

Chapter 34

Canada Gazette to 02 July 2022

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MEDALS to CANADIANS

Canadian Forces personnel frequently work with the American military on exchange programs. Each year, a large number of Canadian Forces members receive American decorations. This is a brief description of the most common of the awards that Canadians currently receive from the Americans. The number ISSUED is all those that have been gazetted since the Canada Gazette restarted foreign awards in 1993.

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LEGION OF MERIT

TERMS



The medal is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the United States. When Americans receive the medal, there is no grade to the medal. When the medal is awarded to foreigners, there are four grades: Chief Commander, Commander, Officer, and Legionnaire.

DESCRIPTION

A gold, 47-mm medallion of a five-pointed American star of heraldic form, which has centered thirteen white stars on a blue enamel field emerging from a circle of clouds. The large heraldic star is white enamel outlined with purple-red enamel. Each tip of the star has a gold ball. The star is then superimposed over a green enamel laurel wreath. Between each point of the star are crossed war arrows pointing out to represent armed protection to the nation. Commander's badge is 65-mm wide.

RIBBON

A purple-red moire ribbon, 35-mm wide, and edged with thin (2-mm) white stripes. Officers wear a bronze replica of the medal on the medal ribbon and on the ribbon in undress. Commanders wear the decoration around their neck and a miniature of the decoration in silver on a horizontal silver bar is worn in undress (a Chief Commander has a miniature of the decoration in gold on a horizontal silver bar in undress).

ISSUED

(to Canada Gazette of 02 July 2022)

Commander	20	Generals Henault, Natynczyk and Lawson
Officer	129	General Hillier, OC CMM MSC CD
2nd Award	11	Lieutenant-General Peter Devlin, CMM MSC CD
3rd Award	1	Lieutenant-General Charles Bouchard, OC CMM MSC CD
Legionnaire	32	Colonel (later MGen) David Fraser, CMM MSC MSM CD

LEGION OF MERIT ¹



¹ General Walter Natynczyk receives the Commander of the Legion of Merit from General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff
Lieutenant-General Andrew Leslie wearing the Commander of the Legion of Merit in Mess Dress
Major-General D. Fraser Holman, CD – last ribbon Officer of the Legion of Merit (Rideau High School Ottawa graduate of the early 1960's)
Lieutenant-General Peter Devlin, CMM, MSC, CD – last ribbon Officer of the Legion of Merit with 1st Oak leaf cluster signifying a 2nd award
Major-General David Fraser, CMM, MSC, MSM, CD – last ribbon Legionnaire of the Legion of Merit (later received the Bronze Star)

BRONZE STAR

TERMS



For heroic or meritorious achievement or service not involving aerial flight.

DESCRIPTION

A small (37-mm wide), five-pointed, bronze star, with a small raised five-pointed star in the centre. The reverse is inscribed **Heroic or Meritorious Achievement**.

RIBBON

The red ribbon is 35-mm wide, with narrow (1-mm) white edges, and a blue centre stripe (3-mm wide) with white stripes (1-mm) separating it from the red.

ISSUED (to Canada Gazette 30 October 2021)

Medals	109	Colonel Bryan Gagné, CD
2nd Award	1	Lieutenant-Colonel Darryl Mills, CD

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² Colonel Randolph Brooks, CD – Bronze Star last medal (Saskatchewan Centennial Medal – 2nd last ribbon)
Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Bryski, OMM, CD – Last ribbon Bronze Star (NATO MSM 2nd last Ribbon)
Major-General David Fraser, CMM, MSC, MSM, CD – Bronze Medal last medal on the right

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

TERMS

Awarded for outstanding non-combat meritorious achievement or service or service to the United States.

DESCRIPTION

A circular, 41-mm, bronze medal, with in the centre an eagle with arms outstretched, holding in his talons branches of laurel. The eagle is topped by the upper part of a five-pointed star on an incised plaque with six points starting at the top of each wing of the eagle. The reverse has **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MERITORIOUS SERVICE** around the edge.



RIBBON

A red-purple ribbon, 35-mm wide with white stripes (5-mm wide) placed 3-mm from each edge.

ISSUED (to Canada Gazette 30 October 2021)

Medals	649	LCol Brigid Dooley-Tremblay, OMM, CD	3
Medals to the RCMP	2	Superintendent Harvey L. Seddon, RCMP	
2 nd Award (Oak Leaf)	24	LCol Gordon D. Watt, CD; BGen Martin Galvin, CD	
2 nd Award (Gold Star)	1	Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick H. McAdam, CD	



³ Lieutenant-Colonel Brigid Dooley-Tremblay, OMM, CD – she added a 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Brigadier-General Martin Galvin, CD – also added a 1st Oak Leaf Cluster
Chief Warrant Officer Giovanni (“Gino”) Moretti, MMM, MSC, CD – last medal is the USA MSM
Chief Warrant Officer Daniel T. Moyer, MMM, CD – last two ribbons are the Bronze Star and the American MSM

AIR MEDAL

TERMS



Awarded for heroic actions or meritorious service while participating in aerial flight. A 'V' is worn on the medal if awarded for valour and a bronze numeral is worn if awarded a second time.

