DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

***HQDA Ltr 600-05-1**

AHRC-PDO-PA **3 June 2005**

Expires 3 June 2007

SUBJECT: Changes to the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Combat Medical Badge and the Establishment of the Combat Action Badge

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. **Purpose.** This letter announces changes to the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Combat Medical Badge and the establishment of the Combat Action Badge.

2. **Applicability.** This policy applies to the Active Army, the Army National Guard/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 to this letter that are consistent with controlling law and regulations. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, may delegate this approval authority, in writing, to a division chief within the proponent agency or its direct reporting unit or field operating agency in the grade of colonel or the civilian equivalent. 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

*This publication supersedes HQDA Ltr 600-04-3, dated 15 July 2004.

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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.

(1) AR 600-8-22, Military Awards.

(2) AR 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia.

b. Related references. None.

5. Explanations of abbreviations and terms.

a. CIB—Combat Infantryman Badge.

b. CMB—Combat Medical Badge.

c. CAB—Combat Action Badge.

d. CG—Commanding general.

e. DCS, G-1—Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1.

e. KATUSAs—Korean Augmentation to the United States Army.

f. MOS—Military Occupational Specialty.

g. 18D—Special Forces Medical Sergeant.

6. Responsibilities.

a. The DCS, G-1, will exercise Department of the Army responsibility on matters concerning military awards and serve as the senior Army uniformed official on matters concerning military awards.

b. The Commanding General, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (CG, USA HRC), will conduct and supervise all military awards functions prescribed in this letter. The CG, USA HRC, will act on behalf of the DCS, G-1, when so delegated and directed.

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

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

8. Procedures. On 11 February 2005, the Chief of Staff, Army, approved changes to the CIB and CMB and on 2 May 2005 approved the creation of the CAB. The policies are as follows:

a. Combat Infantryman Badge.

(1) Paragraph 8-6c, AR 600-8-22, is amended by adding the following provisions: On or after 18 September 2001—

(a) A Soldier must be an Army infantry or special forces 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 MOS, who has satisfactorily performed duty while assigned or attached as a member of an infantry, ranger or special forces 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.

(b) A Soldier must be personally present and under fire while serving in an assigned

infantry or special forces primary duty, in a unit engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires.

(c) Soldiers possessing MOS of 18D (Special Forces Medical Sergeant) who satisfactorily perform special forces duties while assigned or attached to a special forces unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size during any period such unit is 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. Retroactive awards under these criteria are not authorized for service prior to 18 September 2001.

(d) Those Soldiers possessing MOS of 18D who qualify for award of the CMB from 18 September 2001 to the date of this letter will remain qualified for the badge. Upon request any such Soldier may be awarded the CIB instead of the CMB. In such instances, the Soldier must submit a request through the chain of command to the CG, USA HRC, ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall St., Alexandria, VA 22332-0471 for conversion of the CMB to the CIB.

(e) Service members from the other U.S. Armed Forces and foreign military (infantry and special forces equivalents) assigned or attached as a member of a U.S. Army infantry or special forces unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size may be considered for award of the CIB. All basic requirements as listed above must be met. Retroactive awards under these criteria are not authorized for service prior to 18 September 2001.

(2) The special requirements for award of the CIB for service in the Republic of Korea as outlined in paragraphs 8-6h(1) through (5) of AR 600-8-22 are hereby rescinded. Army veterans and Service members who served in Korea subsequent to 28 July 1953 and meet the CIB criteria found in paragraph 8-6c, AR 600-8-22, may submit an application (to include supporting documentation) for award of the CIB to the CG, USA HRC, ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall St., Alexandria, VA 22332-0471. Retroactive awards under these criteria are not authorized for service prior to 29 July 1953.

b. Combat Medical Badge.

(1) HQDA Letter 600-04-3, Policy Changes to the Combat Medical Badge, dated 15 July 2004, is hereby rescinded.

(2) Paragraph 8-7c(1), AR 600-8-22, is amended by adding the following provisions:

(a) Subsequent to 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. Retroactive awards under this criteria are not authorized for service prior to 18 September 2001.

(b) Effective the date of this letter Soldiers possessing MOS of 18D are no longer eligible for award of the CMB (see para 8a(1) of this HQDA letter).

(3) The special requirements for award of the CMB for service in the Republic of Korea as outlined in paragraphs 8-7h(1) through (3) of AR 600-8-22 are hereby rescinded. Army veterans and Service members who served in Korea subsequent to 28 July 1953 and meet the CMB criteria found in paragraph 8-7c, AR 600-8-22, may submit an application (to include supporting documentation) for award of the CMB to the CG, USA

HRC, ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall St., Alexandria, VA 22332-0471. Retroactive awards under these criteria are not authorized for service prior to 29 July 1953.

c. Combat Action Badge. On 2 May 2005, the Chief of Staff, Army approved the creation of the CAB to provide special recognition to Soldiers who personally engage, or are engaged by the enemy.

(1) *Intent.* 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.

(2) *Specific eligibility requirements.*

(a) May be awarded to any Soldier.

(b) Soldier must be performing assigned duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay is authorized.

(c) 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.

(d) Soldier must not be assigned/attached to a unit that would qualify the Soldier for the CIB/CMB. (For example, an 11B assigned to Corps staff is eligible for award of the CAB. However, an 11B assigned to an infantry battalion is not eligible for award of the CAB.)

(3) *Other Services and foreign soldiers.* May be awarded to members from the other U.S. Armed Forces and foreign soldiers assigned to a U.S. Army unit, provided they meet the above criteria (that is, KATUSAs in 2d ID).

(4) *Qualifying periods.* Award of the CAB is authorized from 18 September 2001 to a date to be determined. Award for qualifying service in any previous conflict is not authorized.

(5) *Subsequent awards.*

(a) Only one CAB may be awarded during a qualifying period.

(b) Second and third awards of the CAB for subsequent qualifying periods will be indicated by superimposing one and two stars respectively, centered at the top of the badge between the points of the oak wreath.

(6) *Retroactive awards.* Retroactive awards for the CAB are not authorized prior to 18 September 2001. For service on or after 18 September 2001, applications (to include supporting documentation) for retroactive awards of the CAB will be forwarded through the first two star general in the chain of command to CG, USA HRC, ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471.

(7) *Wear policy (see AR 670-1).* The CAB is categorized as a Group 1 badge.

d. Multiple awards. Soldiers may be awarded the CIB, CMB and CAB for the same qualifying period, provided the criteria for each badge is met. However, subsequent awards of the same badge within the same qualifying period are not authorized.

e. Who may award. The CIB, CMB, and CAB may be awarded by any commander delegated authority by the Secretary of the Army during wartime or the CG, USA HRC. Effective the date of this letter, commanders delegated authority to award the CIB, CMB, and CAB may further delegate award authority to commanders in the grade of major general or above. Combat Badges will be announced in permanent orders.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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

Official:

SANDRA R. RILEY
Administrative Assistant to the
Secretary of the Army

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