

**MILPER MESSAGE NUMBER : 08-123**  
**AHRC-PDP-A**  
**AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL AND IRAQ CAMPAIGN MEDAL CAMPAIGN**  
**STARS**  
...Issued: [04/30/2008]...

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A. AR 600-8-22, MILITARY AWARDS, 11 DEC 06.

B. MEMORANDUM, OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, DATED 16 APRIL 2008.

C. DMS MESSAGE, SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL AND IRAQ CAMPAIGN MEDAL IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTION, DTD 25 MAY 05.

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON THE CRITERIA, APPLICABILITY AND STANDARDS ON AWARDING AND WEAR OF SERVICE STARS ON THE AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL AND THE IRAQ CAMPAIGN MEDAL (REF B, ABOVE).

2. SERVICE STARS RECOGNIZE SOLDIERS FOR PARTICIPATING IN DESIGNATED CAMPAIGN PHASES WITHIN THE AREAS OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL (ACM) AND IRAQ CAMPAIGN MEDAL (ICM). SERVICE STARS PROVIDE OUR SOLDIERS WITH TANGIBLE RECOGNITION FOR THE SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS THEY HAVE MADE IN THE SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ.

3. AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

A. AUTHORIZED BY PUBLIC LAW 108-234, DATED 28 MAY 2004, AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 13363, DATED 29 NOVEMBER 2004. PUBLIC LAW 109-163, DATED 6 JANUARY 2006, AMENDED THE BEGINNING DATE FOR OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM AND THE DATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR THE AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL TO 11 SEPTEMBER 2001.

B. CRITERIA

(1) SOLDIERS AUTHORIZED THE ACM MUST HAVE SERVED IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF).

(2) THE AREA OF ELIGIBILITY ENCOMPASSES ALL LAND AREA OF THE COUNTRY OF AFGHANISTAN AND ALL AIR SPACES ABOVE THE LAND.

(3) THE ACM PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY IS ON OR AFTER 11 SEPTEMBER 2001, TO A FUTURE DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

(4) UNDER NO CONDITION SHALL A SOLDIER RECEIVE THE ACM, GWOTEM, ICM, OR ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (AFEM) FOR THE SAME ACTION, TIME PERIOD, OR SERVICE.

C. SOLDIERS QUALIFIED FOR THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (GWOTEM) BY REASON OF SERVICE BETWEEN 11 SEPTEMBER 2001 AND 30 APRIL 2005, IN AN AREA FOR WHICH THE ACM WAS SUBSEQUENTLY AUTHORIZED, SHALL REMAIN QUALIFIED FOR THAT MEDAL. UPON APPLICATION, ANY SUCH SOLDIER MAY BE AWARDED THE ACM IN LIEU OF THE GWOTEM FOR SUCH SERVICE. NO SOLDIER SHALL BE ENTITLED TO BOTH MEDALS FOR THE SAME ACT, ACHIEVEMENT, OR PERIOD OF SERVICE.

D. THE SERVICE STAR IS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR ON THE GWOTEM.

E. SOLDIERS MUST HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED, ATTACHED, OR MOBILIZED TO UNITS OPERATING IN THE AREA OF ELIGIBILITY FOR 30 CONSECUTIVE DAYS OR FOR 60 NON-CONSECUTIVE DAYS OR MEET ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

(1) BE ENGAGED IN COMBAT DURING AN ARMED ENGAGEMENT, REGARDLESS OF THE TIME IN THE AREA OF ELIGIBILITY.

(2) WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AN OPERATION OR ON OFFICIAL DUTIES, WOUNDED OR INJURED AND REQUIRE MEDICAL EVACUATION WITHIN THE AREA OF ELIGIBILITY.

(3) AIRCREW MEMBERS ACCRUE ONE DAY OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EACH DAY THEY FLY INTO, OUT OF, WITHIN, OR OVER THE AREA OF ELIGIBILITY IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY OPERATIONS.

F. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

(1) THE ACM MAY BE AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY.

(2) ONLY ONE AWARD OF THIS MEDAL MAY BE AUTHORIZED FOR ANY SOLDIER.

(3) THE SERVICE STAR IS A BRONZE OR SILVER FIVE-POINTED STAR, 3/16 INCHES IN DIAMETER. A SILVER SERVICE STAR IS WORN IN LIEU OF FIVE BRONZE CAMPAIGN STARS.