DESCRIPTION

A 42-mm wide, bronze compass rose with 16 points, suspended by a pointer and charges with a diving American eagle with, facing left, with thunderbolts in its talons.

RIBBON

The blue ribbon is 35-mm wide with orange stripes (7-mm wide) situated 2-mm from each edge.

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ISSUED (to Canada Gazette of 02 July 2022)

Medal	112	Lieutenant William A. Natynczyk
1 st Oak Leaf Cluster	26	Warrant Officer Timothy Edmund Holland, CD
2 nd Oak Leaf Cluster	10	Master Corporal Jason Keith McNEIL, CD
2 nd Strike Flight Award	1	Captain Jarred Penney, CD
3 rd Oak Leaf Cluster	2	Captain Henrik Smith, CD
4 th Oak Leaf Cluster	1	Major David Austin McNiff, CD
5 th Oak Leaf Cluster	1	Major David Austin McNiff, CD



⁴ Brigadier-General Rick Pitre, CD - with the Air Medal as his last ribbon received in 1996 as a Major
Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Bouchard, MSM, CD – with the Air Medal as his last medal received in 2006 as a Major

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (DMSM)

TERMS

The DMSM is the third highest Defense/Joint peacetime award. It is not the same as the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), which is a separate U.S. Military Department decoration. Both have virtually identical award criteria, but the DMSM is awarded to Service members assigned to qualifying joint activities. It is awarded in the name of the Secretary of Defense to any active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces who, while serving in a joint activity, distinguishes himself or herself by non-combat meritorious achievement or service. The meritorious service is for a period of time greater than 12 months and encompassing an individual's entire joint assignment, including any extensions.



DESCRIPTION

A circular, 38-mm in diameter, bronze medal. The obverse has a circular wreath of laurel leaves tied with a ribbon at the base. In the centre is a pentagon shape which slightly overlaps the wreath and superimposed over the pentagon is an eagle with wings upraised standing at the base of the pentagon. The eagle represents the USA; the pentagon represents the Department of Defense; and the laurel wreath represents achievement.

The reverse has **DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE**, in three horizontal lines and around the bottom edge are the words, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. There is space for the engraving of the name of the recipient between the spaces.

RIBBON

A white ribbon, 35-mm wide, with a crimson stripe 6.4-mm wide placed 1.6-mm from each edge and in the centre, 3 bluebird stripes, 1.6-mm wide and 1.6-mm apart.

ISSUED

255 (2 to RCMP) (to Canada Gazette (02 July 2022)

LCdr Michael Seed, CD (2018) - HMCS Discovery

Major J.L. Guy Langevin, CD (2014)

LCol Paul G. Young, CD (2015)

Major Charles Côté (2015)

Colonel J.P. Yvan Boilard, CD (2016)

LCol Craig M. Flood (2016)

Major Jacqueline Flood (2016)

Petty Officer 1st Class Scott O. Peddle

LCol Louis-Benoit Duthil, OMM, CD

JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

TERMS



A mid-level USA military medal awarded for meritorious service or achievement while assigned to a joint activity. It is senior to all Commendation medals and junior to the Bronze Star.

DESCRIPTION

A circular medal, 38-mm in diameter, with an unusual shaped green enamelled (outlined in gold) cross; in the centre is a gold eagle with wings outstretched, carrying three arrows in its talons. Above the eagle are 13 gold stars and at the base a heraldic emblem representing land, sea, and air. The cross is superimposed on a gold laurel wreath. The reverse has **FOR MILITARY MERIT** in three lines and a plaque in the centre for the recipient's name.

RIBBON

A 35-mm wide white ribbon with light blue edges (6-mm), a central green stripe (5-mm) and thin (2-mm) green stripes bi-secting the white on each side of the centre green stripe.

ISSUED

(to 26 May 2018)

1

Captain J.J.L. Serge PELLETIER, CD, in 1995.

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SOLDIER'S MEDAL

TERMS

The Soldier's Medal is awarded to any individual in the Armed Forces of the United States, or any citizen of a friendly foreign nation that while working with the United States Army, is recognized by heroism not concerning direct encounter with an enemy. The degree of valor as required is equivalent to that of the Distinguished Flying Cross. The act justifying the award of the medal must have entailed a personal risk or hazard and the personal choice of a risk of their life under condition not concerning direct encounter with an enemy.



ISSUED (to 26 May 2018)

1 Chief Warrant Officer Joseph D. VIENNEAU, CD - in 2000

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

TERMS

Awarded for heroic or meritorious achievement or service.

DESCRIPTION

A 35-mm wide, hexagonal bronze medallion, each side 20-mm long, with an American eagle with outstretched wings carrying three arrows in his talons. In the centre of the eagle's breast is the U.S. Shield.

The reverse has **FOR MILITARY MERIT** in three lines and a plaque for the recipient's name.

RIBBON

A green ribbon, 35-mm wide with white stripes (5-mm wide) placed 3-mm from each edge.

