

the Armed Forces of the United States and of friendly foreign nations.

(b) *Description.* On a 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch bronze octagon, an eagle displayed, standing on a fasces, between two groups of stars of six and seven, above the group of six a spray of leaves. On the reverse is a shield paly of 13 pieces on the chief, the letters "U.S." supported by sprays of laurel and oak, around the upper edge the inscription "Soldier's Medal," and across the face the words "For Valor." The medal is suspended by a rectangular-shaped metal loop with corners rounded from a moired silk ribbon 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length and 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in width, composed of two outside stripes of blue ($\frac{3}{8}$ -inch), the center containing 13 white and red stripes of equal width (7 white and 6 red).

(Sec. 3750, 70A Stat. 217; 10 U.S.C. 3750)

§ 578.11 Bronze Star Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The Bronze Star Medal, established by Executive Order on February 4, 1944, is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States, on or after December 7, 1941, shall have distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. See figure 1.

(1) *Heroism.* Awards may be made for acts of heroism performed in actual ground combat against an armed enemy which are of lesser degree than required for the award of the Silver Star.

(2) *Meritorious achievement and service.*
(i) Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit and meritorious service. The required achievement or service, while of lesser degree than that required for the award of the Legion of Merit, must nevertheless have been meritorious and accomplished with distinction.

(ii) Awards may be made, upon letter application to The Adjutant General, to those members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, on or after December 7, 1941, have been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge or Medical Badge for exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy between December 7, 1941 and

September 2, 1945, inclusive, or whose meritorious achievement or exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy during such period has been otherwise confirmed in writing by documents executed prior to July 1, 1947. Documents which have been executed since August 4, 1944 in connection with recommendations for the award of decorations of higher degree than the Bronze Star Medal will not be used to establish a basis for the award of this decoration under the provisions of this paragraph.

(b) *Description.* A bronze star 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumscribing diameter. In the center thereof is a $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch diameter raised bronze star, the center line of all rays of both stars coinciding. The reverse has the inscription "Heroic or Meritorious Achievement." The star is suspended by a rectangular-shaped loop with corners rounded from a moired silk ribbon 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length and 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in width, composed of stripes of white ($\frac{1}{32}$ -inch), red ($\frac{9}{16}$ -inch), white ($\frac{1}{32}$ -inch), blue ($\frac{1}{8}$ -inch), white ($\frac{1}{32}$ -inch), red ($\frac{9}{16}$ -inch), and white ($\frac{1}{32}$ -inch). A bronze block letter "V" $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in height with serifs at the top of the members is worn on the suspension and service ribbons of the Bronze Star Medal to denote an award made for heroism (valor). Not more than one "V" device will be worn. When one or more oak-leaf clusters appear on the same ribbon the "V" device is worn on the wearer's right.

(E.O. 9419, Feb. 4, 1944, 9 FR 1495)

§ 578.12 Air Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The Air Medal, established by Executive Order on May 11, 1942, is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States, has distinguished himself or herself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight (Fig. 1). Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit or sustained operational activities against an armed enemy. The required achievement, while of lesser degree than that required for the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, must nevertheless have been accomplished with distinction above and beyond that normally expected.