Commands		Legion of Merit ( <b>Superior-Level</b> )	MACOM Commanders LTG & above		<b>Superior</b> Civilian Service Medal	Commanders of ACOMs, ASCCs, and DRUs; members of the SES serving as the director of a DRU; and the AASA for HQDA		<b>Superior</b> Public Service Medal	Secretary of the Army
	Defense <b>Meritorious</b> Service Medal	DCMO, Dir Joint Staff & CoComs		<b>Meritorious</b> Service Medal	Commanders BG & above		<b>Meritorious</b> Civilian Service Medal	Commanders (Major General and above or civilian equivalent) May be delegated per the M&RA delegation of authority memo		<b>Meritorious</b> Public Service Medal	Commanders of ACOMs, ASCCs, and DRUs; members of the SES serving as the director of a DRU; and the AASA for HQDA
	Joint Service <b>Commendation</b> Medal	O-7 or Civilian Equivalent		Army <b>Commendation</b> Medal	Commanders COL & above		Civilian Service <b>Commendation</b> Medal	Commanders (Colonel (06) and above or civilian equivalent) and HQDA Principal Officials		<b>Public Service Commendation</b> Medal	Commanders (COL (06) & above and HQDA Principal Officials
	Joint Service <b>Achievement</b> Medal	O-6 or Civilian Equivalent		Army <b>Achievement</b> Medal	Commanders LTC & above Civilian Equivalent		Civilian Service <b>Achievement</b> Medal	Commanders (Lieutenant Colonel (05) and above or civilian equivalent and HQDA Principal Officials		Patriotic Public Service Lapel Pin	Commanders LTC & above and the AASA for HQDA



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	<b>Distinguished</b> Service Medal	Chief of Staff of the Army		<b>Distinguished</b> Civilian Service Medal	Secretary of the Army		<b>Distinguished</b> Public Service Medal	Secretary of the Army
	Legion of Merit ( <b>Superior-Level</b> )	MACOM Commanders LTG & above		<b>Superior</b> Civilian Service Medal	Commanders of ACOMs, ASCCs, and DRUs; members of the SES serving as the director of a DRU; and the AASA for HQDA		<b>Superior</b> Public Service Medal	Secretary of the Army
	<b>Meritorious</b> Service Medal	Commanders BG & above		<b>Meritorious</b> Civilian Service Medal	Commanders (Major General and above or civilian equivalent) May be delegated per the M&RA delegation of authority memo		<b>Meritorious</b> Public Service Medal	Commanders of ACOMs, ASCCs, and DRUs; members of the SES serving as the director of a DRU; and the AASA for HQDA
	Army <b>Commendation</b> Medal	Commanders COL & above		Civilian Service <b>Commendation</b> Medal	Commanders (Colonel (06) and above or civilian equivalent) and HQDA Principal Officials		Public Service <b>Commendation</b> Medal	Commanders (COL (06) & above and HQDA Principal Officials
	Army <b>Achievement</b> Medal	Commanders LTC & above Civilian Equivalent		Civilian Service <b>Achievement</b> Medal	Commanders (Lieutenant Colonel (05) and above or civilian equivalent) and HQDA Principal Officials		Patriotic Public Service Lapel Pin	Commanders LTC & above and AASA for HQDA