



AWARDS AND DECORATIONS BRANCH



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Awards and Decorations Branch Mission

- ❑ Manage and execute the Army awards and decorations program to assist Army senior leaders, commanders, Soldiers, veterans, family members and civilians in providing timely, appropriate recognition for acts of valor, exceptional service, and extraordinary achievement.

LAWS & REGULATIONS

- ❑ Executive Orders
- ❑ National Defense Authorization Acts
- ❑ AR 600-8-22, Military Awards
- ❑ DOD Instruction 1348.33, DOD Military Decorations and Awards Program
- ❑ DOD Manual 1348.33, Volumes 1-4, Manual of Military Decorations and Awards
- ❑ AR 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms
- ❑ DA Pamphlet 670-1, Guide to the Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia
- ❑ Foreign Awards: Governed by Article I, Section 9, US Constitution; 5 USC 7342; and Public Law 95-105

U.S. ARMY AWARDS

Decorations listed in order of precedence	Heroism	Achievement or Service	U.S. Military	Foreign Military	U.S. Civilian	Foreign Civilian
Medal of Honor	Combat	N/A	War ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A
Distinguished Service Cross	Combat	N/A	War	War	N/A	N/A
Distinguished Service Medal	War	War Peace	War Peace	War Peace	War ²	War ²
Silver Star	Combat	N/A	War	War	War ²	War ²
Legion of Merit	N/A	War Peace	War Peace	War Peace ³	N/A	N/A
Distinguished Flying Cross	Combat Noncombat ⁴	War Peace ⁴	War Peace ⁴	War	N/A	N/A
Soldier's Medal	Noncombat	N/A	War Peace ⁴	War Peace ⁴	N/A	N/A
Bronze Star Medal	Combat ⁵	War Peace ⁴	War Peace ⁴	War Peace ⁴	War ²	War ²
Purple Heart	For wounds received as the result of hostile action	N/A	War Peace ⁷	N/A	N/A	N/A
Meritorious Service Medal	Combat Noncombat	War ⁹ Peace	War ⁹ Peace	War ⁹ Peace	N/A	N/A
Air Medal	Combat ⁵ Noncombat ⁴	War Peace ⁴	War Peace ⁴	War Peace ⁴	War ⁶	War ⁶
Army Commendation Medal	Combat ^{5, 8} Noncombat	War ⁸ Peace ⁸	War ⁸ Peace ⁸	War ⁸ Peace ⁸	N/A	N/A
Army Achievement Medal	Combat Noncombat	War ^{8, 9} Peace ⁸	War ^{8, 9} Peace ⁸	War ^{8, 9} Peace ⁸	N/A	N/A

PEACE TIME AWARDS APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Commanders & Principal HQDA Agency Officials	May Award	Awarded To
Chief of Staff, Army	DSM and all lesser decorations	All U.S. Army personnel and personnel of other Services (see note 2)
General	LM MSM, ARCOM, and AAM	1. U.S. Army personnel 2. USA, USN, USMC, USCG and USAF personnel and members of Armed Forces of friendly foreign nations in ranks of COL/O-6 and below who are assigned or attached to their organization (see note 2/3)
Lieutenant General	LM MSM, ARCOM, and AAM	1. U.S. Army personnel (except for GO) assigned or attached 2. USA, USN, USMC, USCG and USAF personnel and members of Armed Forces of friendly foreign nations in ranks of COL/O-6 and below who are assigned or attached to their organization (see note 2/3)
Major General	LM (see note 1) MSM, ARCOM, AAM	1. U.S. Army personnel (except for GO) assigned or attached 2. USA, USN, USMC, USCG and USAF personnel and members of Armed Forces of friendly foreign nations in ranks of COL/O-6 and below who are assigned or attached to their organization (see note 2/3)
Brigadier General	MSM, ARCOM, and AAM	1. U.S. Army personnel assigned or attached 2. USN, USMC, USCG and USAF personnel in ranks of COL/O-6 below who are assigned or attached to their organization (see note 2)
Colonel	ARCOM and AAM	1. U.S. Army personnel (except for GO) assigned or attached 2. USN, USMC, USCG and USAF personnel in ranks of COL/O-6 below who are assigned or attached to their organization (see note 2)
Lieutenant Colonel	AAM	1. U.S. Army personnel (except for GO) assigned or attached 2. USN, USMC, USCG and USAF personnel in ranks of COL/O-6 below who are assigned or attached to their organization (see note 2)

WARTIME AWARDS APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Award	Approval Authority	May further delegate	Awarded To
Medal of Honor	POTUS	N/A	U.S. Military personnel
DSC and all lesser decorations	SA or other as designated by the SA	N/A	1. U.S. Army personnel (see note 5) 2. Members of other U.S. Armed Forces in ranks of COL/ O-6 below with the concurrence from the appropriate Service Secretary (see note 3/5) 3. Members of friendly foreign nations in ranks of COL/ O-6 below provided if concurrence is obtained from that Service of foreign government (see note 3/5)
DSC and all lesser decorations	CG of a U.S. Army Force (serving in the ranks of GEN) (see note 1)	SS, DFC and SM to SAC of a separate force in the rank of LTG. DSC and LM may not be further delegated.	1. U.S. Army personnel (see note 5) 2. Members of other U.S. Armed Forces in ranks of COL/ O-6 below with the concurrence from the appropriate Service Secretary (see note 3/5) 3. Members of friendly foreign nations in ranks of COL/ O-6 below provided if concurrence is obtained from that Service of foreign government (see note 3/5)
SS, BSM, AM and ARCOM	SAC and commanders of a separate force serving in the rank of LTG.	MG or BG commanders of separate units may be further delegated BSM and below (see note 2). May further delegate ARCOM approval authority to COL level commanders	1. U.S. Army personnel 2. Members of other U.S. Armed Forces in ranks of COL/ O-6 below with the concurrence from the appropriate Service Secretary (see note 3) 3. Members of friendly foreign nations in ranks of COL/ O-6 below provided if concurrence is obtained from that Service of foreign government (see note 3)
PH	CG of any separate unit and Region Medical Command commanders receiving casualties	N/A	U.S. Army personnel

A formal delegation of wartime awards approval authority is required by Secretary of the Army.

WARTIME AWARDS APPROVAL AUTHORITY (CON'T)

Award	Approval Authority	May further delegate	Awarded To
PUC, VUA, and MUC	As outlined in paragraphs 7-13, 7-14 and 7-15.	The PUC may not be further delegated. The VUA and MUC may be delegated by the SA.	U.S. and foreign allied units (see paras 7-13, 7-14, and 7-15).
Campaign Participation Credit	SAC serving in the rank of LTG or higher (see para 7-18 and figure 7-1)	N/A	Only eligible U.S Army and RC units called to Active Duty.
Assault Landing Credit	SAC serving in the rank of LTG or higher (see para 7-25)	N/A	Only eligible U.S Army and RC units called to Active Duty.
Combat Badges	CG of any separate unit.	As delegated by SA.	See chapter 8 for eligibility requirements for other combat badges. See also table 8-1 on who may be awarded these badges.

A formal delegation of wartime awards approval authority is required by Secretary of the Army.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS AND AUTHORIZED USES

Title of Decoration	Valor Only	Valor "V" device "V" Device	Meritorious Service or Achievement Under Combat Conditions. "C" Device	Remote Combat Impacts "R" Device	Non-Combat Heroism	Other Specific Achievement	Other Meritorious Service
Medal of Honor ¹	•						
Distinguished Service Cross ¹	•						
Distinguished Service Medal			•			•	•
Silver Star ¹	•						
Legion of Merit			•	•		•	•
Distinguished Flying Cross		•	•		•	•	
Soldier's Medal ²					•		
Bronze Star Medal ³		•					
Purple Heart ⁴	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Meritorious Service Medal ⁵				•		•	•
Air Medal		•	•		•	•	•
Army Commendation Medal		•	•	•	•	•	•
Army Achievement Medal			•	•		•	•

¹These awards are by definition valor awards. The "V" and "C" devices are not authorized.

²The "V" and "C" devices are not authorized; The Soldier's medal is only awarded for non-combat heroism.

