



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

FEB 28 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

SUBJECT: Recognition of Acts of Valor

The demands and sacrifices of military service on the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines under our charge are significant. I know that you share my commitment to ensuring appropriate and timely recognition of their service, particularly for acts of valor. Accordingly, I direct that you generate a plan to modify your awards processes to ensure that valor award recommendations are acted upon within ten days of receipt by each echelon in the review process.

Submit your plan to me, through the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, 30 days from the date of this memorandum. Your plan will include a description of the required changes to your existing processes, the timeline for implementing these changes, challenges associated with such accelerated processing, your mitigation strategy for addressing these challenges, and recommendations for any change to Department policy that would enhance your ability to achieve this processing requirement.

John Matis

cc:
CJCS
USD(P&R)



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