



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
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OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3590.26

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: SMALL ARMS MARKSMANSHIP COMPETITION, EXCELLENCE-IN-COMPETITION AND NAVY DISTINGUISHED BADGES

Ref: (a) Civilian Marksmanship Program Competition Rules

Encl: (1) Qualification Criteria for Distinguished Marksman Badges

1. Purpose. To promulgate information and procedures for earning United States Navy Excellence-in-Competition (EIC) Badges and awarding Distinguished Badges. United States Navy EIC badges are awarded to eligible personnel who attain an outstanding degree of achievement in certain recognized, individual competitions with the service rifle and pistol. Service rifles and pistols are as defined in reference (a).

2. Applicability. This instruction applies to all Navy personnel, active and reserve:

a. The following badges are awarded:

(1) The United States Distinguished International Shooter Badge (Gold) is awarded by the Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety (CPRPFS) for outstanding performance in major international competition.

(2) The Navy Distinguished Marksman Badge (Gold)

(3) The Navy Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge (Gold)

(4) A National Excellence-in-Competition Rifle Badge (Gold, Silver, or Bronze)

(5) A National Excellence-in-Competition Pistol Badge (Gold, Silver, or Bronze)

(6) An Interservice Excellence-in-Competition Rifle Badge (Gold, Silver, or Bronze)

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(7) An Interservice Excellence-in-Competition Pistol Badge (Gold, Silver, or Bronze)

(8) A Navy Excellence-in-Competition Rifle Badge (Gold, Silver, or Bronze)

(9) A Navy Excellence-in-Competition Pistol Badge (Gold, Silver, or Bronze)

(10) A Fleet Excellence-in-Competition Rifle Badge (Gold, Silver, or Bronze)

(11) A Fleet Excellence-in-Competition Pistol Badge (Gold, Silver, or Bronze).

### 3. Policy

a. Appropriate competition badges will be awarded for each place earned. Precedence level is as shown in paragraph 2.a. above. Badges will be worn per NAVPERS 15665I, U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations.

b. In any match where the final points toward Distinguished designation are earned, both the Distinguished Badge and the appropriate Competition Badge for that place will be awarded.

c. Distinguished Badge Program. Distinguished Badges are the highest individual awards authorized for excellence in marksmanship competition. Individuals who meet the qualifications for these awards will be awarded the appropriate U.S. Navy Distinguished Badge by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Awards Branch (DNS-35).

d. Master Distinguished and EIC Files. The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) maintains a master file of all civilian and military Distinguished Marksman or Rifleman, Distinguished Pistol Shot and Distinguished International Shooter Badge winners. The CMP may also maintain master files of all Navy competitors who earn EIC credit points towards Distinguished designation, as awarded per this regulation. Match directors are responsible for ensuring EIC match results and Distinguished designation are reported to the CMP for master record keeping purposes.

e. Navy competitors who do not have any EIC credit points may also enter and compete in the M16 Rifle or M9 Pistol, as

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applicable, CMP Special EIC match. A CMP Special EIC Match is where "as-issued" U.S. military rifles or pistols are fired and competitors can earn "introductory" four-point EIC credits. A CMP Special EIC Match is only open to competitors who have not earned any EIC points. Only one four-point EIC credit in pistol and one four-point EIC credit in rifle can be earned by an individual. These special introductory EIC matches do not count as one of the three regular EIC matches used for qualification for EIC badges as specified in enclosure (1) paragraph 1b.

f. U.S. Navy active or reserve component personnel will compete in the service category at all CMP sanctioned EIC matches and National Rifle Association (NRA) matches as set forth by the CMP and NRA competition regulations.

g. Courses of fire, weapons, and ammunition for matches in which credit awards are authorized shall be in accordance with those prescribed in the current edition of Rules and Regulations for the National Matches.

h. Entry of non-distinguished personnel in EIC Matches on a non-credit basis, or for practice, is not authorized. The only exception to this is the National Trophy Individual Rifle and Pistol Matches and at other competitions where the EIC match is included in the overall aggregate or championship.

i. Guidance on wearing badges is provided in NAVPERS 15665I, U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations.

