

대한민국 무공훈장의 제식과 실물 연구

A Study on the Regulations and Extant Objects
of the Republic of Korea's Military Decorations

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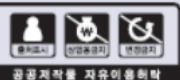
대한민국 무공훈장의 제식과 실물 연구

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Korean text abstract
This paper analyzes and examines the ceremonial and current actual items of the Korean Military Merit Medal, which were not covered in past research. First, the change in the military service medal ceremony was divided into five ceremonies (October 1950, August 1951, December 1963, February 1967, November 1973, and January 1984) according to the status of enactment and revision of related laws, and the detailed specifications and schematic details of each ceremony were examined, and these were compared with the actual thing. analyzed. In particular, the actual object and collection location of the October 1950 ceremony, whose existence had not yet been confirmed, were revealed, and actual photographs taken in the United States in 1952 were newly discovered and presented for some previously unidentified medals. The Taegeuk mu Merit Medal, which is rarely awarded, is intended to be helpful in future research and academic activities by revealing all currently identifiable collection locations.
Based on the results of this analysis, the ceremonial and actual items of military merit medals were comprehensively reviewed. First, based on the previous analysis, the characteristics of ritual changes by period were derived. At the 1950 ceremony, the grades and designs of military service medals were devised for the first time, and at the 1951 ceremony, the names of the medals were uniquified and an independent central design for each grade was designed. In the 1963 ceremony, the Order of Humanity was added and the number format for each grade was changed. In the 1967 ceremony, the design of each medal grade was unified, and in the 1973 and 1984 ceremonies, the size and design of the medal were changed. Military medal ceremonies by period like this can be divided into Design A, which was until the ceremony in 1963, and Design B, which was after the ceremony in 1967. The method of wearing medals was determined by the 1955 Medal Wearing Regulations and the 1963 Award Act, and we looked at the regulations by comparing the actual wearing of military medals and other medals. In addition, through analysis of the [Taegeuk Military Merit Medal] (Medal Department) held by the National Archives, it was possible to look into additional information on the status of awarding the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal and the medal number engraved on the back of the actual medal. From the contents of the decorations book, it can be seen that the awarding of military medals for each grade was generally carried out according to rank, and this is believed to be in accordance with the “Case on the Standards for Awarding Military Service Medals” enacted at the end of 1951. A total of 309 medal numbers is listed in the medal book, all of which correspond to those issued before July 3, 1961. The order of medal numbers generally follows the time of award around 1954 but is often irregular after that. As a result of comparing the medal numbers of the medal book and the actual medal number on display, 6 cases were confirmed to match, and 2 cases were not matched. When examining the medal book and the actual medal together, 16 cases were identified where duplicate medal numbers were assigned to different production cases.

주제어 무공훈장, 태극무공훈장, 상훈제도, 6·25전쟁, 베트남전쟁

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I. Introduction
The modern decoration system was introduced in Korea through the Medal Ordinance in 1900 during the Korean Empire. At this time, a total of four types of decorations were established, including the highest decoration, the Geumcheok Grand Order of Merit. After the Korean government was established through the Japanese colonial period, individual laws were enacted for each medal, such as the “Ordinance of the National Merit Medal” (April 27, 1949) and the “Ordinance of the Military Meritorious Service Medal” (October 19, 1950). Afterwards, all awards were enacted in the “Awards and Medals Act” (December 14, 1963) and the “Enforcement Order of the Awards and Decorations Act” (February 28, 1967). Medal-related matters were integrated and continue to this day.
Among Korea's decorations, the Military Merit Medal accounts for the largest number of issued medals (Lee Shin-jae 2022:361). The Military Merit Medal has a special status in that it is awarded based on merit in a combat situation where an individual's life could be sacrificed. Nevertheless, it is relatively recent that academic light has been shed on military medals. Some government-led literature that highlights or verifies the achievements of recipients of the 1st class Taegeuk Military Merit Medal has been published (Gyu-seok Son 2003; Achievement Verification Committee for the late Major Shim Il of the Ministry of National Defense 2017), and research on the general status of the military service medal system and ways to improve it has also been relatively active (Jeong-hoon Kim et al. 2013; Jong-sik Bang 2004; Byeong-jae

Jeong 2006; Jae-hwan Jeong). 2016; Choi Young-min 2002; Hwang Seong-won et al. 2007). In addition, since the 2010s, as records related to military service medals began to be released to the public through the National Archives, etc., research on the specific reality of the operation of the military service medal system during the Korean War and the Vietnam War began in earnest (Na Jong-nam 2019, 2021; Kim Yu-seok 2021; Lee Shin-jae 2022). These studies are significant in that they shed a three-dimensional light on the historical operation of the military decoration system in Korea, breaking away from the previous perspective of merit or system improvement.

However, analytical research on the ceremonial and actual items of military service medals is still absent.¹ The characteristic of the awarding of military service medals in Korea is that they were awarded around the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and the current items are mainly housed in institutions related to patriotism and veterans, such as the Army Museum, the War Memorial of Korea, and the Seoul National Cemetery. There were relatively frequent changes in the ceremonial aspect of military service medals, and in particular, before the enactment of the Enforcement Decree of the Awards and Decorations Act, each grade had its own medal system and name, so the forms were diverse. The ceremonial complexity of the Military Merit Medal, which differentiates it from other medals, indirectly suggests the special nature of the Military Merit Medal, which is awarded with life as collateral, while also making it difficult to accurately determine the actual medal or raise questions due to differences from the current medal ceremony. For example, when military service medals are awarded retroactively through the ‘Finding the June 25 Military Service Medal recipients’ ‘6·25 무공훈장 주인공 찾아주기’ project that has been implemented by the Army Headquarters since 2019, there are cases where the name of the original medal that should have been awarded in the 1950s and the medal actually issued do not match²

Literature related to government awards, including medal ceremonies, has been published such as [Awards Handbook] (Ministry of General Affairs, 1984), [History of Funeral Ceremonies in Korea] (Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs 2003), and [Award Statutes History Collection (I) (1901-1964)] (Ministry of Government Administration, 1988). These documents have a certain value, such as summarizing changes in medal ceremonies and gathering gazette data containing related laws and regulations through several classifications, but no special analysis was conducted beyond that. In addition, the summarized medal ceremonies contained in these documents have a problem in that there are quite a few errors in detailed expressions and diagrams when compared to the contents of the official gazette containing the original contents.

In this situation, this paper first closely analyzed the ceremonial and actual awards of the Republic of Korea's military service medals, which have not been investigated so far. Afterwards, based on the results of such analysis, we considered the characteristics of changes in the decoration system and the method of wearing it by period, and attempted to derive additional information on the status of awarding the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal and analysis of the actual medal number through analysis of the original source material, [Taegeuk Military Merit Medal]. Through this, we aim to present new standards for the identification, management, and research of Korean military decorations held by each institution and individual, and to contribute to the promotion of the country's brave men who protected their country with their lives.

II. Ritual and actual analysis of military service medals

On April 23, 1949, Prime Minister Ordinance No. 11 established five articles of the “Regulations of the Medal Design Review Committee”³ and the “Ordinance of the Order of Merit for National Foundation” (April 27, 1949) and the “Ordinance of the Grand Order of Rose of Sharon” (August 13, 1949) were enacted. On June 3 of the same year, the Cabinet Meeting (55th) passed a resolution on the issue of “manufacturing military medals,” and decided “to produce three types of military medals, military medals, and military medals and to enact detailed regulations by Ordinance of the Ministry of National Defense to award them appropriately.” Accordingly, before the introduction of the formal decoration system, a temporary merit badge was established and the first award ceremony was held on July 15th,⁴ and medal designs were solicited in September.⁵ After the outbreak of the Korean War, the Military Merit Medal Ordinance was enacted on October 18, 1950, stipulating the format of the Military Merit Medal for the first time, and since 1963, the Awards and Decorations Act and After the Enforcement Decree of the Award Act was enacted, it was integrated with the ceremonial regulations for other decorations.

In this chapter, the military service medal ceremonies are divided into five categories and their details and actual objects are examined.

1. Ceremony and reality in October 1950

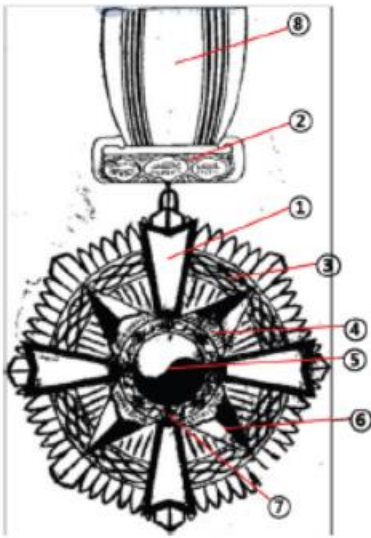
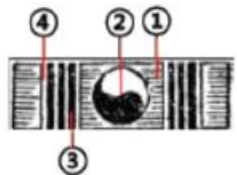
For the first time, this medal system stipulated the detailed specifications and schematics of four levels of military service medals, from first to fourth class. It was known that there was no actual extant product as it was applied for a short period of less than a year until the ceremony was revised in August of the following year. However, photographs taken of the issue issued at the time and the fact that it was in the possession of some institutions have been confirmed.

1) First Class Military Service Medal

It is the highest-level military medal, equivalent to the later Taegeuk Military Service Medal. The format of this medal is as shown in <Table 1>. The detailed specifications and diagram in <Table 1> describe the contents contained in the Official Gazette, and since there is no notation in the diagram for the names of each part of the medal listed in the specifications, this was interpreted and a number was attached to each part of the schematic, and the name of each part was separately written on the right (hereinafter the same).⁶

표 1 1950년 10월 일등무공훈장 제식

구분		상세 제원		
정장 (正章)	지금(地金)	황금(黃金) 금판(金板)		
	치수	세로 8cm, 가로 8cm		
	표면(表面)	십자형(十字形) 백색, 지주(支柱) 황색, 월계관(月桂冠) 담녹색, 화변(花瓣) 황금 (조각), 태극 원색칠보(原色七寶), 사방삼각형 (四方三角形) 은(銀), 루비 8개(홍紅)		
	이면(裏面)	대한민국일등무공훈장 제 호		
	보수(布綬)	적6조(赤6條) 0.6cm 백지8조(白地8條) 0.8cm 가로 3.6cm, 세로 4.6cm 삼각		
약장 (略章)	약장지(地)	담정색 (淡靑色)	태극	지름 0.8cm
	적6조	0.6cm	세로 1.1cm 가로 3.6cm	
	백8조	0.8cm		

도식 및 부분별 명칭(저자 해석)				
	①	십자형 백색		
	②	지주 황색		
	③	월계관 담녹색		
	④	화변 (황금조각)		
	⑤	태극(원색칠보)		
	⑥	사방삼각형 은		
	⑦	루비(8개, 홍색)		
	⑧	보수 : 적6조, 백8조		
	①	약장지 (담정색)	③	적6조
	②	태극	④	백8조

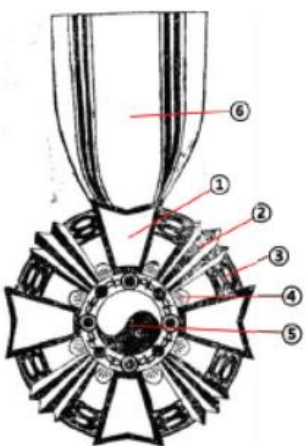
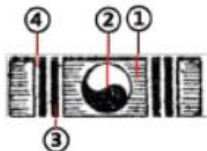
This medal has a cross-shaped ground (①) in the four directions of north, south, east, west, and a triangle (⑥) between the crosses. Although there are no detailed specifications, a total of 64 branches were designed in the third outermost circle, and a laurel wreath (③) was designed in the second middle circle. On the inside, eight red rubies (⑦) and a flowerpot (④) are designed around the central Taegeuk (⑤). There is also a pattern between the rubies, but it is not listed in the specifications. The number of rubies, 8, and the 64 numbers in the third circle appear to represent 8 trigrams and the 64 superimposed trigrams, respectively. The diameter of the suit is 8 cm, which is the largest among all grades of medals, and the diameter of the remaining three grades of medals is the same at 6 cm. The First-Class Military Service Medal is the only medal that has a horizontal plate connecting the number at the top and the uniform at the bottom. This horizontal small plate corresponds to ② among the schematic part numbers, and in <Table 1>, support (yellow) is connected to the name of this part among the detailed specifications. In the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal ceremony in August 1951, ②, which was written as a plate, appears to be somewhat inconsistent with the name pillar and the corresponding part of the diagram. The name of the pillar is not confirmed in the detailed specifications of other medals in this ceremony, and only part ② in the diagram of the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal is a part that is not visible in the diagrams of other medals, so it was connected like this.⁷⁾ In the catcher and ribbon bar, one line is marked as a group. 6 red lines and 8 white lines mean that there are 6 red lines and 8 white lines on both left and right sides, and the number of groups in the catcher and ribbon bar is the same. Ji (地) means the background, and the light blue color of the ribbon bar (畧章地) means that the background color of the ribbon bar is light blue, and the background color of the catcher is missing. On May 24, 1951, with the revision of the Military Service Medal Ordinance, the background color of the ribbon's medal and medal was changed to light blue, the red group was deleted, and the 8 group (0.8 cm) white group was unified.

