



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

21 MAY 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2021-20 (Eligibility Requirements for Accepting and Wearing Foreign Badges)

1. References.

a. Title 5, United States Code, Section 7342 (Receipt and disposition of foreign gifts and decorations)

b. Department of Defense Instruction 1348.33 (DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program) 21 December 2016, incorporating Change 4, effective 23 November 2020

c. Army Regulation 600–8–22 (Military Awards), 5 March 2019

d. Army Regulation 614–10 (Army Military Personnel Exchange Program with Military Services of Other Nations), 14 July 2011

2. Purpose. The directive updates the eligibility requirements for Army personnel requesting to accept and wear foreign badges.

3. Applicability. The provisions of this directive apply to the Regular Army, Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and U.S. Army Reserve.

4. Policy.

a. Reference 1b, section 10.1, and reference 1c, paragraph 9–1, under the provisions of reference 1a, state that Servicemembers may not request, or otherwise encourage, the offer of an award or decoration from a foreign government. Further, when possible, Servicemembers will refuse to accept such decorations or awards unless such refusal would likely cause offense or embarrassment or otherwise adversely affect the foreign relations of the United States.

b. Reference 1b, section 10.2, permits the acceptance of foreign awards, such as individual skill badges, awards, or similar devices, presented as a result of exemplary participation in official military exchange programs.

c. Reference 1c, paragraph 9–1 permits Soldiers to accept awards from foreign governments only in recognition of active combat service or for outstanding or unusually

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meritorious performance. Activities normally undertaken by the Armed Forces of the United States in support of an ally during peacetime are not considered sufficient to merit foreign individual or unit decorations.

d. Reference 1c, paragraph 9–2, further clarifies “outstanding or unusually meritorious performance” to be of national significance to the foreign government and performed under exceptionally difficult, extraordinary, or hazardous conditions.

e. Reference 1c, paragraph 9–26, delegates the authority to approve requests to accept, retain, and wear certain foreign badges to commanders and deputy commanding generals in the ranks of brigadier general/O-7 and above. To assist approval authorities in complying with U.S. Code and policy referenced in this directive, the second sentence of paragraph 9–26a in reference 1c will be modified as follows:

Only those badges that are awarded in recognition of military activities conducted by the military department of the host country are authorized for acceptance and permanent wear.

f. Soldiers authorized to accept and wear foreign badges in accordance with reference 1c before the release of this directive continue to be so authorized.

5. Proponent. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 is the proponent for this policy. The U.S. Army Human Resources Command will ensure the provisions of this directive are incorporated into reference 1c within 2 years of the date of this directive.

6. Duration. This directive is rescinded on publication of the revised regulation.



John E. Whitley
Acting

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