



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

HQDA Ltr 600-04-3

AHRC-PDO-PA

15 July 2004

Expires 15 July 2006

SUBJECT: Policy Changes to the Combat Medical Badge

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. **Purpose.** This letter announces policy changes to the Combat Medical Badge.
2. **Applicability.** This policy applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard of the United States, and the U.S. Army Reserve.
3. **Proponent and exception authority.** The proponent for this policy is the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1. The proponent has the authority to approve exceptions or waivers to this HQDA letter that are consistent with controlling law and regulations. This will not be delegated. Activities may request a waiver to this letter by providing justification that includes a full analysis of the expected benefits and must include formal review by the activity's senior legal officer. All waiver requests will be endorsed by the commander or senior leader of the requesting activity and forwarded through their higher headquarters to the policy proponent. Refer to AR 25-30 for specific guidance.
4. **References.**
 - a. Required references: AR 600-8-22, Military Awards.
 - b. Related references: There are no related references.
5. **Explanations of abbreviations and terms.** CMB—Combat Medical Badge.
6. **Responsibilities.**
 - (a) The DCS, G-1 will exercise Department of the Army responsibility on matters concerning military awards and will serve as the senior Army official on matters concerning military awards.
 - (b) The Commanding General, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (CG,



USAHRC), will conduct and supervise all military awards functions prescribed in this letter. The CG, USAHRC will act on behalf of DCS, G-1 when so delegated and directed.

(c) The Commandant, Adjutant General School, will ensure that the branch implements this letter.

7. Overview. The following policy changes will be incorporated into the next revision of AR 600-8-22.

8. Combat Medical Badge. On 12 May 2004, the DCS, G1 approved the following changes to the Combat Medical Badge (CMB). Specific eligibility requirements are as follows:

(a) The following medical personnel, 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, are eligible for award of the CMB, provided they are personally present and under fire during such ground combat:

(1) Subsequent to 6 December 1941—Army Medical Department (colonels and below), the Navy Medical Department (captains and below), the Air Force Medical Service (colonels and below), assigned or attached to the Army, who have satisfactorily performed medical duties.

(2) Subsequent to 19 December 1989—Special forces personnel possessing military occupational specialty 18D (Special Operations Medical Sergeant) who satisfactorily performed medical duties while assigned or attached to a Special Forces unit during any period the unit is engaged in actual ground combat, provided they are personally present and under fire. Retroactive awards are not authorized.

(3) Subsequent to 16 January 1991—Personnel outlined in (1) above, assigned or attached to Armor or ground Cavalry units of brigade or smaller size, who satisfactorily perform medical duties while the unit is engaged in actual ground combat, provided they are personally present and under fire. Retroactive awards are not authorized.

(4) Subsequent to 11 September 2001—Personnel outlined in (1) and (3) above, 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 actual ground combat, provided they are personally present and under fire. Retroactive awards are not authorized.

(b) Awards will not be made to general or flag officers.

By order of the Secretary of the Army:

PETER J. SCHOOMAKER
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Official:



JOEL B. HUDSON
Administrative Assistant to the
Secretary of the Army

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