

Awards Categories and Performance and Eligibility Criteria

1. The following are the 27 Awards Categories of the MCA Information Awards that will be submitted for the Annual MCA Information Awards Dinner.

a. The James Hamilton Information Technology (IT) Management Civilian of the Year Award.

b. The Private First Class Herbert (PFC) A. Littleton Enlisted Communications Awards.

(1) The PFC Herbert A. Littleton Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Award for Operational Communications Excellence.

(2) The PFC Herbert A. Littleton Staff Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) Award for Operational Communications Excellence.

(3) The PFC Herbert A. Littleton NCO Award for Electronics Maintenance Excellence.

(4) The PFC Herbert A. Littleton SNCO Award for Electronics Maintenance Excellence.

c. The Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CWO5) Brian "Joe" Graniero Restricted Officer Communications Award.

d. The General (Gen) Alfred M. Gray Award.

e. The Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol) Kevin M. Shea Memorial Unit of the Year Award.

f. The John J. Guenther Intelligence Civilian of the Year Award.

g. The Lance Corporal (LCpl) James E. Swain Intelligence Enlisted Marine of the Year Award.

h. The Master Sergeant (MSgt) Charles C. Arndt Intelligence NCO of the Year Award.

i. The Master Gunnery Sergeant (MGySgt) Samuel C. Plott Intelligence SNCO of the Year Award.

j. The LtCol Michael D. Kuszewski Intelligence Officer of the Year Award.

k. The Lieutenant General (LtGen) Vincent R. Stewart Intelligence Unit of the Year Award.

l. The Information Civilian of the Year Award.

m. Cyberspace Warfare Enlisted Marine of the Year.

n. Cyberspace Warfare NCO of the Year.

- o. Cyberspace Warfare SNCO of the Year.
- p. Cyberspace Restricted Officer of the Year.
- q. Cyberspace Warfare Officer of the Year.
- r. Maritime Space Officer of the Year.
- s. Influence NCO of the Year.
- t. Influence SNCO of the Year.
- u. Influence Officer of the Year.
- v. The MCIEE Technical Leadership Award.
- w. The MCIEE Innovation Award.
- x. The Information Unit of the Year Award.
- y. The METOC Marine of the Year Award.

2. The following is the performance and eligibility criteria for each award submitted for each individual award.

a. The James Hamilton IT Management Civilian of the Year Award

(1) Eligible personnel must be employed as a Federal Government civilian employee in pay grades Wage Grade/General Schedule (WG/GS) 07-15, or National Security Personnel System (NSPS) equivalent pay bands serving within a Marine Corps activity.

(2) An individual must hold one of the following occupational series/occupational codes: 0390 Telecommunications Processing, 0391 Telecommunications, 0392 General Telecommunications, 0394 Communications Clerical, 0850 Electrical Engineering, 0854 Computer Engineering, 0855 Electronics Engineering, 1410 Librarian, 1411 Library Technician, 1412 Technical Information Services, 1550 Computer Science, 2203 Computer Operator, 2204 Computer Technician, 2210 Information Technology Management, or 2501 General Wire Communications Equipment Installation and Maintenance.

(3) Nominees will be recognized by seniors and contemporaries as an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership and/or has provided significant technological innovations within the IT field.

(4) Exemplify the Marine Corps Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

b. The PFC Herbert A. Littleton Enlisted Communications Awards

(1) The PFC Herbert A. Littleton NCO Award for Operational Communications Excellence. Nominees must be an NCO serving in an MOS 06XX billet and performing operational communications/IT duties. An NCO with a non-communications MOS but serving in a communications billet is eligible.

(2) The PFC Herbert A. Littleton SNCO Award for Operational Communications Excellence. Nominees must be an SNCO serving in an MOS 06xx billet and performing operational communications/IT duties. An SNCO with a non-communications MOS but serving in a communications billet is eligible.

(3) The PFC Herbert A. Littleton NCO Award for Electronics Maintenance Excellence. Nominees must be an NCO serving in an electronic maintenance (MOS 28XX) billet and performing electronics maintenance duties. An NCO with a non-communications/maintenance MOS but serving in an electronics maintenance (MOS 28XX) billet is eligible.

(4) The PFC Herbert A. Littleton SNCO Award for Electronics Maintenance Excellence. Nominees must be an SNCO serving in an electronic maintenance (MOS 28XX) billet and performing electronics maintenance duties. An SNCO with a non-communications/maintenance MOS but serving in an electronics maintenance billet is eligible.

(5) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as a Marine who exemplifies excellence and outstanding leadership within the relevant communications/IT field.

(6) Clearly and effectively provide the unit and commander with exceptionally efficient, effective, and timely communications/IT support for tactical, training, and/or garrison operations to a degree seldom achieved by others.

