

SECURITYWEEK NETWORK:

[Information Security News](#)
[Infosec Island](#)
[Suits and Spooks](#)

Security Experts:



[Subscribe \(Free\)](#)
[CISO Forum 2016](#)
[ICS Cyber Security Conference](#)
[Contact Us](#)



[Malware & Threats](#)
[Vulnerabilities](#)
[Email Security](#)
[Virus & Malware](#)
[White Papers](#)
[Endpoint Security](#)
[Cybercrime](#)
[Cyberwarfare](#)
[Fraud & Identity Theft](#)
[Phishing](#)
[Malware](#)
[Tracking & Law Enforcement](#)
[Whitepapers](#)
[Mobile & Wireless](#)
[Mobile Security](#)
[Wireless Security](#)
[Risk & Compliance](#)
[Risk Management](#)
[Compliance](#)
[Privacy](#)
[Whitepapers](#)
[Security Architecture](#)
[Cloud Security](#)
[Identity & Access](#)
[Data Protection](#)
[White Papers](#)
[Network Security](#)
[Application Security](#)
[Management & Strategy](#)

[Risk Management](#)
[Security Architecture](#)
[Disaster Recovery](#)
[Training & Certification](#)
[Incident Response](#)

[SCADA / ICS](#)

[Home](#) › [Cyberwarfare](#)



Pentagon Award to Recognize US Drone Operators

By [AFP](#) on January 07, 2016



The US military will create a new way to recognize drone operators and other service members who contribute to America's fighting efforts from afar.

According to a Pentagon memo due out Thursday, the military will introduce a new "R" designation -- known as a "device" -- that can be attached to medals given to drone operators and other non-combat troops, such as cyber warriors who hack enemy networks.

The new honor comes as part of a yearlong Pentagon review of how the US military gives awards, sometimes criticized as taking too long or being too stringent.

Among the report's other recommendations are that the cases of about 1,100 medals given for bravery be reevaluated to see if they could be upgraded.

Some of those medals could in theory be increased to Medal of Honor -- the military's highest award.

"Although there is no indication that members were inappropriately recognized, the secretary determined that unusual Medal of Honor awards trends reported by the recent Military Decorations and Awards Review justified a review," the Pentagon said in a statement.

Only 17 troops have been given Medals of Honor in America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, far

fewer than in previous conflicts, such as the Vietnam War.

The US military is struggling to recruit and retain sufficient operators to fly the thousands of drones currently deployed across the Middle East, Afghanistan and parts of Africa.

Drone pilots have complained of low morale, long hours and of the psychological impacts stemming from killing people remotely.

"As the impact of remote operations on combat continues to increase, the necessity of ensuring those actions are distinctly recognized grows," the memo states.

The "R" (for remote) will be a small bronze letter that can be affixed to a medal ribbon, and will be awarded to "service members who use remote technology to directly impact combat operations."

Former defense secretary Chuck Hagel nixed a proposed new combat medal for US troops who launch drone strikes or cyber attacks, after a torrent of criticism from veterans and lawmakers.

Hagel opted to [scrap the new "Distinguished Warfare Medal"](#) for a device that could be added to existing medals.

Current Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, who started his job in February, is expected to sign off on the changes Thursday.

The Pentagon is also creating a new "C" designation for medals that were earned during combat.

Related Reading: [Pentagon Calls Off New Medal for Drone, Cyber Warriors](#)



© AFP 2013

Previous Columns by AFP:

[Pentagon Award to Recognize US Drone Operators](#)

[US Spying on Netanyahu Communications: Report](#)

[China Adopts First Counter-Terrorism Law](#)

[Turkish Internet Servers Reeling Under Huge Cyber Attack](#)

[Apple Criticizes UK's Proposed New Spying Law: Reports](#)

sponsored links

[View Our Library of on Demand Security Webcasts](#)

[Download Free Security Resources from the SecurityWeek White Paper Library](#)

[CISO Forum 2016 - Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay, CA \[June 1-2\]](#)

[Visit The RSA Advanced Security Operations Resource Center](#)

 Tags:

[Cyberwarfare](#) [NEWS & INDUSTRY](#)

0 Comments

SecurityWeek provides information security news and analysis.

1 Login ▾

♥ Recommend

↗ Share

Sort by Best ▾



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

ALSO ON SECURITYWEEK PROVIDES INFORMATION SECURITY NEWS AND ANALYSIS.

WHAT'S THIS?

Four Basic Requirements for Leaving Antivirus Behind

1 comment • 17 days ago



Majid — Could you name some products that have these featurea

Congress Passes Long-stalled Cybersecurity Bill

1 comment • 19 days ago



Bob — This looks like an end run around Fisa

Adobe Issues Emergency Patch For Flash Zero-Day Under Attack

1 comment • 9 days ago



Sean — Flash exploit du jour ou du heure?

Data Encryption in Sharp Focus After Deadly Attacks

1 comment • 24 days ago



andrewDover — A "backdoor" is another way of saying that a message has two destinations. And yes, there are ...

✉ Subscribe

D Add Disqus to your site Add Disqus Add

🔒 Privacy

DISQUS

Google™ Custom Se

Search

Subscribe to SecurityWeek

Enter Your Email Address

Subscribe





Most Recent Most Read

- [How to Tell Whether You're Getting a Return on Governance](#)
- [Pentagon Award to Recognize US Drone Operators](#)
- [Exploit Kits Mutate, Increase Activity: Report](#)
- [Backdoors Not Patched in Many Juniper Firewalls](#)
- [When the IoT Comes to the Office](#)
- [Macate Unveils New Security-Focused "Cyberphone"](#)
- [Vulnerability Exposed Blackphone to Complete Takeover](#)
- [New Year's Resolutions for the Security Minded](#)
- [Researchers Publish Default Passwords for ICS Products](#)
- [Linode Resets User Passwords After Breach](#)



Popular Topics

[Information Security News](#)
[IT Security News](#)
[Risk Management](#)
[Cybercrime](#)
[Cloud Security](#)
[Application Security](#)
[Smart Device Security](#)

Security Community

[IT Security Newsletters](#)
[IT Security White Papers](#)
[Suits and Spooks](#)
[ICS Cyber Security Conference](#)
[CISO Forum](#)
[InfosecIsland.Com](#)

Stay Intouch

[Twitter](#)
[Facebook](#)
[LinkedIn Group](#)
[Cyber Weapon Discussion Group](#)
[RSS Feed](#)
[Submit Tip](#)
[Security Intelligence Group](#)

About SecurityWeek

[Team](#)
[Advertising](#)
[Events](#)
[Writing Opportunities](#)
[Feedback](#)
[Contact Us](#)

Wired Business Media

Copyright © 2016 Wired Business Media. All Rights Reserved. [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)