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January 17, 2026

2026 SAINT ISIDORE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT FOR (SEE) DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Nominations for the 2026 AFCEA International - Saint Isidore Award

1. **Purpose:** To announce and establish procedural guidance for nominations in support of the 2026 AFCEA International Saint Isidore Award. All awards will be processed through AFCEA International.

2. **Overview:** The AFCEA-hosted Saint Isidore Award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional initiative, leadership, insight and cyber excellence within their area of expertise. AFCEA is a private, member-based, nonprofit international organization focused on advancing information technology, communications and electronics, and cyber for the defense, homeland security and intelligence communities. All Nominees must demonstrate the highest standards of integrity and moral character, display an outstanding degree of professional competence and serve the cyber mission with distinction. The award consists of three levels that are described below, in order of precedence, with the minimum criteria for each level.

a. **Gold Level Medallion:** The Gold Level Medallion is the highest award and recognizes those who have rendered conspicuous, long-term service and significant contributions to the cyber mission. Recipients have so singularly distinguished themselves as contributors to the cyber mission that they have few peers. Nominees are recognized throughout their Service and at the national level for their cyber contributions. Recipients will be awarded a gold medallion with a ribbon and certificate. This award is not intended as an end of tour or end of service recognition. There are five Gold Level awards allocated for this year. A General Officer or SES endorsement is required for Gold Level awards.

b. **Silver Level Medallion:** The Silver Level Medallion recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the promotion of the cyber mission in ways that stand out in the eyes of recipients, their superiors,subordinates and peers. These nominees are seasoned within their military branch and are recognized at the Service level for their contributions to the cyber mission and field, as well as within their organization. These individuals must also demonstrate the highest standards of integrity and moral character, display an outstanding degree of professional competence and serve the cyber mission with distinction. Recipients will be awarded a silver medallion with a ribbon and certificate. There are 10 Silver Level awards allocated for this year. A Colonel (Commander/Chief of Staff/Director) endorsement is required for Silver Level awards.

c. **Bronze Level Medallion:** The Bronze Level Medallion recognizes those who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity, professional competence, and selflessness, while contributing significantly to the promotion and betterment of the cyber mission. Nominees are recognized within their organization as knowledgeable within the cyber field and emerging cyber leaders. There are 20 Bronze Level awards allocated for this year. A Lieutenant Colonel (Commander/Deputy Commander/XO) endorsement is required for Bronze Level awards.

3. Eligibility Criteria: Any service member or DoD civilian assigned to or attached to organizations identified in the distribution list of this memorandum who have demonstrated the highest standards of honor and moral character and provided considerable and lasting contributions to the cyber mission during the past year is eligible for consideration. Exceptions to these criteria will be considered by the selection committee. Industry contractors are not eligible for the award. The selection committee will consist of members of AFCEA, government volunteers, and industry cyber professionals who represent the highest standards of conduct and performance.

4. Nomination Procedures:

a. Nominations will be submitted in narrative format and include specific contributions the nominee made to the cyber mission. Nomination allocations by type of award and by element /command are included as examples at enclosures (1) through (3). The nomination summary of action must highlight specific, demonstrable contributions for each category of award that highlights a history of the advancement of cyber operations. Contributions need not be technical in nature but may arise from doctrinal, financial, organizational or other dimensions of cyber operations.

b. In addition to examples noted, nominators of the award should take into consideration that the award is intended to primarily highlight the period of 2025 actions, but it is also acceptable to include a broader history of the nominee for overall context. The nomination should not read as a “job description, but rather tangible actions by the nominee during the nomination period. Previous Selection Board members have commented that a job description does not equate to tangible accomplishments by the nominee and some cases disqualifies the nominee for lack of cyber security depth of experience. Also, nominations are intended for the medal nominated for and not a level higher or lower. Board members are directed to not recommend an award higher or lower than the nominees recommendation.

c. Each eligible organization will submit nominations no later than Thursday, March 12, 2026. The nomination packet will consist of the endorsed nomination memorandum consisting of not more than one page in 12-point Arial font with a maximum of 250 to 500 words and command or organizational endorsement, not to exceed one page, submitted by email to AFCEA International, ATTN: Col. Mike Black, USAF (Ret.), at saintisidore@afcea.org. The endorsed nomination must include a completed "Saint Isidore Award Nomination 2026 Points of Contact" form attached as Enclosure (4) to allow quick notification for of all nominees. Nominations received after the March 12, 2026 submission deadline will not be considered for the 2026 Saiant Isidore Award. Board results will be reported during April 27 – May 8, 2026 timeframe.