(7) Exhibit qualities that have made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps and loyalty within the Marine's unit.

c. The CW05 Brian "Joe" Graniero Restricted Officer Communications Award

(1) Nominees must be a Marine restricted officer (warrant officer through chief warrant officer 5 or limited duty officer), MOS 06XX, serving in a communications billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership and technical, tactical, and doctrinal expertise within the Marine Corps communications community.

(3) Exhibit superior knowledge and application of command, control, communications, computers, cyber, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and targeting (C5ISRT) systems employment in support of assured command and control.

(4) Exhibit qualities that are to be emulated and have significantly impacted the development of Marine Corps communications community, contributing to esprit de corps and loyalty throughout the Marine Corps.

(5) Nominations should note any unique accomplishments or circumstances that further distinguish the individual, such as combat operations, global competition, or implementation of new/unique techniques or technologies that advance the communications field.

d. The Gen Alfred M. Gray Award

(1) Nominees must be a Marine Corps captain. The target Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) is 0602, however; an officer with any MOS serving in an 0602 billet is eligible.

(2) Captains selected to the grade of major are eligible for this award provided the nominee is not promoted during the award nomination period (from initial recommendation to official award notification).

(3) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as officers who exemplify outstanding leadership within the communications field.

(4) Clearly perform the functions of a commander, S-6 staff officer, or officer working in another MOS 0602 billet by providing efficient, effective, and timely communications support to tactical, training, and/or garrison operations.

(5) Exhibit superior knowledge and understanding of communications and data systems employment in support of command and control to a degree seldom achieved by others.

(6) Exhibit qualities that have made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps and loyalty within the officer's unit.

e. The LtCol Kevin M. Shea Memorial Unit of the Year Award

(1) Nominated units/organizations must have gone above and beyond what is typically expected of similar units/organizations in the performance of their duties, and/or exhibit proficiencies that are seldom achieved by similar units/organizations.

(2) Nominations should note any unique environments or circumstances that further distinguish the unit/organization accomplishments, such as combat operations or the implementation of new or unique techniques or technologies that advance Command, Control, Communications and Computers (C4) functions within the Marine Corps.

(3) Nominated units/organizations can be any communications battalion, squadron, company, platoon, detachment, branch, etc., within the OPFOR, SE, or Marine Corps Reserve.

(4) The primary duties of the unit or organization must be communications or information technology according to its mission statement and/or function.

(5) Nominees will be recognized by higher headquarters, supported unit commanders, or adjacent units as the unit that exemplifies outstanding C4 support, performance in its duties, contributions to C4, and mission accomplishment.

(6) Advances C4 concepts, doctrine, technology, or procedures, demonstrating continual resourcefulness and responsiveness while supporting the warfighter in a tactical, operational, or strategic environment.

(7) The unit/organization must exhibit a high level of esprit de corps and personnel/equipment readiness.

f. The John J. Guenther Intelligence Civilian of the Year Award

(1) All civilian intelligence personnel serving within the MCISRE are eligible for this award.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors and contemporaries as an individual who exemplifies outstanding professionalism and leadership within the MCISRE.

(3) Exemplify the Marine Corps Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

g. The LCpl James E. Swain Intelligence Enlisted Marine of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be an enlisted Marine non-NCO, MOS 02XX or 26XX, serving in an intelligence billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by leaders and peers as Marines who exemplify outstanding leadership within the MCISRE.

(3) Clearly and effectively provide the unit and the Commander with exceptional intelligence support in tactical, training, and/or garrison operations to a degree seldom achieved by others.

(4) Exhibit qualities that have made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps and loyalty within the Marine's unit.

h. The MSgt Charles C. Arndt Intelligence NCO of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be a Marine NCO, MOS 02XX or 26XX, serving in an intelligence billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as NCOs who exemplify outstanding leadership within the MCISRE.

(3) Clearly and effectively provide the unit and the Commander with exceptional intelligence support in tactical, training, and/or garrison operations to a degree seldom achieved by others.

(4) Exhibit qualities that have made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps and loyalty within the Marine's unit.

i. The MGySgt Samuel C. Plott Intelligence SNCO of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be a Marine SNCO, MOS 02XX or 26XX, serving in an intelligence billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as SNCOs who exemplify outstanding leadership within the MCISRE.

(3) Clearly and effectively provide the unit and the Commander with exceptional intelligence support in tactical, training, and/or garrison operations to a degree seldom achieved by others.

(4) Exhibit qualities that have made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps and loyalty within the Marine's unit.

j. The LtCol Michael D. Kuszewski Intelligence Officer of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be Marine officers, MOS 02XX or 26XX, serving in an intelligence billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as officers who exemplify outstanding leadership within the Marine Corps Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Enterprise (MCISRE).

