

CLARIFICATION OF THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AWARD OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

DTG: 101526Z MAY 02
FROM: CDRPERSCOM//TAPC-PDO-PA//
TO: AIG 7406
INFO: ARSTAF

UNCLAS

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AWARD OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

A. MILPER MESSAGE 02-150, DTG 031034Z MAY 02, SUBJ: REINSTATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL.

B. MEMORANDUM, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, SUBJ: REINSTATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL, DATED 26 APR 02.

C. PARA 2-10, AR 600-8-22, MILITARY AWARDS, DATED 25 FEB 95.

D. DOD 1348.33-M, MANUAL OF MILITARY DECORATIONS AND AWARDS, SEP 96.1. NUMEROUS QUESTIONS HAVE SURFACED CONCERNING THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (NDSM). THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE AND CLARIFICATION OF REF A.

2. INTENT. THE NDSM WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1953 WITH THE SPECIFIC INTENTION OF PROVIDING SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO PERFORMED EXTENDED ACTIVE FEDERAL MILITARY SERVICE DURING A PERIOD OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY OR CRISIS. THE MEDAL SIMPLY INDICATES THAT THE WEARER PERFORMED HONORABLE ACTIVE DUTY DURING A SPECIFIED PERIOD WHEN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AS A WHOLE WERE ENGAGED IN OPERATIONS IN DEFENSE OF THE NATION.

3. GUIDELINES. THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES ARE TO BE USED TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARD OF THE NDSM. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS AWARD, THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT, REPEAT, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS PERFORMING ACTIVE DUTY DURING THE PERIOD ON OR AFTER 11 SEP 01 TO A DATE TO BE DETERMINED:

A. MEMBERS OF TRADITIONAL/TROOP PROGRAM UNITS WHO DID NOT SERVE ANY PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY (AD) ON OR AFTER 11 SEP 01 TO A DATE TO BE DETERMINED.

B. SOLDIERS WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY SOLELY IN A TRAINING STATUS (E.G., BASIC AND ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING (AIT), ANNUAL TRAINING (AT), ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING (ADT), ATTENDING SCHOOLS IN TDY STATUS), EXCEPT AS OUTLINED IN PARA 4A BELOW.

4. RESERVE COMPONENT SOLDIERS. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS AWARD THE FOLLOWING RESERVE COMPONENT SOLDIERS ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE PERFORMED ACTIVE DUTY DURING THE PERIOD 11 SEP 01 TO A DATE TO BE DETERMINED:

A. ORDERED TO FEDERAL ACTIVE DUTY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF 10 USC 12301 OR 12304 INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAD AN ACCELERATED, REPEAT, ACCELERATED, ENTRY INTO TRAINING AS A RESULT OF THEIR UNIT BEING ACTIVATED UNDER 10 USC 12304, IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS NOBLE EAGLE AND ENDURING FREEDOM.

B. ACTIVE GUARD/RESERVE PERSONNEL (AGR), TITLE 10 AND TITLE 32.

C. ON ACTIVE DUTY SPECIAL WORK (ADSW) FOR A PERIOD OF 30 OR MORE CONSECUTIVE DAYS. FOR PERIODS OF LESS THAN 30 DAYS ADSW; FOR ARNG SOLDIERS THE STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL MUST VERIFY THAT THE ACTIVE DUTY WAS IN SUPPORT OF PERATIONS NOBLE EAGLE OR ENDURING FREEDOM AND AUTHORIZE THE AWARD. FOR THE USAR, THE FIRST GENERAL OFFICER IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND MUST VERIFY AND VERIFICATION MUST BE IN WRITING. ONE COPY OF THE WRITTEN VERIFICATION WILL BE PLACED IN THE SOLDIER'S FIELD FILE AND ONE COPY WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE SOLDIER.

D. ORDERED TO ANY PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY UNDER AN ACTIVE DUTY TRAINING PROGRAM WHEN THE MISSION OR TRAINING WAS IN DIRECT SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS NOBLE EAGLE AND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. FOR ARNG SOLDIERS THE STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL MUST VERIFY THAT THE ACTIVE DUTY WAS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS NOBLE EAGLE OR ENDURING FREEDOM AND AUTHORIZE THE AWARD; FOR THE USAR, THE FIRST GENERAL OFFICER IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND. VERIFICATION MUST BE IN WRITING. ONE COPY WILL BE PLACED IN THE SOLDIER'S FIELD FILE AND ONE COPY WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE SOLDIER.

5. USMA CADETS AND ROTC CADETS.

A. CADETS OF THE USMA QUALIFY FOR THE NDSM UPON COMPLETION OF THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY AS A CADET. THIS IS GOVERNED BY TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 3075, WHICH DESIGNATES CADETS OF THE USMA AS MEMBERS OF THE REGULAR ARMY.

B. STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE ADVANCE COURSE OF ROTC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, ARE REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN THE USAR FOR ASSIGNMENT TO USAR CONTROL GROUP. ASSIGNMENT IS FOR CONTROL PURPOSES ONLY. ROTC IS NOT CONSIDERED ACTIVE DUTY, CONSEQUENTLY THEY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NDSM.

