



# Basic Information Required for Retroactive Award of the Combat Medical Badge

## Basic Criteria:

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

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 Combat Medical Badge (CMB) was developed to provide recognition to the field medic who accompanied the infantryman into battle and shared experiences unique to the infantry in combat.
  - a. The CMB is designed to recognize medical personnel who were personally present and under fire while rendering medical care. So stringent was this requirement that recommending officials were required to document the place (in six digit coordinates), time, type, and intensity of fire to which the proposed recipient was exposed while rendering medical care.
  - b. The CMB is not awarded to all medical personnel who serve in a combat zone or imminent danger area.
3. An award of the CMB is authorized one-time during the GWOT era, regardless of the specific operation. The CMB may be awarded to medical personnel assigned or attached to, or under operational control of any ground combat arms or combat 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.

## HOW TO REQUEST RETROACTIVE AWARD OF THE CMB

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 CMB was not authorized by the wartime command.
  - b. Personal narrative and sworn/notarized eyewitness statement(s), from Soldiers who participated in the same ground combat action, with the specific date of the incident. 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"). Our standard is normally two witness statements, but if the packet is strong without the second, a Soldier can still submit. While not required, wartime chain of command endorsements are also highly recommended.



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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 reports.

2. Active Duty, Reserve and Guard Component personnel must submit requests for retroactive award of the CMB to the Army's military awards branch through their current chain of command (if 12 months have passed since redeployment, or if they are reassigned to a command different from their wartime 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 CMB was not authorized by the wartime command.

b. Personal narrative and sworn/notarized eyewitness statement(s) from Soldiers who participated in the same ground combat action, with the specific date of the incident. 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"). Our standard is normally two witness statements, but if the packet is strong without the second, a Soldier can still submit. While not required, wartime chain of command endorsements are also highly recommended.

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 reports.

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

a. **DO NOT SEND (EMAIL) CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS TO THE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS BRANCH INQUIRY MAILBOX. CONTACT US AT THE NUMBER ABOVE FOR INSTRUCTIONS.**

b. 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%20Medical%20Badge%20CMB>