

ARMED FORCES MERIT AWARD

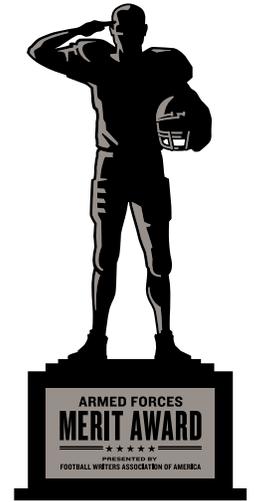
Presented by the Football Writers Association of America
In conjunction with the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl

The nomination process for the **Armed Forces Merit Award** presented by the **Football Writers Association of America** in conjunction with the **Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl** has begun with the 2014 recipient to be named on Veterans' Day (November 11).

Initiated in 2012, more than two dozen individuals, organization and/or schools have been nominated for the **Armed Forces Merit Award**. **Nate Boyer** (2012) from the University of Texas and **Brandon McCoy** (2013) from the University of North Texas were selected as the first two recipients of the **Armed Forces Merit Award**. A Green Beret in the U.S. Army Special Forces, **Boyer** earned a scholarship in August 2012 after walking on to the Texas football team, and became the long-snapper for the Longhorns and earned Big 12 All-Academic honors. After serving in the U.S Army for almost five years (2004-2008), **McCoy** played in 41 games as a defensive lineman for the Mean Green (2010-2013) where he helped lead North Texas to a post-season victory in the 2014 Heart of Dallas Bowl.

The following criteria will be used in reviewing the nominations for the **Armed Forces Merit Award**:

- Individuals with an armed forces background that are currently involved as an athletic administrator, and/or football coach/staff member/player that have brought distinction and recognition to both their armed forces service and the sport.
- Individuals and/or groups that have created, developed and/or produced football-related programs that provide care, concern and support for past or present members of the United States armed forces and/or their families.



The **Armed Forces Merit Award** will be selected by a panel of individuals from the **Football Writers Association of America** and the **Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl**. Nominations will be sought from various groups and associations, including the American Football Coaches Association, College Sports Information Directors of America, National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame and USA Football. The nominee's "contribution" will be assessed by reviewing various items, including the completion of a nomination form, supporting documents and letters of recommendation.

The **Armed Forces Merit Award** will be awarded for the third time prior to the playing of the 2014 **Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl**. Nominations for the **Armed Forces Merit Award** are being accepted now with the selection process beginning in October. The 2014 recipient will be announced November 11. The 12th annual Lockheed Armed Forces Bowl will be played this December featuring the United States Military Academy (if bowl-eligible) and a school from the American Athletic Conference. The date and kickoff time for the post-season game at the 45,000-seat Amon G. Carter Stadium in Fort Worth is to be determined. The game will air on ESPN and ESPN Radio.



As the official bowl game that honors all branches of the United States armed forces, the **Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl** (www.armedforcesbowl.com) is owned and operated by ESPN Regional Television, Inc. (ERT). The Armed Forces Bowl was inaugurated in 2003 as the Fort Worth Bowl under corporate sponsorship of PlainsCapital Bank. After the 2005 game was played without a corporate sponsor, Bell Helicopter took over sponsorship in 2006 as the post-season intercollegiate football game. In February 2014, Lockheed Martin assumed the title sponsorship of the Armed Forces Bowl. The game has been televised annually on ESPN since its inception with radio coverage provided the past five years by ESPN Radio.

The **Football Writers Association of America** (FWAA, www.sportswriters.net) consists of the men and women across North America who cover college football for a living. Founded in 1941, the membership includes journalists, broadcasters and publicists, as well as key executives in all the areas that involve the game. The FWAA works to govern areas that include game day operations, major awards and an All-America team. Through its website, the FWAA works to improve communication among all those who work within the game. The FWAA also sponsors scholarships for aspiring writers and an annual writing contest. Behind the leadership of President Chris Dufresne of the Los Angeles Times, Executive Director Steve Richardson and a board of veteran journalists, the FWAA continues grow and work to help college football prosper at all levels. There are now over 1,200 members.