ISSUED (to 04 November 2017)

One Captain Robert Aubin, MSC, CD - in 1996.



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⁵ Many other Canadians have received the American Commendation Medals but since they are not gazetted, they cannot be worn. The reason is that for an award to be gazetted, it has to come from the head of State (i.e. the American Commander in Chief – The President). Medals such as the Navy and Army Commendations do NOT come from the head of state but are awarded by the Military Commander in the field. Thus they are not gazetted and not allowed to be worn.

For instance, Rear-Admiral Tyrone Pyle, CMM, MSC, CD was awarded a Navy Commendation Medal which he wears on his mess kit (above left) but not in his Royal Canadian Navy Uniform (above right). Technically not correct even on the mess Kit but many people who receive this medal do wear it on their mess kit.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

TERMS



Awarded for heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.

DESCRIPTION

A 35-mm wide, hexagonal bronze medallion, each side 20-mm long, with an American eagle with outstretched wings carrying three arrows in his talons. In the centre of the eagle's breast is the U.S. Shield.

The reverse has **FOR MILITARY MERIT** in three lines and a plaque for the recipient's name.

RIBBON

A green ribbon, 35-mm wide, with white edges (3-mm wide) and five central white stripes, 1-mm wide and 2-mm apart.

ISSUED

1 Captain Franclyn W. LEARY, CD - Gazetted in 1995



NOTE: These awards are generally not gazetted and therefore the individuals are not allowed to wear them in uniform. They are awarded by the US Commander in the field and not by the President of the USA.

Example: Colonel Paul Paone, CD shown wearing the medal awarded to him after presentation in Afghanistan.

PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL of FREEDOM

TERMS

Presented by the President of the USA, recognizes individuals who have made "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors." The award, while mainly a civilian medal, may also be awarded to members of the American military and to foreigners. It may be awarded posthumously and several individuals (General Colin Powell for example) have been awarded the medal twice.



DESCRIPTION

The badge is in the form of a golden star with white enamel, with a red enamel pentagon beneath it. The central disc bears thirteen gold stars on a blue enamel background (taken from the Great Seal of the United States) within a golden ring. Golden American bald eagles spread wings stand between the points of the star. It is worn around the neck on a blue ribbon with white edge stripes.

DATES

This medal is based on the Medal of Freedom from awarded in 1945 to honour civilian service during WWII but is a totally different medal than the medal revived in 1963. The medal is awarded annually near the 4th of July

CANADIAN EXAMPLES

Mr. John Kenneth GALBRAITH, OC	2000
Mr. Edgar BRONFMAN, Edgar Sr.	1999

NOTE: This is the highest civilian decoration presented by the Federal government in the United States. The USA has begun to create a large number of civilian awards in the past couple of decades. These include the Presidential Citizens Medal, and the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valour. Many USA agencies, such as NASA, US Intelligence Community, the Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, Department of Commerce, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Centre for Disease Control (CDC), Homeland Security, US Customs and Border Protection, Federal Emergency Management (FEMA), and the US Coast Guard have their own medals.

THE MEDAL of FREEDOM



The Presidential Medal of Freedom was created on 22 February 1963 and replaced the Medal of Freedom which was created in 1946. The Medal of Freedom could be awarded to any person who was not a member of the armed forces of the United States for "a meritorious act or service which has aided the United States in the in the prosecution of a war against an enemy or enemies and for which an award of another United States medal or decoration is considered inappropriate". Over 20,000 of these medals were awarded.

DESCRIPTION

A circular medal in bronze.

OBVERSE

The profile bust facing left of an individual wearing a cap resembling an American Bald Eagle ornamented by stars, with the word "FREEDOM" in capital letters in an arc at the bottom of the disc.

REVERSE

The reverse shows the Liberty Bell surrounded by the words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" in capital letters.

The medal could be awarded with a bronze, silver, or gold palm clasp but like the Legion of Merit, USA citizens only received the medal and non-U.S. citizens seem to receive the medal with palms.

RIBBON

A red ribbon with four central white lines spaced evenly in the center of the ribbon.

Ribbons



Without palm



With bronze palm



With silver palm



With gold palm

ISSUED

20,000 plus

2 to Canadians

- Wilfrid Reid "Wop" May, OBE, DFC - in 1947
- Mr. John Kenneth Galbraith, OC - in 1946 (one of the few who also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom)

Presidential Medal for Merit

TERMS



This medal was created during World War II as the highest civilian award of the USA "to be awarded to civilians for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service and to civilians of the Nations prosecuting the war under the joint declaration of the United Nations and of other friendly foreign nations".

DATES

Created on 08 September 1939, it was last awarded in 1952.

AWARDED to a CANADIAN

2

- Jean Cantius Garand, born in St. Rémi, Quebec - **1st** Recipient (Designed the light machine gun for the US Army)
- Sir William Samuel Stephenson, Kt, CC, MC, DFC (in 1946 was the **3rd** & **2nd** Canadian born recipient of this medal - a British spy & RAF member WWI - A Man named Intrepid)