³The "C" device is not authorized because the BSM is a combat related award and service or achievement under combat conditions is inherent to the medal. All awards for non-valorous achievement or service must satisfy the requirements for personal exposure to hostile action or significant risk of exposure to hostile action.

⁴For wounds received as a result of hostile action. No combat devices are authorized.

⁵The "V" and "C" devices are not authorized. The MSM may be awarded for outstanding achievement or service in a combat zone, combat zone tax exclusion area and areas authorized for HFP, IDP, or HDP if the achievement or service is not combat related. The BSM is the appropriate equivalent level award to recognize meritorious achievement or service under combat conditions.

“C” DEVICE GUIDANCE

- The “C” device is an appurtenance which may be placed on designated individual awards to **denote recognition of meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions**. The “C” device is only authorized if the service or achievement was performed under combat conditions (while the Soldier was personally exposed to hostile action or in an area where other Soldiers were actively engaged), while:
 - ✓ Engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;
 - ✓ Engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
 - ✓ Serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.
- Award of the “C” device is based on the specific circumstances under which the service or achievement was performed. The award is not determined solely on geographic location or unit of assignment, and the award may recognize specific achievements and/or extended periods of service, under the following circumstances:
 - ✓ The unit is operating in a location with delegated wartime awards authority.
 - ✓ The Soldier was personally exposed to hostile action or in an area where other Soldiers were actively engaged. This is not to say the Soldier must qualify for a combat badge. The commander with awards approval authority must consider the totality of the situation and determine if the Soldier performed the service or action(s) under combat conditions, or if they were rendered under relatively safe, non-hostile conditions.
 - ✓ The fact alone that the service was performed in a designated combat zone (CZ) or similarly defined location (areas designated for CZTE, IDP, HDP, or HFP) does not justify award of the “C” device. Because these locations are typically very large and defined by known geographic features and boundaries, not all Soldiers in that designated area operate under combat conditions. Moreover, not all Soldiers in a CZ or similar area serve in roles or perform functions under combat conditions. For example, Soldiers serving in staging areas, some higher headquarters locations, or locations outside the joint operational area may not necessarily be at risk of experiencing hostile action. Such determinations should be made on a case-by-case basis by the commander with awards approval authority.

“C” DEVICE GUIDANCE CONTINUED

- Grade must not be a factor in determining whether the “C” device is warranted.
- No quotas, official or unofficial, will be established limiting the number of “C” devices authorized for a given combat engagement, a given operation, or cumulatively within a given expanse of area or time.
- The “C” device may be awarded with the DSM, LM, DFC, AM, ARCOM, AAM to recognize exceptionally meritorious service or achievement performed under combat conditions **on or after 7 January 2016**.
- Commanders are authorized to award the “C” device commensurate with their delegated wartime awards authority. If a commander has authority to approve the award, and they are operating in a combat zone with delegated wartime awards authority, they may approve the corresponding appurtenances.
- The “C” device is **NOT** authorized for wear on the BSM because the medal itself is defined as a combat medal. By definition, award of the BSM indicates the service or action(s) occurred under combat conditions (while exposed to hostile action, or was at significant risk of exposure to hostile action).
- As a point of clarification, the MSM and BSM are equivalent awards; the BSM is for combat conditions, the MSM is for non-combat conditions.
 - ✓ On or after 7 January 2016, the BSM should only be awarded to recognize achievement(s) or service rendered under combat conditions (the Soldier was exposed to hostile action or was at significant risk of exposure to hostile action during the award period).
 - ✓ The MSM may still be awarded for outstanding achievement or service in a CZ or areas designated for CZTE, HFP, IDP, or HDP, but only if the service or achievement was rendered under other than combat conditions (the Soldier was not exposed to hostile action or at significant risk of exposure to hostile action during the award period). For this reason, **the MSM may not be awarded with the “C” device.**

“R” DEVICE GUIDANCE

- The “R” device is an appurtenance which may be placed on designated individual awards to denote recognition for qualifying exceptional achievements involving hands-on employment of a weapon system or other warfighting activities with a direct and immediate impact on a combat operation or other military operation but from a location where the Soldier was neither personally exposed to hostile action, nor at risk of exposure to hostile action.
- The action may have been performed through any domain while:
 - ✓ Engaged in military operations against an enemy of the United States;
 - ✓ Engaged in military operations involving conflict against an opposing foreign force; or
 - ✓ Serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in military operations with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.
- The “R” device may be awarded with the LM, MSM, ARCOM, and AAM to recognize a specific meritorious achievement **on or after 7 January 2016**.
- The “R” device is NOT authorized on medals awarded for sustained meritorious service (such as end of tour or retirement awards).
- Commanders are authorized to award the “R” device commensurate with their peacetime awards approval authority or delegated wartime awards approval authority for the medals listed above. If a commander has authority to approve the award, they may approve the corresponding appurtenances.

“R” DEVICE GUIDANCE

- The “R” device may be awarded for support of combat or other military operations including Title 10, United States Code, support of non-Title 10 operations, and operations authorized by an approved execute order.
- Examples of hands-on employment of a weapons system or other warfighting activities, performed remotely, without physical combat risk that may qualify for the “R” device include:
 - ✓ Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) weapon-system strikes.
 - ✓ Activities that mitigate or disrupt adversary anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) capabilities (for example, cyberwarfare).
 - ✓ Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) operations.
- Examples of warfighting activities, performed remotely without physical combat risk that do not qualify for the “R” device include:
 - ✓ Headquarters (HQ) military decision making process (MDMP) (operations and/or fragmentary order generation) or support operations from a HQ outside the operational area.
 - ✓ UAV intelligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance (ISR) operations (if such operations did not directly result in an immediate impact on a combat operation or other military operation).
 - ✓ Rear Detachment support operations.

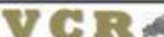
“V”, “C”, “R” Processing Guidance and Device Wear

- Award of the "C" and "R" devices may be made **retroactive to 7 January 2016** to Soldiers previously approved for qualifying awards as follows:
 - ✓ Requests will be made using DA Form 4187 and will include justification for the device along with the original DA Form 638, citation and/or narrative, and other applicable supporting documentation. Combat badges, the Purple Heart (PH), and valorous awards received while deployed are sufficient documentation to support award of the “C” device during the specified period of deployment in which the badge or medals were earned.
 - ✓ When Soldiers are still assigned to the wartime command that issued the original award, the appropriate commander will award the "C" or "R" device as appropriate by amending the original order to reflect award of the device provided the criteria has been met.
 - ✓ When Soldiers are no longer assigned to the command that issued the original award, requests for determination of award of the "C" or "R" device will be processed as follows:
 - ✓ “C” device with the DSM will be submitted to U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Awards and Decorations Branch (AHRC–PDP–A), 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122–5408 or by email to usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-awards@mail.mil
 - ✓ C” device with the DFC and AM will be submitted to the first LTG in the chain of command for determination
 - ✓ “C” or “R” device with the LM will be submitted to the first LTG in the chain of command for determination
 - ✓ “R” device with MSM will be submitted to the first MG in the chain of command for determination
 - ✓ “C” or “R” devices with the ARCOM and AAM will be forwarded to the first Colonel/O-6 commander (ARCOM) or Lieutenant Colonel/O-5 Commander (AAM) in the chain of command for determination
 - ✓ General Officers, Veterans, Retirees, Soldiers without an appropriate Commander in the chain of command, or primary next of kin (PNOK) of deceased Soldiers will submit their requests for award of the “C” and “R” devices for all awards authorized the devices to Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Awards and Decorations Branch (AHRC–PDP–A), but for Veterans, Retirees, and PNOK will include a memorandum instead of the DA Form 4187 along with the other documents listed paragraph 8a above.

“V”, “C”, “R” Processing Guidance and Device Wear

- The order of precedence will be “V”, “C”, “R” when these devices are worn on the same award. As in the case of the “V” device, when multiple “C” or “R” devices are awarded for the same type award, only one of each device is worn on the service ribbon.
- Because award of the “V”, “C”, and “R” devices require specific criteria to be met, only one device may be authorized for the same event or action. For example, you cannot get both a “V” and “C” device for the same valorous action, even though it is under combat conditions. In this case, only the “V” device is authorized.
- The “C” and “R” devices are available for commercial purchase through Military Clothing Sales Stores. The date the devices will be available for requisitioning through normal supply channels cannot be determined at this time.

