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SUBJ/IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEXICAN BORDER DEFENSE MEDAL//

REF/A/DOC/SECWAR/13 AUG 25//
REF/B/DOC/SECNAV/16 AUG 19//

NARR/REF A IS A SECWAR MEMORANDUM, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEXICAN BORDER DEFENSE MEDAL.
REF B IS THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS AWARDS MANUAL.//

RMKS/1. This ALNAV provides guidance for awarding the Mexican Border Defense Medal (MBDM) within the Navy and Marine Corps. With reference (a), the Secretary of War (SecWar) established the MBDM to provide recognition to Service Members deployed in support of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The Armed Forces Service Medal (AFSM) previously recognized these Service Members, effective 13 August 2025. Award of the AFSM for support of CBP on the Mexican border is no longer authorized. The guidance in the following paragraph will be incorporated into reference (b).

2. MBDM

- a. Authorization. SecWar memorandum of 13 August 2025.
- b. Period of Award (POA). From 20 January 2025 to a future date to be determined.
- c. Area of Eligibility (AOE). The U.S. land area 100 nautical miles from the international border with Mexico within Texas (including the city of San Antonio), New Mexico, Arizona, and California, and the adjacent waters north of the border out to 24 nautical miles.
- d. Awarding Authority. Commanding Officers who have authority to award the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal may award the MBDM to personnel assigned to their commands who meet the eligibility criteria and shall ensure the award is documented in the recipient's service record.
- e. Criteria and Eligibility. Service Members must have been permanently assigned, attached, or detailed to a unit that deployed to participate in a designated Department of War military operation supporting CBP within the AOE during the POA for 30 days, either consecutively or cumulatively.
- f. Effective 13 August 2025, award of the AFSM in recognition of support of CBP along the Mexican border is no longer authorized. Service Members previously awarded the AFSM for support to CBP between 20 January 2025 and 13 August 2025 may request the MBDM in lieu of the AFSM; however, no Service Member may be awarded both the AFSM and the MBDM for the same deployment and/or period of qualifying service. Any AFSM awarded for CBP support prior

to 20 January 2025 will be retained by the individual and is not eligible for replacement by the MBDM.

g. Award Elements. The MBDM consists of a full-size medal with a suspension ribbon and a corresponding service ribbon. No citation or certificate will be issued.

h. Subsequent Awards. Only one award of the MBDM is authorized to any individual, regardless of the number of deployments made or the duration of those deployments.

i. Authorized Devices. None.

j. Precedence. The MBDM is worn immediately after the Korea Defense Service Medal.

3. Coordinating Instructions. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps will establish administrative procedures for retroactive award of the MBDM.

4. Released by the Honorable Hung Cao, Acting Secretary of the Navy.//

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