



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

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04/23/2024

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Chief Patrol Agents
All Executive D

FROM: Jason D. Owens
Chief
U.S. Border Patrol

SUBJECT: Uniform and Grooming Standard Guidance for Wear of Honorary
Awards and Uniform Devices Update

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Attached is the interim guidance for wearing honorary awards and uniform devices. This is effective immediately, as well as the guidance provided in the Honorary Awards and Recognition Program Internal Operating Procedures (IOP) 51452-01 and the Uniform and Grooming Standards for Border Patrol Agents IOP 5230-02A.

Notable updates include the following:

- Additional medals and ribbons authorized for the Class A and B dress uniform, which comprises Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. military decorations with valor,
- Additional uniform devices authorized for the Class A and B dress uniform,
- Wear guidance for professional staff; and
- Updated Order of Precedence.

Any questions should be directed to the Uniform Program Manager via e-mail at

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@cbp.dhs.gov.

Attachments



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

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04/23/2024

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Chief Patrol Agents
All Executive Directorates

FROM: Jason D. Owens
Chief
U.S. Border Patrol

(b)(6)

SUBJECT: Interim Honorary Awards and Uniform Device Guidance

This memo serves as interim guidance for the wearing of honorary awards and devices. This is in addition to the guidance provided in the Honorary Awards and Recognition Program Internal Operating Procedures (IOP) 51452-01 and the Uniform and Grooming Standards for Border Patrol Agents (UGSBPA) IOP-5230-02A.

Honorary Awards

Large award medals are authorized for wear on the Class A uniform Ike jacket during specific formal/black tie events or occasions authorized by Chief Patrol Agents, Executive Directorates, or their designees. These award medals include the following: Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) and U.S. military decorations with valor earned during military service.

Award medals will be worn on the Ike jacket in order of precedence: from top row to bottom row and from the wearer's right to left. See Attachment A: Order of Precedence.

Medals will be worn centered above the wearer's left pocket with the top of the suspension ribbons parallel with the top of the pocket and the bottom of the medals generally even with the top of the pocket.

A maximum of three medals may be worn side by side in a single row with no overlap. A maximum of two rows of three medals may be worn—with a lesser number centered in the top row if necessary. There should be no more than one-eighth of an inch between rows. See Attachment B: Photos.

For professional staff and non-uniformed agents, mini award medals are authorized for wear on professional attire during specific formal/black tie events or occasions authorized by Chief Patrol Agents, Executive Directorates, or their designees. Mini award medals will be worn on the

Interim Honorary Awards and Uniform Device Guidance

Page 2

wearers left side, chest area of the professional attire in a similar manner as worn on the Ike jacket. See Attachment B: Photos.

For non-formal events or occasions, ribbons may be worn on the Class A uniform Ike jacket and Class B uniform dress shirts, which do not require authorization. These include DHS, CBP, USBP, and U.S. military decorations with valor earned during military service.

As outlined in the current Uniform and Grooming Standards IOP, ribbons will be worn on the Class A and Class B uniform in order of precedence: from top row to bottom row and from the wearer's right to left. See Attachment A: Order of Precedence.

A maximum of three ribbons may be worn in a single row. A maximum of four rows of three ribbons may be worn. If ribbons are not in multiples of three, the top row contains the lesser number, and the center of this row sits over the center of the one below it.

One award lapel pin is authorized for wear on professional attire and does not require authorization. The award lapel pin will be worn on the wearer's suit jacket; and it will be on the wearer's left lapel or on the professional attire's left side, chest area. See Attachment B: Photos.

Uniform Devices

Agents may wear up to three authorized uniform specialty devices and up to two authorized uniform qualification devices on the Class A uniform Ike jacket and Class B dress shirt. This includes a military branch service pin.

Large uniform devices previously worn above the left-hand pocket of the Class A uniform Ike jacket are no longer authorized – except for wear on the Honor Guard and Pipes and Drums Class A uniform Ike jacket.

Authorized uniform specialty devices will be worn on the wearers right side of the Ike jacket and/or on the dress shirt in order of precedence: from top to bottom, centered one-fourth of an inch above the name plate and devices spaced one-fourth of an inch apart. See Attachment B: Photos.

Authorized uniform qualification devices and the military branch service pin will be worn centered on the wearers right side pocket of the Ike jacket and/or dress shirt. It will also be worn in order of precedence: from top to bottom, one-fourth of an inch below the flap of the pocket and devices spaced one-fourth of an inch apart. See Attachment B: Photos.