Also, as an important change, the Military Service Medal Ordinance was revised on December 18, 1950, allowing a gold star or silver star to be added to the center of the ribbon if necessary. With the addition of this detailed classification of Gold Star, Silver Star, and No Star, it can be said that there were 3 detailed grades for each medal, and a total of 16 medal grades. This three-star classification for each medal was maintained until the enactment of the Award Act in December 1963. It has been thought that the actual medals of this October 1950 ceremony, especially the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal, which had a limited number of recipients, have not been handed down in reality. As shown in <Figure 1>, there are currently four confirmed cases of this ceremony's First-Class Military Merit Medal.⁸⁾ As can be seen in the picture of the ceremony, this medal is somewhat excessively large in proportion to the formal uniform. The physical appearance of <Figure 1> is not much different from the content of the ceremony, but the medals for Baek Seon-yeop and Son Won-il are not numerous. The Order of Simil is the most intact, and the light blue background and lines of the hundred and eight articles of the number changed due to the revision of the law in May 1951 are relatively clear. Choi Yong-nam's medal also has some parts remaining well, but the color has faded due to exposure to the outside for a long period of time, and the color on the back remains more intact.



그림 1 1950년 10월 제식 일등무공훈장 현전 실물 A: 백선엽 훈장('51.7.26., 7호, 개인), B: 심일 훈장('51.7.26., 육군박물관), C: 최용남 훈장('51.10.30., 13호, 전쟁기념관), D: 손원일 훈장('51.10.30., 1호, 해사박물관).

표 2 1950년 10월 이등무공훈장 제식 및 실물

구분		상세 제원			
정장	지금	황금(금판)			
	차수	세로 6cm, 가로 6cm			
	표면	십자형 백색, 도검 은, 월계관 담녹색, 화변 황금(조각), 태극 원색칠보			
	표면	대한민국이등무공훈장 제 호			
	포수	적4조 0.4cm 백6조 0.6cm			
		보수지 담청색			
세로 4.6cm 가로 3.6cm 3각					
약장	(약장지 미기재)		태극	지름 0.8cm	
	적4조	0.4cm	세로	1.1cm	
	백6조	0.6cm	가로	3.6cm	
도식 및 부분별 명칭(저자 해석), 실물					
		①	십자형(백색)		
		②	도검(은)		
		③	월계관(담녹색)		
		④	화변(황금:조각)		
		⑤	태극(원색칠보)		
		⑥	보수 : 적4조, 백6조, 지(地) 담청색		
		①	(미기재)	③	적4조
		②	태극	④	백6조
					
이등무공훈장(52.7., 미국 촬영)		[참조] 타이거 훈장(전쟁기념관)			

Second Class Military Service Medal

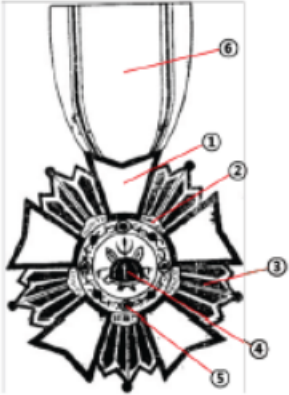
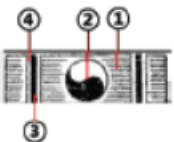
It is the second-grade military service medal, equivalent to the later Eulji Military Service Medal. The ceremony and actual object of this medal are as shown in <Table 2>.

Although this medal has some similarities to the First-Class Military Service Medal, there are differences. The size is about 2cm smaller, and the four cross-shaped plates (①) are slightly larger. There is a sword (②) instead of a triangle between the pieces, and the outermost circle is decorated with a laurel wreath along the circular shape instead of the handle. The Taegeuk design in the center (⑤), and although there is no formal description, the ruby around the Taegeuk and the chain design connecting it are the same, and the number of flower sides (④) has been increased to eight. An empty space was created between the center and the outer circle, and the prime numbers and ribbon bar were reduced by two each, to four in red and six in white. In May 1951, with the revision of the Military Service Medal Ordinance, the background color of the ribbon's medal and medal was changed to purple, the red color was deleted, and the 6 colors (0.6 cm) were unified in white.

The actual photo of the Second-Class Military Merit Medal was taken in the United States in July 1952 (National Archives, 1949).⁹ The color of the prime number and badge appears closer to navy blue than the purple of the May 1951 amendment. Additionally, you can see that the color of the ruby is green, not the red of the first-class medal, but in the ceremony for third-class and lower medals, it is described as blue. The Tiger Medal is said to have been awarded by the U.S. military in charge while working as a member of the Tiger Brigade, a guerrilla force under Unit 8240 under the United Nations Command, before being transferred to the ROK Army. Except for the central design, the uniform designation is almost identical to the Second-Class Military Service Medal, drawing attention.

표 3 1950년 10월 삼등무공훈장 제식 및 실물

구분	상세 제원			
정장	지급	황금(금판)		
	치수	세로 6cm, 가로 6cm		
	표면	5각형 백지(白地), 화변 황금(조각), 도검 정색, 투모(勳章) 황금(조각), 루비 4개(정색)		
	이면	대한민국삼등무공훈장 제 호		
	포수	적2조 0.2cm 백4조 0.4cm		
		보수지 담정색 (보수 크기 미기재)		
약장	약장지	담정색	태극	지름 0.8cm
	적2조	0.2cm	세로	1.1cm
	백4조	0.4cm	가로	3.6cm

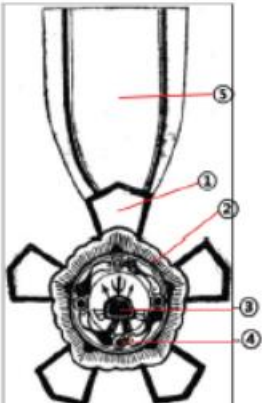
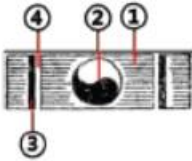
도식 및 부분별 명칭(자자 해석), 실물				
	①	5각형(백지)		
	②	화변 황금(조각)		
	③	도검(정색)		
	④	투모(황금:조각)		
	⑤	루비(4개:정색)		
	⑥	보수 : 적2조, 백4조, 지 담정색	삼등무공훈장 (527, 미국 촬영)	
	①	약장지(담정색)	③	적2조
	②	태극	④	백4조

3) Third Class Military Service Medal
It is the third grade of military service medal, corresponding to the later Chungmu Military Service Medal. The ceremony and actual object of this medal are as shown in <Table 3>.

This medal, unlike the higher order medals, has 5 (pentagonal) bases (①), and between them there are 5 pairs of sword names (③), 15 in number. The design in the center has been changed to a traditional helmet (④), and the five sides are the same as the first-class medal. The design of the four rubies and the chain connecting them are the same. The small number and the ribbon bar are 2 red and 4 white, and the background color is light blue. With the revision of the Military Service Medal Ordinance in May 1951, the background color of the ribbon's and ribbons was changed to navy blue, the red color was deleted, and the color was unified to 4 colors (0.4 cm) in white. The actual photo of the Third Class Medal reflects the contents of the ceremony well, and we can see that the background color of the central design is red. Silver stars were added to the number and ribbon bar to differentiate levels.

4) Private Service Medal
It is the fourth grade of military service medal, equivalent to the later Wharang Military Service Medal. The ceremony and object of this medal are as shown in <Table 4>.

표 4 1950년 10월 사등무공훈장 제식 및 실물

구분		상세제원		
정장	지금	황금(금판)		
	차수	세로 6cm, 가로 6cm		
	포면	5각형 백지, 화변 황금(조각) 투모 황금(조각), 루비 (정색)		
	이면	대한민국사등무공훈장 제 호		
	약장	적 0.2cm 백색2조 0.2cm		
		보수지 담정색 {미가재}		
약장	약장지	담정색	태극	지름 0.8cm
	적2조	0.2cm	세로	1.1cm
	백2조	0.2cm	가로	3.6cm
도식 및 부분별 명칭(저자 해석), 실물				
	①	5각형(백지)		
	②	화변(황금조각)		
	③	투모(황금조각)		
	④	루비(정색)		
	⑤	보수 : 적1조, 백2조, 지 담정색		
	①	약장지(담정색)	③	적2조
	②	태극	④	백2조
				
사등무공훈장 (52.7., 미국 촬영)		사등무공훈장 (수여일 불명, 개인)		

This medal has five bases (①) like the Third Class Medal, but the difference is that the ends protrude outwards. It is the only place where there is no decoration between the grounds, and the flower side (②) surrounds the entire central circle. The central design of the traditional helmet is the same as that of the Third Class Medal, and the dots with four rubies are also the same, but the circle between them is gone and a white and black picture with one small dot is drawn. At the ceremony in August 1951, it was expressed as a magatama belt. The small number and the ribbon bar are 2 red and 4 white, and the background color is light blue. In May 1951, with the revision of the Military Order of Merit Ordinance, the background color of the ribbon's medal and medal was changed to red, the red color was deleted, and it was unified into 2 white colors (0.2 cm). There is one photo of the Fourth-Class Military Merit Medal and one actual medal.¹⁰ The difference from the ritual is that the ruby color is red rather than blue. Although it is not in the ceremony, unlike the Third Class Medal, the background color of the central design is blue. The color of the decimal and ribbon bar is the same as revised in May 1951 to red. There is a notation in pure Korean on the back of the actual piece, and considering the very large number of private grade medals awarded, the notation number (No. 152) corresponds to a fairly early one.

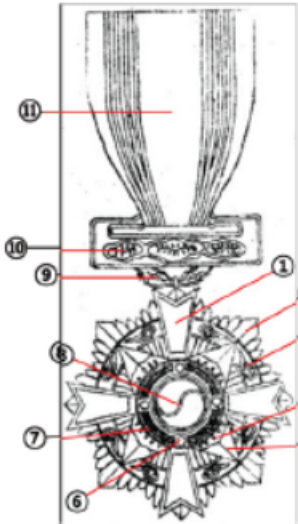
2. Ceremony and reality in August 1951

On August 19, 1951, about a year after the first ceremony was stipulated, the Order of Military Merit was revised (effective September 9, 1951), and the names of the medals were changed from 1st to 4th class to Taegeuk, Eulji, Chungmu, and Wharang. The formal attire retains some of the original features but has undergone significant changes, and its traditional yet original design stands out. The specifications and design of the medals for each grade determined at this time formed the basic framework of the military medal system and were maintained until the complete revision in accordance with the Enforcement Decree of the Awards and Medals Act in 1967 after the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The rituals of this period are characterized by clearer expressions for each medal part than before, and the avoidance of foreign words and the introduction of traditional names.