(4) ONE BRONZE SERVICE STAR SHALL BE WORN ON THE SUSPENSION AND CAMPAIGN RIBBON OF THE ACM FOR ONE OR MORE DAYS OF PARTICIPATION IN EACH DESIGNATED CAMPAIGN PHASE. APPROVED DESIGNATED ACM CAMPAIGN PHASES AND INCLUSIVE PERIODS ARE LISTED BELOW:

## CAMPAIGN PHASES/INCLUSIVE PERIOD

LIBERATION OF AFGHANISTAN/11 SEP 2001 – 30 NOV 2001

CONSOLIDATION I/1 DEC 2001 – 30 SEP 2006

CONSOLIDATION II/1 OCT 2006 – DATE TO BE DETERMINED

G. PRECEDENCE. THE ACM SHALL BE POSITIONED BELOW THE KOSOVO CAMPAIGN MEDAL AND ABOVE THE IRAQ CAMPAIGN MEDAL.

### 4. IRAQ CAMPAIGN MEDAL

A. AUTHORIZED BY PUBLIC LAW 108-234, DATED 28 MAY 2004, AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 13363, DATED 29 NOVEMBER 2004.

#### B. CRITERIA

(1) SOLDIERS AUTHORIZED THE ICM MUST HAVE SERVED IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF).

(2) THE AREA OF ELIGIBILITY ENCOMPASSES ALL LAND AREA OF THE COUNTRY OF IRAQ, AND THE CONTIGUOUS WATER AREA OUT TO 12 NAUTICAL MILES, AND ALL AIR SPACE ABOVE THE LAND OF IRAQ AND ABOVE THE CONTIGUOUS WATER AREA OUT 12 NAUTICAL MILES.

(3) THE ICM PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY IS ON OR AFTER 19 MARCH 2003, TO FUTURE DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

(4) UNDER NO CONDITION SHALL A SOLDIER RECEIVE THE ACM, GWOTEM, ICM, OR AFEM FOR THE SAME ACTION, TIME PERIOD, OR SERVICE.

C. SOLDIERS QUALIFIED FOR THE GWOTEM BY REASON OF SERVICE BETWEEN 19 MARCH 2003, AND 30 APRIL 2005, IN AN AREA FOR WHICH THE ICM WAS SUBSEQUENTLY AUTHORIZED, SHALL REMAIN QUALIFIED FOR THAT MEDAL. UPON APPLICATION, ANY SUCH SOLDIER MAY BE AWARDED THE ICM IN LIEU OF THE GWOTEM FOR SUCH SERVICE. NO SOLDIER SHALL BE ENTITLED TO BOTH MEDALS FOR THE SAME ACT.

D. THE SERVICE STAR IS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR WEAR ON THE GWOTEM.

E. SOLDIERS MUST HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED, ATTACHED, OR MOBILIZED TO UNITS OPERATING IN THE AREA OF ELIGIBILITY FOR 30 CONSECUTIVE DAYS OR FOR 60 NON-CONSECUTIVE DAYS OR MEETS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

(1) BE ENGAGED IN COMBAT DURING AN ARMED ENGAGEMENT, REGARDLESS OF THE TIME IN THE AREA OF ELIGIBILITY.

(2) WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AN OPERATION OR OFFICIAL DUTIES, WOUNDED OR INJURED AND REQUIRE MEDICAL EVACUATION WITHIN THE AREA OF ELIGIBILITY.

(3) AIRCREW MEMBERS ACCRUE ONE DAY OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EACH DAY THEY FLY INTO, OUT OF, WITHIN, OR OVER THE AREA OF ELIGIBILITY IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY OPERATIONS.

#### F. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

(1) THE ICM MAY BE AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY.

(2) ONLY ONE AWARD OF THIS MEDAL MAY BE AUTHORIZED FOR ANY SOLDIER.

(3) THE SERVICE STAR IS A BRONZE OR SILVER FIVE-POINTED STAR, 3/16 INCHES IN DIAMETER. A SILVER SERVICE STAR IS WORN IN LIEU OF FIVE BRONZE SERVICE STARS.

