



2014  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

MAR 30 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal

I am pleased to announce the creation of the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal pursuant to the March 30, 2016, Executive Order titled, "Establishing the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal." The sacrifices and contributions of the members of our Armed Forces battling terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria merit special recognition. The Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal provides distinct recognition to those Service members who are serving, or have served, in Iraq, Syria, or contiguous waters or airspace on or after June 15, 2014, to a future date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense.

Award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOT-EM) previously authorized to recognize service in Iraq and Syria for Operation INHERENT RESOLVE is hereby terminated. Service members who were awarded a GWOT-EM for their IRCM qualifying service in Iraq or Syria during the period of June 15, 2014, to the date of this memorandum, remain qualified for that medal. However, such members, upon application to their respective Military Department, may be awarded the IRCM in lieu of that GWOT-EM. No member shall be entitled to both medals for the same act, achievement, or period of service (i.e., tour or deployment in the designated operation area).

The attached Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal award guidance and criteria will be incorporated into the next revision of the Department of Defense Manual 1348.33, Volume 2, *Manual of Military Decorations and Awards: DoD Service Awards – Campaign, Expeditionary, and Service Medals*. Please use this guidance to ensure qualifying Service members are appropriately recognized with the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal.

Ash Carter

Attachment:  
As stated



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## **INHERENT RESOLVE CAMPAIGN MEDAL (IRCM)**

**a. Introduction.** The IRCM, established by Executive Order on March 30, 2016, recognizes qualifying members of the U.S. Armed Forces for their service in Iraq, Syria, or contiguous waters or airspace on or after June 15, 2014.

**b. Award Category.** Campaign Medal.

**c. Period of Award.** The Period of Award (POA) is from June 15, 2014, to a future terminal date to be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

**d. Geographic Area of Eligibility.** The Area of Eligibility (AOE) encompasses the land area of the countries of Iraq and Syria, the contiguous waters of each extending out to 12 nautical miles, and the air space above the land area and contiguous waters.

### **e. Award Criteria and Eligibility Requirements.**

(1) The IRCM shall be awarded to each Service member who, during the POA, was permanently assigned, attached, or detailed for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days to a unit operating in the AOE, or who meets one of the following criteria regardless of time spent in the AOE:

(a) Was engaged in combat during an armed engagement.

(b) While participating in an operation or on official duties was killed or wounded/injured and medically evacuated from the AOE.

(2) Aircrew members accrue one day of eligibility for each day they fly into, out of, within, or over the AOE.

**f. Foreign Military Personnel.** The IRCM is not authorized for foreign military personnel.

### **g. Procedures.**

(1) Each Military Department shall prescribe appropriate regulations for administrative processing, awarding, and wearing of the IRCM, ribbon, and appurtenances, which comply with pertinent laws, executive orders, federal regulations, and the policies and procedures outlined in DoD Instruction 1348.33 and DoD Manual 1348.33-V2.

(2) Service members awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOT-EM) for IRCM qualifying service between June 15, 2014 and March 30, 2016, in an area for which the IRCM was authorized subsequently remain qualified for that medal. Such members, upon application, may be awarded the IRCM in lieu of that GWOT-EM. No member shall be entitled to both medals for the same act, achievement, or period of service (i.e., deployment or tour in the designated operation area).

(3) Under no condition shall personnel or units receive the IRCM, GWOT-EM, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal for the same action, time period, or service (i.e., deployment or tour in the designated operation area).

**h. Approval Authority.** The Military Department Secretary concerned is the approval authority. Refer to specific Military Department guidance for further instructions.

**i. Posthumous Award.** The IRCM may be awarded posthumously.

**j. Order of Precedence.** The IRCM is worn after the Iraq Campaign Medal and before the GWOT-EM.

**k. Subsequent Awards.**

(1) Individuals are only presented an IRCM upon initial award.

(2) A separate bronze campaign star is worn on the IRCM suspension and campaign ribbon to recognize each designated campaign phase in which the member participated for one or more days. The IRCM campaign phases and inclusive dates are:

Campaign Phase	Inclusive Dates
Abeyance	June 15, 2014 – November 24, 2015
Intensification	November 25, 2015 – TBD


**l. Authorized Devices.**

(1) **Campaign Stars.** A bronze or silver five-pointed star 3/16 inch in diameter.

(2) **Arrowhead Device.** A bronze replica of an Indian arrowhead 1/4 inch high that may be authorized by the Secretary of the Army or the Secretary of the Air Force.

(3) **FMF Combat Operations Insignia.** A miniature bronze Marine Corps emblem that may be authorized by the Secretary of the Navy for U.S. Navy Service members assigned to Marine Corps units that participate in combat during the assignment.

**m. Illustration and Description.**

 <p>OBVERSE</p> <p>REVERSE</p>	<p><b>Description:</b> On a bronze disc 1 1/4 inches (3.18cm) in diameter, within a textured circle a quatrefoil with an erect dagger enfiled by a scorpion held by a mailed hand and arched above and on either side of the scorpion tail the words inscribed, “INHERENT RESOLVE” and centered below inscribed, “CAMPAIGN”.</p> <p>On the reverse side a single arabesque polygonal star surrounding radiating points form the center superimposed by an eagle standing on a rectangle with wings expanded and inverted inscribed, “FOR SERVICE”.</p> <p><b>Ribbon:</b> The ribbon is blue, teal, sand, and orange.</p> <p><b>Symbolism:</b> The decorated star panels are common in the Arabian and Moorish styles of ornament. A scorpion is a symbol for treachery and destructive forces. The eagle is a national emblem and ancient symbol of power and victory. The color combination in the ribbon was inspired by The Ishtar Gate and the color of sand.</p>
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