

VOLUME 12, CHAPTER 17: “DoD REWARDS PROGRAM”**SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES**

Changes are identified in this table and also denoted by [blue font](#).

Substantive revisions are denoted by an (*) symbol preceding the section, paragraph, table, or figure that includes the revision.

Unless otherwise noted, chapters referenced are contained in this volume.

Hyperlinks are denoted by [bold, italic, blue, and underlined font](#).

The previous version dated [September 2019](#) is archived.

PARAGRAPH	EXPLANATION OF CHANGE/REVISION	PURPOSE
1.1	Added an overview section	Addition
1.3	Updated authoritative guidance section to include only hyperlinks and title of reference	Addition
2.0	Added definitions	Addition

Table of Contents

VOLUME 12, CHAPTER 17: “DoD REWARDS PROGRAM”	1
1.0 GENERAL	4
*1.1 Overview	4
1.2 Purpose	4
*1.3 Authoritative Guidance	4
*2.0 DEFINITIONS	4
3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES	5
3.1 Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer (USD(C)/CFO)	5
3.2 Office of the USD(P), Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict (ASD SO/LIC)	5
3.3 Geographic Combatant Commander	6
3.4 Director, Joint Staff	6
3.5 Washington Headquarters Service	6
4.0 IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM IN THE FIELD	7
4.1 Rewardable Information	7
4.2 Payment Approval Amounts	7
Table 17-1. DoDRP Fund-Approving Officials: Reward Offers and Reward Payments	7
4.3 Geographic Combatant Commanders Nominations for Reward Lists	8
4.4 Geographic Combatant Commander Approvals	8
4.5 Geographic Combatant Commander’s Pre-Approved Rewards List	8
4.6 Deputy Geographic Combatant Commander Approvals	8
4.7 TRO Approvals	9
4.8 TRO Certifies Reward Parameters are Met	9
4.9 Types of Reward Payments and Other Acceptable Uses of Funds	9
Table 17-2. DoDRP Fund-Approving Officials: Advertising, Travel, and Administration	9
4.10 Payments Made by Designated Disbursing Officers/Paying Agents	10
4.11 Coordination with DOS and DOJ	10
4.12 Requests for Additional Funds	10
5.0 PROCEDURES	10
5.1 Allocation of Funds	10

Table of Contents (continued)

5.2	Improper Usage of Funds.....	10
5.3	Delivery, Transporting and Safeguarding of Funds.....	10
5.4	Appointment of Paying Agents.....	11
5.5	Documentation of Payments.....	11
5.6	Circumventing Limits.....	11
5.7	Clearance of Accounts.....	11
5.8	Certification of Payments.....	11
5.9	Audits and Program Reviews.....	11
6.0	PAYMENTS AND REWARDS THROUGH GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL OF ALLIED FORCES.....	12
6.1	Execution of Rewards through Allied Government Personnel.....	12
6.2	Request for Payment of Reward.....	12
6.3	Appointment of Allied Government Personnel as Paying Agents.....	12
6.4	Allied Government Personnel Limitations.....	12
7.0	INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.....	13
7.1	Information Dissemination.....	13
7.2	Program Identification and Combination with Other Programs.....	13
7.3	Advertisements.....	13
8.0	REPORTS AND NOTIFICATIONS.....	13
8.1	Annual Report.....	13
8.2	Report on Designation of Countries for Which Rewards May Be Paid.....	14
9.0	WAIVERS.....	14
9.1	Request for Waivers or Exceptions to Law.....	14
9.2	Requests for Waivers or Exceptions to Guidance.....	15

CHAPTER 17

DoD REWARDS PROGRAM

1.0 GENERAL

*1.1 Overview

The Secretary of Defense (SecDef) is authorized to offer either monetary compensation or payments-in-kind to individuals who supply information or non-lethal assistance to the United States (U.S.) Government personnel, or personnel from allied forces involved in joint operations with U.S. Armed Forces. This aid must benefit the operations or activities of the armed forces or of allied forces in combined operations outside the U.S. against international terrorism or contribute to force protection. This capability is valuable in motivating local citizens in foreign nations to assist by providing information or other forms of help, such as handing over dangerous individuals and weapons, to U.S. Government personnel or allied force personnel. The Department of Defense Rewards Program (DoDRP) facilitates the provision of incentives for U.S. Government or allied force personnel to encourage cooperation.