(3) Exhibit superior knowledge and understanding of the intricacies of the intelligence process, to include analysis, intelligence systems, associated data and communications systems, and other enabling mechanisms employed in support of the MCISRE to a degree seldom achieved by others.

(4) Exhibit qualities that have made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps and loyalty within the officer's unit.

k. The LtGen Vincent R. Stewart Intelligence Unit of the Year Award

(1) Nominated units/organizations must have gone above and beyond what is typically expected of similar units/organizations in the performance of their duties, and/or exhibit proficiencies that are seldom achieved by similar units/organizations.

(2) Nominees must be recognized by higher headquarters, supported unit commanders, or adjacent units as the unit that exemplifies outstanding intelligence support, performance of its duties, contributions to the MCISRE, and mission accomplishment.

(3) Nominated units must have a primary mission of intelligence according to their mission statement and/or function.

(4) Nominations should note any unique environments or circumstances that further distinguish the unit/organization accomplishments, such as combat operations or the implementation of new or unique techniques or technologies that advance intelligence functions within the Marine Corps.

l. The Information Civilian of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be employed as a Federal Government civilian employee in pay grades WG/GS 07-15, or NSPS equivalent pay bands serving in an information billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership within the information community.

(3) Exhibits superior knowledge and understanding of the four functions of information: generate, preserve, deny and project.

(4) Nominations should note any unique accomplishments or circumstances that further distinguish the individual, such as combat operations, global competition, or the implementation of new or unique techniques or technologies that advance one of the four functions of information.

m. The Cyberspace Warfare Enlisted Marine of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be an enlisted Marine non-NCO serving in a Cyberspace Warfare Operations billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership within the information community.

(3) Exhibits a specific, demonstrable contribution to the advancement of Cyber Operations during the calendar year. Contributions should be technical in nature, but can also involve demonstrated initiative, leadership, and insight within the nominee's area of expertise.

(4) Nominations should note any unique accomplishments or circumstances that further distinguish the individual, such as combat operations, global competition, or the implementation of new/unique techniques or technologies that advance one of the four functions of information.

n. The Cyberspace Warfare NCO of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be a Marine NCO serving in a Cyberspace Warfare Operations billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership within the information community.

(3) Exhibits a specific, demonstrable contribution to the advancement of Cyber Operations during the calendar year. Contributions should be technical in nature, but can also involve exceptional initiative, leadership, and insight within the nominee's area of expertise.

(4) Nominations should note any unique accomplishments or circumstances that further distinguish the individual, such as combat operations, global competition, or the implementation of new/unique techniques or technologies that advance one of the four functions of information.

o. The Cyberspace Warfare SNCO of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be a Marine SNCO serving in a Cyberspace Warfare Operations billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership within the information community.

(3) Exhibit a specific, demonstrable contribution to the advancement of Cyber Operations during the calendar year. Contributions can be technical in nature, but may also originate from doctrinal, fiscal, or organizational expertise throughout the Cyberspace Operations community. The contribution should involve exceptional initiative, leadership, and insight within the nominee's area of expertise.

(4) Nominations should note any unique accomplishments or circumstances that further distinguish the individual, such as combat operations, global competition, or the implementation of new/unique techniques or technologies that advance one of the four functions of information.

p. The Cyberspace Restricted Officer of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be Marine officers serving in a Cyberspace Restricted Officer Operations billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership within the information community.

(3) Exhibit superior knowledge, understanding, abilities, and experience with the employment of cyberspace capabilities which may stand on their own or span other information related capabilities (influence, Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO), or space) to achieve operationally-relevant outcomes.

(4) Nominations should note any unique accomplishments or circumstances that further distinguish the individual, such as combat operations, global competition, or the implementation of new/unique techniques or technologies that advance one of the four functions of information.

q. The Cyberspace Warfare Officer of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be Marine officers serving in a Cyberspace Warfare Operations billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership within the information community.

(3) Exhibit superior knowledge and understanding of all aspects in planning, supervising, and direction of the employment of personnel, weapons systems, and intelligence driven offensive and defensive cyber warfare at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels.

(4) Nominations should note any unique accomplishments or circumstances that further distinguish the individual, such as combat operations, global competition, or the implementation of new/unique techniques or technologies that advance one of the four functions of information.

r. The Maritime Space Officer of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be Marine officers serving in a Maritime Space Operations billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership within the information community.

(3) Exemplify outstanding leadership within the Maritime Space community. Exhibit superior knowledge of Space functions.

(4) Nominations should note any unique accomplishments or circumstances that further distinguish the individual, such as combat operations, global competition, or the implementation of new/unique

techniques or technologies that advance one of the four functions of information.

s. The Influence NCO of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be a Marine NCO serving in an Influence Operations billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership within the information community.

(3) Display an understanding of the technical and cognitive aspects of influence to a degree seldom demonstrated in their peer group.

