

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Medal of Valor Review Board

Report Run Date: 04/27/2024 01:20:25 AM

1. Department or Agency

Department of Justice

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Medal of Valor Review Board

3b. GSA Committee No.

13813

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

| 5. Current Charter | 6. Expected Renewal Date | 7. Expected Term Date |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|

No 05/17/2023 05/17/2025

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

The Public Safety Act of

2001, P.L. 107-12; 115 Stat. 20 (May 20, 2001)

13. Effective Date

14. Committee Type

05/30/2001 Continuing No

14c. Presidential?

15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

| 17b. Closed | 17c. Partially Closed | Other Activities | 17d. Total |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------|
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Meetings and Dates

| Purpose | Start | End |
|---|------------|------------|
| MOV Review Board meeting to consider the 2022-2023 MOV nominations, and to make its recommendations to be submitted to the Attorney General to cite and the President to award. | 10/12/2023 | 10/12/2023 |

MOV Review Board meeting to cover a range of issues of importance to the Board, to include but not limited to: 11/15/2023 - 11/15/2023
Membership/terms; Board Bylaws; program marketing and outreach.

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

| | Current Next | |
|---|---------------------|-----------|
| | FY | FY |
| 18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18d. Total | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE) | 0.00 | 0.00 |

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

Following the establishment of the Medal of Valor (MOV) program and after consultation with the Institute of Heraldry, the MOV Review Board collaborated with Department of Justice and made a recommendation concerning the design of the MOV Decoration Set. Annually, the Review Board considers eligible nominations submitted via the MOV online nomination system and is allowed to

make up to 5 Recommendations for candidates to receive the MOV. Should the Board identify an extraordinary case, it may submit an additional recommendation to the Attorney General (AG) to be cited. Not more often than once a year, the Board shall make its recommendations for candidates to receive the MOV, which are vetted before being presented to the AG to be cited, and the President to award.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

As established under the MOV Act, the MOV Review Board shall be individuals with knowledge or expertise, whether by experience or training, in the field of public safety, of which—(A) two shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (B) two shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; (C) two shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; (D) two shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; and (E) three shall be appointed by the President, including one with experience in firefighting, one with experience in law enforcement, and one with experience in emergency services.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

At a minimum, the Board meets twice annually. These meetings focus on items such as: its discussions and deliberations leading to any annual recommendations for the Medal of Valor; any operational issues; public outreach; and communications. Additionally, the Board may annually attend one or more scheduled MOV ceremonies.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this

committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The MOV Review Board is essential because Congress established it to be responsible for considering MOV nominations and the Board may annually make a limited number of recommendations to the AG who has the statutory authority to cite the candidates, and the President to award the MOV in the name of Congress.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

The MOV Review Board may annually make recommendations for the MOV, which, following a period of vetting are forwarded to the AG to be cited. The AG receives any Board recommendations for the MOV and may consider the vetting information before citing candidates and then providing them to the President who may award the MOV to the cited candidates.

Designated Federal Officer

Gregory V Joy Policy Advisor

| Committee Members | Start | End | Occupation | Member Designation |
|-------------------|------------|------------|--|--|
| Buford, Shon | 07/28/2021 | 07/27/2025 | San Francisco Fire Department | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Clabes, Brandon | 07/01/2021 | 06/30/2025 | Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Engel, Robert | 01/08/2021 | 01/07/2025 | U.S. Secret Service / Law Enforcement experience | Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|------------|---|--|
| Galagaza, Anthony | 07/01/2021 | 06/30/2025 | Bakersfield Fire Department | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Joyce, John | 12/17/2020 | 12/16/2024 | Retired Battalion Chief / Firefighting experience | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Lamelas, Peter | 01/13/2021 | 01/12/2025 | Retired MD, MBA / Emergency Services experience | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| O'Halleran, Thomas | 12/30/2022 | 12/29/2026 | Former Congressman | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |
| Toulon, Errol | 05/10/2023 | 05/09/2027 | Sheriff, Suffolk County, NY | Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member |
| Whipple, Trevor | 09/20/2020 | 09/19/2024 | Chief, South Burlington Police Department - Retired | Special Government Employee (SGE) Member |

Number of Committee Members Listed: 9

Narrative Description

The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor (MOV) is the highest national award for valor by public safety officers, that is awarded by the President to public safety officers who have performed acts above and beyond the call of duty by exhibiting exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in attempts to protect and save human life. Within DOJ's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, "Keep Our Country Safe" is identified as Strategic Goal 2. The MOV Program serves to promote public safety by recognizing exceptional actions of valor performed by public safety officers. Further, the involvement of the President and/or Vice President, and the AG in presenting the MOV in the name of Congress, provides a platform by which the nation can recognize and honor these public safety officers for their courageous and exceptional actions. In addition, BJA administers the MOV Program. As such,

BJA's administration of the MOV program is a very visible support of public safety across the nation.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Decoration Sets are awarded by the President to public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness and presence of mind, and unusual swiftness of action, regardless of their own personal safety, in attempts to protect and save human lives.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Over \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost Savings Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cost Savings Comments

N/A

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

206

Number of Recommendations Comments

At the conclusion of FY2023, there are 206 total recommendations. They breakdown as follows: (1) original recommendation on the MOV Decoration Set; (1) original recommendation concerning the nomination review processes; (1) recommendation in 2009 to adopt Bylaws; (2) recommendations addressing revisions to those Bylaws, and (201) candidates recommended by the Board to receive the MOV.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

78%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The vast majority of Board recommendations have been fully implemented/accepted.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

22%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

From the beginning of this program through FY 2023, there have been 46 candidates recommended by the Board in which awards were not made.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The DFO, acting on behalf of DOJ, provides ongoing feedback in a number of ways. The DFO regularly communicates with the Review Board via phone calls, emails, and meetings, in order to provide information relating to tasks, recommendations, administrative and operational issues. In addition, DOJ leadership may provide feedback when noting for the AG the Board recommended candidates that it agrees with. The AG provides feedback by citing and/or declining to cite any of the Review Board's annual recommended candidates; and the President provides feedback when awarding or not

awarding cited candidates the MOV. The public can assess agency feedback regarding the MOV Program through the White House website, www.whitehouse.gov, and media releases in connection with MOV ceremonies; and on the MOV Program page, <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/medalofvalor>.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reorganized Priorities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reallocated resources | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Issued new regulation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Proposed legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Approved grants or other payments | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Action Comments

Following the Review Board making any annual recommendations for the MOV, the DFO will engage DOJ components (e.g., conduct limited FBI name checks, DOJ Civil Rights Division checks, and internet/social media checks) to "vet" the recommended candidates prior to submitting them to the AG to be cited, and to the President to award. The DFO may review and place before the Review Board, pending amendments to their Bylaws governing the Review Board's operations. Additionally, the DFO will as needed seek clarification from OJP's Office of General Counsel to address any issues concerning the eligibility of specific nominations and will seek clarification on any legal issues connected to the MOV program. The DFO will also collaborate with OJP/BJA leadership concerning program and/or policy questions, and as appropriate will engage the Review Board in discussions about such matters.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

This is not a grant program. The MOV Review Board will consider nominations that detail acts of valor performed by public safety officers. The Board is charged with the responsibility of considering MOV nominations, and on an annual basis it may make a limited number of recommendations of candidates to receive the MOV. The Board's recommendations are vetted and then submitted to the AG who has the statutory authority

to cite nominees/candidates recommended to receive the MOV.

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Access Comments

N/A