표 5 1951년 8월 태극무공훈장 제식

구분	상세 제원
표면	태양형(太陽形), 대4지(大4支) · 홍색칠보 소56지(小56支), 지금(地金) 각 경(經) 50mm
	서운환대(瑞雲環帶), 지금 대경 37mm 소경 29mm, 담녹색 칠보 서운(瑞雲) 8개, 금다색(金茶色) 투명칠보
	4돌지주(尖支柱), 지금 경 37mm
	무궁화 화변, 지금 4개 양각
	홍옥 4개
	괘(卦) 지금 대경 20mm 소경 12mm 금다색투명칠보
	태극 지금 경 12mm 홍정색 칠보
	장판 세로 11mm 가로 37mm 무궁화3개
	무궁화판 2매
이면	대한민국태극무공훈장 제 호
수	담정색 세로 46mm 가로 36mm 백8조 각 1mm 필요한 때에는 중앙에 금성(金星) 또는 은성(銀星)

도식 및 부분별 명칭(자자 해석)

	①	대4지(홍색칠보)
	②	소56지
	③	서운환대(담녹색) 칠보서운 8개(금다색투명칠보)
	④	4돌지주
	⑤	무궁화 화변 4개(양각)
	⑥	홍옥 4개
	⑦	괘(金다색투명칠보)
	⑧	태극(홍정색 칠보)
	⑨	무궁화엽 2매
	⑩	장판 : 무궁화 3개
	⑪	수 : 담정색, 백8조, 금성 또는 은성(필요 시)

1) Taegeuk Military Merit Medal
The format of this medal, which corresponds to the existing First-Class Military Service Medal, is shown in <Table 5>. Since the names of the parts on the diagram corresponding to the description of the ritual have not yet been described, they are indicated according to the author's interpretation.

This medal was awarded in October 1950, including a cross-shaped base (①), 56 arms (②), 4-stone pillars (④, a quadrilateral triangle in the First Class Military Service Medal), a flower-byeon (⑤), four rubies (⑥), a Taegeuk design in the center (⑧), a floor board (⑩), the color of the water, and a white-colored number (⑪). He inherited much of the First-Class Military Merit Medal. At the same time, significant changes were made, such as securing a stable sense of proportion by reducing the diameter of the suit (from 8 cm to 6 cm), the color of the earth (white → red), the sense of change in the jagged material, Seounhwandae (changed from laurel wreath), the name of the flower box (Rose of Sharon), the expression of Taegeukgi through the addition of the four trigrams (⑦) around Taegeuk (changed from chain), and the name of the floor covering (changed from chain). It is characterized by emphasizing our unique traditional aspects through changes and additions to some designs, decorations, and names while maintaining overall sophistication in design. The diameter of the suit is the largest at 6 cm for the Order of Taegeuk, and the diameters for the three grades below are 4.5 to 4 cm.
<Figure 2> is the actual Taegeuk Military Service Medal awarded in August 1951. Due to the very limited number of recipients, each extant object can be said to have considerable value.

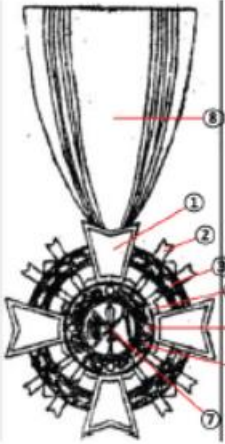


The first medal was photographed in the United States in July 1952 and is thought to most fully show the light blue color of the ceremony. In the case of actual pieces currently in existence, the color of the number has mostly faded, but the color of the Lee Jun-sik, Unknown Soldier, and Kim Geum-seong medals is barely visible, and in the case of the Kang Mun-bong medal, the color on the front is slightly faded, but the color on the back is almost the same as in the photo taken in 1952. The number of Baek Seon-yeop's medals is close to green in the photo, but actual confirmation is needed later. The 1952 Photography Medal, Baek Seon-yup Medal, and Unknown Soldier Medal have a gold star, the Kang Moon-bong Medal has a silver star in the center, and the Lee Jun-sik and Kim Geum-seong medals have no star. The color of the medal background and flooring was originally gold, but the color of the actual medal appears to have faded over time. In addition, 7 actual cases have currently been confirmed.¹¹

그림 2 1951년 8월 제식 태극무공훈장 실물 A: 수여자 불명('52.7., 미국 촬영), B: 백선엽 훈장('53.4.5., 100호, 개인), C: 강문봉 훈장('53.7.17., 140호, 전쟁기념관), D: 이준식 훈장('54.7.6., 258호, 현충원), E: 국군무명용사 훈장('61.6.6., 275호, 현충원), F: 김금성(추정) 훈장('61.8.23., 364호, 현충원).

표 6 1951년 8월 을지무공훈장 제식 및 실물

구분	상세 제원
표면	태양형 대4지(홍색칠보) 소20지, 지금 대경 45mm 소경 42mm
	월계환 지금 대경 34mm 소경 26mm 금다색 투명칠보 월계엽 16매 녹색칠보
	무궁화 화변 지금 8판 양각
	홍옥 4개
	도쇄(刀鎖) 1연(連) 대경 19mm 소경 11mm 금다색 투명칠보
	검(劍), 장(杖), 지휘봉(指揮棒) 각 1개(홍색)
이면	대한민국을지무공훈장 제 호
수	수 갈색(褐色) 세로 46mm 가로 36mm 백6조 각 1mm 필요한 때에는 중앙에 금성 또는 은성 1.8cm

도식 및 부분별 명칭(저자 해석), 실물		
	①	대4지(홍색칠보)
	②	소20지
	③	월계환 : 금다색투명칠보, 월계엽 16매 녹색칠보
	④	무궁화 화변 8판
	⑤	홍옥 4개
	⑥	도쇄 1연 금다색 투명칠보
	⑦	검 · 장 · 지휘봉 각 1개(홍색)
	⑧	수 : 갈색, 백6조, 금성 또는 은성(필요 시)
	⑨	

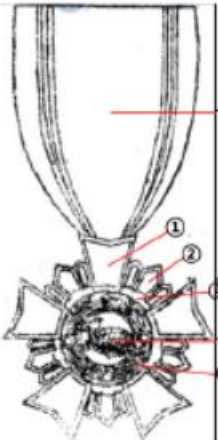
	
수여자 불명 (52.7., 미국 촬영)	연장건 을지훈장 (53 2.25., 전쟁기념관)

2) Eulji Military Service Medal
The formality and actual object of this medal, which corresponds to the existing Second-Class Military Service Medal, are shown in <Table 6>.

This medal retains the characteristics of the second-class military service medal in the cross-shaped base (①), the flower face (④), four rubies (⑤), the empty space between the outer and inner circles, and the 106 sets of the water and medicine medals. The most major change is that the central design was replaced with the original sword, staff, and baton pictures of Taegeuk. In addition, its uniqueness has been strengthened compared to before, including changes in the color of the earth (white → red), the outer circle picture (laurel wreath → 16 laurel wreaths), the shape of the hand (changed from a sword), the name of the flower pot (Rose of Sharon), and the color of the number and ribbon bar (changed to brown). The diameter of the suit decreased from 6 cm to 4.5 cm. However, in the ritual, the number of possessions is indicated as 20, but there is a difference between the schematic and the actual number of 8 (or 12).

표 7 1951년 8월 충무무공훈장 제식 및 실물

구분	상세 제원
표면	태양형 5대지 경 41mm 홍색투명칠보(지금)
	귀갑편(龜甲片) 15편 담정색 칠보 경 34mm
	화변 5편 경 22mm 양각
	파문대(波紋帶) 대경 19mm 소경 11mm 감색칠보
	내(內) 귀선(龜船) 경 11mm 정색칠보
이면	대한민국충무무공훈장 제 호
수	수 수정색(水靑色) 세로 46mm 가로 36mm 백조 각 1mm 필요한 때에는 중앙에 금성 또는 은성 1.8cm

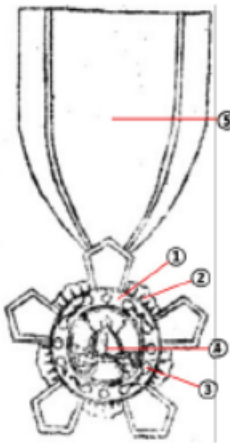
도식 및 부분별 명칭(지자 해석), 실물		
	①	5대지(홍색 투명칠보)
	②	귀갑편 15편 담정색 칠보
	③	화변 5편 양각
	④	파문대(감색칠보)
	⑤	내 귀선(정색칠보)
	⑥	수 : 수정색, 백조, 금성 또는 은성(필요 시)
 		
수여자 불명 (527., 미국 촬영)		이준식 충무훈장 (50.1230., 현충원)

3) Chungmu Military Merit Medal
The ceremony and actual object of this medal, which corresponds to the existing third-class medal, are shown in <Table 7>.

This medal still retains the characteristics of the Third-Class Military Merit Medal, including the pentagonal base (①), the shape of the small hand (②), the hwabyeon (③), and the four hundred and four sets of water and medicine medals. As with the Eulji Order, the most important change is the introduction of the central design (Gwiseon, Geobukseon), and by adding the design of the Pamundae and the name of the branch (Gwigappyeon), it has a format suitable for the Chungmu Order, named after Admiral Yi Sun-sin. The diameter of the suit became smaller (6 cm → 4 cm), and the color of the four rubies changed from green (blue) to red.

표 8 1951년 8월 화랑무공훈장 제식 및 실물

구분	상세 제원
표면	태양형 지금 경 40mm 홍색칠보
	무궁화 화변 5편 양각
	곡옥대(曲玉帶) 대경 21mm 소경 14mm 금다색투명칠보
	투구(鬪具) 경 14mm 담정색칠보 지금 시전(失箭) 2本(본) 투구모(鬪具帽) 1개
	홍옥 4개
이면	대한민국화랑무공훈장 제 호
수	수 황등색(黃橙色) 세로 46mm 가로 36mm 백2조 각 1mm 필요안 때에는 중앙에 금성 또는 은성 1.8cm.

도식 및 부분별 명칭(저자 해석), 실물			
	①	지금 홍색칠보	
	②	무궁화 화변 5편 양각	
	③	곡옥대(금다색투명칠보)	
	④	투구(담정색칠보), 시전 2본 투구모	
	⑤	홍옥 4개	
	⑥	수 : 황등색, 백2조, 금성 또는 은성(필요 시)	김정길 화랑훈장 ('54.7.7., 경찰박물관)

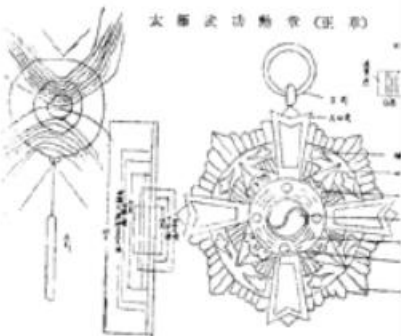
4) Wharang Military Service Medal
The ceremony and actual object of this medal, which corresponds to the existing private rank medal, are as shown in <Table 8>.

This medal is similar to the Fourth-Class Military Service Medal in its pentagonal base (①), central helmet (④), and surrounding design (③). Differences include a reduction in size (6cm → 4cm), a change from a circular flowerbed protruding above the ground to five flowerbeds between the ground, the addition of traditional names to the flowerbed (Rose of Sharon) and the design around the center (Gagokdae), and changes in the background color of the magatwae portion (white → red) and the color of the water and ribbon bars (red → yellow-orange). The part described as ruby in the ritual is confirmed to be white in real life.

