From: DMS MILITARY AWARDS BR(uc)
Sent: 16:57:39 06/28/2005
To: 'CFLCC INTEL CAMP ARIFJAN KU'; 'MNF-I C2X BAGHDAD IZ'; 'DA ARMY STAFF(uc) (DA ARMY STAFF(uc))'; 'AIG 7406 (AIG 7406)'; 'AIG 7403 (AIG 7403)'; 'AIG 7300 (AIG 7300)'
To Precedence: Priority
Cc: 'ARCENT G1 DAC(uc)'; 'MILITARY AWARDS BRANCH(uc)'
Cc Precedence: Priority
Subject: Delegation of Combat Action Badge (CAB) Approval Authority
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A. AR 600-8-22, Military Awards, dated 25 Feb 95

B. HQDA Letter 600-05-1, Changes to the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Combat Medical Badge and the Establishment of the Combat Action Badge, date 3 Jun 05.

C. DMS Message, SUBJ: Combat Action Badge (CAB) - Processing Procedures, dated 3 Jun 05.

D. DA Memo 600-8-22, Award of the Legion of Merit and Lesser Awards for Service, Achievement, or Retirement During Peacetime, dated 9 Jul 01.

1. The purpose of this message is to announce changes to the CAB approval authority. This message supersedes REF C, DMS message, dated 3 June 2005.

2. Based on the thousands of Soldiers who potentially qualify for the CAB and the mandate to ensure their timely recognition, the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) has further delegated to all Army Major General (MG) commanders and above authority to retroactively award the CAB to U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to their command. Approval authority is also extended to Brigadier Generals (Promotable) serving in MG commander positions and heads (MG and above) of principle HQDA agencies currently possessing award approval authority as outlined in Table 3-2, REF A and Table 1 of REF D. This authority will not be further delegated.

3. This delegation of authority is effective immediately. It will be reviewed regularly and automatically terminate on 29 June 2006.

4. Subsequent to 18 Sep 01 retroactive awards of the CAB may be made to individuals who meet the criteria listed in paragraph 5 below. Authority is a follows:

a. Soldiers currently in the theater of operations. MG commanders and above are responsible for approving all CAB requests for Soldiers currently assigned or attached to their command, regardless if the Soldier was assigned to their command at the time of the qualifying action.

b. Soldiers outside of the theater of operations (Active Component/USAR/ARNG). MG commanders and above, and heads of principle HQDA agencies, are responsible for approving all CAB requests for Soldiers currently assigned or attached to their command/agency, regardless if the Soldier was assigned to their command/agency at the time of the qualifying action. Those Army Joint Forces Commanders (State Adjutants General) who are federally recognized in the Army National Guard of the U.S. as MGs may award the CAB to those Army National Guard Soldiers within their state that meet the criteria. All others will be forwarded to the Chief, National Guard Bureau (C, NGB), (ATTN: NGB-ARZ) for consideration.

c. For Veterans/Individual Ready Reserve/Members of the Other Services/Foreign Military Personnel. For the purpose of award of the CAB, veterans is defined as "separated or retired and meets the character of service requirements outlined in paragraph 1-16, REF A." Requests for CABs will be forwarded to USA HRC (ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA) for consideration. Requests should be submitted on a DA Form 4187 and must include the following: deployment orders; copy of the Soldier's Officer Records Brief (ORB), Enlisted Records Brief (ERB), or DA Form 2-1; a narrative description of qualifying incident; certified copy of DD Form 214 (if applicable); and supporting documentation (examples include: official unit reports, casualty report, line of duty investigation, two or more eyewitness statements from Soldiers who participated in same ground combat action, or previously awarded Purple Heart orders (if applicable)).

5. The criteria for the CAB remains as stated in REF B.

(a) May be awarded to any Soldier.

(b) Soldier must be performing assigned duties in an area where Hostile Fire Pay or Imminent Danger Pay is authorized.

(c) Soldier must be personally present and actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy, and performing satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement. (For the purpose of awarding the CAB, attacks by mortars, rockets, rocket-propelled grenades, improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers, or other projectiles qualify for the badge.)

(d) Soldier must not be assigned/attached to a unit that would qualify the Soldier for the CIB/CMB. (For example, an 11B assigned to Corps staff is eligible for award of the CAB. However, an 11B assigned to an infantry battalion is not eligible for award of the CAB.)

6. IAW paragraph 1-44, REF A, commanders will submit requisitions for available badges through normal supply channels. The projected date of availability for the badge is late summer/early fall 2005. The NSN has not been established as of this message.

7. Combat Badges will be announced in permanent orders. Authorized abbreviation used to annotate ORB/ERB and the DA Form 2-1 are as follows:

DECODE	DATA CODE	DA FORM, 2-1/ORB/ERB
CAB	CA	CAB

8. In order to accurately capture data on the CAB for historical and policy evaluation purposes, the number of CABs awarded must be provided in a monthly report, by component (Active, Reserve, and National Guard). The initial report will be submitted by 15 August 2005, covering the period 3 June 2005 through 31 July 2005, and will be submitted monthly thereafter NLT the 15th of the following month. The report will be forwarded through the chain of command to USA HRC (ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA).

a. For Major Army Commands (MACOMs): Units will forward monthly reports through the command channels to their MACOM. MACOMs will consolidate the reports and forward them to USA HRC (awards@hoffman.army.mil).

b. For Army National Guard: Units will forward monthly reports through command channels and State Adjutants General, to the C, NGB (ATTN: NGB-ARZ). The C, NGB will consolidate the reports and forward them to USA HRC (awards@hoffman.army.mil).

c. For U.S. Army Reserve: Units will forward monthly reports through the command channels to the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve (OCAR) (ATTN: DAAR-ZD). The OCAR will consolidate the reports and forward them to USA HRC (awards@hoffman.army.mil).

d. For Heads of DA Staff Agencies: Forward monthly reports directly to USA HRC (awards@hoffman.army.mil).

9. If you have any questions, please contact the Military Awards Branch at awards@hoffman.army.mil or at DSN 221-8700 or commercial (703) 325-8700. Future updates can be found on the Military Awards Branch website, https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/awards/index.htm.