

MILITARY AWARDS POLICY COMPARISON (2025 vs 2021)

1. Policy Reference and Scope

Feature	Policy 25-06 (2025)	Policy 21-01 (2021)
Title and Reference Updates	Cites newer directives (e.g., AD 2025-06 for AFT)	Refers to older documents such as AR 350-1 and MILPER 20-178
Applies to	USARC and OCAR	USARC only – excludes OCAR

2. Fitness and Height/Weight Compliance Requirements

Feature	Policy 25-06	Policy 21-01
AFT/ACFT Standards	Explicitly cites AFT/ACFT frequency by status (AGR, TPU, etc.) and requires compliance for award eligibility	Uses AR 350-1 and profile-based exemptions
Height/Weight	Must be current and separate from ACFT date; non-compliance disqualifies awards (except for retirement with waiver)	Requires compliance within 6 months; similar waiver option for retirement awards

3. Submission Platforms and Processes

Feature	Policy 25-06	Policy 21-01
Primary Submission Tool	IPPS-A is mandatory (ePAT only under limited conditions)	ePAT is the main system (IPPS-A not mentioned)
Award Narrative Word Limit	MSM/ARCOM/AAM: limited by form; LM: max 878 words in IPPS-A	Follows DA Form 638 limits, no word count defined for LM

4. Approval Authorities and Routing

Feature	Policy 25-06	Policy 21-01
Approval Routing Clarity	Includes detailed Table 1-1 and guidance for DCG, OCAR, USARC	Similar structure but less detailed; missing table format

Feature	Policy 25-06	Policy 21-01
General Officer Awards	Clarifies FORSCOM as approving LM and below	Same, but with slightly less emphasis and no IPPS-A detail

5. Late Submissions and Returned Awards

Feature	Policy 25-06	Policy 21-01
Letter of Lateness Requirement	Required for GOs, DSM, Soldier's Medal; includes format and endorsement restrictions	Same requirement, but less detailed format
Correction Window	30 days from return; must resubmit in IPPS-A or ePAT as applicable	30 working days; reenter in ePAT with "corrected" label

6. Supporting Documentation Requirements

Feature	Policy 25-06	Policy 21-01
Documents Required	Adds Soldier Talent Profile (STP), explicitly references AFT/HTWT documents	Requires ARB and DA Forms, similar structure but not as detailed
Waiver Format	Must be signed by first GO in chain	Same requirement, but with provided format in appendices

7. Use of Templates and Links

Feature	Policy 25-06	Policy 21-01
Access Location	Modern SharePoint (.mil) link for awards	Legacy intranet link (likely outdated)

8. Additional changes:

- **OCAR-Specific Processes:** Only included in **Policy 25-06**.
- **Award Submission Timelines:** Mostly identical, but Policy 25-06 includes the exact number of days for all awards, which were partially cut off in the 2021 version.
- **Formatting:** The 2025 version is more comprehensive, structured, and includes current digital systems (e.g., IPPS-A integration).