Army device and oak leaf cluster (OLC) wear

	<u>NO DEVICE¹</u>	<u>1 DEVICE^{1,2,3}</u>	<u>2 DEVICES^{1,2,3}</u>	<u>3 DEVICES^{1,2,3}</u>
1st AWARD		 OR  OR 		
2d AWARD		 	 	
3d AWARD		 	 	  OR  
4th AWARD		 	  OR   	 
5th AWARD		  OR   	  OR   	  OR   
6th AWARD		 	 	 

NOTE 1: IAW AR 600-8-22, para 6-3 “If the number of authorized oak leaf clusters exceeds four, a second ribbon is authorized for wear. When wearing the second ribbon, place it after the first ribbon; the second ribbon counts as one award.” **Wear no more than four accouterments (devices, oak leaf clusters, etc.) on each ribbon.** If the receipt of future awards reduces the number of oak leaf clusters sufficiently (that is, a silver oak leaf clusters for five awards), remove the second ribbon and place the appropriate number of devices on a single ribbon.

NOTE 2: Not all possible combinations of devices and oak leaf clusters are represented. When wearing two ribbons of the same award, Soldiers have flexibility to place OLC on either ribbon. The guiding rules are that the devices are always placed first (in order of precedence “V”, “C”, “R”), and that the number of ribbons + the number of OLC = the total number of awards earned.

NOTE 3: Even if multiple “V”, “C”, or “R” devices have been earned, only ONE of each device is worn on the ribbon.

Army device and oak leaf cluster (OLC) wear (continued)

	NO DEVICE ¹	1 DEVICE ^{1,2,3}	2 DEVICES ^{1,2,3}	3 DEVICES ^{1,2,3}
7th AWARD				 OR
8th AWARD			 OR 	 OR
9th AWARD		 OR 	 OR 	 OR
10th AWARD		 OR 	 OR 	 OR
11th AWARD				
12th AWARD			 OR 	 OR

NOTE 1: IAW AR 600-8-22, para 6-3 "If the number of authorized oak leaf clusters exceeds four, a second ribbon is authorized for wear. When wearing the second ribbon, place it after the first ribbon; the second ribbon counts as one award." **Wear no more than four accouterments (devices, oak leaf clusters, etc.) on each ribbon.** If the receipt of future awards reduces the number of oak leaf clusters sufficiently (that is, a silver oak leaf clusters for five awards), remove the second ribbon and place the appropriate number of devices on a single ribbon.

NOTE 2: Not all possible combinations of devices and oak leaf clusters are represented. When wearing two ribbons of the same award, Soldiers have flexibility to place OLC on either ribbon. The guiding rules are that the devices are always placed first (in order of precedence "V", "C", "R"), and that the number of ribbons + the number of OLC = the total number of awards earned.

NOTE 3: Even if multiple "V", "C", or "R" devices have been earned, only ONE of each device is worn on the ribbon.



INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



TYPES OF AWARDS

- ❑ **Individual Decorations:** For acts of valor, exceptional service, achievement, and/or acts of heroism not involving combat (AR 600-8-22, Chapter 3)

- ❑ **Additional Awards and Decorations include:**
 - **Purple Heart:** Awards criteria, submission, processing of recommendations to include mild traumatic brain injury (Chapter 2).
 - **Combat Badges, Special Skill Badges and Tabs:** Identify combat badges, special skill badges or tabs (Chapter 8).
 - **Units Awards:** Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation & Army Superior Unit Award (Chapter 7).
 - **Campaign Participation Credit:** CPC processing for current era requests that include Kosovo, GWOT, and all designated campaigns in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, and Inherent Resolve (Chapter 7).
 - **Service Awards / Medals:** For campaign participation (Chapter 5).
 - **Foreign Awards:** Governed by Article I, Section 9, US Constitution; 5 USC 7342; and Public Law 95-105 (Chapter 9).

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



- ❑ U.S. Army military decorations are awarded in recognition of **heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service**.
- ❑ **In peacetime**, U.S. Army military decorations recognize achievements which have significantly contributed to the readiness or effectiveness of a unit or organization, or have made notable contributions to the morale or esprit de corps of units or organizations.
 - The decision to award an individual a decoration and the decision as to which award is appropriate are both subjective decisions made by the commander having award approval authority. Awards for meritorious achievement or service will not be based upon the grade of the intended recipient. Rather, the award should reflect both the individual's level of responsibility and his or her manner of performance. The degree to which an individual's achievement or service enhanced the readiness or effectiveness of his or her organization will be the predominant factor.

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



- ❑ **In wartime**, U.S. Army combat and wartime conditions present opportunities and events which lead to award of decorations, service medals and badges to Soldiers. Most of these awards and decorations are inactive until the commencement of hostilities.
- To help meet the demand and to expedite recognition of combat deeds, requests for delegation of wartime awards approval authority commences and upon approval by the Secretary of the Army, is delegated to commanders based on level of command (such as Task Force, JSOC, etc).
- As larger elements or armies are committed, authority to approve higher level awards is granted based on the seniority level of Army commanders.
- Delegated awards authority creates the requirement for additional reporting of approved awards.

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



Recommendation for Awards (DA Form 638)

☐ Who may recommend (para 3-4):

- The recommending official must have been senior in grade or have first-hand personal knowledge of the event, at the time of the action(s) or service, to the individual being recommended for an award. Additionally, the recommending official must have knowledge of all of the action(s) or service cited. That is, the recommending official must have either observed the actions or been provided information by an individual who observed the actions.
- The Army **does not condone self-recognition**; therefore, a Soldier may not recommend himself/ herself for award of a decoration.

☐ Additional Instructions:

- **No preconditions** for an award may be established for example, when Soldiers are informed in advance that attainment of specific goals will result in the automatic award of a given decoration. Military decorations will not be used as prizes in contests.
- **Limiting awards** to a specific number per unit is not authorized.

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



Recommendation for Awards (DA Form 638)

☐ Who may approve an award recommendation (para 3-4):

- Award recommendations submitted to the chain of command must be endorsed by the intermediate chain of command **commanders** (recommend approval, disapproval, upgrade to, or downgrade) to the awards approval authority.
- Commanders that have been delegated downgrade authority for the next lower award of an award recommendation may downgrade and approve the lesser award. For example, a MSM award recommendation that is downgraded and approved by the Brigade Commander for an ARCOM.

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



Processing of Awards (DA Form 638)

☐ Rules for processing awards:

- The **DA Form 638 will be used** to initiate, process, and approve award recommendations of all U.S. Army individual decorations.
- Statutory and regulatory **time limits** apply (2 years).
- Permanent award orders are an authorized part of the DA Form 638.
- Approval authorities for individual decorations are in tables 3–2 and 3–4.

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



Processing of Awards (DA Form 638)

☐ Rules for processing awards (Continued):

- When an award recommendation contains **classified information**, no classified information will be entered on the DA Form 638. Supporting and allied documents will bear a security classification and/or protective markings. The packet will be prepared, processed and protected according to AR 380–5.
- A **separate recommendation** will be submitted for each proposed award of a decoration and only one proposed awardee will be named in a single recommendation.
- **Premature disclosure** of information to the public, or to the individual being recommended for an award is a potential source of embarrassment to recommending officials and should be strongly discouraged.

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



Processing of Awards (DA Form 638)

☐ **Rules for processing awards (Continued):**

- All recommendations placed in official channels must be forwarded through command channels to the designated commander authorized to approve or disapprove the award. Where appropriate, intermediate endorsing officials or commanders may recommend disapproval or comment on the propriety of lesser or higher awards if they do not favor the requested decoration.
- **Each intermediate commander**/supervisor will recommend approval, disapproval, upgrade to, or downgrade to, and cite specific reasons whenever disapproval is recommended.
- Placement in **official channels is defined** as “signed by the initiating official and endorsed by a higher official in the chain of command.”
- Typing the recommendation is not required. However, **black ink** must be used for machine readability.