Associated Groups	Contact	Email address	Telephone
Armed Forces Bowl	Brant Ringler, Executive Director	brant.b.ringler@espn.com	817.810.0012
Football Writers Association of America	Steve Richardson, Executive Director	tiger@fwaa.com	972.713.6198
Football Writers Association of America	Ted Gangi, Webmaster	webmaster@sportswriters.net	214.909.9314
Football Writers Association of America	Tim Simmons, FWAA Member	bfishinc@aol.com	303.678.8484

ARMED FORCES MERIT AWARD

Frequently Asked Questions

CANDIDATES

- **Candidate Requirements** - The Armed Forces Merit Award will be selected by the Football Writers Association of America in conjunction with the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl and will be presented annually on Veteran's Day. The following criteria were used in reviewing the nominations for the Armed Forces Merit Award:
 - Individuals with an armed forces background that are currently involved as an athletic administrator, and/or football coach/staff member/player that have brought distinction and recognition to both their military service and the sport.
 - Individuals and/or groups that have created, developed and/or produced football-related programs that provide care, concern and support for past or present members of the United States armed forces and/or their families.
- **Nominee Pool** - The total number of nominations is unknown, but the announcement of the award will be through various groups associated with the sport of football, including the Football Writers Association of America, American Football Coaches Association, College Sports Information Directors of America, National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame and USA Football.
- **How will we collect candidate/nominee names?** - Nominations will be accepted from various groups associated with the sport of football, including the FWAA, AFCA, CoSIDA, NACDA, NFF & College Hall of Fame and USA Football. Nominations will be submitted to Tim Simmons (9655 Yellowstone Road, Longmont, CO 80504, 303/678-8484, bfishinc@aol.com).

2014 NOMINATION & SELECTION PROCESS

- **Timeline** - March through November 2014.
- **Nomination dates** - Nominations will be accepted in March, April, May, June, July, August and September 2014.
- **Voting dates (ballots issued, deadlines, etc.)** - October 2014.
- **Who oversees this?** - FWAA member Tim Simmons.
- **Nomination review?** - Tim Simmons will review all nominations to assure that information is complete and valid. Simmons will then provide a "brief" summary of all nominations to the selection committee. The committee will then identify the top five nominations for further in-depth review and consideration.
- **Is there a dedicated selection committee?** - Yes. The selection committee will include five members from the FWAA along with two Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl staff members.

2014 VOTING GUIDELINES

- **Who votes?** - The Selection committee members.
- **How are ballots distributed?** - The top five nominations will be distributed via email to the selection committee members.
- **Ballot** - The final list of nominees will be distributed to the selection committee with each member ranking their top three choices (3 points for top-ranked nominee, 2 points for second-ranked nominee and 1 point for third-ranked nominee).
- **How will selection be communicated to winner?** - By Tim Simmons via telephone and formal letter.
- **Who is collecting and tabulating the votes?** - By Tim Simmons.

2014 RECIPIENT

- **How/when will this be announced?** - Via joint Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl and FWAA news release on Veterans Day, Monday, November 11, 2014.
- **How/where will the winner be recognized?**
 - Via a November 11 news release.
 - Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl web site and social media.
 - FWAA web site.
 - Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl program article.
 - Attendance at the LHAFB Kickoff Media Conference a day before the game, subject to availability.
 - Award presentation at the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl Kickoff Luncheon, subject to availability.
 - In-stadium recognition during of the 2014 Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl game, subject to availability
- **What is expected from the recipient?**
 - Available for a teleconference on November 11, 2014.
 - Available for media interviews through the completion of the bowl season.
 - Depending on the recipient's schedule for the remaining seven weeks of 2014, other media opportunities will be explored.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Football Writers Association of America?**
 - The FWAA will identify five selection committee members.
 - A FWAA member will present the Armed Forces Merit Award at pre-determined events surrounding the award.
- **Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl?**
 - The LMAFB will identify two selection committee members.
 - A LMAFB representative (Tim Simmons) will coordinate the Armed Forces Merit Award program.
 - Create and cover the cost of the award.
 - The LMAFB will provide transportation (airfare and local) for the representative along with two nights of lodging for "bowl week" (subject to change).
 - A member of the media operations staff will host the recipient.
- **Joint?**
 - The LMAFB and the FWAA will co-announce the recipient in November.