#### 4. Awards Granting Authority

a. The match directors of the Fleet Forces Command and All Navy Rifle and Pistol Championships will award appropriate EIC badges at these matches and forward official match results to the CNO Awards Branch (DNS-35).

b. The match directors of the Fleet Forces Command and All Navy Rifle and Pistol Championships will send copies of the official match results to The Civilian Marksmanship Program, P.O. Box 576, Port Clinton, OH 43452, for inclusion into the master files.

c. The Navy Marksmanship Team Officer-in-Charge (OIC) at the Interservice (Pistol or Rifle) Championships and National Rifle and Pistol Championships shall forward official match results to both the CNO Awards Branch (DNS-35) and the CMP. The

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OIC shall request the appropriate Navy Interservice and National EIC badges from CNO Awards Branch (DNS-35).

d. The individual earning the applicable Distinguished Badge is responsible for submitting a letter to Chief of Naval Operations, CNO Awards Branch (DNS-35), 2000 Navy Pentagon, Washington, DC 20350-2000, requesting award of the applicable Distinguished Badge. Copies of the official match results where the EIC points were earned should be attached as enclosures to this letter.

e. Credit points held by non-distinguished military personnel and civilians who become members of the U.S. Navy may be transferred and applied toward Navy Distinguished Designation. Civilians or military personnel from other services who earned points or attained Distinguished Designation prior to entry in the U.S. Navy may be formally recognized by the Navy with proper documentation and may be awarded a Distinguished Badge when the minimum 20 Navy points are earned.

#### 5. Action

a. CNO Awards Branch (DNS-35) shall be responsible for:

(1) Announcing each award of the U.S. Navy Distinguished Marksman Badge and U.S. Navy Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge with an official memorandum.

(2) Mailing the award with a copy of the official memorandum to the individual.

(3) Forwarding a copy of the official memorandum to the CMP for inclusion in the master files and Navy Personnel Command (PERS-313C) for documentation in the individual's personal record.

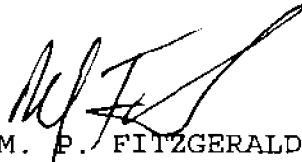
(4) Budgeting, procuring, and stocking an adequate supply of badges.

(5) Distributing Interservice and National EIC badges as requested by the Team OIC or individual earning the badge.

(6) Ensuring badges are issued to Navy members only. CNO Awards Branch (DNS-35) will distribute Fleet Forces Command Rifle and Pistol Championship or All Navy badges to Match Directors in time for the directors to award them to qualifying individuals during the matches. Match Directors shall submit a

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request in sufficient time for appropriate numbers of badges in order that they be issued by CNO Awards Branch (DNS-35) prior to the annual competitions to facilitate awarding at the conclusion of the match.



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**Qualification Criteria for Distinguished Marksman Badges**

1. U.S. Navy Distinguished Marksman or U.S. Navy Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge. Award of U.S. Navy Distinguished Marksman or Pistol Shot badges will be on the basis of individual unassisted performance in recognized individual matches as detailed below.

a. Award of the appropriate U.S. Navy Distinguished Badge will be made by CNO Awards Branch (DNS-35) when a U.S. Navy Active or Reserve Component member has earned 30 credit points including either a gold or silver badge at the Fleet Forces Command Rifle and Pistol Championships or All Navy (East or West) Rifle and Pistol Championships, or any badge at the Interservice (Pistol or Rifle) Championships or National Rifle and Pistol Championships.

b. To be eligible for a U.S. Navy Distinguished Badge, an individual must have earned a minimum of 20 of the 30 credit points in the Fleet Forces Command Rifle and Pistol Championships, All Navy (East or West) Rifle and Pistol Championships or as a Navy (Rifle/Pistol) Marksmanship Team Member while competing at the Interservice (Pistol or Rifle) Championships or National Rifle and Pistol Championships.

