



Military Intelligence Service Unit and Individual Awards
(Referencing various resources covering ~900 veterans)*

Unit Awards (Received by MIS linguists)

Congressional Gold Medal	1
Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation	1
Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation	69**
Meritorious Service Unit Plaque	42
Navy Unit Commendation	28
Meritorious Unit Citation	2

Major Individual Awards

Distinguished Service Cross	1
Navy Cross	1
Distinguished Service Medal	3
Silver Star	38
Legion of Merit	33
Letter of Commendation	214
Army Commendation Medal or Ribbon	38
Soldier's Medal	15
Bronze Star Medal	428
Air Medal	9
Purple Heart Medal	56
Combat Infantry Badge	129
Combat Parachutist Badge	3
Glider Badge	1
Good Conduct Medal	268***
Military Intelligence Service Hall of Fame	11
Ranger Hall of Fame	3

Awards from Foreign Countries

Japan's Order of the Rising Sun	6
British Empire Medal	4
3 White Doves, Republic of China	1
Australian Defense Medal	1
Medal of Japanese Emperor	1
Medal of Honor of Liberation Star Award of Burma	1
Legion of Honor Govt of Philippines	1

** This compilation is a work-in-progress as of 31 October 2016 and is based on Seiki Oshiro's list of awards to MIS linguists.*

Please see accompanying narrative, which discusses these awards.

*** Received by MISers from units to which they were assigned.*

**** The GCM number is conservative and is traced to the general orders that have been verified or reported.*



Comments about the MIS List of Unit and Individual Awards

The "MIS Unit and Individual Awards" is based on a sampling of about 900 of approximately 3,000 Japanese linguists who served in the Asia Pacific Theater during WW II. The number 3,000 includes MIS Language School chart (see McNaughton's *Nisei Linguists*, p. 21). The data was derived from research of Army records, publications, MIS veterans organizations, veterans and families. Because general orders were not available to us, there might be duplications. The National Japanese American Historical Society's (NJAHS) review included the Harrington papers (Joseph D Harrington, author of *Yankee Samurai*).

Japanese Americans were banned from serving in the Asia Pacific theater, however, an exception was made for Nisei linguists to translate documents, interrogate prisoners, monitor communications and enter caves to persuade Japanese soldiers and civilians to surrender. They were assured of humane treatment. Intelligence produced by Nisei helped win battles and save American and Japanese lives. 33 Nisei linguists died in line of duty.

Unlike the Nisei in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team which served in Europe as a unit and could maintain centralized unit records, the MIS personnel served in small numbers for brief periods of time in any unit which needed Japanese language support. Some commanders viewed their linguistic support passively, other commanders recognized Nisei contributions with combat awards. There was no procedure or requirement to report these individual awards to a central office.

This sampling of MIS Individual awards 1) illustrates the number of Nisei who were engaged in front line duties; 2) demonstrates Nisei willingness to fight soldiers of their parent's homeland, the acid test of loyalty to their nation; and 3) reflects Caucasian soldiers' change of attitude from total hatred of all ethnic Japanese, including Nisei, to total endorsement of Nisei loyalty.

This MIS List of Unit and Individual Awards, a work in progress (WIP), is a tribute to the men and women who served as Japanese linguists during WW II. For questions or comments, please contact Rosalyn Tonai [Rosalyn@njahs.org], Metta Tanikawa [ms.tanikawa@gmail.com] or Terry Shima [ttshima946@gmail.com].