3. Ceremony and reality in December 1963

All medal-related contents, including ceremonies, were integrated into the Awards and Medals Act enacted in December 1963. In the case of the military service medal, there were some modifications based on the August 1951 ceremony. The major changes include the existing minor formal service medal, which was divided into major medals (shoulder draping type), medium medals (necklace type), and minor medals (worn on the chest) according to the rank of the medal, the abolition of the gold star, silver star, and silent star distinction, and the addition of the 5th grade Incheon Military Service Medal. In the case of the ribbon, all five levels of medals are the same as the August 1951 ceremony.

표 9 1963년 12월 태극무공훈장 제식 및 실물

상세 제원(1951년 제식과 크기 비교 비율)		
구분	정장	부장
태양형	경 58mm(▲16.0%)	경 75mm(▲50.0%)
서운 환대	대경 48mm 소경 37mm (▲29.7% / ▲27.6%)	대경 51mm 소경 40mm (▲37.8% / ▲37.9%)
4돌지주	경 48mm(▲29.7%)	경 51mm(▲37.8%)
무궁화 화변	경 30mm	경 33mm
홍옥	경 2.5mm	경 2.5mm
괘	대경 24mm 소경 15mm (▲20.0% / ▲25.0%)	대경 27mm 소경 18mm (▲35.0% / ▲50%)
태극	지름 14mm(▲16.7%)	경 17mm(▲41.7%)
장판	(장판 없음)	(장판 없음)
고리	길이 50mm 폭 5mm	(고리 없음)
수	길이 1,900mm 폭 85mm, 담정색 69mm 백색8열 각 2mm, 결수(結綬) 경 85mm	(수 없음)
도식/실물		
		
정장 및 수		부장
		
강재구 훈장 (‘66.5.12, 육군박물관)		강문봉 훈장(뒷면) (‘53년 또는 ‘54년, 전쟁기념관)

1) Taegeuk Military Merit Medal

<Table 9> shows the detailed specifications, diagram, and actual form of the Taegeuk Medal ceremony in December 1963.

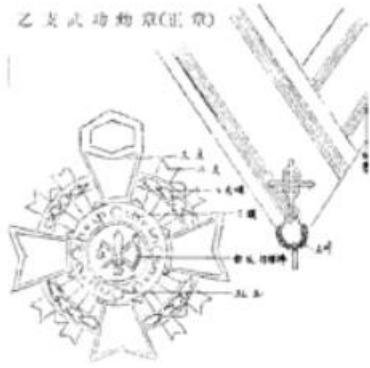
The shape of the Taegeuk Medal in this ceremony is almost identical to that of the August 1951 ceremony, with the biggest differences being the change in the number of suits from decimal to logarithmic and the addition of a deputy chief. The change in size in <Table 9> is the result of comparing the size of the minor medals of the August 1951 ceremony. Based on diameter, the formal wear of this period was 16% larger, and in particular, the size of the lieutenant commander increased by 1.5 times.

Comparing the ceremonial schematic with the actual item, it is found that the actual material has two layers of material, whereas this point is not clearly expressed in the schematic. In the case of Director Kang Jae-gu, who was given the Order of Merit as an example, the color should have been gold like his original suit, but it appears to have faded over time. The color of the medallion of this medal has also faded, but the back of the medallion of Kang Moon-bong's medal appears to be its original color, and the color of the front of the medallion is the same as that of Kang Jae-gu's medal. In addition to this, two actual cases of the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal in this ceremony have been confirmed.¹²

표 10 1963년 12월 을지무공훈장 제식 및 실물

상세제원(1951년 제식과 크기 비교 비율)		
구분	정장	부장
태양형	대경 56mm 소경 40mm (▲24.4% / ▼4.8%)	대경 70mm 소경 43mm (▲55.6% / ▲2.4%)
월계환	대경 45mm 소경 35mm (▲32.4% / ▲34.6%)	대경 48mm 소경 38mm (▲41.2% / ▲46.2%)
무궁화 화변	(화변 내용 없음)	(화변 내용 없음)
홍욱	경 2.5mm	경 2.5mm
도새	대경 24mm 소경 15mm (▲26.3% / ▲36.4%)	대경 27mm 소경 18mm (▲42.1% / ▲63.6%)
검·장· 지휘봉	경 14mm	경 17mm
고리	장 43mm 폭 15mm, 월계엽 활판과 쌍활	(고리 없음)
수	장 600mm 폭 15mm 갈색 30mm 백색6열 각 1mm 견직	(수 없음)

도식/실물



정장 및 수



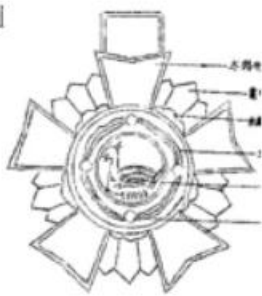
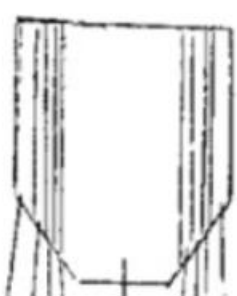
부장



오상욱 훈장(66.11.26, 현충원)

2) Eulji Military Service Medal
<Table 10> shows the ceremony and actual award of the Eulji Military Merit Medal in December 1963. The shape of the medal is almost identical to that of the August 1951 ceremony. The differences include the change from small number to medium number, the addition of a manager, and the deletion of the name Rose of Sharon Hwabyeon. In particular, the connecting link that connects the middle bow and the suit and is described in the ceremony as ‘laurel leaf type and double bow’ (on the left of the actual photo), is characteristic. The double bow represents two arrows overlapping in a cross shape. Compared to the previous ceremony, the size of the suit increased by 24.4% and the badge by 55.6% based on diameter, and like the Taegeuk Medal, it can be seen that the badge was made significantly larger than the suit. Comparing the schematic and the real thing, there is a difference from the representation in the schematic in that the actual material has two layers.

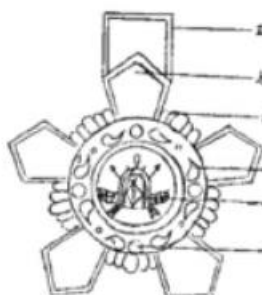
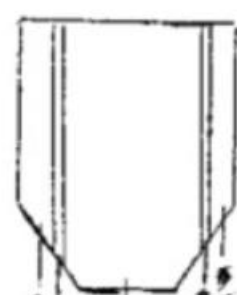
표 11 1963년 12월 충무무공훈장 제식 및 실물

구분	상세제원(1951년 제식과 크기 비교 비율)	
태양형	경 52mm(▲26.8%)	
귀감면	경 42mm(▲23.5%)	
화변	경 26mm(▲18.2%)	
파문대	대경 22mm 소경 13mm(▲15.8% / ▲18.2%)	
홍옥	경 2.5mm	
귀선	경 12mm(▲9.1%)	
수	세로 46mm 가로 36mm 수정색 32mm, 백색 4열 각 1mm	
도식/실물		
		
정장	수	윤태곤 훈장 ('68.7.20, 현충원)

3) Chungmu Military Merit Medal
<Table 11> shows the ceremony and actual award of the Chungmu Military Merit Medal in December 1963. The Eulji Medal, which has no change in number form, is virtually identical to the August 1951 ceremony, with the difference being that its size has increased by about 26.8%. In addition, the color of the earth, which was previously described as red in ceremonial terms (in reality, it was white), was corrected to white. Yoon Tae-gon's Chungmu Medal, which is confirmed to have been awarded in July 1968, is an unusual case in that it follows the 1963 or 1951 ceremony even after the award period was changed to the February 1967 ceremony. Considering that the size of the suit is 5 cm, it is judged to be the 1963 ceremony. However, there is a difference in the direction of the line drawing is toward the right rather than the left of the diagram, so it is possible that it was produced somewhat differently from the original ceremony during the transitional period when the medal ceremony was changed.

표 12 1963년 12월 화랑무공훈장 제식 및 실물

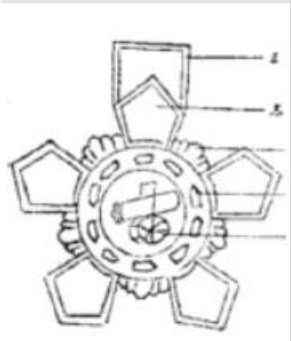
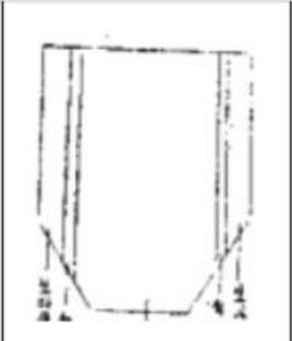
구분	상세제원(1951년 제식과 크기 비교 비율)
태양형	경 50mm(▲25.0%)
무궁화 화변	경 25mm
곡옥대	대경 20mm 소경 12mm(▼4.8% / ▼14.3%)
투구	경 11mm(▼21.4%)
홍옥/백옥	백옥 경 2.5mm
수	세로 46mm 가로 36mm 황등색 34mm 백색2열 각 1mm 견직

도식		
		
정장	수	은명수 훈장 (1960년대, 현충원)

4) Wharang Military Service Medal
<Table 12> shows the formal and actual Wharang Military Merit Medal in December 1963. Like the Chungmu Medal, there is little difference from the August 1951 ceremony except for size. The diameter of the Eunmyeongsu Medal in the example is 40 mm, and as detailed in the specification of this ceremony, there are no confirmed actual examples currently in existence with a diameter of around 50 mm. The diameter based on the land has increased by about 25% compared to the 1951 ceremony, but the designs on the inside have become proportionally smaller.

표 13 1963년 인천무공훈장 제식 및 실물

구분	상세 제원
정장	태양형 대5지 지름 45mm 백색칠보 동
	무궁화화변 양각 5면 경 24mm 금색 동
	환대(丸帶) 대경 19mm 소경 11mm 정색칠보 동
	포(砲) 경 10mm 지 홍색칠보 포(砲) 금색 동
수	세로 46mm 가로 36mm 보라색칠보 백색2열 각 1mm 견직
약장	종 11mm 횡 36mm 보라색 34mm 백색2열 각 1mm 견직
	태극 경 8mm 상홍하정색(上紅下靑色) 견직

도식/실물		
		
정장	수	수여자 불명 (대한민국역사박물관)

5) Incheon Military Service Medal
<Table 13> shows the ceremony and actual award of the Incheon Military Merit Medal in December 1963. The 5th grade Incheon Military Merit Medal was newly added to the ceremony in December 1963. The basic shape of the medal is similar to the Wharang Medal in its pentagon shape and decoration of the flowerpot, and its diameter is 5 mm smaller. The central design represents a cannon with gold lines on a red background and is surrounded by decorations that appear to be cannonballs.

4. Ceremony and reality in February 1967

In accordance with the enactment of the 「Enforcement Ordinance of the Awards and Decorations Act」 in 1967 (enacted on February 28, 1967, and enforced on April 17, 1967), the names (Appendix 1) and ceremonies (Appendix 2) of various medals, including the Order of Merit and Military Merit, which were included in the existing Awards and Decorations Act, were described in the Enforcement Decree. During this period, there was a major change in which the central design and other ceremonies of the formal medals, which had been different for each grade since the establishment of the Military Merit Medal in 1950, were unified. In addition to the ribbon bar, the ceremony of the gold cabinet was also added. The military service medal ceremony for February 1967 is as shown in <Table 14>.