5. Selection Process:

a. The AFCEA Selection Committee will review and select up to five Gold, 10 Silver and 20 Bronze level medallions for those nominees who have demonstrated exceptional initiative, leadership and cyber excellence. Once AFCEA has completed the selection and approval process, notifications will be provided to the respective nominating individuals and organizations. AFCEA will prepare the award certificates, to include the medallions and endorsement, and mail to the nominating organization point of contact for presentation.

b. Award recipients, when available will be presented their awards at the Annual AFCEA hosted TechNet Cyber Conference, normally in May of each year. Also, representatives from AFCEA, when

available, along with the Commanding General and Command Sergeant Major of the nominating Command, will present gold level medallions at an appropriate ceremony, such as a Cyber Ball or organizational gathering, to recognize the recipients. As a suggestion, the Silver and Bronze Level Medallions would normally be presented by the first Colonel or Commander or Directorate Chief at their discretion at an appropriate ceremony.

c. In addition to the award and certificate, AFCEA will also award a no cost one-year membership to the winners of the 2026 Saint Isidore Award who are not active members of AFCEA International.

6. The points of contact are Col. Mike Black, USAF (Ret.), Vice President for Defense, at 703-631-6125 or email at mblack@afcea.org, or Ms. Mikayla Lyles, Manager, Industry Programs at 703-631- 6162, or email at mlyles@afcea.org.



Paul H. Fredenburgh, III
Brigadier General, USA (Ret)
Executive Vice President
National Security and Defense
AFCEA International

Enclosure (1) Sample Nomination for a Saint Isidore Gold Medallion Award
Enclosure (2) Sample Nomination for a Saint Isidore Silver Medallion Award
Enclosure (3) Sample Nomination for a Saint Isidore Bronze Medallion Award
Enclosure (4) Saint Isidore Award Nomination 2026 Points of Contact

DISTRIBUTION:

Commanding General, Army Cyber Command
Commander, Army Cyber Center of Excellence
Director, Army National Guard (ATTN: 10/Cyber Branch Chief)
Commander, Air Combat Command, 16 Air Force (Air Forces Cyber)
Commander, Coast Guard Cyber Command
Commander, U.S. Cyber Command
Commander, Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. Tenth Fleet
Commanding General, Marine Corps Cyber Space Command
Commander, Joint Task Force-DoD Information Networks
Commander, Cyber National Mission Force
Commander, Space Command
Commander, U.S. Network Enterprise Technology
Director, DISA and Commander Joint Force Headquarters-Department of Defense Information Network
Office of the Chief of the Army Reserve (ATTN: 10/Cyber Branch Chief)
Commander, Military Intelligence Reserve Command

Commander, 1st Information Operations Command
Commander, 780th Military Intelligence Brigade Commander, Cyber Protection Brigade
Director, Army Cyber Institute

[DATE]

Sample Nomination for a Saint Isidore Gold Medallion Award

MEMORANDUM FOR AFCEA International, 4114 Legato Road, Suite 1000, Fairfax, VA 22033
(Attn: Col Mike Black/Ms. Mikayla Lyles)

SUBJECT: Saint Isidore Nomination Gold Medallion Award - Mr. John L. Doe, USA

While serving as the Chief and Cyberspace and Information Operations Management Decision Package (MDEP) Manager, Mr. John Doe was directly responsible for the long-term growth and sustainment of Cyberspace and Information Operations. He personally developed and supervised the completion of several seminal policy, planning, and position documents on critical Cyberspace topics. He advocated on behalf of the Army to lead joint cyberspace capability developments, such as Cyber Training Range Executive Agency and Persistent Training Environment Acquisition Lead. Both capabilities will support Army and Joint cyberspace training requirements. His efforts are recognized throughout the Army and the Joint Forces.

Mr. Doe was instrumental as the Project Manager and a core member of the writing team developing the Army's first Cyber Resiliency Plan for the evaluation and remediation of cyber vulnerabilities in Major Army Weapons systems to meet requirements of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act of Section 1647. The plan was approved by the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army (CSA), published and incorporated as an Annex to the Army's Cyberspace Strategy. The plan was further recognized by the National Security Agency as a model for the Department of Defense.

Mr. Doe's roots in the MDEP contributed to secure 89% of the critical requirements for FY12 at \$178M and \$1B across FY 12-16. As a testament to Mr. Doe's steadfast hand for POM 18-22, he conducted continuous coordination with over fifteen stakeholders to grow critical requirement for FY18 to over \$554.5M and \$2.9B across FY 18-22. This is a 3-fold increase in successfully advocating for Army cyberspace requirements during his tenure. Due to John's professionalism and selfless service, the Army has grown cyberspace capabilities and capacity. His efforts made a direct and positive impact on the evolution of Army Cyberspace Operations. His efforts made a direct and positive impact on the evolution of Army Cyberspace Operations and were recognized by NSA as a model nationally for the Department of Defense.

The point of contact for this submission is the Mr. Dun Jonathan at commercial: 706-555-1063 and email at Dun.E.Johnthan.civ@mail.mil.