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



Processing of Awards (DA Form 638)

☐ Rules for processing awards (Continued):

- **Narrative description** of meritorious service or achievement for awards of the MSM, ARCOM, and AAM will be limited to bullet format in the space allowed on the DA Form 638. Narratives are required for all other awards and will be added as an addendum to the recommendation (dedicated tab within the PDF-F form).
- **Heroism award recommendations** will contain statements of eyewitnesses, preferably in the form of certificates, affidavits, or sworn statements; extracts from official records; sketches; maps; diagrams; photographs; and so forth, which support and amplify stated facts for the heroism award.

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



Processing of Awards (DA Form 638)

❑ Rules for processing awards (Continued):

- Properly constituted **award recommendations** will include the following:
 - DA Form 638.
 - Narrative justification as explained above.
 - Proposed citation.
 - Support documents. (Optional for BSM and below)
 - Eyewitness statements in the form of certificates, affidavits, or sworn statements. (Optional for BSM and below.)
 - Records, extracts, sketches, maps, diagrams, and photographs which support and amplify the award of heroism (Optional for BSM and below).
 - Recommendations from all intermediate level commanders.
- Completed AR 15-6 investigation (required for MOH and highly recommended for DSC award recommendations).

▪ **Posthumous valor awards** must always reflect accurately the actual events and circumstances for which the award is being presented. Effective 18 April 2006, prior to taking any action on a posthumous valor award recommendation, the award approval authority must review the completed AR 15–6 collateral investigation, to ensure the accuracy of the awards process. The approval authority must also indicate on in block 26i, DA Form 638 that the completed AR 15–6 investigation was reviewed.

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS

❑ Rules for processing awards (Continued): DA Form 638 Examples (Front)

Recommender prepares
and completes

- PART I

- PART II

- PART III

RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD		
For use of this form, see AR 600-8-22; the proponent agency is DCS, G-1.		
For valor/heroism/wartime and all awards higher than MSM, refer to special instructions in Chapter 3, AR 600-8-22.		
PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT		
AUTHORITY:	10 U.S.C. Chapters 57 and 357, Decorations and Awards; 10 U.S.C. 3013, Secretary of the Army; Army Regulation 600-8-22, Military Awards; and E.O. 6397 (SSN), as amended.	
PURPOSE(S):	To consider individual nominations for awards and/or decorations; record final action; maintain individual award case files.	
ROUTINE USES:	In addition to those disclosures generally permitted under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b) of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, these records contained therein may specifically be disclosed outside the DoD as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3) as follows: Information may be disclosed to public and private organizations including news media, which grant or publicize awards or honors.	
DISCLOSURE:	Disclosure of personally identifiable information is voluntary. However, failure to provide identifying information may delay processing of this application.	
1. TO	2. FROM	3. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
PART I - SOLDIER DATA		
4. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	5. RANK	6. SSN
7. ORGANIZATION	8. PREVIOUS AWARDS	Previous Awards
9. BRANCH OF SERVICE	10. RECOMMENDED AWARD	11. PERIOD OF AWARD
		a. FROM b. TO
12. REASON FOR AWARD		
12a. INDICATE REASON	12b. INTERIM AWARD YES NO IF YES, STATE AWARD GIVEN	12c. POSTHUMOUS YES NO
		13. PROPOSED PRESENTATION DATE (YYYYMMDD)
PART II - RECOMMENDER DATA		
14. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	15. ADDRESS	
16. TITLE/POSITION	17. RANK	
18. RELATIONSHIP TO AWARD	19. SIGNATURE	
PART III - JUSTIFICATION AND CITATION DATA (Use specific bullet examples of meritorious acts or service)		
20. ACHIEVEMENTS		
ACHIEVEMENT #1		
ACHIEVEMENT #2		
ACHIEVEMENT #3		
ACHIEVEMENT #4		
21. PROPOSED CITATION		

DA FORM 638, JUN 2017

REPLACES DA FORM 638-1.
PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF DA FORM 638 ARE OBSOLETE.

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INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS

❑ Rules for processing awards (Continued): DA Form 638 Examples (Back)

Intermediate
Commanders will
endorse PART IV
(use p.3 if needed)

Awards Approval
Authority will endorse
PART IV, block 26

Unit HR/S-1, G-1,
Adjutant will complete
PART V

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		SSN
PRINT ENCLOSURES		
PART IV - RECOMMENDATIONS/APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL		
22. I certify that this individual is eligible for an award in accordance with AR 600-8-22, and that the information contained in Part I is correct.		22a. SIGNATURE
23. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY		22b. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. RECOMMEND: ☐ APPROVAL ☐ DISAPPROVAL ☐ UPGRADE TO: ☐ DOWNGRADE TO:		
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		f. RANK
g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE
i. COMMENTS		
24. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY		
a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. RECOMMEND: ☐ APPROVAL ☐ DISAPPROVAL ☐ UPGRADE TO: ☐ DOWNGRADE TO:		
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		f. RANK
g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE
i. COMMENTS		
25. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY		
a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. RECOMMEND: ☐ APPROVAL ☐ DISAPPROVAL ☐ UPGRADE TO: ☐ DOWNGRADE TO:		
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		f. RANK
g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE
i. COMMENTS		
26. APPROVAL AUTHORITY		
a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. ☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED ☐ RECOMMEND UPGRADE TO: ☐ DOWNGRADE TO:		
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		f. RANK
g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE
i. COMMENTS		
PART V - ORDERS DATA		
27a. ORDERS ISSUING HQ		27b. PERMANENT ORDER NO.
28a. NAME OF ORDERS APPROVAL AUTHORITY		31. DISTRIBUTION
28b. RANK		
28c. TITLE/POSITION		29. APPROVED AWARD
28d. SIGNATURE		30. DATE (YYYYMMDD)

DA FORM 638, JUN 2017

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AFD LC v1.0118

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



Processing of Awards (DA Form 638)

- ❑ **Steps for processing awards:** Excerpt of Table 3-5.

Steps	Who	Required Action
1	Individual	Soldier performs a valorous/heroic act, meritorious achievement or service.
2	Recommender	Completes DA Form 638, Parts I, II, and III. Refer to example provided (dropdowns in block 10 now available for new C and R devices).
3	Recommender	In Part III, will use bullet format for MSM and below for meritorious achievements or service.
4	Recommender	Complete the proposed citation in block 21.
5	Recommender	After totally complete, submit to the chain of command for action.
6	Commander	Forward to S-1/G-1 for verification of eligibility (flagging) data.

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



❑ Steps for processing awards: Excerpt of Table 3-5.

Steps	Who	Required Action
7	S-1/G-1/HR Office	Verify eligibility. If not flagged, sign block 22 and return to commander. If flagged return to commander who will return to the recommender.
8	Commander	Complete block 23 of the DA Form 638 to either approve, disapprove, upgrade or downgrade the award recommendation. One block must be checked. If recommending downgrade/upgrade, ensure is indicated next to the appropriate block. Take final action and complete block 26 if authorized to do so or forward to next higher commander.
9	Intermediate Authority	Complete blocks 24 and 25, as applicable. If the chain is such that more blocks are required, the addendum page to DA Form 638 must be completed.
10	Award Approval Authority	Final award approval authority will complete block 26. If award is approved, downgraded to a lesser award or upgraded to a higher award, forward the DA Form 638 to the orders issuing authority (S-1/G-1 or HR Office) for completion of Part V-Orders data. Also, ensure that para 3-20v is reflected (if applicable).

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



❑ Steps for processing awards: Excerpt of Table 3-5.

Steps	Who	Required Action
11	S-1/G-1/HR Office	If award is disapproved (no award), make copies of the DA Form 638 for personnel records and return the original through the intermediate commander (if any) to unit HR Office and make copies for the recommender, individual, and unit files. Send copy of the DA Form 638 for filing in Soldier's iPERMs.
12	S-1/G-1/HR Office	If award is downgraded, prepare Part V, orders data to include issuing headquarters block, permanent orders number, date and approved award. Prepare award certificate as outlined in Table 3-2 for approval authority to sign. Send a copy of the DA Form 638 for filing in the Soldier's iPERMs.
13	S-1/G-1/HR Office	If award is approved or upgraded, prepare Part V, orders data to include issuing headquarters block, permanent orders number, date and approved award. Prepare award certificate as outlined in Table 3-2 for approval authority to sign. The DA Form 638 and certificate is filed in iPERMs.
14	S-1/G-1/HR Office	Print orders approval authority's name and grade in block provided. Use of signature stamp if authorized.

INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS



❑ Steps for processing awards: Excerpt of Table 3-5.

Steps	Who	Required Action
15	S-1/G-1/HR Office	Sign orders approval authority block (commander designee).
16	S-1/G-1/HR Office	Complete distribution in block 31 of the DA Form 638 using the following example: Soldier (1) iPERMs (1) Unit (1) Files (1)
17	S-1/G-1/HR Office	Prepare the award certificate (see table 3-6).
18	Adjutant or S-1/ G-1/HR Office	Obtain the approval authority's (commander's) signature on the certificate. (Ensure approved DA Form 638 is forwarded to approval authority with the certificate.) Make four copies of each.
19	Adjutant or S-1/ G-1/HR Office	The original certificate and Soldier's copy of the DA Form 638 go into the green award folder for presentation to the Soldier.
20	Adjutant or S-1/ G-1/HR Office	Send one copy of the DA Form 638 (if applicable) and certificate to the OMPF for filing.
21	Adjutant or S-1/ G-1/HR Office	Provide one copy of the DA Form 638 and certificate to the unit for the Soldier's S-1/G-1/HR Office unit file.

- | Steps | Who | Required Action |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 22 | Adjutant or S-1/
G-1/HR Office | File original DA Form 638 in awards orders file of issuing headquarters. |
| 23 | S-1/G-1/HR Office | Submit transaction for entry of award on ERB for enlisted personnel and ORB for officers. |

- ☐ **iPERMS Posting Requirements:** All approved, disapproved, upgrade/downgrade awards will be submitted to each Soldiers iPERMS. Additional information may be viewed on the USAHRC, Army Soldiers Records Branch web site to include required documents at: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Army%20Soldier%20Records%20Branch%20-%20ASRB>

PURPLE HEART



❑ Army Regulation 600-8-22, Military Awards –

- “Each approved award of the Purple Heart must exhibit all of the following factors: wound, injury or death must have been the result of enemy or hostile act; international terrorist attack; or friendly fire; the wound or injury must have required treatment by medical officials; and the records of medical treatment must have been made a matter of official Army records.”*

❑ Executive Order 11016

- “A wound for which the award is made must have required treatment by a medical officer “
- Criteria are otherwise consistent.

PURPLE HEART



❑ The Purple Heart (PH) was established by General George Washington at Newburgh, New York, on 7 August 1782, during the Revolutionary War. The PH is awarded in the name of the President of the United States and per 10 USC 1131, effective 19 May 1998, is limited to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving under component authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after 5 April 1917, has been wounded, was killed, or who has died or may hereafter die of wounds received under any of the following—

- In any action against an enemy of the United States.
- In any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the United States are or have been engaged.
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.
- As the result of an act of any such enemy of opposing Armed Forces.
- As the result of an act of any hostile foreign force.
- After 28 March 1973, as the result of an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, recognized as such an attack by the Secretary of Army, or jointly by the Secretaries of the separate armed services concerned if persons from more than one service are wounded in the attack.
- After 28 March 1973, as the result of military operations while serving outside the territory of the United States as part of a peacekeeping force.

PURPLE HEART



- Servicemembers who are killed or wounded in action by friendly fire. In accordance with 10 USC 1129 for award of the PH, the Secretary of the Army will treat a member of the Armed Forces as a member who is killed or wounded in action as the result of an act of an enemy of the United States.
- A member described in this subsection is a member who is killed or wounded in action by weapon fire while directly engaged in armed conflict, other than as the result of an act of an enemy of the United States, unless (in the case of a wound) the wound is the result of willful misconduct of the member.
- A former prisoner of war (POW) who was wounded before 25 April 1962 while held as a POW (or while being taken captive), will be treated in the same manner as a former POW who is wounded on or after that date while held as a POW (in accordance with Section 521 of PL 104–106).
- Pursuant to 10 USC 1129a, as amended by the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, Section 571, the award of the PH for Servicemembers killed or wounded in attacks by foreign terrorist organizations, the SECARMY will treat a Servicemember of the Armed Forces who is killed or wounded as a result of an international terrorist attack against the United States as stated in 2–8b(6).

PURPLE HEART



- ❑ While clearly an individual decoration, the PH differs from all other decorations in that an individual is not "recommended" for the decoration; rather he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria.
- ❑ Authority to approve or disapprove recommendations for the award for Servicemembers who did not receive a PH while serving in a unit with wartime awards approval authority is the Commander, USAHRC. Although a Servicemember may be deployed, award of the PH for injuries incurred in a previous deployment must be processed through the Servicemembers current chain of command to Commander, USAHRC for approval. The first general officer in the chain of command of the Servicemember recommended for award of the PH for injuries received during a previous deployment may disapprove the recommendation.

PURPLE HEART



- ❑ **Required Documents:** The following documents must accompany each request of the PH:
- DA Form 4187 (personnel action);
 - CoC endorsement (through the first general officer in the soldier's current CoC for soldiers currently serving);
 - Deployment orders;
 - Officer Record Brief/Enlisted Records Brief/DA Form 2-1, 2a, 2b, or 2c;
 - One-page narrative describing the qualifying incident and the conditions under which the Soldier was injured or wounded;
 - Statements from at least two individuals other than the proposed recipient, who were personally present, observed the incident and have direct knowledge of the event;
 - Casualty report;
 - SF 600 (Chronological Record of Medical Care);
 - DD Form 214 (certificate of release/discharge from active duty) (if applicable).

❑ **Reconsideration Authority:**

On request from the Soldier or veteran, Army officials shall conduct a one-time reconsideration of requests for previously denied PH's relating to concussion injuries.

Authority to reconsider Purple Heart recommendations for deployed soldiers who were wounded on their current deployment rests with the **first commanding general** or deputy commanding general in the CoC.

PURPLE HEART



☐ Processing Steps of the PH Cont):

Steps	Who	Required Action
3	Recommender	Completes section I of DA Form 4187. Checks "OTHER" box in section III, adds "Award of the PH" and enters date.
4	Recommender	In section IV, DA Form 4187 (Remarks) enters an explanation of sequences of events, medical treatment facility and disposition of the awardee. **PH DA Form 4187 Template provided on web page.
5	Recommender	Recommender then places signature block and signature in the lower right corner of "Remarks" section IV.
6	Recommender	Attaches all substantiating documents and presents the packet to the Company Commander, OIC, or supervisor (See Required documents).
7	CO CDR/OIC/SUPV	Verifies all data on the DA Form 4187 and the enclosures. Completes missing data.
8	CO CDR/OIC/SUPV	Submits complete certified packet to intermediate commander.
9	Intermediate Commander	Verifies as necessary and endorses action to approval authority.

PURPLE HEART



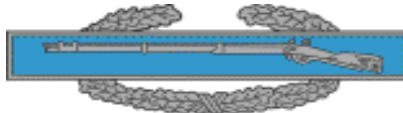
☐ Processing Steps of the PH Cont):

Steps	Who	Required Action
10	Approval Authority	Makes final decision on command endorsement of award of the PH (recommends approval/disapproval).
11	Approval Authority	Notify recommender or recommending commander of the final decision. Issue PH award certificate/orders along with the medal set.
12	Approval Authority	Distribute awards approval or disapproval documents into iPERMS as outlined in AR 600-8-104. Submit an eMILPO or personnel transaction.
13	Unit	Arrange and conduct presentation ceremony consistent with commander's desire.

☐ Approval Authority:

All PH award recommendations that are not processed in theater will need to be approved by the Soldier's current CoC and will be forwarded to Commander, USAHRC, ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408 or sent by email to: USARMY.KNOX.HRC.MBX.TAGD-AWARDS@MAIL.MIL

COMBAT BADGES



COMBAT BADGES



❑ **Purpose:** Awarding of badges is to provide public recognition by tangible evidence of the attainment of a high degree of skill, proficiency, and excellence in tests and competition, as well as in the performance of duties.

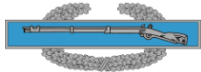
❑ **Popular References:**

- AR 600-8-22, Chapter 8, Military Awards, dated 25 June 2015.