(4) ONE BRONZE SERVICE STAR SHALL BE WORN ON THE SUSPENSION AND CAMPAIGN RIBBON OF THE ICM FOR ONE OR MORE DAYS OF PARTICIPATION IN EACH DESIGNATED CAMPAIGN PHASE. APPROVED DESIGNATED ICM CAMPAIGN PHASES AND INCLUSIVE PERIODS ARE LISTED BELOW:

#### CAMPAIGN PHASES/INCLUSIVE PERIOD

LIBERATION OF IRAQ/19 MAR 2003 – 1 MAY 2003

TRANSITION OF IRAQ/2 MAY 2003 – 28 JUN 2004

IRAQI GOVERNANCE/29 JUN 2004 – 15 DEC 2005

NATIONAL RESOLUTION/16 DEC 2005 – DATE TO BE DETERMINED

G. PRECEDENCE. THE ICM SHALL BE POSITIONED BELOW THE ACM AND ABOVE THE GWOTEM.

5. SHOULD THE SOLDIER'S INITIAL INCLUSIVE PERIOD OF DEPLOYMENT OVERLAP ONE OR MORE OF THE APPROVED CAMPAIGN PHASES, THE SOLDIER IS CREDITED FOR PARTICIPATION IN EACH APPLICABLE PHASE AND WILL BE ENTITLED TO THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF SERVICE STARS.

A. EXAMPLE: SOLDIER DEPLOYS TO AFGHANISTAN FOR 180 DAYS FROM 24 OCTOBER 2001 TO 13 APRIL 2002. THE SOLDIER IS ENTITLED TO TWO BRONZE SERVICE STARS ON THE ACM FOR PARTICIPATION IN BOTH THE LIBERATION OF AFGHANISTAN AND CONSOLIDATION I CAMPAIGNS.

B. AS PRESCRIBED BY THIS MESSAGE, NO ACM/ICM WILL BE AWARDED TO ARMY SOLDIERS WITHOUT AT LEAST ONE SERVICE STAR.

6. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY: SOLDIERS (ACTIVE DUTY, GUARD, RESERVE, VETERANS) WHO ARE/HAVE QUALIFIED FOR EITHER OF THESE AWARDS CAN REPORT TO THEIR UNIT S-1, UNIT ADMINISTRATOR, OR SUPPORTING MILITARY PERSONNEL DIVISION AND HAVE THEIR CAMPAIGN ENTITLEMENTS UPDATED TO THEIR RECORDS. VERIFICATION OF SERVICE STARS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH SOLDIER. TO CONFIRM ENTITLEMENT, ENSURE SOURCE DOCUMENTATION CAN BE READILY PROVIDED. EXAMPLES OF ADEQUATE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO: SERVICE AWARD, DD FORM 1610 TRAVEL ORDERS, EVALUATION (FORM DA 67-9 OR DA 2166-8), MEMORANDUM SIGNED BY THE FORMER BATTALION COMMANDER, DEPLOYMENT AND REDEPLOYMENT ORDERS (INCLUDING SOLDIER'S FULL NAME), CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION, ETC.

7. SOLDIERS WITH QUESTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS THEM TO UNIT S1 OR SERVING MPD. UNIT S1 AND MPDS WILL VERIFY ELIGIBILITY OF DOCUMENTATION PRESENTED AND UPDATE SOLDIERS FILES.

8. VETERANS REQUESTING CAMPAIGN SERVICE STAR APPROVAL WILL SEND THEIR LETTER OF REQUEST, ALONG WITH A COPY OF THEIR DD FORM 214 OR DD 215 (CORRECTION TO REPORT OF SEPARATION), AS WELL AS SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO COMMANDER, HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND, ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, 200 STOVALL STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22332-0400. EXAMPLES OF ADEQUATE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO: SERVICE AWARD, DD FORM 1610 TRAVEL ORDERS, EVALUATION (FORM DA 67-9 OR DA 2166-8), MEMORANDUM SIGNED BY THE FORMER BATTALION COMMANDER, DEPLOYMENT AND REDEPLOYMENT ORDERS (INCLUDING SOLDIER'S FULL NAME), CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION, ETC.

9. A FOLLOW-ON MESSAGE WILL BE RELEASED AT A LATER DATE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR THE AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ CAMPAIGN STREAMERS.

10. FOR CLARIFICATION OF GUIDANCE PROVIDED, CONTACT THE MILITARY AWARDS BRANCH AT [HRCAWARDS@CONUS.ARMY.MIL](mailto:HRCAWARDS@CONUS.ARMY.MIL) OR VISIT THE WEBSITE AT <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/awards/index.htm>.

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