6. HONORABLE ACTIVE SERVICE. THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES APPLY FOR SOLDIERS FLAGGED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF AR 600-8-2, SUSPENSION OF FAVORABLE PERSONNEL ACTIONS (FLAGS):

A. ANY PERIOD OF HONORABLE ACTIVE SERVICE AFTER 11 SEP 01 QUALIFIES A SOLDIER FOR THE NDSM. CONSEQUENTLY, IF A SOLDIER SERVED AT LEAST ONE DAY ON ACTIVE DUTY ON OR AFTER 11 SEP 01 AND WAS NOT FLAGGED THE SOLDIER IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE NDSM.

B. IF THE SOLDIER WAS FLAGGED PRIOR TO 11 SEP 01, REMAINED FLAGGED THROUGH THAT DATE AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DISCHARGED UNDER OTHER THAN HONORABLE CONDITIONS, OR RECEIVED NO DISCHARGE UNDER AN ENTRY LEVEL TRAINEE PROGRAM (CHAPTER 11, AR 635-200), HE/SHE IS NOT, REPEAT, NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NDSM.

C. COMMANDERS DETERMINE THE STATUS OF A SOLDIER'S SERVICE, HONORABLE OR OTHERWISE. QUESTIONABLE CASES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO A SOLDIER'S IMMEDIATE COMMANDER FOR DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.

7. BASIC COMBAT TRAINING AND ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING. THE POINT AT WHICH TRAINEES IN BASIC COMBAT TRAINING AND ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE NDSM WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE TRADOC COMMANDER.

8. EXPANDED CRITERIA. EXECUTIVE ORDER (EO) 12776 DATED 18 OCT 91, EXPANDED THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE NDSM THAT ALLOWED IT TO BE AWARDED TO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COMPONENTS WHO WERE PART OF THE SELECTED RESERVE IN GOOD STANDING FOR THE PERIOD 2 AUG 90 TO 30 NOV 95. THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IS WORKING TO GET A NEW EO AND A REVISED SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MEMORANDUM THAT WOULD ALLOW THE SAME FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ON ACTIVE DUTY ON OR AFTER 11 SEP 01. IF APPROVED, A SEPARATE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AND POSTED TO THE AWARDS BRANCH HOMEPAGE.

9. SUBSEQUENT AWARDS.

A. THERE ARE NOW FOUR (4) INCLUSIVE QUALIFYING PERIODS FOR AWARD OF THE NDSM:

(1) KOREAN WAR ERA, 27 JUN 50 TO 27 JUL 54.

(2) VIETNAM ERA, 1 JAN 61 TO 14 AUG 74.

(3) PERSIAN GULF WAR ERA, 2 AUG 90 TO 30 NOV 95.

(4) ON OR AFTER 11 SEP 01 TO A DATE TO BE DETERMINED.

B. A BRONZE SERVICE STAR WILL BE WORN ON THE SUSPENSION AND SERVICE RIBBON OF THE NDSM BY SOLDIERS WHO EARNED THE MEDAL DURING TWO DIFFERENT PERIODS OF ELIGIBILITY. FOR EXAMPLE, A SOLDIER WHO SERVED DURING THE PERSIAN GULF WAR ERA AND WAS ON ACTIVE DUTY ON OR AFTER 11 SEP 01 TO A DATE TO BE DETERMINED WOULD WEAR ONE (1) BRONZE SERVICE STAR ON THE SUSPENSION AND SERVICE RIBBON OF THE NDSM (THE RIBBON DENOTES ONE AND THE BRONZE SERVICE STAR DENOTES A SECOND AWARD); A SOLDIER WHO SERVED DURING THE VIETNAM ERA, PERSIAN GULF WAR ERA AND WAS ON ACTIVE DUTY ON OR AFTER 11 SEP 01 TO A DATE TO BE DETERMINED WOULD WEAR THE RIBBON AND TWO BRONZE SERVICE STARS ON THE SUSPENSION AND SERVICE RIBBON OF THE NDSM (THE RIBBON DENOTES ONE AND THE 2 BRONZE SERVICE STARS DENOTE TWO ADDITIONAL AWARDS).

10. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE. THE NDSM IS WORN AFTER THE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL AND BEFORE THE ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL, OR THE SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL OR THE KOSOVO CAMPAIGN MEDAL OR THE ARMED FORCES SERVICE MEDAL OR THE HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL OR THE MILITARY OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL, DEPENDING ON

11. RETIREES AND VETERANS. RETIREES AND VETERANS WHO WERE ON ACTIVE DUTY ON OR AFTER 11 SEP 01 AND PRIOR TO A DATE TO BE DETERMINED AND HAVE SINCE RETIRED OR SEPARATED FROM THE ARMY MAY SUBMIT WRITTEN REQUEST FOR AWARD OF THE NDSM TO THE NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER (NPRC), 9700 PAGE AVENUE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63132-5100. INFORMATION ABOUT THE NPRC CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THEIR WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.NARA.GOV/REGIONAL/MPRAWR.HTML](http://www.nara.gov/regional/mprawr.html)

12. ONLY MACOMS AND PRINCIPAL HQDA AGENCIES MAY CONTACT HQ, PERSCOM FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE. INSTALLATION/FIELD AGENCIES AND SOLDIERS MUST CONTACT THEIR RESPECTIVE MACOM OR PERSONNEL SERVICES BATTALIONS FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND ARMY RESERVE PERSONNEL SHOULD CONTACT HEADQUARTERS, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU AND THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, ARMY RESERVES.

13. FOR AIG 7406, REQUEST WIDEST DISSEMINATION OF THIS MESSAGE.

USAWOA online 6/7/02

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