(4) Nominations should note any unique accomplishments or circumstances that further distinguish the individual, such as combat operations, global competition, or the implementation of new/unique techniques or technologies that advance one of the four functions of information.

t. The Influence SNCO of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be Marine SNCO serving in an Influence Operations billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership within the information community.

(3) Display an understanding of the technical and cognitive aspects of influence to a degree seldom achieved by others. Exhibit qualities that have made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps and loyalty within the Marine's unit.

(4) Nominations should note any unique accomplishments or circumstances that further distinguish the individual, such as combat operations, global competition, or the implementation of new/unique techniques or technologies that advance one of the four functions of information.

u. The Influence Officer of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be Marine officers serving in an Influence Operations billet.

(2) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership within the information community.

(3) Exemplify outstanding leadership within the psychological operations or civil affairs community. Display an understanding of the technical and cognitive aspects of influence to a degree seldom achieved by others. Achievements, either as an individual or as a member of a team, should represent an outstanding and lasting impact on the influence community as a whole.

(4) Nominations should note any unique accomplishments or circumstances that further distinguish the individual, such as combat operations, global competition, or the implementation of new/unique techniques or technologies that advance one of the four functions of information.

v. The MCIEE Technical Leadership Award

(1) Nominees may be any individual Marine or civilian directly or indirectly supporting the MCIEE.

(2) Nominees will be evaluated on the scope and impact of technical leadership abilities, with specific attention to the measurable improvement(s) generated by the action. Technical leadership impact must be qualitative in nature and be directly linked to MCIEE functions; examples include driving technological advancement, development of resource-saving solutions, implementation of process efficiencies, advancements in doctrine and concepts of support, and/or other actions of leadership that have greatly contributed to advancing information as a warfighting function.

(3) Nominations must describe the leadership method/process, along with the specific outcome(s) achieved.

(4) Nominations should also note any unique environments or circumstances that further distinguish the individual's accomplishments, such as distinguished performance in combat operations or the application of new/unique techniques or technologies that could be used to advance MCIEE concepts and employment within the Marine Corps.

(5) Nominees may be from any organization supporting the MCIEE.

w. The MCIEE Innovation Award

(1) Nominees may be any individual Marine, civilian, team, or unit directly or indirectly supporting the MCIEE.

(2) Nominees will be evaluated on the scope and impact of their innovation, with specific attention to the measurable improvement generated by the action. Potential areas of innovation include (but are not limited to): Doctrine, organization, training, materiel, technology, management, and leadership. Measurable improvement may be quantitative and/or qualitative, but must be directly linked to MCIEE functions; examples include efficiencies in time and resources, achievements in integration of information capabilities, and enhanced effectiveness in employment of information as a warfighting function.

(3) Nominations must describe the innovation method/process, along with the specific outcome(s) achieved.

(4) Nominations should further note any unique environments or circumstances that distinguish the nominee's accomplishments, such as distinguished performance in combat operations or global competition.

x. The Information Unit of the Year Award

(1) Nominated units/organizations must have gone above and beyond what is typically expected of similar units or organizations while in the performance of their duties. The unit/organization must exhibit proficiencies that are seldom achieved by similar units/organizations.

(2) Nominees must be recognized by higher headquarters, supported unit commanders, or adjacent units as the unit that exemplifies outstanding support to information, performance of its duties, contributions to information, and mission accomplishment.

(3) The nominated unit's primary mission must include one of the information areas (Psychological Operations, Information Operations, Cyberspace Operations, Space Operations, EMSO, Communication Strategy and Operations, or Civil Affairs) according to their mission statement and/or function.

(4) Nominations should note any unique environments or circumstances that further distinguish the unit/organization accomplishments, such as combat operations, global competition, or the implementation of new or unique techniques or technologies that advance one of the four functions of information.

y. The METOC Marine of the Year Award

(1) Nominees must be an enlisted Marine within the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of 6842.

(2) Enlisted Marines selected to the grade of Warrant Officer are not eligible for this award, provided that the nominee is going to be promoted during the award nomination period (from initial recommendation to official award notification).

(3) Nominees will be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates as enlisted personnel who exemplify outstanding leadership within the METOC occupational field.

(4) Clearly performs the functions of a Team Leader, Watch Supervisor, Training NCO, Training Chief, Formal Schools Instructor, Curriculum Developer, Operations Chief, or METOC Chief, serving in a billet by providing efficient, effective, and timely METOC support to tactical, training, and/or garrison operations.

(5) Exhibit significant knowledge and understanding of METOC systems and capability employment in support of Marine Corps operations to a degree seldom achieved by others, which may include results in science, technology, and innovation initiatives, and contributions to the joint sensing strategy.

(6) Exhibit qualities that have made an outstanding contribution to the development of esprit de corps and loyalty within the enlisted ranks.