

Objective

The goal of this award is to inspire members of the association to contribute to shaping the future of the financial management profession by producing compelling essays.

Award Criteria

Entrants must be members in good standing of the Society of Defense Financial Management at the time of submission and selection. The 2025 topic is:

SDFM's Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) program is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2025, with more than 14,000 defense financial management personnel having achieved certification. In addition to the basic certification, there is also the CDFM-A, an advanced level of certification for acquisition professionals, and SDFM will soon roll out the CDFM-H certification for the defense healthcare community. Choose one of the following questions on which to write:

1. *Transport yourself to 2050 and describe the state of the CDFM program. At minimum, identify and describe the changes to testing, training and specialty areas (beyond CDFM-A and -H) the SDFM implemented in the intervening 25 years.*
2. *Fast forward your career to 2050 and describe how the CDFM program and other career development initiatives supported you in obtaining your career goals.*

How to Submit an Essay

Essays must be submitted using the web-based form through the nomination link at sdfm.org. Essays may be submitted by an SDFM chapter representative or by the author directly.

- Duo or group-authored essays will not be accepted.
- Essays must be original, unpublished, and should not exceed 1,500 words in length.
- The use of AI tools is prohibited.
- No member may be selected for an award consecutively for more than two years.

Deadline

All essays must be submitted via the SDFM Awards Online website no later than February 28 for consideration by the selection panel. There are no exceptions to this deadline.

Award Selection Procedures

A selection panel will be led by a member of the National Awards Committee and assisted by a member of the Armed Forces Comptroller Editorial Board. The selection panel will comprise a minimum of four members, representing various segments of SDFM membership. If a judge encounters a conflict of interest, they must recuse themselves.

Essays will be evaluated based on adherence to the topic (how effectively the essay addresses the contest theme), clarity and readability (the cohesiveness and comprehensibility of the essay), content (the originality and substantial nature of the essay's content), and general administration (length, grammar, spelling, sentence structure, punctuation). Winners will be notified via email by May 1, and the results will be published on the SDFM website.

Recognition

Winners of the Essay Contest may have their essays published in the Armed Forces Comptroller journal and/or on the SDFM website. Distinguished and Meritorious winners will be selected from the qualified essays. The Distinguished winner will receive \$1,000, and the Meritorious winner will receive \$500. Prior to the distribution of the award check(s) to the winners, SDFM must receive a completed W-9 form.

For More Information

National Awards Committee
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www.sdfm.org