



The CIAC Paddle

Helping You Navigate the IA Continuum



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“Top Ten” Focus Area #8 Awards

For in-theater awards, each branch of service awards medals based on different criteria and therefore military members from different services are likely to receive different medals for the same work!

Boots On Ground

Typical Areas of Concern

a) Awards system is different

- Army awards are typically automatic (varies by rank and time in theater) and frequently gives higher level awards than the Navy gives for the same level of responsibility and authority.
- Army gives combat service awards for being in a combat zone while the Navy requires a significant risk of hostile action.

a) Bronze Stars

- Navy requires meritorious service in a combat zone of the level equivalent to the Navy Meritorious Service Medal and requires personal exposure to hostile action. Per Director, Navy Staff memo dated 2 Mar 2007, “our Awards must also give credit to those who are exposed to significant risk of hostile action.”
- Army requires meritorious service in a combat zone of the level equivalent to the Army Meritorious Service Medal. There is no specific requirement for personal exposure to hostile action. Army has no such requirement.

b) Joint Service Awards

- IA Sailors permanently assigned to joint activities are eligible. Ad hoc Navy units are generally not eligible. Under “most unusual circumstances”, service members on temporary duty to a joint activity may merit award.

c) Navy Concurrence

- Concurrence is the policy and process each service uses to acknowledge the award nomination from another service and agree to the appropriateness and presentation of that award.
- It is required for awards higher than a Navy Commendation Medal. Navy acknowledges an award nomination from another service and makes a determination on the appropriateness of the award.
- Concurrence is designed to “ensure the integrity” of current Navy awards with historical award standards. “Ensure the integrity” of an award means protecting its value or prestige by maintaining standards over time.

d) For questions or more information visit the [Navy Awards](#) website and review the [FAQs About Awards from IA Sailors](#).