The Adjutant General Directorate (TAGD)

Awards and Decorations Branch - Combat Infantry Badge CIB

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB)

References:
- AR 600-8-22, Military Awards, Chapter 8.
- AR 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia.
- Sample DA Form 4187 provided in the Awards Templates.

If there are any awards related questions, email the Awards and Decorations Branch.

Background:

The Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) was established by the War Department on 27 October 1943. Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair, then the Army Ground Forces commanding general, was instrumental in its creation. He originally recommended that it be called the "fighter badge." The CIB was designed to enhance morale and the prestige of the "Queen of Battle." Then Secretary of War Henry Stinson said, "It is high time we recognize in a personal way the skill and heroism of the American infantry." Originally, the Regimental Commander was the lowest level at which the CIB could be approved and its award was retroactive to 7 December 1941. There was a separate provision for badge holders to receive a $10 per month pay stipend, which was rescinded in 1948. From the beginning, Army leaders have taken care to retain the badge for the unique purpose for which it was established and to prevent the adoption of any other badge which would lower its prestige. At the close of World War II, our largest war in which the armor and artillery played key roles in the ground campaigns, a review was conducted of the CIB criteria with consideration being given to creating either additional badges or authorizing the badge to cavalry and armor units. The review noted that any change in policy would detract from the prestige of the badge.

The definition of requirement to be "engaged in active ground combat" has generated much dialog over the years as to the original intent of the CIB. The 1943 War Department Circular required infantrymen to demonstrate "satisfactory performance of duty in action against the enemy." The operative words "in action" connoted actual combat. A War Department determination in October 1944 specified that "action against the enemy" for purposes of award of the CIB was to be interpreted as "ground combat against enemy ground forces." In 1948, the regulation governing badges stipulated that "battle participation credit is not sufficient; the unit must have been in contact with the enemy." This clearly indicated that an exchange of hostile fire or equivalent personal exposure was the intent of the Army leadership. In 1963 and 1965 HQDA messages to the senior Army commander in the Southeast Asia theater of operations authorized award of the CIB to otherwise qualified personnel "provided they are personally present and under fire." U.S.
Army Vietnam regulations went so far as to require documentation of the type and intensity of enemy fire encountered by the Soldier. The intended requirement to be "personally present and under fire" has not changed.

**The initial award of the CIB is authorized for award for the following qualifying wars, conflicts, and operations.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>War/Conflict/Operation</th>
<th>Qualifying Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1st Qualifying Era</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>World War II</td>
<td>7 December 1941 - 3 September 1945</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2nd Qualifying Era</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Korean Conflict</td>
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<td><strong>3rd Qualifying Era</strong></td>
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<td>Dominican Republic</td>
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<td>Grenada</td>
<td>23 October to 21 November 1983</td>
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<td>Joint Security Area, Panmunjom, Korea</td>
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<td>Panama</td>
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<td>War/Conflict/Operation</td>
<td>Qualifying Period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest Asia Conflict</td>
<td>17 January to 11 April 1991</td>
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<td>Somalia</td>
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<td>4th Qualifying Era</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afghanistan (OEF/OFS)</td>
<td>5 December 2001 to a date to be determined</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq (OIF/OND)</td>
<td>19 March 2003 to 31 December 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation Inherent Resolve</td>
<td>15 June 2014 to a date to be determined</td>
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Subsequent awards of the CIB may be awarded provided the Soldier has met eligibility criteria in each qualifying era.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifying Periods (Era)</th>
<th>Dates of Qualifying Period</th>
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<tr>
<td>World War II</td>
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<td>Korean Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Republic of Vietnam Conflict (See AR 600-8-22, paragraph 8-6)</td>
<td>2 March 1961 - 10 March 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global War on Terrorism (Afghanistan, OIF/OFS) and (Iraq, OIF/OND) OIR</td>
<td>18 September 2011 to a date TBD</td>
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Personnel Eligible:

For award of the CIB a Soldier must meet the following three requirements:

1. Be an infantryman satisfactorily performing infantry duties.
(2) Assigned to an infantry unit during such time as the unit is engaged in active ground combat.

(3) Actively participate in such ground combat. Campaign or battle credit alone is not sufficient for award of the CIB.