표 14 1967년 2월 무공훈장 제식 및 실물

구분	태극	을지	충무	화랑	인헌
정장	투구(1점) 18mm 금색부조 은	좌동, 16mm	좌동, 15mm	좌동, 13mm	좌동, 12mm
	홍옥반(1점) 19mm 금색정색질보 은	좌동, 17mm	좌동, 16mm	좌동, 15mm	좌동, 13mm, 은색정색 질보 은
	홍대지(4지) 48mm 금색홍색질보 은	좌동, 45mm	좌동, 40mm	좌동, 35mm	좌동, 33mm 은색정색 질보 은
	서운(1환) 26mm 금색부조 은	좌동, 25mm	좌동, 22mm	좌동, 21mm	18mm 은색부조 은
	서광지(瑞光支) 56지 60mm 금색부조 은	좌동, 55mm	좌동, 50mm	좌동, 45mm	좌동, 41mm 은색부조 은
	월계엽편(24엽) 22×22mm 금색부조 은	좌동, 20×20mm	좌동, 18×18mm	좌동, 16×16mm	좌동, 14×14mm 은색부조 은
	대성(大星) 1좌(座) 15mm 금색부조 은	좌동, 16mm	좌동, 14mm	좌동, 12mm	좌동, 11mm 은색부조 은
수	꼭 80mm 담주황(淡朱黃)	꼭 38mm 담주황 (황1-주7-황 22-주7-황1)	좌동 (황4-주5-황 20-주5-황4)	좌동, 경 20mm, 2mm 적색선4본입 (赤色線4本入)	좌동 (황5-주2-황 24-주2-황5)
	장 1,700mm 담주황	장 600mm 담주황	(좌동)	장 11mm 담주황	(좌동)
부장	투구(1점) 21mm 금색부조 은	(좌동)	(부장 없음)		
	홍옥반(1점) 23mm 금색정색질보 은	(좌동)	(부장 없음)		
	홍대지(4지) 57mm 금색홍색질보 은	(좌동)	(부장 없음)		
	운대(1환) 32mm 금색부조 은	(좌동)	(부장 없음)		
	서광지(56지) 71mm 금색부조 은	(좌동)	(부장 없음)		
악장	38×10mm 정장수와 같음	(좌동)	(좌동)	(좌동)	(좌동)
금장	직경 1.7cm의 은 및 건직	(좌동)	(좌동)	(좌동)	(좌동)

실물		
		
최규식 태극훈장 (’68.1.25, 경찰박물관)	류근장 화랑훈장 (’52.1.10, 충녕문화원)	인헌훈장 (민속박물관)

The basic shape of the five grades of medals below Taegeuk is the same, and they are distinguished by differences in the size of the medal, the presence or absence of a deputy chief, and the shape of the number. A traditional helmet is designed in the center of the suit, and around it is a circular, navy, blue-based ruby plate. There is also a cloud that surrounds the ruby plate, and a total of 12 clouds are designed. With the ruby plate at the center, four red bands extend in all directions between the clouds, and they appear to have inherited the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal bands of the previous ceremony. There are 56 small ponds around the site, and they are named Seogwangji (瑞光支). This suit is connected to a large star surrounded by a 24-leafed laurel wreath, which in turn is hung in numbers corresponding to each medal level. The color of all medals up to the Wharang Medal is gold, and only the Inheon Medal is silver.

The most direct way to distinguish each level of medal in this ceremony is the shape of the number and the size of the medal. Among them, the shape and color of numbers are the clearest indicators to distinguish each grade. Only the Taegeuk Order of Merit suit has a major number, and the color of the number is a solid light orange, to which a deputy chief is added. The Eulji and Chungmu Orders are similar in that they are medium-length formal wear and the colors of the sleeves are in the order of yellow-orange-yellow-orange-yellow. However, the difference is that among the two colors of yellow and orange in the middle-water medal, the area of the yellow edge in the Chungmu Order is larger. The Eulji Medal has a separate department. Wharang and Inheon are minor medals, and Wharang is a circular shape with a diameter of 20 mm attached to the center of the minor medal. Inheon has no circular shape in his minority, and the only color of his suit is silver. The name of each medal is written on the back of each medal, so you can easily identify them by checking them. On December 19, 1969, through the revision of the Enforcement Decree of the Awards and Honors Act, the shape of the gold medal was changed from a circular shape (1.7 cm in diameter) to a rectangular shape (12 × 8 mm).¹³ With the revision of the Simultaneous Enforcement Decree on June 30, 1971, the colors of the numbers for each medal level were changed, and the actual version of this ceremony is shown in <Figure 3>.¹⁴



그림 3 1971년 제식 무공훈장 실물 A: 강문봉 태극훈장('54.5.1., 전쟁기념관), B: 류재문 화랑훈장('70.10.28., 현충원).

In this ceremony, the number of Taegeuk medals was changed from the previous light orange single color to red and yellow. From the left, the red is thin at the edges, the yellow is somewhat thick, and the red is wide in the center. The right side is the same as the left pattern. The middle water of the Eulji and Chungmu medals had the same color and pattern with some differences in width in the 1967 ceremony, but with the 1971 revision, both Eulji and Chungmu had a thin red line at the first edge and a thick red line in the center. Eulji had four yellow lines on the left and right, and Chungmu had three yellow lines each.

The Wharang Medal minors were distinguished by two yellow lines each on the left and right, and the Inheon Medal had one yellow line, and the 20 mm diameter circle in the center of the Wharang Medal minors was maintained. The watercolors of the 1967 and 1971 ceremonies are the same in that they are a combination of yellow and red, but the common difference is that in the 1967 ceremony, the yellow appears first, and in the 1971 ceremony, the red appears first on the edge.

5. Ceremonies and objects in November 1973 and January 1984

On November 1, 1973, in accordance with the revision of the Enforcement Decree of the Award Act, the military service medal ceremony was completely revised as shown in <Table 15>. As before, the central design and basic shape of all grade medals are the same, but there are differences from the 1967 ceremony, such as an increase in the number of medals held.

표 15 1973년11월 무공훈장 제식

구분	태극	을지	충무	화랑	인현
정장	투구(1점) 18×14mm금색은	좌동, 16×14mm	좌동, 14×11mm	좌동, 14×11mm	좌동, 14×11mm
	홍옥반(1점) 19mm 금색 은	좌동, 15mm	좌동, 16mm	좌동, 16mm	좌동, 16mm
	점쇄(1점) 23mm 금색 은	좌동, 21mm	좌동, 19mm	좌동, 19mm	좌동, 15mm
	소저(180지) 60mm 금색 은	좌동, 55mm	좌동, 50mm	좌동, 50mm	소저(96지) 50mm
	대성(1좌) 16mm 금색 은	좌동, 15mm	좌동, 13mm	좌동, 13mm	좌동, 13mm
	월계엽환(24엽) 22×22mm금색은	〈표기 없음〉	월계엽환 (24엽) 17× 17mm	좌동, 17×17mm	좌동, 17×17mm
	중량 42.7g	중량 37.4g	중량 26.7g	중량 26.7g	중량 26.7g
수	폭 80mm 적색	폭 38 mm 적, 백색 (패턴 색별 길이 기재 오류 : 적색 바탕에 백색선 4개 추정)	폭 38 mm 적, 백색 (패턴 색별 길이 기재 오류 : 적색 바탕에 백색선 3개 추정)	폭 38 mm 적, 백색 적2, 백1.5, 적2, 백1.5, 적2, 백1.5, 적2	폭 38 mm 적, 백색 적2, 백2, 적30, 백2, 적2
	장 1,700mm 적색 견직	장 600mm 적, 백색	장 600mm 적, 백색	장 100mm 적, 백색	장 100mm 적, 백색
부장	투구(1점) 21×16mm 금색 은	좌동, 18×14mm	(부장 없음)		
	홍옥반(1점) 22mm 금색 은	좌동, 19mm	(부장 없음)		
	점쇄(1점) 27mm 금색 은	좌동, 23mm	(부장 없음)		
	소저(180지) 70mm 금색 은	좌동, 60mm	(부장 없음)		
	중량 50.7g	중량 42.7g			
약장	38×10mm, 정장수와 같음	(좌동)	(좌동)	(좌동)	(좌동)
금장	12×8 mm 금색·수색 은	(좌동)	(좌동)	(좌동)	(좌동)

The placement of the helmet design and ruby plate in the center, the division of numbers into Taegeuk-Daesu, Eulji·Chungmu-Jungsu, Hwarang·Inheon-Sosu, and the placement of Daeseong and a laurel leaf ring at the connection between the number and the suit were maintained. The biggest difference from the previous ceremony is that the land that had been maintained all along was deleted and the formal attire was expressed with only 180 pieces. As for the size of the formal and official suits, Taegeuk was the largest, Eulji was slightly smaller, and all Chungmu and lower were made of the same size. The color of the suits was all gold, unlike the previous ceremony where the Inheon Medal was silver. The color of the water is different in that Taegeuk is composed of only red, and in Eulji and below, the background color is red, but there are 8 white lines (4 on the left, 4 on the right) to 2 (1 on the left, 1 on the right). On October 23, 1974, through the revision of the Enforcement Decree of the Award Act, different background colors were applied to the colors of medals below Eulji. Accordingly, the background color of the shrouds was orange for Eulji, light orange for Chungmu, dark red for Wharang, and sky blue for Inheon, and the background colors were divided into 8 (4 left, 4 right), 6 (3 left, 3 right), 4 (2 left, 2 right), and 2 (1 left, 1 right) white lines of 1.5 mm, respectively. Additionally, depending on the number of awards, if the badge was awarded once, a basic ribbon was added, if it was awarded twice, a Rose of Sharon was placed on the center helmet design, and if it was awarded three times, two Roses of Sharon were added to the left and right sides instead of on the helmet.



그림 4 1973년 11월 이후 무공훈장 제식의 도식과 실물 A: 태극훈장 도식('73.11.), B: 김만술 태극훈장('54.7.6., 현충원), C: 연제근 을지훈장('50.12.30., 현충원), D: 충무훈장(민속박물관), E: 연제근 화랑훈장('50.12.30., 현충원), F: 인현훈장(민속박물관).

On January 23, 1984, there was a slight change in the ceremony through the revision of the Enforcement Decree of the Awards and Honors Act, and this continues to this day. Slight changes were made to the size,¹⁵ and the number of Taegeuk and Eulji medals was changed from 180 to 184, the Chungmu and Wharang medals were changed from 180 to 96, and the Inheon medal was kept the same at 96. Additionally, the number of bay leaf rings increased from 24 to 26. In addition, there are differences in the length (1,700 → 1,800 mm) and weight of the Taegeuk Medal. The colors of the shroud are the same as those revised in October 1974. When it comes to classifying actual objects, it is not easy to visually identify the changes in the 1984 ceremony, and they must be distinguished based on the size of the medal and the time it was awarded. The actual appearance of the military service medals issued since November 1973 is as shown in <Figure 4>, and it was not distinguished whether it was the 1984 ceremony or not (the diagram shows the 1973 ceremony). The Taegeuk, Eulji, and Wharang medals that have recipients are all reissued medals, considering the original award period.¹⁶

III. Comprehensive review of military service medal ceremonies and actual items

1. Characteristics of changes in military medal system by period

In this section, we comprehensively examine the characteristics of the military medal ceremonies for each period analyzed in Chapter 2. The 1950 ceremony was the first military service medal ceremony in Korea. The medal grades were divided into first to fourth class, and the central medal design was divided into two categories: Taegeuk (grades 1 and 2) and helmet (grades 3 and 4). About a year later, in the 1951 ceremony, the names of the ranks of the medal were modified to our own names of Taegeuk, Eulji, Chungmu, and Wharang.¹⁷ In terms of design, the design of the 1950 medal was inherited but developed in an original way. In particular, the central design was adopted with the traditional Taegeuk (1st grade), sword, cane, and baton (2nd grade), turtle ship (3rd grade), and helmet (4th grade). This is a characteristic.¹⁸ Here, by attaching the Gold Star, Silver Star, and Silent Star to a small number of medals for each grade, it can be said that in reality, it was operated as a total of 12 grades, including 4 higher grades and 3 lower grades for each higher grade.

In the 1963 ceremony, which was changed 10 years later with the enactment of the Awards Act, 5 levels of the Order of Humanity were added and the distinction between Gold Star, Silver Star, and Silent Star was deleted. Inheriting the design of the 1951 medal, the number was subdivided into major numbers for the Taegeuk Order, medium numbers for the Eulji Order, and decimal numbers for the Chungmu Order of Merit and lower as before.¹⁹ In the case of the Chungmu and Wharang Orders, it is difficult to distinguish the difference from the 1951 ceremony.