1.2 Purpose

This chapter provides guidance on implementing the DoDRP for all Department of Defense (DoD) entities. It covers the execution, management, recording, and reporting of U.S. appropriations for the DoDRP. It assigns responsibilities for administration, specifies uses for U.S. funds, and outlines procedures for transparency and accountability. Geographic combatant commanders can provide additional guidance aligned with these directives.

*1.3 Authoritative Guidance

1.3.1. Title 10, United States Code, section 127b ([10 U.S.C. § 127b](#)), “Department of Defense Rewards Program.”

1.3.2. DoD Instruction ([\(DoDI\) O-3000.13](#)), “DoD Rewards Program.” (DoD [Public Key Infrastructure](#) certificate is required to access this document.)

*2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.0.1. Allied Forces. For the purposes of this chapter only, the term “allied forces” is defined as foreign government personnel participating with the U.S. Armed Forces in combined operations outside of the U.S. against international terrorism.

2.0.2. Combatant Commands Reward Programs (CCRPs). The collective activities of a combatant command to incentivize eligible persons, through the offer and payment of rewards, to provide information or non-lethal assistance that enables or enhances force protection of, or combating terrorism by, U.S. or allied forces.

2.0.3. DoDRP. The enterprise of Rewards Programs and governance established, planned, executed, and overseen throughout the DoD in accordance with Section 127b of Title 10, U.S.C., and this issuance.

2.0.4. Force Protection. Activities intended to protect against, disrupt, or mitigate threats (all threats, not just international terrorism threats) to U.S. or allied forces. Also includes personnel recovery of U.S. or allied forces.

2.0.5. Non-lethal Assistance. Assistance not intended primarily to inflict bodily harm or death that is beneficial to force protection or counterterrorism.

2.0.6. Tactical Rewards Officers (TROs). A member of U.S. forces (excluding contractors), appointed in accordance with CCRP guidance, who may approve reward offers and reward payments with a value up to and including \$10,000. A TRO is a DoDRP fund-approving official. Formerly known as a “reward authorization officer.”

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer (USD(C)/CFO)

3.1.1. Oversees development of justification materials for the DoDRP in the President’s Budget.

3.1.2. Allocates DoDRP funds as part of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) (USD(P)) budget to the Director, Washington Headquarters Service.

3.1.3. Oversees execution of DoDRP funds as part of the USD(P) budget.

3.1.4. Coordinates DoDRP appropriations-related engagements with the Senate Appropriations Committee – Defense, House Appropriations Committee – Defense, and other congressional staff members, Members of Congress, or committees, as required.

3.1.5. Coordinates on the DoDRP Annual Report.

3.2 Office of the USD(P), Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict (ASD SO/LIC)

3.2.1. Implements policy for the DoDRP.

3.2.2. Approves allocation of DoDRP funds to combatant commanders (CCDRs).

3.2.3. Maintains a single consolidated SecDef pre-approved rewards list. This list will include the identity, nominating headquarters or office, the amount approved, and other relevant data. CCDRs may nominate individuals or items to be placed on the pre-approved rewards list through the Director, Joint Staff.

3.2.4. Coordinates the SecDef pre-approved rewards list with the Department of State (DOS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to ensure that a reward does not duplicate or interfere with the payment of reward authorized by those Departments.

3.3 Geographic Combatant Commander

3.3.1. Designates, in writing, a program liaison officer to serve as the point of contact for all disbursement of funds, goods, or services;

3.3.2. Establishes procedures for the accounting, obligating, cash management, and disbursement of funds;

3.3.3. Establishes procedures and processes to coordinate notification of awards with appropriate representatives of the DOS and the DOJ to ensure the making of a reward does not duplicate or interfere with the payment of a reward authorized by those Departments.