John R Smith
Major General
Deputy Commander
Army Cyber Command

Enclosure (1)

(DATE)

Sample Nomination for a Saint Isidore Silver Medallion Award

MEMORANDUM FOR AFCEA International, 4114 Legato Road, Suite 1000, Fairfax, VA 22033 (Attn: Col Mike Black/Ms. Mikayla Lyles)

SUBJECT: Saint Isidore Nomination - Silver Medallion Award - LtCol Julie A. Doe, USMC

LtCol Doe serves as the Lead Cyberspace Planner, Marine Corps Forces, Cyberspace Command, Cyberspace/Information Operations Branch focused on coordination of Cyberspace operations with the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Cyber Command. She develops, coordinates and integrates Marine Corps and Joint Cyberspace strategy and policies with the Marine Corps and Navy, as well as other Joint U. S. Forces.

LtCol Doe was solely responsible for the Marine Corps and organizations within Department of Defense achieving and sustaining irreversible momentum in the cyberspace domain by establishing new policies, orders, and resources. She led the coordination of the first ever Joint Cyberspace Council that involved all the G-3/5/7 charted organizations, which helped to synchronizes cyberspace efforts with stakeholders throughout the Marine Corps as well as many of the Joint Force organizations. She developed efforts that integrated and implemented cyberspace operations at a broader area involving the Marine Corps as well as the Joint Services.

She also led Cyberspace Integration operations for the Strategic Effects and Special Program Division for the planning, integration, and coordination of Joint Operations and capabilities unique to Cyberspace and USCYBERCOM

LtCol Doe expanded the integration of Special Technical Operations and Special Access Programs into cyberspace initiatives to achieve Joint Strategic effects in support of multiple combatant commands. She led the coordination and integration of space and cyberspace operations, significantly boosting mission success and has become to “go to” expert within the Joint Services.

The point of contact for this submission is the undersigned at commercial: 706-555-1063 and email at Jonathan.E.Dun.civ@usmc.mil.

JONATHAN E. DUN
COL, GS
Chief, Cyberspace and Information

Enclosure (2)

(DATE)

Sample Nomination for a Saint Isidore Bronze Medallion Award

MEMORANDUM FOR AFCEA International, 4114 Legato Road, Suite 1000, Fairfax, VA 22033
(Attn: Col Mike Black/Ms. Mikayla Lyles)

SUBJECT: Saint Isidore Nomination Bronze Medallion Award – GySgt John D. Doe, USA

It is my pleasure to nominate MAJ John Doe, for the Saint Isidore Award. MAJ Doe is a well-developed officer that possesses a calm demeanor that embraces challenging work and with a focus on the cyber mission. As a Cyber Protection Team Lead during 2023, he has profoundly organized his team to meet the rigorous demands of becoming the first DISA DODIN Cyber Protection Team (CPT) to obtain full operating capacity (FOC) and becoming a complete functioning cyber force within a Major Command Level.

MAJ Doe has been instrumental in creating a new capability for the Cyber Protection Brigade with developments in defensive cyber operations as a DISA Captain element. He displays the ability to visualize the cyber battlefield and develop solutions to mitigate the situation. MAJ Doe led his team while providing tremendous Defense Cyber Operations (DCO) support during a JTF-ARMY mission in a remote location in the Middle East. He has communicated and demonstrated the ability to deploy DCO capabilities to a JTF element with confidence and intellect. His performance as the Team Lead has shown his ability to be innovative, resourceful, and competent while supporting the DODIN DCO mission for the Brigade.

MAJ Doe's leadership, drive, and presence are the crucial points of stability and success for his team. He is committed to the mission and personifies selfless service and perseverance to the Cyber Mission Force and therefore warrants recognition by receiving the 2017-Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) Saint Isidore Award.

The point of contact for this submission is the undersigned at commercial: 706-787-1063 or email at Jonathan.E.Dun.mil@mail.mil.

JONATHAN E. DUN
COL, GS
Chief, Cyberspace and Information

Enclosure (3)

Saint Isidore Award Nomination 2024 Points of Contact

Along with the nomination letter please fill out and submit the below information.

Name of Nominee: _ _ _ _ _

Rank/Rating:.....Branch of Service:

Nominee's Organization: _____

Nominee's Email: _ _ _ _ _

Name of Nominator:

Rank/Rating:.....Branch of Service:

Nominator's Organization: _____

Nominator's Email: _ _ _ _ _

Nominator's Phone Number:

Who should be contacted with phone & email contact information with status of the award?

Should the Nominee be selected for an award, who should be contacted, and what address should the award be sent to?

Please include name, phone number, organization and address.

Note: If more than two awards are submitted from the same command, please include the contact information above for each additional nominee in the same format for submission.

Enclosure (4)