There was a major change in the medal system in 1967, which was changed with the enactment of the Enforcement Decree of the Award Act: the design of the five grades of medals and the central design (helmet) were unified. As a result, the unique characteristics of the medal design for each grade faded somewhat, and the distinction between medal grades became possible only through the shape and color of the number (Taegeuk-Daesu, Eulji/Chungmu-Jungsu, Hwarang/Inheon-Sosu).²⁰ In 1971, there were some changes in the number colors. In the 1973 medal ceremony, the central design was the same as before with the traditional helmet, but changes were made to the design, such as deleting the main plate and greatly increasing the number of minor sections, and changing the colors of the number, medicine, and gold medals for each grade. There was a slight design change in 1984, and the plan decided at this time is the current medal system.

표 16 각 제식별, 등급별 훈장 디자인의 비교

구분		태극	을지	충무	화랑	인헌
디자인 A	1950년 *소수					—
	1951년 *소수					—
	1963년 *태극 대수, 을지 중수, 충무 이하 소수					
디자인 B	1967년 *태극 대수, 을지· 충무 중수, 화랑· 인헌 소수		(좌동)			
	1973년 *상동		(좌동)			

In order to examine changes in the design of medals by service in more detail, the uniforms of medals by service and grade were compared as shown in <Table 16>.

The design of the Military Merit Medal can be divided into Design A, which was established until 1963, and Design B, which was established after 1967. Design A has different designs for each medal grade, but the basic design of each grade is inherited. The 1951 ceremony inherited and developed the first 1950 ceremony and established the design of the military service medal. Compared to the 1950 ceremony, the 1951 ceremony inherited 4 bases for the Taegeuk and Eulji Orders, and 5 bases for the Chungmu and Wharang Orders, and the color of the bases was changed to red for the Taegeuk and Eulji Orders. The Taegeuk Order adopted the earth, four stone pillars, and Taegeuk pattern as is, but reduced the number of rubies from 8 to 4 and completed the Taegeukgi pattern by changing the chain around Taegeuk to a hexagram. In addition, the laurel tree in the middle circle was changed to a traditional cloud, and the overall size was reduced to improve balance and the size of the material was changed to emphasize a dynamic feeling. The Eulji Order of Merit retained the earth and eight Rose of Sharon leaves but changed the central design from Taegeuk to a sword, staff, and baton, the traditional symbols of command, and changed the shape of the handbag and the outer laurel leaf. The Chungmu Order of Merit also changed its central design to Gwiseon (turtle ship) with a wave pattern surrounding it, and renamed its 15 branches to Gwigappyeon, strengthening the connection in the name symbolizing Admiral Yi Sun-sin. The Wharang Medal is largely similar to the 1950 medal ceremony, with slight changes in size, color, and design. The 1963 ceremony inherited the basic design of 1951, making only partial changes, and the newly added 5th grade Inheon Medal only changed the central design of the Wharang Medal ceremony to a cannon.²¹

Design B has unified medal designs for all grades, and the unified design is also relatively simple. Compared to the 1963 system, only four land types remained in the 1967 system, and overall changes were made to the design and applied to all grades. The remaining ground is similar to that of the Eulji Order of Merit, and its shape, referred to as Seogwangji (瑞光支), is distinctive in that it is made up of several small squares of different sizes connected together. In the 1973 ceremony, this was changed to a straight line, and the continuous land was removed. Another difference is that the background color of the central helmet design changed from blue to red, which seems to be because the existing red land disappeared and there was no need to match the red-blue pattern.

2. How to wear military medals, etc.

On November 8, 1955, the “Ordinance Wearing Regulations” (Presidential Decree No. 1105) was enacted to determine the wearing method for all medals. According to this, formal wear was required to be worn for formal wear, and medicine badges were to be worn for regular wear and wartime work clothes (Article 2), and the simultaneous wearing of a suit and a medicine badge was prohibited (Article 3). The order of wearing is in the order of medals, decorations, and badges according to classification (Article 4). Depending on the type of medal, it is ordered as Grand Order of Rose of Sharon, Order of Merit for National Foundation, Order of Service Merit (later Order of Merit), Order of Military Merit, and Order of Cultural Merit. Other medals are to be worn in the order in which they were awarded, and foreign medals are to be worn after Korean medals (Article 5).²² The position of medals, badges, and medals for each number was also determined. Medals and medals were basically worn from right to left on the left chest. Four or more medals were organized in two or more rows, with the order of the top row taking priority. The 「Awards and Medals Act」 of December 1963 stipulated the manner

of wearing the newly added major and middle awards. In addition to suits, badges are worn under the suit on the left side of the chest, and if necessary, a half-sized medal can also be worn with banquet uniforms, etc. <Figure 5> is a photo of a soldier who participated in the Korean War wearing a military service medal.



그림 5 무공훈장 등을 패용한 6·25전쟁 참전 군인 A: 김홍일 장군, B: 유재흥 장군, C: 김종오 장군 및 예북(현충원 소장), D: 이명수 상사.

The top left is a photo of Kim Hong-il when he received the first-class military service medal from President Syngman Rhee in October 1950. He wore a small number of medals on the left chest.²³ Kim Hong-il, in the photo on the right, wore the 3rd class Order of Merit for National Foundation (Independence Medal) in heavy water around his neck, six miniature medals on his left lapel, and the First Class Military Service Medal on his left rib area, but a few of them appear to have disappeared. It is presumed that he was wearing a single-color Taegeuk Military Merit Medal issued in February 1967 on the inside of his banquet uniform, as the First Class (Taegeuk) Military Merit Medal appears to be the highest among the medals worn. In other words, it is thought that the medal suit has maintained the 1950 format in which it was previously awarded, with only the number of medals added. Jaeheung Yoo

Inside the banquet gown, he appears to be wearing the 1971 Taegeuk Military Merit Medal in the yellow and red pattern, and on the left chest is a small number of the 1951 Taegeuk Military Merit Medal, and below that, the 1950 First Class Military Merit Medal with

no numbers. Since Yoo Jae-heung was awarded the Eunseong Taegeuk Military Merit Medal only once in April 1953, he later wore one additional medal issued as a formality. Kim Jong-oh wore the 1963 Taegeuk Military Merit Medal, full uniform, and admiral, and around his neck he wore the 1963 regular Eulji Military Service Medal and the Philippine Legion of Honor. On his left chest, he received the 1951 Taegeuk Military Merit Medal, Ulchi/Chungmu Medal, U.S. Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit, The Bronze Star and a number of foreign decorations are worn to the right below the major medal. Kim Jong-oh's formal attire, the director of the National Cemetery, is believed to be the same as the one worn in the photo on the left, but the minor formal attire on the left chest has been replaced with a miniature medal. Lastly, Sergeant Lee Myung-soo has been wearing the red badge of the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal, formal uniform and department badge, and numerous military service medals, badges, and merit badges since 1973. In cases like these, while the method of wearing medals stipulated in the law is generally followed, large and small differences can be seen in details such as overlapping uniforms, the position of the commander, and the number of minor suits per row.

3. Taegeuk Military Service Medal award status and medal number analysis

In the case of the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal, the first class among military medals, when analyzing the contents of volumes 1 to 3 of the Taegeuk Military Service Medal (hereinafter referred to as the Order of Merit), there are a total of 387 cases confirmed to have been actually awarded, and the award period is from 1950 to 1987 (excluding crossed out marks, non-awards, etc.). The first award date was General Douglas MacArthur's September 29, 1950, and 76.0% of the total was awarded by 1959 and 91.5% by 1961. The years in which the award ratio exceeded 10% were 1954 (16.0%), 1953 (15.3%), 1961 (11.9%), and 1952 (10.6%). By nationality, the United States accounted for 236 cases (61.0%) and the Republic of Korea 101 cases (26.1%), accounting for 87.1% of the total. In addition, the Republic of China accounted for 11 cases (2.8%), the Philippines 8 cases (2.1%), Thailand 7 cases (1.8%), and the remaining countries accounted for less than 1.0%. There are 16 awards²⁴ awarded to the Unknown Soldier²⁵ on behalf of all fallen soldiers and veterans from each country, not as individuals.

By detailed grade according to the classification of the decimal star mark, there are 52 cases of Gold Star, 69 cases of Silver Star, and 225 cases of No Star, and 12 cases are marked as First Class Military Merit Medal. The Taegeuk Military Merit Medal was awarded mainly to generals, and in the case of American generals, who received the most awards, the general was usually awarded the Gold Star, the lieutenant general was awarded the Silver Star, and those below that were awarded the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal with no stars (Na Jong-nam 2021:52-53). In the case of the Korean military, the Gold Star Taegeuk Military Merit Medal was awarded a total of five times: at the general rank, it was awarded to Baek Sun-yeop, Son Won-il, and Won Yong-deok (Lieutenant Generals), and at the non-general rank, it was awarded to Captain Kim Man-sul and the Unknown Soldier of the ROK Armed Forces, who made great achievements in the Battle of Betty Gorge and received the U.S. Distinguished Service Cross.

During this period, the awarding of military service medals by grade is believed to have been in accordance with the “Case on the Standards for Awarding Military Service Medals” (總人 No. 1324) (Ministry of Government Administration 1988:125-127). This standard was sent to the Minister of National Defense in the name of the Prime Minister under instructions from the President's Office on October 11, 1951. To that end, it stated that “the criteria for awarding military medals should be determined based on the degree of each individual’s craftsmanship, but principled standards based on the rank of the craftsman will also be necessary,” and then presented the types of medals awarded by rank.²⁶ About two months later, on December 22 of the same year, revised standards were presented with an additional proviso that the rank of foreign soldiers should be taken into consideration. In addition, revisions to the decoration ordinance are being promoted so that the National Foundation Merit Medal can be awarded instead of the Taegeuk Military Service Medal in cases of outstanding

meritorious service above the rank of captain.²⁷ This standard is in principle and conditions such as the fact that it can be changed and awarded to those with special merit depending on the merits were also added. The specific standards for awarding medals are as shown in <Table 17>. In particular, the second revised standard seems to have been the overriding basis for awarding medals based on rank, which can be found in the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal. According to the bookkeeping proviso, recipients of medals who exceed the standards according to their rank can be evaluated as having achieved outstanding achievements.²⁸

표 17 「무공훈장수여기준에 관한 건」의 세부내용

훈장		1951년 10월 안	1951년 12월 안
태극	금성	5성장군	대장
	은성	4성장군	중장
	무성	3성장군(상)	소장
을지	금성	3성장군(하)	준장
	은성	2성장군	대령
	무성	1성장군	중령
충무	금성	대령	소령
	은성	중령	대위
	무성	소령(상)	중위
화랑	금성	소령(하)	소위 이하
	은성	위관급이하	
	무성		

1955-1959 were recorded, and the recording rate was high until 1960 (285 out of 308 cases, 92.5%). The omission rate of medal numbers is relatively high in 1954 (13 out of 62 cases missing) and 1961 (22 out of 46 cases missing).

The medal award period and the order of medal numbers in the decoration department are consistent, and medal numbers generally follow the award period, but tend to be somewhat irregular. For example, in the case awarded to Colonel Park No-gyu, the decoration number is 2, right after General Douglas MacArthur, but the decoration number is 219, which is considerably later. Regarding this award, there is a record in the decoration department on April 12, 1951 that “First, the medal and medal certificate will be awarded to the bereaved family, and the formal award will be awarded later.” There is also a record on December 6, 1955, that “The formal award (No. 219) will be sent and delivered to the Personnel Department of the Ministry of National Defense.” In addition, there are many cases where physical medal numbers were given that did not match the order of award due to various reasons such as re-issuance. The medal numbers that would have been assigned according to the order of production of the actual medal were actually awarded in a mixed order due to various reasons. Therefore, if the current actual medal number is significantly later than the general order of medal number-time of award in the medal department records, it is highly likely that the medal was retroactively issued or reissued after the award date in the records. In general, there is a predominant tendency to follow the medal award period of 1951-52 for medal numbers 1-50, 1952-1953 for medals 51-100, 1953 for 101-150, 1954 for 151-200, and 1954-1955 for medals 201-220. In terms of quantity, compared to the concentrated number of medals issued, subsequent medal numbers are irregular and do not match the timing of award.