3.3.4. Establishes internal controls and review procedures for classified voucher processing when required and in accordance with [Volume 5, Chapter 9, "Disbursements."](#)

3.3.5. Provides a copy of commander-approved lists to the Director, Joint Staff as updates occur.

3.3.6. Submits estimated Rewards Program budget requirement for the upcoming fiscal year on August 15 of the current fiscal year.

3.3.7. Reports annually to the Director, Joint Staff, no later than October 15 of each year for the preceding fiscal year.

3.3.8. Requests additional funds from ASD SO/LIC if all available funds for these purposes have been expended and additional funds are required.

3.4 Director, Joint Staff

3.4.1. Advises the SecDef on the DoDRP.

3.4.2. Coordinates on the DoDRP Annual Report.

3.4.3. Appoints the Joint Staff DoDRP Monitor and may, as necessary, appoint one or more Joint Staff DoDRP Assistant Monitors.

3.5 Washington Headquarters Service

3.5.1. Receives DoDRP funds from the USD(C)/CFO, as part of the USD(P) budget.

3.5.2. Allocates DoDRP funds to CCDRs upon approval of the ASD(SO/LIC).

4.0 IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM IN THE FIELD

4.1 Rewardable Information

Eligible persons may receive a reward for providing information or non-lethal assistance that benefits (1) an operational activity of U.S. or allied forces in combined operations against international terrorism outside the U.S. or (2) force protection of U.S. or allied forces in combined operations.

4.2 Payment Approval Amounts

TROs can authorize rewards up to \$10,000. A CCDR is permitted to approve rewards up to \$1,000,000. For rewards greater than \$1,000,000 and up to \$2,000,000, approval from the USD(P) is necessary. Rewards exceeding \$2,000,000 but not surpassing \$5,000,000 require the authorization of the SecDef or the Deputy Secretary of Defense (DepSecDef), or alternatively, through a separate written delegation, the USD(P). Statutorily, if any proposed reward (whether pre-approved or otherwise) exceeds \$2,000,000, consultation with the Secretary of State is mandated for the SecDef. Table 17-1 in DoDI O-3000.13 outlines these approval limits.

Table 17-1. DoDRP Fund-Approving Officials: Reward Offers and Reward Payments

DoDRP Fund-Approving Official	Approval Level	Remarks
SecDef or DepSecDef	Up to \$5,000,000	For rewards more than \$2,000,000, must coordinate with the Secretary of State in all instances and the Attorney General in law enforcement-related instances before approving.
USD(P)	Up to \$2,000,000	May not be further delegated.
CCDR	Up to \$1,000,000	
Deputy CCDR	Up to \$1,000,000	Upon delegation by CCDR. May not be further delegated.

Table 17-1. DoDRP Fund-Approving Officials: Reward Offers and Reward Payments (continued)

DoDRP Fund-Approving Official	Approval Level	Remarks
Directly Subordinate CCDR	Up to \$100,000	Upon delegation by CCDR. May not be further delegated.
	More than \$100,000 and up to \$1,000,000	Upon approval of USD(P) and delegation by CCDR. May not be further delegated.
TRO	Up to \$10,000	In accordance with CCRP guidance. May not be further delegated.

4.3 Geographic Combatant Commanders' Nominations for Reward Lists

Geographic combatant commanders can propose individuals or items for the SecDef pre-approved rewards list if the reward amount exceeds their authority. Nominations are submitted to ASD SO/LIC via the Director, Joint Staff. ASD SO/LIC will coordinate with DOS and DOJ to avoid duplication or interference with other authorized rewards, then forward them to the SecDef or DepSecDef for approval. ASD SO/LIC will maintain a consolidated list including the identity, nominating headquarters or office, approved amount, and other relevant information.

4.4 Geographic Combatant Commander Approvals

A geographic combatant commander has the authority to approve rewards up to \$1,000,000 per reward. Geographic combatant commanders must also provide immediate written notification to ASD SO/LIC when they approve or pre-approve awards and payments of \$100,000 or more.