The specific eligibility criteria for the CIB require that an 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 subsequent to 6 December 1941 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. Eligibility for Special Forces personnel in Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) 18B, 18C, 18E, 18F, and 18Z (less Special Forces medical sergeant) accrues from 20 December 1989. Retroactive awards of the CIB to Special Forces personnel are not authorized prior to 20 December 1989. A recipient must be personally present and under hostile fire while serving in an assigned infantry or Special Forces primary duty, in a unit actively engaged in ground combat with the enemy. The unit in question can be of any size smaller than brigade.

**Personnel with other than an infantry or Special Forces MOS are not eligible, regardless of the circumstances.** The infantry or Special Forces SSI or MOS does not necessarily have to be the Soldier’s primary specialty, as long as the Soldier has been properly trained in infantry or Special Forces tactics, possesses the appropriate skill code, and is serving in that specialty when engaged in active ground combat as described above. Awards will not be made to general officers or to members of headquarters companies of units larger in size than brigade.

On or after 18 September 2001, 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. 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. 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 was 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. Those Soldiers possessing MOS of 18D who qualify for award of the CMB from 18 September 2001 to 3 June 2005 will remain qualified for the badge.

**Questions and Answers:**

1: I am an infantryman assigned to a CIB eligible unit, my unit is engaged. Am I eligible for award of the CIB? Or am I eligible for the CAB?

   If you are assigned to a CIB eligible unit you may **ONLY** be qualified to be awarded the CIB and not the CAB. If your unit was engaged in active ground combat but your unit did not close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires, then you would have not met eligibility criteria for award of the CIB.

2: Are prior service Marines coming into the U.S. Army who earned the Combat Action Ribbon (CAR) able to wear the US Army Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB)?

   No. Former Marines or Sailors who received the CAR during their service with the Marine Corps and Navy cannot "convert" their CARs into CIBs. The CAR is not equivalent to the CIB. It is similar to the Combat Action Badge (CAB). The CAR, like the CAB, is awarded to any Marines/Sailors who have actively participated in ground or surface combat. Personnel assigned to areas subjected to sustained mortar, missile, and artillery attacks actively participate in retaliatory or offensive actions are eligible for the CAR. The CIB, unlike the CAR, is only authorized to be awarded to Infantry and Special Forces Soldiers who are engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires, while assigned to an Army Infantry or Special Forces unit.

3: Are Soldiers assigned to an Infantry Company but attached to a Military Police (MP) Battalion that conduct combat patrols and engage in direct combat with the enemy, authorized the CIB or the CAB?
Since the Soldiers were assigned to an Infantry Company, even though the company was attached to an MP Battalion, they would be authorized award of the CIB, not the CAB. A Soldier can qualify for the CIB if they are an Infantry/Special Forces Soldier assigned to an Infantry/Special Forces unit while the unit is engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires. The Soldier must have directly participated in the active ground combat.

4: Can a Soldier earn more than one CIB for multiple deployments to Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation New Dawn (OIF/OEF/OND)?

No. Subsequent award of the CIB is not authorized during the same qualifying period/era. The qualifying period is defined as the contingency/conflict that the Secretary of the Army authorized combat badges to be awarded. The current qualifying period for award of the CIB is the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). OEF/OIF/OND are operations within the GWOT contingency/conflict. No matter how many times a Soldier rotates to the theater, only one award of each combat badge is authorized.

5: Can an Infantry Battalion Command Sergeant Major (CSM) qualify for the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) or the Combat Action Badge (CAB)?

CSMs possessing the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 00Z, who previously held an infantry (11B, 11C, 11Z or previous 11H and 11M) or special forces (18B, 18C, 18D, 18E, 18F or 18Z) MOS, regardless of their current position, may be awarded the CIB provided the basic criteria have been met. If a CSM was a prior Infantry or special forces Soldier he would be eligible to earn the CIB. If not, he would be eligible to earn the CAB.

6: Can non-Infantry/Special Forces officers be awarded the CIB if they are performing an Infantry mission, especially if they graduated from Ranger school, underwent training with an Infantry platoon in preparation for combat, and serve as an Infantry platoon leader, or another 11A coded job, during a CIB qualifying engagement?

No. These Soldiers would be eligible to earn the CAB. The Office of Infantry Proponency has defined being "properly trained in infantry or Special Forces tactics, [possessing] the appropriate skill code" as completing a school that results in the awarding of Army Occupation Code (AOC) 11A or 18A or an enlisted Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of 11B, 11C, 18B, 18C, 18D, 18E, etc. Ranger school is not an AOC/MOS producing school and is not an "Infantry" only school. It does not fulfill the requirements outlined in the regulation.