❑ **Popular Links:**

- Combat Action Badge: AR 600-8-22, Paragraph 8-8,
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Combat%20Action%20Badge%20CAB>
- Combat Infantry Badge: AR 600-8-22, Paragraph 8-6,
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Awards%20and%20Decorations%20Branch%20-%20Combat%20Infantry%20Badge%20CIB>
- Combat Medical Badge: AR 600-8-22, Paragraph 8-7,
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Combat%20Medical%20Badge%20CMB>

CURRENT COMBAT BADGE CRITERIA

	Combat Infantryman Badge 	Combat Medical Badge 	Combat Action Badge 
Approval Authority	U.S. Army COL level CDR's and above	U.S. Army COL level CDR's and above	U.S. Army COL level CDR's and above
Personnel Eligible	Army Infantry or SF Officers, Warrant Officers or Soldiers	Army/Naval/and Air Force Medical Dept. personnel	All Personnel
General/Flag Officers Eligible	No	No	Yes
Members of Other U.S. Armed Forces Eligible	Yes	Yes	Yes
Foreign Military Personnel Eligible	Yes	No	Yes
Unit Requirement	Assigned or attached to an Infantry, Ranger, or SF unit of BDE, Regimental or smaller size	Assigned, attached or OPCON to any Combat Arms or Combat Aviation unit of BDE size or smaller	All units
Duty Performance	Personally present and under fire while unit is engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires	Satisfactorily perform medical duties while unit is engaged in active ground combat, personally present and under fire	Personally present and actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy
*Eligibility for CAB (see note below)	Infantry/SF personnel are eligible when serving in non CIB qualifying positions (example would be 11B at Division level)	Medical personnel are eligible when serving in non CMB qualifying positions (example would be 68W serving in a Combat Support Hospital)	N/A

* Currently a Soldier can be awarded both the CIB/CMB and CAB. For example, an 11B/68W assigned to Corps staff is eligible to be awarded the CAB. On a subsequent deployment if the 11B/68W is assigned to an infantry battalion, they would be eligible for the CIB/CMB.

COMBAT BADGES



- ❑ **1st Qualifying Period:** World War II (7 December 1941 to 3 September 1945).
- ❑ **2nd Qualifying Period:** The Korean War (27 June 1950 to 27 July 1953).
- ❑ **3rd Qualifying Period:** Vietnam Conflict and other operations (2 March 1961 to 10 March 1995).
 - Republic of Vietnam Conflict (2 March 1961 to 28 March 1973), combined with qualifying service in Laos (19 April 1961 to 6 October 1962).
 - Dominican Republic (28 April 1965 to 1 September 1966).
 - Korea on the DMZ (4 January 1969 to 31 March 1994).
 - El Salvador (1 January 1981 to 1 February 1992).
 - Grenada (23 October to 21 November 1983).
 - Joint Security Area, Panmunjom, Korea (23 November 1984).
 - Panama (20 December 1989 to 31 January 1990).
 - Southwest Asia Conflict (Desert Shield/Desert Storm) (17 January to 11 April 1991).
 - Somalia (5 June 1993 to 31 March 1994).
- ❑ **4th Qualifying Period:** GWOT Conflict (18 September 2001 to a date to be determined).
 - Afghanistan / OEF (18 September 2001 to 31 December 2014).
 - Afghanistan / OFS (1 January 2015 – To a date to be determined).
 - Iraq / OIF (19 March 2003 to 31 August 2010).
 - Iraq / OND (1 September 2010 to 31 December 2011).
 - Operation Inherent Resolve (15 June 2014 to a date to be determined).

COMBAT ACTION BADGE



❑ **Background:** On 2 May 2005, the Chief of Staff, Army, approved the creation of the CAB to provide special recognition to Soldiers who personally engaged, or are engaged by the enemy. The requirements for award of the CAB are Branch and MOS immaterial. Assignment to a Combat Arms unit or a unit organized to conduct close or offensive combat operations, or performing offensive combat operations is not required to qualify for the CAB. However, it is not intended to award all Soldiers who serve in a combat zone or imminent danger area.

❑ **Personnel Eligible:**

- May be awarded to **any** Soldier.
- Soldier must be performing assigned duties in an area where **hostile fire pay** or **imminent danger pay** is authorized.
- 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.
- Soldier must **NOT** be assigned or attached to a unit that would qualify the Soldier for the CIB/CMB.
- CAB may also be awarded to members of other U.S. Armed Forces and foreign military personnel assigned to a U.S. Army unit, provided they meet the above criteria.

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE



❑ **Background:** The CIB was established by the War Department on 27 October 1943. Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair, then the CG, Army Ground Forces, was instrumental in its creation. The CIB was designed to enhance morale and the prestige of the "Queen of Battle." Then Secretary of War Henry Stinson said, "It is high time we recognize in a personal way the skill and heroism of the American infantry".

The definition of requirement to be "engaged in active ground combat" has generated much dialogue over the years as to the original intent of the CIB. The 1943 War Department Circular required infantrymen to demonstrate "satisfactory performance of duty in action against the enemy." The operative words "in action" connoted actual combat.

A War Department determination in October 1944 specified that "action against the enemy" for purposes of award of the CIB was to be interpreted as "ground combat against enemy ground forces." In 1948, the regulation governing badges stipulated that "battle participation credit is not sufficient; the unit must have been in contact with the enemy." This clearly indicated that an exchange of hostile fire or equivalent personal exposure was the intent of the Army leadership.

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE



❑ **Background (Cont):**

In 1963 and 1965 HQDA messages to the senior Army commander in the Southeast Asia theater of operations authorized award of the CIB to otherwise qualified personnel "provided they are personally present and under fire." U.S. Army Vietnam regulations went so far as to require documentation of the type and intensity of enemy fire encountered by the Soldier. The intended requirement to be "personally present and under fire" has not changed.

❑ **Personnel Eligible:** For award of the CIB a Soldier must meet the following three requirements:

- Be an infantryman satisfactorily performing infantry duties.
- Assigned to an infantry unit during such time as the unit is engaged in active ground combat.
- Actively participate in such ground combat. Campaign or battle credit alone is not sufficient for award of the CIB.

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE



☐ Personnel Eligible (Cont):

The specific eligibility criteria for the CIB require that an officer (SSI 11 or 18) in the grade of colonel or below, or an Army enlisted Soldier or warrant officer with an infantry or Special Forces (SF) Military Occupational Specialties (MOS), who subsequent to 6 December 1941 has satisfactorily performed duty while assigned or attached as a member of an infantry, ranger or SF unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size during any period such unit was engaged in active ground combat.

Eligibility for SF personnel in MOS 18B, 18C, 18E, 18F, and 18Z (less SF Medical Sergeant – 18D) accrues from 20 December 1989. Retroactive awards of the CIB to SF personnel are not authorized prior to 20 December 1989.

A recipient must be personally present and under hostile fire while serving in an assigned infantry or SF primary duty, in a unit actively engaged in ground combat with the enemy. The unit in question can be of any size smaller than brigade.

Personnel with other than an infantry or SF MOS are not eligible, regardless of the circumstances.

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE



❑ Personnel Eligible (Cont):

On or after 18 September 2001, a Soldier must be an Army infantry or SF officer (SSI 11 or 18) in the grade of colonel or below, or an Army enlisted Soldier or warrant officer with an infantry or SF MOS, who has satisfactorily performed duty while assigned or attached as a member of an infantry, ranger or SF unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size during any period such unit was engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires.

A Soldier must be personally present and under fire while serving in an assigned infantry or SF primary duty, in a unit engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires.

Soldiers possessing MOS of 18D (SF Medical Sergeant) who satisfactorily perform SF duties while assigned or attached to a SF unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size during any period such unit was engaged in active ground combat may be awarded the CIB. These Soldiers must have been personally present and engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires.

COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE



❑ **Background:** Originally established as the Medical Badge, the Combat Medical Badge (CMB) was created by the War Department on 1 March 1945. The CMB could be awarded to officers, warrant officers, and enlisted men of the Medical Department assigned or attached to a medical detachment of infantry regiments, infantry battalions, and elements thereof designated as infantry in the tables of organization or tables of organization and equipment. The CMB evolution stemmed from a requirement to recognize medical aidmen who shared the same hazards and hardships of ground combat on a daily basis with the infantry Soldier.