4.5 Geographic Combatant Commander's Pre-Approved Rewards List

The geographic combatant commander may provide a list of pre-approved rewards for information or assistance pertaining to specific individuals or items. Pre-approving these rewards ensures that field forces can promptly compensate informants for valuable information or assistance, with the combatant commander's prior authorization indicated in the pre-approved list. Copies of these lists, along with any updates, will be provided by the geographic combatant commanders to the Director, Joint Staff.

4.6 Deputy Geographic Combatant Commander Approvals

A geographic combatant commander can delegate their authority to approve or pre-approve rewards to the deputy commander. Additionally, this authority can be delegated to the commander of a direct subordinate command, with approval from the SecDef or DepSecDef.

4.7 TRO Approvals

A geographic combatant commander can delegate approval of rewards up to \$10,000 to subordinate U.S. Service members or civilian employees by appointing TROs. These appointments must be documented in writing, specifying the reward authority's scope, limitations, and accounting procedures. Geographic combatant commanders will also provide guidelines and criteria for TROs to evaluate whether information or assistance qualifies for a reward, including type and amount.

4.8 TRO Certifies Reward Parameters are Met

When issuing a list of pre-approved rewards to field forces, geographic combatant commanders must set up procedures and designate responsibility for certifying that the information or assistance received meets the approval criteria. This certification responsibility can be assigned regardless of the delegation limits on reward approval authority based on monetary value. Only U.S. TROs are permitted to fulfill this role.

4.9 Types of Reward Payments and Other Acceptable Uses of Funds

Rewards can be disbursed in cash, either U.S. dollars or foreign currency. TROs may also authorize non-cash rewards, such as food, local amenities, necessities, or communal rewards. Aside from the rewards outlined in Table 17-1, DoDRP funds are authorized to cover overhead costs directly tied to the program's operations. These funds can be allocated for advertising reward offers, travel expenses, and administrative costs associated with running the program. Approval thresholds for these overhead costs, before delegation, are detailed in Table 17-2.

Table 17-2. DoDRP Fund-Approving Officials: Advertising, Travel, and Administration

DoDRP Fund-Approving Official	Approval Level	Remarks
SecDef or DepSecDef	Up to \$5,000,000	
USD(P)	Up to \$2,000,000	May be delegated, in whole or in part, to any member of U.S. forces (excluding contractors) within the Office of the USD(P) and may be further delegated.
CCDR	Up to \$1,000,000	May be delegated, in whole or in part, to any member of U.S. forces (excluding contractors) and may be further delegated in accordance with CCRP guidance.

4.10 Payments Made by Designated Disbursing Officers/Paying Agents

After a TRO has approved or certified a reward, that officer will inform the program liaison officer, or an appointed disbursing officer or paying agent as per [Volume 5, Chapter 2](#), “Disbursing Offices, Officers, and Agents,” who will proceed to make the authorized payment.

4.11 Coordination with DOS and DOJ

The procedures of the geographic combatant commander will include a process to coordinate with relevant country team representatives from the DOS and DOJ, ensuring that offering a reward does not duplicate or conflict with a reward authorized by those departments.

4.12 Requests for Additional Funds

Geographic combatant commanders can request additional funding from ASD SO/LIC if they have exhausted their allocated resources and need more. Each geographic combatant commander will submit their projected budget needs for the next fiscal year by August 15 of the current fiscal year.

5.0 PROCEDURES

5.1 Allocation of Funds

The USD(C)/CFO will ensure DoD funds for the Rewards Program are correctly allocated to Washington Headquarters Service for control and execution. Geographic combatant commanders will inform the Director, Joint Staff of any necessary inter-theater fund allocations.

5.2 Improper Usage of Funds

U.S. citizens, officers or employees of the U.S. federal, state, or local government, or employees of a U.S. Government contractor are not eligible for rewards under the DoDRP. [CCDRs should be cautious about rewarding foreign security force members due to potential risks such as extortion, corruption, negative perceptions, or undermining U.S. law or DoD human rights policies related to training and equipping foreign security forces.](#) The USD(P) can grant exceptions to this rule for specific countries and will review these waivers annually. Requests for such approvals should be directed to the ASD SO/LIC. Previously approved waivers remain valid under this guidance.