표 18 훈장부 기록과 실물의 훈장번호 대조

수여자(종류)	수여일	훈장번호	
		훈장부	실물
손원일(일등)	1951.10.30.	1	1
백선엽(일등)	1951.7.26.	7	7
최용남(일등)	1951.10.30.	13	13
Blackshear M. Bryan (무성)	1951.12.9. 1953.10.1. (재교부)	44	44
백선엽(금성)	1953.4.5.	100	100
안신(무성)	1953.8.27.	143	93
김경진(무성)	1954.6.25.	191	183
이준식(무성)	1954.7.6.	258	258
국군무명용사(금성)	1961.6.6.		275
Albert T. Willson Jr(무성)	1958.10.31.	275	

cases. This duplication of medal numbers may be due to the possibility that a previously issued medal was awarded to someone else without actually being awarded, or that a medal with the same number as the previously issued medal was produced and awarded due to an administrative error.

Although there may have been some administrative errors, it is important that the current Taegeuk Military Merit Medal number is recorded in the medal book as it can serve as direct evidence to identify the recipient of the medal.

The decoration number and medal number for each recipient are listed in the medal book. The medal number is recorded on the certificate in a sort of order of issuance, and unless the entire case has been deleted, it is always entered in the medal book. In contrast, the medal number is engraved on the back when the actual medal is issued, and it is believed that it was originally given sequentially according to the order in which it was produced.

The medal numbers listed in the medal book are number 1, which is the earliest and number 362, which is the latest number, but there are several numbers missing in between. Even if the medal is reissued due to loss, etc., a separate medal number is given. There are 309 medal numbers (78 not listed) in the medal department, but there are no cases issued after July 3, 1961. All cases issued in 1951 and

<Table 18> summarizes the currently available medal book and actual medal numbers.²⁹

As can be seen in <Table 18>, when comparing the medal numbers in the medal book and the actual medal for the same medal, there are 6 cases where the numbers match and 2 cases where they do not. If you look up the medal numbers of the actual medals that do not match in the records of the medal department, it is confirmed that both cases belong to other people who received the medals on the same date as the actual medal recipients (Han Shin, Kim Gyeong-jin).³⁰ It seems that there was an administrative error in the issuance. In addition, when analyzing the records of the decoration department, 15 cases³¹ were found in which the same medal number was given for different awards. Including the case of the Unknown Soldier of the Armed Forces - Albert T. Willson Jr (No. 275) in <Table 18>, there are a total of 16 such

IV. Conclusion

This paper is a study that analyzes and examines the ceremonial and current actual items of the Korean Military Merit Medal, which had not been covered in previous research. The results of the study are as follows.

First, the changes in the military service medal ceremony were divided into the ceremonies of October 1950, August 1951, December 1963, February 1967, November 1973, and January 1984 according to the enactment and revision of related laws, and the detailed specifications were examined, while the current actual items of each medal ceremony were investigated and analyzed. In the case of the ceremony held in October 1950, where the presence of the actual object had not been confirmed, the actual object and its collection location were revealed, and in the case of some medals, photographs of the actual object taken in the United States in July 1952 were newly discovered and presented. In addition, in the case of the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal, which is rarely awarded, a photo of the actual item was presented and all information about the collection location currently available online and offline was revealed.

Second, we comprehensively reviewed the characteristics of the changes in the military service medal system that we looked at earlier, looked at the method of wearing the medal and actual cases, and analyzed the awarding status of the Taegeuk Military Service Medal and the medal number of the actual medal. In the 1950 ceremony, four grades and two central designs of the Military Merit Medal were specified, and in the 1951 ceremony, the names of the medal grades were unique, and a central design was specified for each grade. In the 1963 ceremony, the 5th grade Humane Order of Merit was added and the number format for each grade was changed. In the 1967 ceremony, the central design for each grade was unified into a traditional helmet, and in the 1973 ceremony, the medal design was changed while retaining that central design. The above five ceremonies can be divided into Design A, which was established until 1963, and Design B, which was established after 1967, based on the central design.

The wearing of medals was first determined in the “Order Wearing Regulations” enacted in 1955, and later related information was included in the “Awards and Medals Act” in 1963. If we look at actual cases of wearing military service medals, etc., we can see that while the method of wearing medals stipulated in the law is complied with in the broad scheme of things, there are big and small differences in the details.

Through the analysis of the [Taegeuk Military Merit Medal] (Volumes 1-3) held by the National Archives, additional information on the awarding status of the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal that was not revealed in existing research was revealed, while the medal number engraved on the back of the actual medal was examined. From the contents of the decoration book, it can be confirmed that the awarding of military medals for each grade was generally carried out according to rank, which is believed to be in accordance with the “Case on the Standards for Awarding Military Service Medals” enacted at the end of 1951. There are a total of 309 medal numbers listed in the medal book, and they were recorded in cases issued before July 3, 1961. The order of medal numbers generally follows the time of award around 1954 but is often irregular after that. As a result of comparison with the medal number of the actual medal, 6 cases of matching were confirmed, and 2 cases of non-matching were confirmed. It is confirmed. When examining the medal book and the actual medal together, 16 errors were identified in which duplicate medal numbers were assigned to different production cases.

Through the results of this paper, we hope to present standards for accurate identification and management of military medals collected in cultural facilities commemorating patriotism, while also contributing to the expansion of awareness of the heroes who defended their country with their lives.

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A Study on the Regulations and Extant Objects of the Republic of Korea’s Military Decorations

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Abstract

This study examines the regulations and extant objects of the Republic of Korea’s Military Decorations. First, the changes in the regulations were classified into five stages—October 1950, August 1951, December 1963, February 1967, and November 1973/January 1984—according to the enactment and revision of relevant laws. The specifications and schematic details of each regulation were investigated and compared with extant objects. Notably, this study confirmed for the first time the existence and location of the October 1950 regulation medal, and newly uncovered U.S. photographs of medals whose forms had previously remained unverified.

Based on these findings, this study provides a comprehensive review of the regulations and extant objects of military decorations. The 1950 regulation first devised the grades and designs of the medals; the 1951 regulation established unique names for each medal and introduced distinct central motifs by grade. The 1963 regulation added the Inheon Order of Military Merit and altered the ribbon forms by grade. The 1967 regulation standardized grade-specific designs, while the 1973 and 1984 regulations modified the size and design of the medals. The form of medals can be broadly categorized into Design A (through 1963) and Design B (from 1967 onward). The methods of wearing the medals were prescribed in the Regulation on the Wearing of Orders(1955) and the Act on Honors and Decorations(1963), and this study compared those legal provisions with actual cases of wearing the Military Decorations.

In addition, analysis of the Taeguk Order of Military Merit Register preserved at the National Archives provided further information on conferment practices and the serial numbers engraved on the reverse of the medals. The contents of the register confirm that conferment was largely determined by military rank, in accordance with the Standards for Conferment of the Orders of Military Merit enacted in late 1951. A total of 309 serial numbers were recorded in the register, all corresponding to conferments prior to 1962. While the sequence of serial numbers generally reflected conferment dates until around 1954, irregularities became more frequent thereafter. Comparison with extant objects confirmed six matches and two mismatches between serial numbers in the register and medals. Moreover, examination of both the register and extant objects revealed 16 cases in which identical serial numbers were assigned to different medals.

Keywords Military Decorations of ROK, Taegeuk Order of Military Merit, Orders and Awards System, Korean War, Vietnam War
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¹ There are cases where changes in the military merit medal system and some actual items were summarized through contributions of irregular papers by domestic private military relic collectors (Park Jong-rae 2024) and online materials collected by foreign collectors ("Order of Military Merit". Korean Medals. Accessed on November 9, 2025. <https://koreanmedals.com/military-merit>).

The late Sergeant Kim Dong-su, who died in the Korean War, was decided to be awarded the Gold Star Military Merit Medal at the time and handed it down retroactively to his bereaved family in 2022. However, because the medal was produced according to the current ceremony, the star corresponding to the name of the Gold Star was not attached to the medal number (Mungyeong City 2022). The 'Investigation Team to Find Korean War Military Merit Medals' was launched on April 23, 2019, with the enactment of the Act on the Award of Korean War Military Merit Medals, etc. (Enforced on July 24, 2019, revised on January 4, 2022).

² The late Sergeant Kim Dong-su, who died in the Korean War, was decided to be awarded the Gold Star Military Merit Medal at the time and handed it down retroactively to his bereaved family in 2022. However, because the medal was produced according to the current ceremony, the star corresponding to the name of the Gold Star was not attached to the medal number (Mungyeong City 2022). The 'Investigation Team to Find Korean War Military Merit Medals' was launched on April 23, 2019, with the enactment of the Act on the Award of Korean War Military Merit Medals, etc. (Enforced on July 24, 2019, revised on January 4, 2022).

³ Article 1 of the 「Medal Design Review Committee Regulations」 A Medal Design Review Committee is established in the General Affairs Office to respond to advice on the designs of various medals. Article 2 The Medal Design Review Committee is organized with one chairperson, one vice-chairperson, and a few members. Article 3 The chairperson shall be the Minister of General Affairs, and the vice-chairman shall be the Director of Awards and Honors Bureau of the Ministry of General Affairs. The Prime Minister appoints members from among those who have knowledge and skills regarding medal designs. Article 4 The chairperson represents the committee and governs its affairs. The vice chairperson assists the chairperson and performs the duties of the chairperson when the chairperson has an accident. Article 5 The committee shall have one secretary, who shall be appointed by the Awards and Honors Bureau of the Ministry of General Affairs. The secretary is responsible for general affairs under the orders of the chairperson. Supplementary provisions. This Decree shall enter into force from the date of its promulgation.

⁴ Five types of temporary medals, including the cross-shaped Distinguished Service Medal, Major Medal, Special Disabled Veterans Medal, Army Service Medal, and Veteran's Medal, were established along with the design ("Establishment of temporary medals," Dong-A Ilbo, June 26, 1949, p. 2; "Establishment of temporary medals, awarded to soldiers for major service", June 26, 1949, Chosun Ilbo, p. 2), and in the actual awarding ceremony, A total of 28,172 people were awarded, including 24,303 military commanders, 1,860 majors, and 2,009 awards ("May your military service shine forever," Kyunghyang Shinmun, July 16, 1949, p. 2). The actual object of the distinguished service medal can be found in the collection of a foreign military relic collector ("The George Notarpole Collection". Korean Medals. Accessed on November 9, 2025. <https://koreanmedals.com/the-george-notarpole-collection>).

⁵ "Medal design recruitment regulations", September 29, 1949. Donga Ilbo, p. 2. 1. Prepare the original drawing, color drawing, cross-sectional drawing, and exploded drawing of each medal for meritorious service for each grade. 2. Explain the ritual and will regarding the design. go. Eulji Medal. It is a gold and silver award awarded to soldiers with outstanding military skills, symbolizes Eulji Mundeok, and is rated 5th grade. me. Chungmu Medal. It is a gold and silver award awarded to the Navy for outstanding military service. It symbolizes military service and is rated 5th grade. all. Hwarang Medal. It is a gold and silver award given to a military officer for meritorious service, symbolizes Hwarangdo, and is rated 5. la. Order of Fire Medal. It is a gold and silver award awarded to civil servants for meritorious service and is based on the "cow" of Eulpaso, a famous magistrate, and the "castle" of Seongho, a politician, and should fully express the symbolism of the civil service medal and be rated 5th grade. mind. Cultural Medal. It is a gold and silver award given to those who have contributed to cultural development, and it symbolizes cultural significance and is rated 5 (above). Since the "decision on the medal design" was submitted to the 109th Cabinet meeting held on December 13, 1949, and a decision was made to "entrust the decision to an expert," it appears that the design decision through public contest was not made.

