



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 3590.26A
N95
18 Aug 2021

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3590.26A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: UNITED STATES NAVY MARKSMANSHIP TEAM AND NAVY DISTINGUISHED
MARKSMAN PROGRAM

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3591.1G
(b) NAVSEAINST 8730.2D Small Arms and Weapons Management Policy and
Guidance
(c) NAVPERS 15665I U.S.; Navy Uniform Regulations
(d) Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) Competition Rules

1. Purpose. Establish policy for the Navy Marksmanship Team and rules for earning Navy Excellence-in-Competition (EIC) and Distinguished Marksman and Distinguished Pistol Shot Badges.
2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3590.26.
3. Scope and Applicability. This instruction applies to all Navy personnel, active, reserve, retired, Naval Academy midshipmen and Reserve Officer Training Corps midshipmen. All naval personnel participating in United States Navy Marksmanship Team (USNMT) sponsored competition must be qualified for such activities per reference (a).
4. USNMT.
 - a. USNMT Mission.
 - (1) Identify, support and develop qualified Navy competitors to represent the Navy at joint, national and international competitions.
 - (2) Train Sailors in advanced marksmanship and small arms safety.
 - (3) Provide a test venue for Navy small arms technology innovations.
 - b. USNMT Organization and Functions.
 - (1) USNMT is responsible for the conduct of the Fleet and all-Navy matches, selection and training of Navy Pistol and Rifle Teams for higher level competition and administration of the Distinguished Program and related awards and records.

(2) USNMT Officer in Charge (OIC). Active duty naval officer responsible for:

(a) Oversight, planning and conduct of all Navy matches; primary Navy liaison to other service marksmanship programs; and liaison to the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

(b) Updating this instruction, naval administrative messages and policy regarding Navy personnel and competitive marksmanship programs.

(c) Appoint an active or reserve duty officer as the east coast and west coast match director.

(d) Appoint higher level competition match OICs as needed.

(e) Appoint an Action Shooting director and provide support when possible.

5. United States Navy Distinguished Badge Program. Distinguished badges are the highest individual awards authorized for Navy marksmanship. Individuals that meet the qualification criteria will be awarded the appropriate badge for wear on their uniform per reference (c). Specific program guidelines are listed in subparagraphs 5a through 5c:

a. The USNMT OIC is responsible for management of the distinguished program and will liaison with the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) to ensure compliance with applicable rules.

b. Navy competitors are limited to six EIC matches per calendar year, per discipline, provided one of the six matches is a CMP National Match.

c. In addition to the annual Fleet and All Navy matches and in the interest of maximum participation for sailors, the OIC may approve fleet concentration EIC matches. The matches will not be scheduled concurrent with the Fleet and all Navy competitions. They will be conducted as a "Fleet" match for EIC awards. Other than EIC badges, no other awards will be given.

6. Qualification Criteria for Navy Distinguished Badges.

a. Navy Distinguished Marksman or Navy Distinguished Pistol Shot badge will be awarded when a member has earned a total of 30 EIC credit points in a match where at least two pistol or three rifle stages are fired and the requirements list in subparagraphs 6a(1) through 6a(4) are met.

(1) The member must earn at least one gold or silver EIC award from a Fleet or All Navy match, fleet concentration area match, Interservice match or national level EIC match.

(2) The member must have earned no less than 20 of the 30 total EIC credit points at Fleet or All-Navy matches, Interservice matches or National EIC matches and be in a status identified in paragraph 3.

(3) Note: EIC points for Navy members at the national level will be awarded based on bronze (6), silver (8) and gold (10) and not the standard civilian 10 points for any national medal.

(4) The four introductory points earned at any CMP or Navy sanctioned Small Arms Firing School (SAFS) may count toward the 30 point requirement. Only Navy SAFS or SAFS conducted at the national matches may count toward the 20 point requirement.

b. Credit points will be awarded to the highest scoring 10 percent of all Non-Distinguished competitors based on the criteria outlined in subparagraphs 6b(1) through 6b(3) when there is a minimum of six competitors:

(1) The highest 1/6 of the top 10 percent will receive a gold medal and 10 points.

(2) Next highest 1/3 of the top 10 percent will receive a silver medal and 8 points.

(3) Remaining 1/2 of the top 10 percent will receive a bronze medal and 6 points.

c. In computing the awarding of EIC medals, fractions of 0.5 will be rounded to the next whole number.

d. Retired Navy personnel may continue to compete and earn EIC credit points toward Navy distinguished designation regardless of previous EIC points awarded. During a Navy sponsored match they must indicate at check-in that they want to compete in the "Navy" category vice the "other competitors" category. They must also adhere to subparagraphs 6a(1) and 6a(2).

e. EIC credit points held by non-distinguished military and civilian personnel who become Navy members may be transferred and applied toward a Navy Distinguished Designation. They must meet the eligibility requirements listed in paragraph in 6a(1) and 6a(2) (while in the Navy) to qualify for a U.S. Navy Distinguished Badge.

f. Individuals meeting the criteria for earning a distinguished designation per this instruction are responsible for submitting a letter with supporting EIC award letters to the USNMT distinguished program coordinator to receive official recognition. Instructions can be found at www.usnmt.org.

g. U.S. Navy active or reserve component personnel will compete in the service category at all CMP sanctioned EIC matches per references (d).

7. Records Management.

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy Assistant for Administration, Directives and Records Management Division portal page at <https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact the local records manager or the OPNAV Records Management Program (DNS-16).

8. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, Director, Expeditionary Warfare (OPNAV N95) will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.



D.L. ODOM
Director, Expeditionary Warfare

Releasability and distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via Department of the Navy Issuances Web site, <https://www.secnav.navy.mil/doni>.