5.3 Delivery, Transporting and Safeguarding of Funds

Any funds made available for the DoDRP will be delivered, transported, and safeguarded consistent with [Volume 5, Chapter 3](#), “Obtaining and Safeguarding Public Funds.”

5.4 Appointment of Paying Agents

Paying Agents responsible for delivering funds under the DoDRP will be appointed in accordance with Volume 5, Chapter 2. Allied forces members will receive the same training as U.S. paying agents and sign a statement of understanding. Since foreign nationals and other non-U.S. citizens cannot be held pecuniarily liable for fund losses, it is important to consider the necessity and risk when appointing non-U.S. citizens as paying agents. All funds given to and returned by allied forces paying agents must be recorded on [DD Form 1081](#), "Statement of Agent's Officer's Account," as specified in [Volume 5, Chapter 15](#), "Disbursing Officer Accountability." Upon completing authorized payments, the paid vouchers, negotiable instruments, and any remaining funds must be returned to the disbursing officer along with a properly filled out DD Form 1081.

5.5 Documentation of Payments

DoDRP payments will be executed and recorded in accordance with Volume 5, Chapter 9 and [Volume 10, Chapter 8](#), "Commercial Payment Vouchers and Supporting Documentation."

5.6 Circumventing Limits

Circumventing monetary limits and approval requirements by dividing a single reward into multiple smaller rewards, or by other methods, is not permitted. However, splitting payments of approved expenses for administrative purposes is allowed (for instance, paying a vendor 50 percent at the start of a project and the remaining 50 percent upon completion).

5.7 Clearance of Accounts

Accounts maintained under the Rewards Program will be cleared consistent with Volume 5, Chapter 2.

5.8 Certification of Payments

Payments made under the DoDRP will be certified in a manner consistent with [Volume 5, Chapter 5](#), "Certifying Officers, Departmental Accountable Officials, and Review Officials."

5.9 Audits and Program Reviews

The DoDRP will undergo periodic audits by internal bodies like the DoD Inspector General and other audit agencies, as well as external groups such as the Government Accountability Office and congressional oversight committees. Officials managing the Rewards Program must cooperate fully with these reviews, audits, or investigations.

6.0 PAYMENTS AND REWARDS THROUGH GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL OF ALLIED FORCES

6.1 Execution of Rewards through Allied Government Personnel

The SecDef, geographic combatant commanders, and all delegated officials may use their authorities, acting through government personnel of allied forces to offer and make rewards. Rewards may not be paid acting through allied government officials after the payment date authorized by 10 U.S.C. § 127b.

6.2 Request for Payment of Reward

Allied government personnel will send reward payment requests to the geographic combatant commander's liaison officer or a TRO with delegated authority. That individual will decide if the information or assistance warrants a reward and determine its type and amount.

6.3 Appointment of Allied Government Personnel as Paying Agents

When feasible, reward payments to support allied forces will be distributed directly by U.S. personnel. If direct payment by U.S. personnel is not feasible, commanders may appoint allied personnel as paying agents for the DoDRP, even though Volume 5, Chapter 2 requires paying agents to be U.S. Service Members or civilian U.S. Government employees. Commanders should follow the provisions of Volume 5, Chapter 2 when appointing allied paying agents. Commanders and disbursing officers must evaluate the risks of using allied government personnel as paying agents. A paying agent acts on behalf of the disbursing officer, who remains accountable for public funds given to an allied paying agent. Commanders and disbursing officers must ensure effective internal controls to reduce the potential risks of fraud, waste, and mismanagement by allied personnel. All funds advanced to and returned from the allied paying agent must be documented on a DD Form 1081, according to Volume 5, Chapter 15. After completing authorized payments, the paid vouchers, negotiable instruments, and any remaining funds should be returned to the disbursing officer with a properly completed DD Form 1081.