❑ While established almost a year and a half after the Combat Infantryman Badge, the CMB could be awarded retroactively to 7 December 1941 to those fully qualified personnel.

❑ The CMB could be awarded to Medical Department personnel assigned or attached to infantry units of Allied Forces when the duties performed were identical with those performed by medical personnel assigned or attached to United States Forces.

❑ The CMB could also be awarded to U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force Medical personnel provided they met all the requirements of Army medics.

COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE



- ❑ In January 1991, the Chief of Staff, Army authorized a limited expansion of the CMB eligibility to include medical personnel assigned or attached to armor and ground cavalry units provided they meet all other qualifying criteria. This expansion was retroactive to 17 January 1991 to cover the period of Operation DESERT STORM.
- ❑ In March 2004, CMB eligibility was extended to all medical personnel, assigned or attached to any Ground Combat Arms Unit (not to include members assigned or attached to Aviation units). The expansion was retroactive to 18 September 2001.
- ❑ In June 2008, CMB eligibility was extended to medical personnel assigned or attached to any Combat Arms unit. The language “not to include Aviation units” was deleted from current policy. Retroactive to 18 September 2001.
- ❑ The CMB was created as a “companion” badge to the CIB with criteria for its award intended to parallel that of the CIB. It was designed to provide recognition to the field medic who accompanies the infantryman into battle and shares with him the experience unique to the infantry in combat. There was never any intention to award the CMB to all medical personnel who served in a combat zone or imminent danger area, i.e., a division-level medical company supporting a maneuver brigade.

COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE

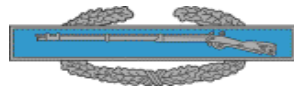


❑ The CMB may be awarded to members of the Army Medical Department (Colonels and below), the Naval Medical Department (Captains and below), the Air Force Medical Service (Colonels and below), assigned or attached by appropriate orders to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size, or to a medical unit of company or smaller size, organic to an infantry unit of brigade or smaller size, during any period the **infantry unit is engaged in actual ground combat** on or after 7 December 1941. Battle participation credit alone is not sufficient; **the infantry unit must have been in contact with the enemy.**

❑ On or after 18 September 2001: Medical personnel assigned or attached to or under operational control of any ground Combat Arms units (not to include members assigned or attached to Aviation units) of brigade or smaller size, **who satisfactorily perform medical duties while the unit is engaged in active ground combat, provided they are personally present and under fire.**

❑ Effective 22 July 2008: Medical personnel assigned or attached to or under operational control of any combat arms unit (includes members assigned or attached to Aviation units) of brigade or smaller size, who **satisfactorily perform medical duties while the unit is engaged in active ground combat, provided they are personally present and under fire.** Retroactive awards under these criteria are not authorized for service prior to 18 September 2001.

COMBAT BADGES PROCESSING



Steps	Who	Required Action
1	Individual/Unit S-1/G-1/HR Office	Completes DA Form 4187, enter address of the authority in the "TO" box, address of intermediate commander in the "THRU" box and parent unit address in the "FROM" box.
2	S-1/G-1/HR Office	Complete Section I of DA Form 4187. Checks "OTHER" BOX IN Section III, adds "Combat XXXXX Badge" and enters date.
3	S-1/G-1/HR Office	In Section IV, DA form 4187 (Remarks) enter an explanation of why the SM is being awarded the particular badge.
4	S-1/G-1/HR Office	Recommender will enter signature block and signature in the lower right corner of "Remarks" Section IV.
5	S-1/G-1/HR Office	Attach substantiating documents and presents the packet to the Company Commander, OIC, or Supervisor. Documents include: - DA 4187 (Endorsed by the first GO) - Two Sworn Statements** - Deployment Orders/Roster** - One Page Narrative** - DD-214 (Veteran's)** - ORB/ERB/DA Form 2-1 (Veteran's)**

COMBAT BADGES PROCESSING (CONT)

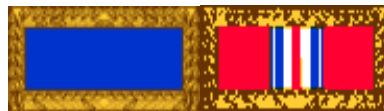


Steps	Who	Required Action
6	CO CDR/ OIC/SUPV	Verify all data on the DA Form 4187 and ALL enclosures/supporting documents for completeness.
7	CO CDR/ OIC/SUPV	Submit complete packet to intermediate commander.
8	Intermediate Commander	Verify and endorse action to approval authority.
9	Approval Commander	Make final decision on award of the Combat XXXXX Badge (recommend approval/disapproval). Recommendation can be submitted as a memorandum or DA 4187.
10	Approval Authority	Retain recommendation at that HQ. Issue Award Elements
11	Unit	Distribute award approval/disapproval documents into official military personnel file as outlined in AR 600-8-104.
12	Approval Authority	Notify recommender or recommending commander of the final decision.
13	Unit	Arrange and conduct presentation ceremony consistent with commander's desire. Submit an eMILPO transaction.

****These documents are required by USAHRC for processing of Combat Badges.**

UNIT AWARDS

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT



UNIT AWARDS



- ❑ Awards are made to organizations when the heroism displayed or meritorious service performed is a result of group effort.
- ❑ Unit awards are authorized as recognition of certain types of service, usually during war, as a means of promoting esprit de corps.
- ❑ Types of unit awards:
 - *Unit decorations.*
 - *Campaign Participation Credit.*
 - *War Service credit.*
 - *Infantry and medical streamers.*

UNIT AWARDS



Presidential Unit Citation (PUC)

- ☐ The unit must display such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign. **The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of a Distinguished Service Cross to an individual.**
- ☐ This award will normally be earned by units that have participated in **single or successive actions covering relatively brief time spans**. It is not reasonable to presume that entire units can sustain **DSC performance** for extended periods except under the most unusual circumstances and a written justification for an exception must be provided for recognition of any length over 30 days.
- ☐ The Secretary of the Army, on behalf of the President of the United States, is the final approval authority for PUC.

UNIT AWARDS



Valorous Unit Award (VUA)

- ❑ The VUA requires a lesser degree of gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps than that required for the PUC. Nevertheless, the unit must have performed with marked distinction under difficult and hazardous conditions in accomplishing its mission to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same conflict. **The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Silver Star to an individual.**
- ❑ This award will normally be earned by units that have participated in **single or successive actions covering relatively brief time-spans**, not to exceed 6 months (a month is considered 30 calendar days). It is not reasonable to presume that entire units can sustain SS performance for extended periods except under the most unusual circumstances. Only on **rare occasions** will a unit larger than a BN qualify for award of this decoration.
- ❑ The DCS, G-1 is approval authority for the VUA. The exception to this is commanders that are delegated wartime awards approval authority by the Secretary of the Army or his or her designee in writing.

UNIT AWARDS



Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC)

- ❑ The unit must display such outstanding devotion and superior performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart and above other units with similar missions. **The degree of achievement required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Legion of Merit to an individual.**
- ❑ Effective 11 September 2001, the MUC is authorized for units and/or detachments of the Armed Forces of the United States for exceptionally meritorious performance for **at least 6 continuous months** (a month is considered 30 calendar days) during military operations against an armed enemy without regard to type of duties performed or the type of unit performing the duties.
- ❑ The DCS, G-1 is approval authority for the MUC. The exception to this is commanders that are delegated wartime awards approval authority by the Secretary of the Army or his or her designee, in writing.

UNIT AWARDS PROCESSING (DA FORM 7594)



Steps	Who	Required Action
1	Unit	Performs outstanding heroism or exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services.
2	Recommender	Completes blocks 1 through 20 of DA Form 7594.
3	Recommender	Enters the address, telephone (defense switched network (DSN) and commercial), and AKO email address of the recommending command in block 1.
4	Recommender	Enters unit point of contact name and AKO email address in block 3.
5	Recommender	Enters unit telephone number (DSN and commercial) in block 4.
6	Recommender	Enters the official designation(s) of the recommended unit(s) in block 5 (refer to AR 220-5 as guidance).
7	Recommender	Enters the UIC of the recommended unit in block 6.
8	Recommender	Checks "YES" or "NO" in block 7.
9	Recommender	Checks "YES" or "NO" in block 8. If applicable, complete block 20.