The order of precedence for uniform devices is the following:

- Authorized uniform specialty devices (1. Horse Patrol; 2. Vessel Commander; 3. Border Patrol Tactical Unit; 4. Canine; 5. Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue; 6. Honor Guard; and 7. Mobile Response Team),
- Authorized uniform qualification devices (1. National Border Patrol Counsel; 2. Chaplain; 3. Peer Support; 4. Paramedic/Emergency Medical Technician; and 5. Supervisory Field Training Office/Field Training Officer); and
- Military branch service pin.

Interim Honorary Awards and Uniform Device Guidance

Page 3

For the Class C uniform, current guidance remains in place. This means the award lapel pin and uniform device is authorized for wear as detailed in the Uniform and Grooming Standards IOP-5230-02A-UGSBPA. One uniform device is authorized for wear on professional attire and does not require authorization. The uniform device will be worn on the wearer's suit jacket, right lapel or on the wearer's right side, chest area of other professional attire. See Attachment B: Photos.

Only dress uniform devices are authorized on the Class A and B uniform. On professional attire, subdued uniform devices are not authorized. Subdued uniform devices are for Class C rough duty uniforms only.

Employees are reminded to refer to the Uniform and Grooming Standards-5230-02A-UGSBPA IOP for additional guidance on proper wear of awards and devices. Questions should be directed to the Uniform and Grooming Standards via e-mail at

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@cbp.dhs.gov.

ATTACHMENT: A

U.S. Border Patrol Decorations

This document lists all awards authorized for wear on the U.S. Border Patrol uniform in order of precedence in accordance with the following documents:

- U.S. Border Patrol Honorary Awards and Recognitions Program Internal Operating Procedures, April 2023,
- DHS Secretary's Awards Categories, October 2023; and
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner's Awards (2022), June 2023.

Any updates to the above documents will supersede this list.

Order of Precedence by Category of Medal:

- a. Highest Level U.S. Border Patrol Decorations,
- b. U.S. Military Decorations, with Valorous Device,
- c. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary's Awards,
- d. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner's Awards,
- e. Other U.S. Border Patrol Decorations; and
- f. Other Non-DHS Awards.

Order of Precedence

A. Highest Level U.S. Border Patrol Decorations:

- (1) Newton-Azrak; and
- (2) Purple Cross.

B. U.S. Military Decorations, with Valor:

- (3) Medal of Honor (Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard),
- (4) Army/Navy/Air Force/Coast Guard Cross,
- (5) Silver Star,
- (6) Distinguished Flying Cross,
- (7) Bronze Star,
- (8) Air Medal; and
- (9) Army/Navy/Air Force/Coast Guard Commendation Medals.

C. DHS Secretary's Awards:

- (10) Secretary's Exceptional Service Gold Medal Award,
- (11) Secretary's Meritorious Service Silver Medal Award,
- (12) Secretary's Award for Valor,
- (13) Secretary's Award for Leadership Excellence,
- (14) Secretary's Award for Innovation,
- (15) Secretary's Award for Team Excellence,
- (16) Secretary's Champion of Equity Award,

- (17) Secretary's Award for Volunteer Service; and
- (18) Other DHS Secretary-level awards not previously listed.

D. CBP Commissioner's Awards:

- (19) Medal of Honor for Heroism,
- (20) Meritorious Service Award for Valor,
- (21) Integrity Award,
- (22) Leadership Award,
- (23) Special Recognition Award,
- (24) Best Practices, Efficiency, and Innovation Award,
- (25) Partnering and Stakeholder Engagement Award,
- (26) Unsung Heroes Award,
- (27) Diana Dean and Jose Melendez-Perez Anti-Terrorism Award,
- (28) Workforce Engagement and Inclusion Award,
- (29) Excellence in Mission Support Award,
- (30) Distinguished Service to Safety Award,
- (31) Excellence in Law Enforcement Actions Award,
- (32) Mission Integration Award,
- (33) Trade and Facilitation Award,
- (34) Volunteer Service Award,
- (35) Emerging Leader Award,
- (36) Career Achievement Award,
- (37) Excellence in Intelligence Award,
- (38) Excellence in Task Forces and Investigations Award,
- (39) Resiliency Award; and
- (40) Other CBP Commissioner-level awards not previously listed.

E. Other U.S. Border Patrol Decorations:

- (41) USBP Commendation Award,
- (42) USBP Achievement Award,
- (43) 100year Anniversary Medal; and
- (44) 75year Anniversary Medal.

F. Other Non-DHS Awards. This includes but is not limited to the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery, Women in Federal Law Enforcement Awards, Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal, and other external awards for which DHS/CBP solicits nominations from USBP employees.

ATTACHMENT B:

Honorary Awards