c. Retired Navy personnel are eligible for a U.S. Navy Distinguished Badge as long as a minimum of 10 credit points at the eligible competitions listed in paragraph 1b were earned while in either an active or reserve status.

d. Upon becoming eligible for award of a Navy Distinguished Badge per paragraph 1a, an individual is then ineligible to compete in further EIC matches of the discipline for which the badge was awarded unless specifically designated as a part of an official match aggregate, and then only for match aggregate credit.

e. Credit points toward Distinguished Designation. Credit points will be awarded to the highest scoring 10 percent of all Non-Distinguished competitors who fire recorded shots in at least 2 stages of the EIC competitions of those matches listed in paragraph 1b in the following manner:

(1) Highest one-sixth (1/6) of top 10 percent will receive a Gold medal and/or 10 points.

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(2) Next highest one-third (1/3) of top 10 percent will receive a Silver medal and/or 8 points.

(3) Remaining one-half (1/2) of top 10 percent will receive a Bronze medal and/or 6 points.

f. In computing the awarding of EIC points, fractions of 0.5 and over will be rounded to the next whole number.

g. Navy competitors who earn a medal in a National Trophy Individual Match will receive points as listed in paragraph 1e above.

h. Retired Navy personnel who earned a minimum of 10 Navy credit points while serving in the Navy, active or reserve status, may continue to compete for and earn Navy credit points at the Fleet Forces Command Rifle and Pistol Championships and All Navy (East or West) Rifle and Pistol Championships by indicating prior to the competition whether or not they want to have their scores counted within the "Navy" category vice the "All Other Competitors" category. Retired Navy personnel must still meet the criteria of paragraph 1a in order to qualify for a Navy Distinguished Badge.

2. EIC Badges. CNO Awards Branch (DNS-35) awards EIC badges to Navy personnel for excellence in individual competitions at Fleet Forces Command Rifle and Pistol Championships, All Navy Rifle and Pistol Championships, Interservice Championships, and National Rifle and Pistol Championship.

a. The number of EIC matches in which Non-Distinguished Navy personnel may compete is limited. In a calendar year, Non-Distinguished Navy personnel may compete in not more than four total matches per discipline as described below:

(1) The National Trophy Individual Match

(2) A maximum of three of the following matches:

(a) Fleet Forces Command Rifle and Pistol Championship (limited to competition on one coast in a calendar year)

(b) All Navy Rifle and Pistol Championships (limited to competition on one coast in a calendar year)

(c) Interservice matches

(d) Other service-sponsored EIC matches

(e) A CMP sanctioned EIC Match conducted in conjunction with a National Rifle Association (NRA) Regional or State Championship if 10 or more credit points have not been earned in other NRA Regional or State Championship matches or other service-sponsored EIC matches. Non-distinguished Navy competitors in a CMP-sanctioned EIC Match conducted in conjunction with an NRA Regional or State Championship must furnish the match sponsor with a statement that they have not earned the maximum credit points allowed (10 credit points).

b. Experienced Navy competitive marksmen are expected to support the Fleet Forces Command Rifle and Pistol Championships and All Navy (East or West) Rifle and Pistol Championships to the greatest extent possible. Navy commands should provide every reasonable accommodation, on a "not-to-interfere" basis with critical operational commitments, to experienced marksman in their efforts to support the Navy's marksmanship program, both active and reserve components.

3. Distinguished International Shooter Badge. The U.S. Distinguished International Shooter badge is awarded to civilian and military shooters who compete in major international competitions governed by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). Credit points for this badge are earned by shooters who qualify to represent the United States in an ISSF Championship and who distinguish themselves by winning medals or exceptionally high placing. Points towards this badge can be earned by individuals and members of United States international teams competing in the World Clay Target Championship, World Cup Final, World Cups, Pan American games, Championship of the Americas, World Junior Championship, and Shooting Championships of the America's for Juniors. Credit points for these matches are as delineated in the current edition of the CMP Competition Rules.