UNIT AWARDS PROCESSING (CONT)



Steps	Who	Required Action
10	Recommender	Enters recommended award in block 9.
11	Recommender	Enters the campaign or operation (if applicable) in block 10 (for example, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM).
12	Recommender	Enters geographical location in block 11.
13	Recommender	Enters the period covered by proposed award in blocks 12a and b.
14	Recommender	For each recommended unit in the task, lists in block 13 all recently approved and pending unit awards and the dates recognized (for example, ASUA (20021111–20031103); Pending: ASUA (20040704 – 20050712)). If no award(s), state “NO AWDS.” (The date format is YYYYMMDD).
15	Recommender	Completes blocks 14a, b, and c.
16	Recommender	Enters the narrative description (refer to para 7–17i) in block 17. If additional pages are required, continues on 8 1/2 by 11-inch bond paper and encloses as an addendum to the form.
17	Recommender	Enters the UCMJ statistics in blocks 18a, b, and c.

UNIT AWARDS PROCESSING (CONT)



Steps	Who	Required Action
18	Commander/ Supervisor	Enters the proposed citation (no more than 25 lines) in block 19.
19	Personnel Office	Lists all participating units being recommended for the award, along with period of service, UIC(s), and if 65 percent of unit's MTOE strength in block 20. Units not 65 percent will be listed as a "detachment" of parent unit.
20	Commander/ Supervisor/ Intermediate Commander	Completes block 15.
21	Award Approval Authority	Unit award approval authority will complete block 16.

UNIT AWARDS



Campaign Participation Credit (CPC)

- ❑ Army units will be deemed to have participated in combat if they actually engaged the enemy in combat, if they were deployed in a designated combat zone, or if they performed duties either in the air or on the ground in any part of the combat zone at any time during the designated period of the respective battle, campaign, or expedition.
- ❑ For additional information on required documents, submissions for CPC's and status of your request refer to the following web page:

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Campaign%20Participation%20Credit%20CPC>

- ❑ Key issue on submissions is complete and accurate unit information to include all attached units, unit meeting 65% MTOE strength for the period, and correct commander endorsements (Brigade/Task Force Commander and General Officer) from the units chain of command.

CAMPAIGN/SERVICE AWARDS



CAMPAIGN AND SERVICE AWARDS



❑ Service (campaign) medals and service ribbons denote honorable performance of military duty within specified limited dates in specified geographical areas. These medals are awarded only for active Federal military service.

- Afghanistan Campaign Medal 
- Iraq Campaign Medal 
- Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal 
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal 
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal 

❑ All of these Service (campaign) medals and service ribbons require **30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days to be authorized for award** (* less the IRCM, which is now 30 days (consecutive or non-consecutive (MILPER 17-206)).

❑ Orders are not published for service medals, but they are annotated on records by the personnel officer (paragraph 5-1).

❑ Additional information on FAQs: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Awards%20FAQ>

Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Campaign Stars



Liberation of Afghanistan	Consolidation I	Consolidation II	Consolidation III	Transition I	Transition II
11 SEP 01 - 30 NOV 01	1 DEC 01 - 30 SEP 06	1 OCT 06 – 30 NOV 09	1 DEC 09 – 30 JUN 11	1 JUL 11 – 31 DEC 14	1 JAN 15 - TBD

Note: Effective 30 April 05, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM) is no longer authorized to be awarded for service in Afghanistan.

*The ACM is awarded with at least one BSS.

*Campaign Stars are not authorized for periods when the GWOTEM is awarded.

*Campaign Stars are authorized for each Campaign Phase.



Iraq Campaign Medal

Campaign Stars



Liberation of Iraq	Transition of Iraq	Iraqi Governance	National Resolution	Iraqi Surge	Iraqi Sovereignty	New Dawn
19 Mar 03 – 1 May 03	2 May 03 – 28 Jun 04	29 Jun 04 – 15 Dec 05	16 Dec 05 – 9 Jan 07	10 Jan 07 – 31 Dec 08	1 Jan 09 – 31 Aug 10	1 Sep 10 – 31 Dec 11

Note:

Effective 30 April 05, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM) is no longer authorized to be awarded for service in Iraq.

*The ICM is awarded with at least one BSS.

*Campaign Stars are not authorized for periods when the GWOTEM is awarded.

*Campaign Stars are authorized for each Campaign Phase.



Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal Campaign Stars



Abeyance	Intensification
15 JUN 14 – 24 NOV 15	25 NOV 15 – TBD
Note: Effective 30 Mar 16, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM) is no longer authorized to be awarded for service in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.	

- * The IRCM is awarded with at least one BSS.
- * Campaign Stars are not authorized for periods when the GWOTEM was awarded.
- * Campaign Stars are authorized for each Campaign Phase as in MILPER Message 16-129, Implementation Guidance for the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal
- * **IAW MILPER Message 17-206, dated 10 Jul 17, the IRCM will be awarded to each Soldier who, during the period of award, was permanently assigned or attached for 30 days (consecutive or non-consecutive) to a unit operating in the IRCM AOE. This is a change from 60 days (consecutive or non-consecutive), and is retroactive to 15 Jun 14, the effective date of the IRCM.**



Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal Operations



ENDURING FREEDOM	IRAQI FREEDOM	NEW DAWN	NOMAD SHADOW	FREEDOM'S SENTINEL	INHERENT RESOLVE	ODYSSEY LIGHTNING
11 SEP 2001 – TBD (Excludes Afghanistan Effective 31 DEC 2014)	19 MAR 03 – 31 AUG 10	1 SEP 10 – 31 DEC 11	5 NOV 07 – TBD	1 JAN 15 – TBD	15 JUN 14 - TBD	1 AUG 16 – 19 DEC 16

Notes:

- Effective 30 April 2005, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM) is no longer authorized to be awarded for service in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- The GWOTEM is authorized for service in a qualifying area of eligibility in support of OIR retroactive to 15 June 2014.
- Effective 30 March 2016, the GWOTEM is no longer authorized for service in support of OIR in Iraq and/or Syria.

* Subsequent award of the GWOTEM will be denoted with a BSS.

* Bronze Service Stars are authorized for each operation a Soldier participated in MILPER Message 15-084, Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal - Service Star Authorization.



ROUTINE CHALLENGES IN THE AWARDS PROGRAM (AND AR 600-8-22 GUIDANCE / REFERENCES)

- ❑ 10 USC 1130 CASES AND LOST RECOMMENDATIONS (para 1-14 AND 1-15)
- ❑ RECONSIDERATION (para 1-16)
- ❑ CHARACTER OF SERVICE (FLAGGED PERSONNEL (para 1-17))
- ❑ PERIOD OF SERVICE (para 1-18)
- ❑ DUPLICATION OF AWARDS (para 1-19)
- ❑ RECOGNITION UPON RETIREMENT (para 1-23)
- ❑ REVOCATION (para 1-31 AND 1-32)
- ❑ AWARDS TO PERSONNEL OF OTHER SERVICES (para 1-37)
- ❑ U.S AWARDS TO FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL (para 1-38)
- ❑ MILITARY OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL (para 2-23)
- ❑ MSM AND AAM IN COMBAT THEATER (para 3-16 AND 3-19)
- ❑ AIR MEDAL FOR UAV OPERATORS (para 3-17)

ROUTINE CHALLENGES IN THE AWARDS PROGRAM (CON'T)

- ❑ PREPARING THE DA FORM 638 (3-20)
- ❑ ARMY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (CHAPTER 4)
- ❑ SERVICE MEDALS AND SERVICE RIBBONS (CHAPTER 5)
- ❑ OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON (5-4)
- ❑ POSTING OF AWARDS ELEMENTS TO OFFICIAL MILITARY FILES (TABLE 3-5)
- ❑ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
 - AWARDS AND DECORATIONS BRANCH WEB PAGE:
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Awards%20and%20Decorations%20Branch>
 - MILPER MESSAGEs & ALARACTS ARE AT:
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Awards%20and%20Decorations%20Related%20Messages>
 - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Awards%20FAQ>

POINTS OF CONTACT

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Questions?