⁶ Chinese character expressions such as 厘 (cm), vertical (縱, horizontal), and horizontal (橫, horizontal) described in the original gazette were changed to modern expressions (including Arabic numerals). The original name is written in Chinese characters and is written in Korean for ease of understanding, or in the case of a general name, it is written in Korean only (hereinafter the same).

⁷ <Table 5> Since part ④ is connected to the expression of the four pillars in the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal ceremony in August 1951, it can be thought that the support pillar in <Table 1> refers to part ⑥, but in this case, it becomes unclear which part the four-sided triangle refers to. Considering only the superficial names of pillar and square triangle, it is more reasonable to view the latter as referring to ⑥.

⁸ The Sim Il Medal and the Choi Yong-nam Medal were photographed by the author himself. The Baek Sun-yup Medal is from the General Paik Sun-yup Memorial Foundation 2023:70, and the Son Won-il Medal is from the Naval Academy Museum 1997:139; Quoted from Naval Academy Museum 2009:48.

⁹ '52 in <Table 3, 4, 6> and <Figure 2>. 7. The actual photo of the American Medal of Honor also has the same source. A photo explanation card like the following example is enclosed along with the actual medal. "C-7382. REPUBLIC OF KOREA DECORATION. Taekuk Distinguished Military Service Medal with Gold Star. 4 x 5 transp, Photog: Al Buquor, July 1952, Pentagon Bldg., Washington, D.C. [Navy seal: Reviewed for Military Security, UNCLASSIFIED, 23 DEC 1952(1), Office of the Chief Signal Officer]" (Golden Star Taiji Military Merit Medal). This collection of photos of the Korean Military Merit Medal contains a mixture of the October 1950 ceremony and the August 1951 ceremony. It is unclear whether the medals in the photo were actually awarded, and it is possible that they were delivered to the United States as samples. These photos are valuable as they are the earliest photographs of the original military service medals, and it is unclear whether the originals still exist.

¹⁰ "Korean Army 4th Class Military Service Medal". Uncle Ttotto's Miscellaneous. 2025.7.27. connection, <https://m.blog.naver.com/PostView.naver?blogId=hbt3840&logNo=221667858795&referrerCode=0&searchKeyword=%EB%AC%B4%EA%B3%B5%ED%9B%88%EC%9E%A5>

¹¹ Medal awarded by Kim Woong-soo (July 6, 1954, Unsung, private collection), Hanshin Medal (August 27, 1953, Unsung, No. 93, War Memorial of Korea), Medal awarded by Kim Gyeong-jin (June 25, 1954, Unsung, No. 183, War Memorial of Korea), Luxembourg Unknown Soldier Medal (June 30, 1961). Geumseong, Luxembourg Collection, Source: "Regarding the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal at the War Memorial of Korea's special exhibition 'Luxembourg and the 85 Warriors,' accessed on August 25, 2025, <https://blog.naver.com/laison/223593341158>, Medal awarded to Blackshear M. Bryan (1953.10.1, JR. No. 44, private collection, source: Park Jong-rae 2024:326), recipient unknown 1 case (private collection, silent, source: "Republic of Korea Taegeuk Military Service Medal (Korean War ~ Vietnam War)". Uncle Ttotto's Miscellaneous. Accessed on August 3, 2025, <https://m.blog.naver.com/PostView.naver?blogId=hbt3840&logNo=221783976444&referrerCode=0&searchKeyword=%ED%83%9C%EA%B7%B9>). The medal awarded to Lee Geun-seok currently housed at the War Memorial of Korea is presumed to be a reproduction after verification of the actual item.

¹² One in a private collection (recipient unknown, No. 474, "1960s Taegeuk Military Merit Medal". Cool Breeze. Accessed on August 31, 2025, <http://blog.naver.com/anaheim3/223587473608>), one in the possession of the War Memorial of Korea (unknown recipient, No. 508, 'For display only' engraved on the back).

¹³ In the case of the Wharang Military Merit Medal, the color notation of the number was changed to yellow 3-week 2-yellow 2-yellow 2-yellow 20-week 2-yellow 2-week 2-yellow 3, but there was no change in the actual medal.

¹⁴ According to records, the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal awarded by Kang Moon-bong was awarded in 1954, but it follows the February 1967 format, which can be understood as having been reissued around that time. Although the Wharang Medal awarded to Ryu Jae-moon was awarded in 1970, it follows the 1971 format.

¹⁵ The size of the Taegeuk and Eulji medals (corresponding to the diameter of the formal wear) has been increased by 10 mm and 5 mm, respectively, and the central helmet, carnelian plate, dot chain, Daeseong, and laurel leaf ring have been slightly reduced in size.

¹⁶ The Chungmu Medal held at the Folk Museum has the center part missing, and there is some distortion in the proportions as the original image taken from the side was modified by the author to be in the frontal direction.

¹⁷ Prior to this, the names of the medals of Eulji, Chungmu, and Wharang were already visible in the medal design solicitation contested by the Awards and Medals Bureau of the Ministry of General Affairs through the Dong-A

Ilbo on September 29, 1949 (see footnote 5). At the time, the Eulji Medal was to be awarded to the Army, the Chungmu Medal to the Navy, and the Wharang Medal to be awarded in five grades to military officers who had meritorious service.

¹⁸ The reason for the revision of the 「Proposal for the revision of the Military Order of Merit Ordinance」 dated August 19, 1951 states that “The intention is to revise the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th ranks of the Military Order of Merit into their own unique medal names and to revise the medals in accordance with the order of His Excellency the President to write medals only in Korean.” This confirms the purpose of emphasizing our unique tradition, and the revision of design designs for each medal grade can be understood in the same context. You can.

¹⁹ The reason for the enactment of the "Awards and Medals Act" on December 14, 1963 was stated to be to improve the irrationality caused by overlapping provisions and unbalanced ceremonies among each medal order, and at this time, all medal ceremonies, including the Military Merit Medal, were generally unified.

²⁰ This phenomenon of abbreviating and unifying medal ceremonies is presumed to be due to cost issues in producing them. In a press article in December 1967, Minister of General Affairs Lee Seok-je said that old medals should be exchanged for new medals according to the enforcement of the new Awards and Medals Act, but they were unable to do so due to budget cuts in the National Assembly and supply shortages due to the deployment of troops to the Vietnam War. He appealed that a total of 290,000 medals of various kinds issued before the enforcement of the Awards and Medals Act would cost 2 billion won to exchange them all. He also said that since previous medals had poor plating and easily rusted, efforts were being made to produce medals that would not rust (“Nearly 300,000 medals awarded”, Chosun Ilbo, December 8, 1967, p. 3).

²¹ Unlike the previous rank of medal, which adopted a traditional design, the Inheon Medal has a modern cannon shape and does not match the traditional name Inheon, the posthumous name of General Gang Gam-chan.

²² It is written in the regulations as a badge, and it is thought to refer to the unit commendation worn in the form of a ribbon on the right chest (refer to the badge on the right chest of General Kim Jong-oh's ceremonial uniform, head of the National Cemetery in <Figure 5>), but it is not clear.

²³ The direction of the clothing described herein is based on the direction the wearer of the clothing is looking, and the same applies hereinafter.

²⁴ In Canada and Ethiopia, where there are no Unknown Soldiers, the award was canceled after the decision was made.

²⁵ For the symbolic meaning of the Unknown Soldier, who represents all a country's participants and fallen soldiers after the end of World War I, see Eom Tae-yong 2025:226.

²⁶ Prior to this, the 'Statement of Reasons' in the “Case Concerning the Award for Awarding the First Class Military Service Medal” reported by the Ministry of National Defense to the President on June 18, 1951, reflects the position of the Ministry of National Defense in its attempt to design a Korean-style military service medal system by taking into account the decoration systems of the United States and Japan. The gist of this was to consider the rank system along with the major when determining the level of the medal (Na Jong-nam 2021:42-43). This report provides the basis for awarding the medal to all 18 people who were in the process of being awarded the First Class Military Service Medal at the time, including the number of ROK military combatants and casualties since the start of the war, the medal systems of the United States and Japan, and the number of awards.

²⁷ Accordingly, Article 2 of the Order of Merit for National Foundation, revised on December 22, 1951, included the provision that “a first-class Order of Merit for National Foundation may be awarded to a person who is eligible to receive the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal and whose achievements are particularly remarkable.” This new provision may have been the reason for not retroactively awarding the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal to General Douglas MacArthur after the National Merit Service Medal 1st Class (Lieutenant General) was awarded to General Douglas MacArthur instead of the Taegeuk Military Service Medal in September 1950. In January 2024, the Taegeuk Military Merit Medal in its current form was delivered to the MacArthur Memorial as a result of the South Korean Ministry of National Defense's action following a tip from a private military relic collector (Jong-rae Park 2024:342-346).

²⁸ Recipients of rank or lower based on the medal book entry (in order of award date) include Army Lieutenant Shim Il, First Sergeant Lee Myeong-soo, Army Private Kim Yong-shin, Army Private Hong Jae-geun (before October 1951, when the draft of the "Military Service Medal Award Standards" was drafted), Army Captain Kim Gyo-su, Army Captain Kim Han-jun, First Sergeant Ahn Nak-gyu, Army Private First Class Kim Ok-sang, Army Captain Heo

Bong-ik, First Sergeant Baek Jae-deok, First Sergeant Choi Deuk-soo, and Army Ensign Man-sul Kim, etc., and at the military rank, Army Colonel Park No-gyu, Army Colonel Ham Jun-ho, Army Colonel Kim Yong-bae, Army Lieutenant-Colonel Choi Yong-nam, Navy Colonel Kim Seong-eun (before October 1951), Army Colonel Kwon Dong-chan, Army Colonel Han Shin, Army Major Kim Gyeong-jin, and Army Colonel Jo Jae-mi. Except for Kim Man-sul (Captain Yepyeon), who received the Gold Star Taegeuk Military Merit Medal, all of them were awarded the Military Medal. In relation to the Korean War, the Korean Army's Taegeuk Military Service Medal was awarded a total of 86 times to 74 people (12 decorated twice) (Na Jong-nam 2021:44). Based on the number of people, 12 people (16.2%) received a rank or lower, 9 people (12.2%) received a warrant, and it was awarded to 21 non-general soldiers (28.3%). 46 people (62.2%) are generals, and 7 people (9.5%) are police officers and unknown soldiers.

²⁹ The actual medal numbers were confirmed directly for Choi Yong-nam, Han Shin, Kim Gyeong-jin, Lee Jun-sik, and the Unknown Soldier of the Armed Forces, and for Son Won-il's medal, Naval Academy Museum 2009:48, "Admiral Son Won-il's First Class Military Service Medal (3D printing content)." Cultural portal. 2025.8.30. Accessed at <https://www.culture.go.kr/tradition/traditional3DContentsView.do?seq=3001196&cPage=1&>, the Baek Sun-yup Medal was confirmed by the General Paik Sun-yup Memorial Foundation 2023:70-74, and the Blackshear M. Bryan Medal was confirmed by Park Jong-rae (2024:326).

³⁰ Based on the records of the Medal Book, it is confirmed that the actual No. 93 of the Hanshin Medal was awarded to Kim Jeom-gon on August 27, 1953, and the actual No. 183 of the Kim Gyeong-jin Medal was awarded to Baek Jae-deok on June 25, 1954.

³¹ Medal numbers 17, 42, 50, 54, 59, 60, 101, 105, 143, 166, 194, 200, 257, 339.