7: I served in the Army Air Corps in the Philippines; can I be awarded the CIB?

No. The CIB was awarded to Soldiers serving as an Infantryman, while assigned or attached to an Infantry unit of brigade or smaller size, while that unit was actively engaged in ground combat with the enemy. Army Air Corps Soldiers engaged in ground combat in the defense of the Philippines were not serving as Infantryman.

8: If a Soldier was recommended for a CIB in the combat theater and it was denied, what is the appeal process they can go through back in the states?

A request for reconsideration must be submitted on a DA Form 4187 and must include the following: assignment, attachment, or OPCON orders; a copy of the Soldier’s Officer Records Brief (ORB), Enlisted Records Brief (ERB) or DA Form 2-1; a one-page description of the qualifying incident; a certified copy of DD Form 214 (if applicable); and supporting documentation (for example: official unit reports; casualty report; line of duty investigation, two or more eyewitness statements from Soldiers who participated in same ground combat action, or Purple Heart orders or valor award (If applicable)). The request must be routed through the Soldier's chain of command, to include an endorsement from the first Brigadier General in the chain, and should be sent electronically to the Awards and Decorations Branch or through official mail to the USAHRC, 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, ATTN:AHRC-PDP-A, Dept 480, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408.

9: If an Infantryman works in an Infantry Brigade Tactical Operations Center (TOC) of an Infantry Brigade Headquarters, never leaves the Forward Operating Base (FOB) while deployed and does not participate in any action that qualifies him for the CIB, can he be awarded a CAB is he is in close proximity of a mortar that lands on the FOB?
No, since the Infantryman is assigned to an Infantry unit, he could possibly qualify for award of the CIB. He is not authorized award of the CAB.

10: Is an Infantry/Special Forces (SF) Soldier assigned as an advisor to an Iraqi Infantry unit authorized to earn the CIB since he is not assigned to an Army Infantry unit?

Yes. The Soldier is eligible to earn the CIB. Infantry and SF personnel assigned as advisors, trainers, or liaisons with formed Afghan or Iraqi Infantry/SF units or Iraqi specialized Infantry type units of brigade, regiment, or smaller size, or assigned as advisors to a foreign Infantry/SF unit comparable to the above Infantry units may earn the CIB as long as the basic criteria are met.

11: What qualifies a Soldier serving on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea for the CIB?

The special requirements for award of the CIB that were in effect for service on the DMZ in the Republic of Korea have been rescinded. Army Veterans and service members who served in Korea on or after 28 July 1953 and meet the criteria for award of the CIB may submit an application (to include supporting documentation) for award of the CIB to:

USAHRC
ATTN: AHRC–PDP–A, Dept 480
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue,
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408-5408

12: What supporting documentation is needed to process a Soldier's request for the CIB?

Any form of documentation that would help to substantiate a Soldier's eligibility for the badge must be submitted with the DA Form 4187. The documentation the Soldier provides must support that the Soldier meets the criteria for the badge. Some documents that the Soldier can include are assignment/attachment orders to a qualifying unit, a copy of Enlisted Record Brief (ERB) or Officer Record Brief (ORB) showing that the Soldier's primary duty Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) or Specialty was Infantry/Special Forces, witness statements, wartime chain of command endorsements, awards (i.e., a Bronze Star Medal for valor) that show the Soldier engaged the enemy in active ground combat, and any other form of documentation that would substantiate eligibility. The Human Resources Command (HRC) standard is normally two witness statements, but if the packet is strong without the second, a Soldier can still submit. Wartime chain of command endorsements would strengthen the request and explain why the request was not submitted in theater.

13: An 18D received the CMB for a previous deployment then was promoted to E8 and became an 18Z. Can he now receive the CIB as an 18Z for his current deployment?

An 18D can receive a CMB from a previous deployment and a CIB (as in the provided scenario) for another deployment provided the service during the subsequent deployment meets the criteria.

14: What does an 18D awarded the CMB during Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 (OIF 1) need to do to convert his CMB to the CIB?

The CMB does not automatically convert to the CIB for Special Forces Medics (18Ds). An 18D may submit a DA Form 4187 with supporting documentation through his chain of command to HRC to request to have his CMB considered for the CIB. The criteria for the CIB must have been met in order for the award to be approved. Soldiers who did not participate in active ground combat to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires are not authorized award of the CIB.

