



Basic Information Required for Retroactive Award of the Combat Action Badge

Basic Criteria:

Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards), Paragraph 8-8

1. Combat Badges are designed to provide special recognition to Soldiers who personally engage the enemy in ground combat or who satisfactorily perform their duties while being engaged in ground combat by the enemy.
2. The Army's Combat Action Badge (CAB) was developed and the criteria refined to answer requests from commanders to recognize Soldier contributions in ground combat based on the battlefield during the Global War on Terror (GWOT).
 - a. The CAB is intended to serve as a companion to the Combat Infantryman Badge and Combat Medical Badge to recognize the greatly expanded role of non-infantry Soldiers in active, ground combat during GWOT.
 - b. The CAB is designed to recognize the non-infantry Soldier, whose daily mission, similar to infantry, is to close with and destroy the enemy. The Soldier must be personally present and under hostile fire while satisfactorily performing his/her combat duties in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement, in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay is authorized.
 - c. The CAB is not awarded to individuals for unit battle participation credit or for deployment to a combat zone. It is intended to recognize an individual Soldier's satisfactory performance in ground combat with the enemy. Additionally, the CAB is not intended to recognize sister Servicemembers (USAF, USMC, USN), who were not officially attached by order to Army units.
3. An award of the CAB is authorized one-time during the GWOT era, regardless of the specific operation. The GWOT era begins on 18 September 2001 to a date to be determined (retroactive awards prior to this date are not authorized).

HOW TO REQUEST RETROACTIVE AWARD OF THE CAB

1. Separated and Retired personnel may submit requests for retroactive award to the Army's military awards branch, to include the following documentation:
 - a. Request memo detailing why the CAB was not authorized by the wartime command (for incidents that took place after the CAB was created on 2 May 2005).
 - b. Personal narrative and sworn eyewitness statement(s), from individuals who participated in the same ground combat action, detailing the specific date of the incident, proximity of the Soldier to the enemy direct or indirect fires (in meters) and whether the Soldier could have reasonably been injured by the blast, detonation or explosion. These documents must not resemble one another in terms of language and description of the incident; the statements must present the eyewitnesses' unique



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first-hand accounts of the Soldier's actions. Generally two statements are required, but if the packet is strengthened by other documents, only one would need to be submitted. Wartime chain of command endorsements are also highly recommended, if not required.

c. Complete legible copies of the DD Form 214 (Report of Separation), Enlisted or Officer Record Brief, orders announcing awards, and any other supporting documentation reflecting the Soldier's overseas unit(s) of assignment and period(s) of service. For example, awards of individual decorations for Valor or an award of the Purple Heart, and unit rosters or unit reports. Requests from separated and retired sister Servicemembers must include Air Force/Marine Corps/Navy military awards branch that an Air Force Combat Action Medal or Combat Action Ribbon has not already been awarded for GWOT.

2. Active Duty, Reserve and NG personnel must submit requests for retroactive award of the CAB to the Army's military awards branch through their current chain of command on a DA Form 4187 signed by a recommender (not the Soldier) and endorsed by the first General Officer (O-7) along with the following:

a. Request memo detailing why the CAB was not authorized by the wartime command (for incidents that took place after the CAB was created on 2 May 2005).

b. Personal narrative and sworn eyewitness statement(s), from individuals who participated in the same ground combat action, detailing the specific date of the incident, proximity of the Soldier to the enemy direct or indirect fires (in meters) and whether the Soldier could have reasonably been injured by the blast, detonation or explosion. These documents must not resemble one another in terms of language and description of the incident; the statements must present the eyewitnesses' unique, first-hand accounts of the Soldier's actions (i.e., they must use their "own words"). Generally two statements are required, but if the packet is strengthened by other documents, only one would need to be submitted. Wartime chain of command endorsements are also highly recommended, if not required.

c. Complete legible copies of the DD Form 214 (if applicable), Enlisted or Officer Record Brief, orders announcing awards, and any other supporting documentation reflecting the Soldier's overseas unit(s) of assignment and period(s) of service. For example, awards of individual decorations for Valor or an award of the Purple Heart, and unit rosters or unit reports. Please note, requests from sister Servicemembers must include documentation from Air Force/Marine Corps/Navy military awards branch that an Air Force Combat Action Medal or Combat Action Ribbon has not already been awarded for GWOT.

3. If you wish to contact the Awards and Decorations Branch, please call (502) 613-9126 (commercial) or 312-983-9126 (DSN).

Do not send (email) classified documents to the Awards Branch team box. Please call us for instructions. For more information to include a link to a sample DA Form 4187, please visit our website at: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Combat%20Action%20Badge%20CAB>