



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ARMOR CENTER AND FORT KNOX
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

ATZK-AG (600)

20 September 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, All Units Reporting Directly to This Headquarters
Directors and Chiefs, Staff Offices/Departments, This Headquarters

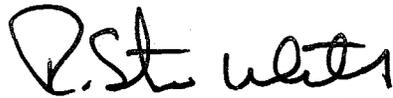
SUBJECT: Thunderbolt Six Policy Memo No. 38-12 – Military Awards

1. Reference Army Regulation 600-8-22, Military Awards, 25 February 1995.
2. Soldiers who have demonstrated excellence should be recognized with an award before leaving the Armor Center and Fort Knox. The integrity of our awards program is based on commanders recognizing soldiers appropriately.
3. Commanders/Directors will ensure each soldier is presented his or her award in an appropriate ceremony prior to the soldier's departure from Fort Knox. The award submission timeline below establishes guidelines to ensure adequate processing time for awards. For late award recommendations, the Brigade/Regimental Commander (O-6 level) must personally seek approval of the award from me.
 - a. A Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) must be submitted to the Awards Section, AG, a minimum of 120 days prior to the presentation date.
 - b. A Legion of Merit (LOM) must be submitted to the Awards Section, AG, a minimum of 90 days prior to the presentation date.
 - c. A Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) must be submitted to the Awards Section, AG, a minimum of 30 days prior to the presentation date.
4. Award approval authorities may issue on-the-spot achievement awards (also known as "impact awards") when immediate recognition of a special act or accomplishment is warranted. As soon after the act or accomplishment as practical, the award will be processed according to normal administrative procedures to ensure that the award is properly documented in official military records.

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5. Your support for the awards program demonstrates your dedication to your personnel. Commanders will ensure awards are truly based on performance. Doing so will give soldiers pride in knowing their specific accomplishments were indeed appreciated.



R. STEVEN WHITCOMB
Major General, USA
Commanding

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