

Basic Information Required for Retroactive Award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge

REFERENCE:

Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards), Paragraph 8-6, 8-7

1. World War II (7 Dec 1941 to 3 Sep 1945)
2. Korean Conflict (27 June 50 to 27 July 53)
3. Vietnam War Era to include Laos, Dominican Republic, Korea – DMZ, El Salvador, Grenada, Panama, Gulf War and Somalia (2 March 61 to 10 March 95)

1. The basic criteria for award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge require that a Soldier hold a qualifying Military Occupational Specialty (11 series, 18 series, or 68 series), be assigned to a qualifying Infantry, Ranger, or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller or a Medical unit which is organic to or attached to an Infantry unit of brigade size or smaller, and perform satisfactorily his/her Infantry or Medical duties while the unit is engaged in active ground combat. Holding a qualifying MOS and being assigned to a qualifying unit cannot be the sole basis for approving a retroactive award of either Badge; documentation indicating the Soldier's satisfactory performance must be provided.

2. Verification of the Soldier's MOS and unit of assignment can be in the form of the Soldier's DA Form 66 (Officer Qualification Record), DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record), DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record), or Orders awarding the Soldier a qualifying MOS and assigning him/her to a qualifying unit.

a. If a Veteran does not possess these documents, a copy of the Veteran's Army Military Human Resource Record may be requested from the National Personnel Records Center at: 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63138-1002.

b. These source documents are required to confirm eligibility for the award and are not justification in and of themselves.

3. Documentation confirming a Veteran's performance of Infantry or Medical duties while his/her unit was engaged in active ground combat can come in many forms.

a. If a Veteran was awarded a VALOROUS individual decoration while holding a qualifying MOS and being assigned to a qualifying unit, the submission of the Order authorizing the award and a copy of the award citation can fulfill this requirement.

b. If no individual valorous decoration was authorized, a signed/notarized statement from the Veteran's former commanding officer, signed/notarized eyewitness statements citing the Veteran's satisfactory performance on a SPECIFIC DATE (two statements are the standard, but only one is required if the packet is supported by other documents), and official military documentation, such as after action reports, S-2/S-3 journal entries, or similar documents, to corroborate the eyewitness statement(s).

c. Unit records for past conflicts are maintained by the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. They may be contacted at: National Archives, ATTN: Textual Reference Branch, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, or via e-mail at: archives2reference@nara.gov. When contacting the Archives, Veterans must provide their full unit of assignment and specifically request unit records for a specific date.

4. There are no special provisions waiving the basic requirement that a Soldier was personally present, engaged and under fire in active combat with the enemy to receive the Combat Infantryman Badge. There are no special provisions waiving the basic requirement that a Soldier was personally present and rendering medical aid while under fire in active combat with the enemy to receive the Combat Medical Badge.

5. Requests for retroactive awards of the Combat Infantryman Badge and Combat Medical Badge will not be made except where evidence of injustice is presented. Requests must include written justifications explaining why the requested combat badge was not awarded in theater at the time of service.

6. This information is provided only as guidance for Veterans seeking retroactive award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge. For more information, please visit the Army Awards and Decorations Branch at:
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Awards%20and%20Decorations%20Branch>

If you wish to contact the Army's Awards and Decorations Branch for further information, please call: (502) 613-9126 (commercial) or 312-983-9126 (DSN)