

The Sapper and Miner of Distinction award was created in 1993 by the AEA Board of Directors. In 2022, AEA returned this award to active use. The SMAD ranks slightly less prestigious than Gold deFleury but more prestigious than the other AEA Awards. At Regimental Week in April 2022, AEA recognized two distinguished Engineers with this award. MG (Ret) Mark Yenter and CSM ( Ret) Loakimo Falaniko awards were received by their families at last year. We are adding to the Regimental room a plaque inscribe the names of all current and future Sappers and Miners of Distinction.

The 2023 Sapper and Miner Award of Distinction process will begin on 1 January 2023. The timeline for this process is:

- 3 January – 1 February 2023                      Receive nominations
- 2 February – 16 February 2023    Review nominations for completeness
- 16 February – 1 March 2023                      AEA Awards Committee votes and ranks candidates
- 3 March 2023                                      Recommendations submitted to the AEA Bod
- 18 March    AEA President approves winners

Award Criteria. The SMAD is considered a lifetime service award (typically defined as 30 years) as a member of the Engineer Regiment, military and civilian, in any component. The award is targeted at individuals whose contributions were in the military engineering / “green suit” portion of the Regiment and contributed significantly in the mission categories of mobility, countermobility, survivability, general engineering, or geospatial Army engineer operations. The individual must have had an extraordinary effect on the growth and mission performance of the entire Engineer Regiment, and not just a sub-element thereof. Since this is an AEA award, the person is expected to have a considerable background with AEA as evidenced by AEA membership history, service at the local chapter or at the national level, participation in AEA events, having been previously awarded a deFleury medal, .... The individual’s connection with and contributions to the Army Engineer Association are a key discriminator for the SMAD. The person nominated may be living or dead. Nominations must be endorsed by an AEA lifetime member in the grade of COL or higher (active or retired).

Submission Requirements. Anyone may submit an individual for consideration for Sapper and Miner Award of Distinction, but the nomination must be endorsed by an AEA lifetime member in the grade of COL or higher. The nomination form can be downloaded from the AEA website. The submission should be made to the AEA Executive Director or the AEA Operations Officer at Fort Leonard Wood. The submission window for a nomination submission is 3 January 2023 to 1 February 2023. In addition to the AEA nomination form, a SMAD nomination is expected to have a 1–2-page biography (or curricula vitae) and a 2–4-page narrative that clearly outlines the nominees’ accomplishments and explains how the accomplishments contributed to both the Army Engineer mission and to support the Army Engineer Association goals, objectives, and programs. The nomination will clearly state who the recommender is and include their contact information in case additional information is required. [Down load SMAD form here](#)