6.4 Allied Government Personnel Limitations

Funds will be advanced to an allied paying agent only after a specific reward has been approved for payment to an identified payee. Disbursing officers will advance funds to allied paying agents after reviewing the payment voucher for the rewards. All funds advanced to and returned from the allied paying agent will be documented on a DD Form 1081. Combatant commands are responsible for ensuring that all allied government personnel nominated by their subordinate commands to offer or make rewards are properly qualified and trained. They are also responsible for ensuring that these personnel perform their duties in accordance with DoD policy and procedures. Allied force government personnel participating in the reward program will have a designated U.S. liaison officer through whom they can request reward funds or in-kind items and validate the information or non-lethal support.

7.0 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

7.1 Information Dissemination

Media queries regarding the DoDRP will be referred to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

7.2 Program Identification and Combination with Other Programs

This program does not need to be identified as a U.S. or DoD program or display an official symbol. Geographic combatant commanders can coordinate with other U.S. Government Rewards Programs and are not required to distinguish this one from others if it does not duplicate or interfere with rewards authorized by the DOS or DOJ.

7.3 Advertisements

Geographic combatant commanders can spend funds to publicize the DoDRP and cover administrative costs. Advertisements may mention coalition or allied headquarters as offering the reward. U.S. commanders will maintain control and authorization of rewards within these headquarters. Geographic combatant commanders can also use theater information dissemination programs to support the DoDRP. Military Information Support Team (MIST) expertise should be used for effective advertising, with MIST funds available only if DoDRP funds are insufficient. Expenses for publicizing and administering the program must be documented in quarterly and annual reports, detailing the target audience, required funds, and objectives. Establishing call centers using DoDRP funding requires coordination and approval from the Director, Joint Staff, to ASD SO/LIC.

8.0 REPORTS AND NOTIFICATIONS

8.1 Annual Report

According to 10 U.S.C. § 127b, by February 1 each year, the SecDef must report to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees on the administration of the Rewards Program for the previous fiscal year.

8.1.1. Each report for a fiscal year under this subsection must include the following:

8.1.1.1. Information on the total amount expended during that fiscal year to carry out the Rewards Program under this section.

8.1.1.2. Specification of the amount, if any, expended during that fiscal year to publicize the availability of rewards under this section.

8.1.1.3. With respect to each reward provided during that fiscal year:

8.1.1.3.1. The amount or value of the reward and whether the reward was provided as a monetary payment or in some other form;

8.1.1.3.2. The recipient of the reward and the recipient's geographic location; and

8.1.1.3.3. A description of the information or assistance for which the reward was paid, together with an assessment of the significance and benefit of the information or assistance.

8.1.1.4. A description of the status of program implementation in each geographic combatant command, including in which countries the program is being operated.

8.1.1.5. A description of efforts to coordinate and de-conflict the authority under subsection (a) with similar Rewards Programs administered by the U.S. Government.

8.1.1.6. An assessment of the effectiveness of the program in meeting its objectives.

8.1.2. The SecDef may submit the report in classified form if the SecDef determines that it is necessary to do so.

8.2 Report on Designation of Countries for Which Rewards May Be Paid

8.2.1. Within 15 days of designating a country for operations or activities eligible for rewards under this section, the SecDef must report to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees.

8.2.2. Each report must include:

8.2.2.1. [The designated country.](#)

8.2.2.2. The reason and justification for the designation of the country.

8.2.2.3. An estimate of the amount or value of the rewards to be paid as monetary payment or payment-in-kind under this [chapter](#).

9.0 WAIVERS

9.1 [Requests](#) for Waivers or Exceptions to Law

[Requests](#) for waivers or exceptions to any provision of law that would otherwise prohibit, restrict, limit, or constrain the execution of the reward program must be submitted through ASD SO/LIC, the USD(C)/CFO, and DoD General Counsel to the SecDef for approval.

9.2 Requests for Waivers or Exceptions to Guidance

Requests for waivers or exceptions to this guidance must be submitted through ASD SO/LIC to the USD(C)/CFO for approval.