



DEPARTMENT OF WAR  
DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY  
6700 TAYLOR AVENUE, SUITE 5902  
FORT MEADE, MD 20755

December 22, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOW FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS  
CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
NAVY CHIEF OF INFORMATION, U.S. NAVY OFFICE OF  
INFORMATION  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION, HEADQUARTERS MARINE  
CORPS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR  
FORCE  
CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, U.S. COAST GUARD

SUBJECT: Cancellation of the Defense Media Merit Awards and Department of War Media Awards Competitions

The Defense Media Merit Awards (DMMA) contest and all photography, videography, writing, and graphics competition past the military Service level are hereby cancelled. This decision was made to allow DMA to align its efforts with the Assistant to the Secretary of War for Public Affairs, Secretary of War, and the administration's focus on direct support to the warfighter and lethality.

The Defense Media Activity will no longer utilize manpower and other resources in support of the DMMA contest or the nine 'of-the-year' award categories in the DoW media awards program. Each Service designated coordinator has been informed of this decision and has been instructed to adjust their individual categories, nomination guidance, and remove any references to the DoW program.

The awards portal within the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS) website will be available to the Services if they choose to continue media award contests for their respective military Service. Submitters and designated contest coordinators should contact the DVIDS service desk at [dma.enterprise-customer-service@mail.mil](mailto:dma.enterprise-customer-service@mail.mil) for common support such as password resets and any edits required to metadata. Global permissions and other Tier II questions should be sent directly to the DVIDS support team.

Richard J. McNorton  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Acting Director