15: Are certificates given for the CIB, CMB, or CAB?

A certificate is not given with the CIB, CMB, or CAB. Certificates are not used to award or announce approval of U.S. Army badges.
HEADQUARTERS 507TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY
Office of the Regimental Commander.
A.P.O. #230, U. S. Army.

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER 9

7 August 1944

Pursuant to the provisions of WD Circular No. 186, 11 May 1944, following named Officers, Warrant Officers, and enlisted men are awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge for exemplary conduct in action against the enemy in the Normandy, France, campaign, 5 June 1944 to 9 July 1944:

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

LT COL ARTHUR A. MALONEY
LT COL WILLIAM A. KUHN
MAJOR JOHN T. DAVIS
CAPT MORGAN A. BRANKOVIC
CAPT WILLIAM Z. GOTHAM
CAPT ROBERT D. RAE
CAPT WILLIAM J. MILLER, JR.
CAPT JAMES A. DICKERSON
CAPT STANLEY L. PITCHELL
LT LT STANLEY L. ARNDTJEBSKI
LT LT FRANCIS E. NAUGHTON
LT LT GEORGE R. O'BRIEN
LT LT MARK D. PERKINS
LT LT MERLAN F. PRICKETT
LT LT JOHN H. WISNER
2ND LT EARL C. HAYNES
W (Je) WOCCROW BOREA
LT STG William W. Barns
LT STG Sandy E. Eipolo
M/Sgt Joseph Ferennowitz
M/Sgt Clydie J. Patton
T/Sgt Stephen J. Kramar
S/Sgt Harley G. Bennett
S/Sgt John H. Cordial
S/Sgt John C. Fulton
S/Sgt John C. Smith
Sgt John W. Davis, Jr.
Sgt Richard W. Shitman
Sgt William L. Tippett
Tec 4 Theodore R. Harmon
Tec 4 George A. Shepard
Cpl Lawrence F. Becker
Cpl George A. Esmo
Cpl Oscar E. Brindice
Cpl George E. Jussamet
Cpl Joseph D. Lang
Cpl Gordon F. Melissen
Cpl Rudolph R. Shalak
Cpl John H. Summer
Cpl Walter Welosyn
Tec 3 Thomas H. Brienza
Tec 3 Walter B. Emery
Tec 2 CAPT E. Mathews
Tec 3EARL L. Kirker
Tec 3 William A. O'Byrne
Tec 3 Kenneth F. Robinson
Tec 3 Anthony L. Rogers

Pfc Edgar C. Apple
Pfc Vernon L. Darling
Pfc Stanley Dragula
Pfc William G. Gannon
Pfc Clarence R. Hixon
Pfc Charles A. Martin
Pfc Albert F. Novak
Pfc Enzo J. Pizzii
Pfc Thomas F. Redick, Jr.
Pfc Gail Sauer
Pfc Ira D. Shetter
Pfc Alvin W. Smith
Pvt Charles W. Ackerman, Jr.
Pvt John L. Adams
Pvt Loron E. Aller
Pvt Herman V. Collins
Pvt Kenneth J. Ellsworth
Pvt Ernest M. Gunther
Pvt Robert C. Hughey
Pvt Thomas F. Kelly
Pvt Paul J. Mahk
Pvt Fred A. Osborne
Pvt George R. Pollock
Pvt William H. Pritchard
Pvt John P. Rodin
Pvt Ambrose Sanchez
Pvt Robert Scarewski
Pvt Gerald T. Stope, Jr.
Pvt Matthew O. Turk
Pvt William H. Wilt
Pvt Albert J. Abbott
Pvt Russell Boyd
Pvt Edward F. Fox
Pvt Nicholas Feata
S/Sgt John P. Reda

SCHOOL COMPANY

CPL CHARLES M. CLAYTON
CPL Herbert W. Skarles
CPL Leslie H. Nicoll
PFC Charles A. Perlman
PFC Leon D. Yee
PFC Nicholas Feata
S/Sgt John P. Reda

SERVIOE COMPANY

1ST LT KARL W. LILGE
2ND LT HERMAN R. WALLACE
W (Je) TRAVIS E. LYON

1ST LT WILLIAM M. HARWILL
W (Je) HARRY GOLDMAN

W-2120698

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