SDFM
Society of Defense Financial Management

Achievement Award Program

Please read these rules before completing the online form.

SDFM National Achievement Awards are presented annually to individuals and teams who have been nominated for outstanding accomplishment within one of the functional fields of financial management.

The Ernest J. Gregory Award

SDFM is proud to recognize the outstanding leadership and service of Ernest J. Gregory to the defense financial management community in the designation of this award in his honor. Mr. Gregory served our nation for 37 years. He cared deeply for military service members and he inspired all those he led and with whom he worked to strive for excellence in conducting financial operations and providing financial management services in their support. He was a friend and mentor to many of us in the Department of Defense financial management community and was a lifetime member of SDFM. He served as the Vice President (Army) and as Secretary on the SDFM National Executive Committee and spoke at innumerable Professional Development Institutes and Washington Chapter events. Ernie was a beloved colleague and friend who left a legacy of professionalism, excellence, and investment in the lives of others.

This award recognizes an individual with primary staff duties for acquiring, distributing and overseeing the funds needed to fulfill the organization's mission. These responsibilities include financial planning, management, budgeting, and audit readiness operations for a command, installation, or component. The nominee is actively involved in establishing and managing strategic goals, objectives, initiatives, policies, procedures and accountability. This person is also engaged in organizational performance management to include talent management, financial reporting, and internal control operations. This individual demonstrates a high level of dedication to leadership, professional development, ethics, and mentorship.

Accounting

Responsibilities include planning and directing the accounting operation to best serve management's needs, including the development and presentation of information in support of management decision-making; development of accounting policies and procedures, interpretation and application of accounting principles and standards; financial reporting, including preparation and presentation of the basic financial statements, related notes and disclosures, management's discussion and analysis, and required supplementary information; ensuring the integrity of financial and accounting information; audit readiness including internal controls over financial reporting, communication with auditors, planning for and responding to "provided by client" (PBC) items, internal testing of transactions, preparation of internal control assurance statements, and working audit findings and recommendations; valuation of property, plant, and equipment (PPE); considerations regarding materiality, review and analysis of accounting transactions, information and trends, analysis and resolution of problem disbursements.; and aiding in the design, development and inspection of accounting systems.

Acquisition/Cost Analysis

Responsibilities include acquisition program decision support, project management, economic analysis, management analysis, business case analysis, and cost/benefit analysis. It also includes special studies, cost modeling, and parametric cost modeling, as well as involvement in driving cost management culture and program or operational cost savings.

Auditing

Responsibilities involve the planning and conduct of financial statement audits, performance audits, and attestation engagements and also the preparation and presentation of associated reports - all in accordance with government auditing standards. Financial statement audits include all the activities associated with providing an opinion as to whether an organization's financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. Performance audits include review of the efficiency and effectiveness of resource utilization and the extent to which desired program or operating results and benefits are being achieved. Auditing includes the determination and presentation of audit findings and recommendations (as well as their documentation and support) and estimation of savings that can be generated from the implementation of audit recommendations.

Budgeting
Responsibilities include planning, managing, or involvement in formulation, submission, justification, and execution of organization budgets. It also includes development of estimates, preparation of reports (e.g., SF 132 and SF 133) and special schedules, development and management of unfinanced requirements, internal controls over the integrity of obligations, and all other areas of compliance with OMB Circular A-11 requirements associated with the budgeting function. Key functions also include review and analysis of the relationships between resources and the organization's mission and functions, such as analyzing accounting reports, researching program activities, executing briefings on programs, reviewing financial plans, conducting analysis of alternative uses of funds, and other activities in support of management decision-making.

Contractor Support
This category recognizes the value provided in contractor support to a government organization. The nominee must have worked for the government organization for a minimum of one calendar year and made significant contributions to one or more of the fields of FM.

Intern/Trainee
This award recognizes outstanding individuals who have been in a trainee program for a minimum of six months of the awards calendar year and who have significantly contributed in one of the fields of financial management.

Finance
Responsibilities at various levels include managing, controlling, review and analysis of military and civilian pay, military retired pay, commercial pay, travel pay, disbursing, call center, and other associated financial operations and services in peacetime, wartime, and contingency operations. It also includes development of financial management policy and procedures associated with these operations and maintenance of internal controls to manage financial services and analysis operations, as well as performance of audit readiness functions relative to finance services operations.

Financial Systems/Digital Transformation
Responsibilities include the integration, modernization, development, implementation, and reliability of a financial system. Recognition of groundbreaking or technology driven solutions (e.g. AI, RPA, ML, blockchain) or applications. This may include the development of user-friendly interfaces and accessibility features. Explain the usage of the system and how it supports decision making in the organization.

Resource Management
This category recognizes outstanding performance by an individual who works in financial management; for example, planning, programming, cost management, cyber security and execution of FM related programs or projects involving superior contributions to resource management that do not fit into the other categories.

Team Achievement – Small and Large
This award is for outstanding team performance and recognizes teams whose accomplishments, adoption of study results or outcome of savings, aid in the advancement of the profession of federal government financial management. A team is defined as between two and twenty individuals, brought together temporarily to perform a specific task outside of normal functions, operations or organization. Teams will compete as a small team (2 to 10) or a large team (11 to 20). Contract personnel may be listed as members, but the team must be primarily government employees.

Team Achievement – Financial Systems /Digital Transformation
This award is for outstanding team performance in the integration, modernization, development, implementation, and reliability of a financial system. Recognition of groundbreaking or innovative approach in developing the financial system or implementing data analytic or technology driven solutions (e.g. AI, RPA, ML, blockchain) to include the development of user-friendly interfaces and accessibility features. Recognition of the scalability and adaptability to different organizations should be included. This category focuses on data scientists, data analysts, business analysts and financial managers. Team consists of no more than 20 individuals.

Award Selection Procedures
Judging will be based and weighted on outstanding performance as evidenced by documentation of impact, complexity, leadership, and/or resource savings.

A selection panel, chaired by an SDFM national officer will review all submissions and make final. The selection panel will include not less than five members representing a cross section of SDFM Membership, for each award category. A judge must recuse him/herself if a conflict of interest exists. Winners will be notified by not later than May 1.

How to Submit a Nomination

Any military or civilian person currently employed by the federal government in a functional field of financial management may be nominated or submit a nomination. Individual contractors may be nominated for in the individual category of Contractor Support.

Nominations must be submitted via the SDFM Awards Online platform **by January 31** to be considered. If January 31 falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the next business day. The awards system allows nominators to see their past submissions, edit and post new submissions up to the deadline, and email or print their nominations.

Nominations should strive to include the most relevant quantitative and qualitative information possible focusing upon the results achieved by the accomplishments. If an individual is nominated in more than one category, prepare a separate entry for each category.

The number of awards presented in achievement award categories will be dependent upon the number and quality of the nominations, not to exceed four awards in any one category. There is a limit of one winner per category from the same office in the current year. No individual or team will be permitted to be a repeat winner in the same category within a five-year time period.

Recognition

Awards will be presented at the annual SDFM National Professional Development Institute (PDI), and winners will be recognized on the SDFM website and in the *Armed Forces Comptroller* journal.

The National PDI registration fee for SDFM individual achievement award winners or one representative from winning teams will be complimentary for the PDI at which the award is presented. The winner or his/her command will be responsible for any other expense related to attendance should the recipient be approved to attend.

For More Information

National Awards Committee
Rules and submission website:
https://sdfm.secure-platform.com/a/organizations/main/home
Contact via email: awards@sdfm.org | 703-549-0362