



The Adjutant General Directorate(TAGD)

July 24, 2015



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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 There was a separate provision for badge holders to receive a \$10 per month pay stipend, which was rescinded in 1948.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.

War/Conflict/Operation	Qualifying Period
1st Qualifying Era	
World War II	7 December 1941 - 3 September 1945
2nd Qualifying Era	
Korean Conflict	27 June 1950 - 27 July 1953
3rd Qualifying Era	
Republic of Vietnam Conflict (qualifying service in Laos)	2 March 1961 - 10 March 1995 (19 April 1961 to 6 October 1962)
Dominican Republic	28 April 1965 to 1 September 1966
Korea on the DMZ	4 January 1969 to 31 March 1994
El Salvador	1 January 1981 to 1 February 1992
Grenada	23 October to 21 November 1983
Joint Security Area, Panmunjom, Korea	23 November 1984
Panama	20 December 1989 to 31 January 1990

War/Conflict/Operation	Qualifying Period
Southwest Asia Conflict	17 January to 11 April 1991
Somalia	5 June 1992 to 31 March 1994
4th Qualifying Era	
Afghanistan (OEF/OFS)	5 December 2001 to a date to be determined
Iraq (OIF/OND)	19 March 2003 to 31 December 2011
Operation Inherent Resolve	15 June 2014 to a date to be determined

Subsequent awards of the CIB may be awarded provided the Soldier has met eligibility criteria in each qualifying era.

Qualifying Periods (Era)	Dates of Qualifying Period
World War II	7 December 1941 - 3 September 1945
Korean Conflict	27 June 1950 - 27 July 1953
The Republic of Vietnam Conflict (See AR 600-8-22, paragraph 8-6)	2 March 1961 - 10 March 1995
Global War on Terrorism (Afghanistan, OIF/OFS) and (Iraq, OIF/OND) OIR	18 September 2011 to a date TBD

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 CIB 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.

Make a Mem. Order
July 1944

Return to Col
Morgan, Personnel

HEADQUARTERS 501st PARACHUTE INFANTRY
Office of the Regimental Commander.
A.P.O. #230, U. S. Army.

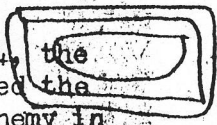
(3)

GENERAL ORDERS)

7 August 1944.

NUMBER 9)

1. Pursuant to the provisions of WD Circular No. 186, 11 May 1944, the following named Officers, Warrant Officers, and enlisted men are awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for exemplary conduct in action against the enemy in the Normandy, France, campaign, 6 June 1944 to 9 July 1944:



HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

LT COL ARTHUR A. MALONEY	021297	Pfc Edgar C. Apple	39234976
LT COL WILLIAM A. KUHN	0357704	Pfc Vernon L. Darling	39839415
MAJOR JOHN T. DAVIS	022136	Pfc Stanley Drapala	32227394
CAPT MORGAN A. BRAKONECKE	0359483	Pfc William G. Gannon	12056632
CAPT WILLIAM Z. GOTHAM	0414599	Pfc Clarence R. Hixon	13058116
CAPT ROBERT D. RAE	01288948	Pfc Charles A. Martin	19072229
CAPT WILLIAM J. MILLER, JR.	0399376	Pfc Albert F. Novak	32255152
CAPT JAMES A. DICKERSON	0371084	Pfc Enzo J. Pizzi	12065978
CAPT STANLEY L. FITCHEL	01290124	Pfc Thomas F. Redick, Jr.	15076809
1ST LT STANLEY E. ARDZIEJEWSKI	0439594	Pfc Gail Sauer	20722253
1ST LT FRANCIS E. NAUGHTON	01288940	Pfc Ira D. Shetter	13069215
1ST LT GEORGE R. O'BRIAN	01285200	Pfc Alvin W. Smith	35283232
1ST LT MARK D. PERKINS	01295766	Pvt Charles N. Ackerman, Jr.	32276003
1ST LT MORLAN F. PRICKETT	01294191	Pvt John L. Adams	39171165
1ST LT JOHN H. WISNER	01303068	Pvt Loren E. Aller	15101798
2ND LT EARL C. HAYNES	01012477	Pvt Herman V. Collins	20467516
WO (Jg) WOODROW HONEA	W-2120700	Pvt. Kenneth J. Ellsworth	32255209
1st Sgt William W. Barns	33190376	Pvt Ernest M. Gunther	20221226
1st Sgt Sandy E. Pipolo	6710092	Pvt Robert C. Hughley	19071718
M/Sgt Joseph Ferencowitz	32160337	Pvt Thomas P. Kelly	12060340
M/Sgt Clydis J. Patton	16051469	Pvt Paul J. Mahk	16050800
T/Sgt Stephen J. Kramar	16091590	Pvt Fred A. Osborne	35590136
S/Sgt Harley G. Bennett	36304903	Pvt George R. Pollock	16175886
S/Sgt John H. Cordial	15114301	Pvt William H. Pritchard	16063911
S/Sgt John C. Fulton	13061082	Pvt Juarez Roberts	18086004
S/Sgt John C. Smith	20454314	Pvt Ambrosio Sanchez	18016722
Sgt John W. Davis, Jr.	20735769	Pvt Robert Sosnowski	33499485
Sgt Richard W. Sherman	19094146	Pvt Gerald T. Stoyke, Jr.	32252332
Sgt William L. Tippett	20454320	Pvt Mathew O. Turk	20228447
Tec 4 Theodore R. Harness	39175762	Pvt William H. Witt	17067675
Tec 4 George A. Shepherd	33171713	Pvt Albert J. Abbott	33344702
Cpl Lawrence F. Besker	19096554	Pvt Russell Boyd	33403918
Cpl Oscar E. Brundice	32289986	Pvt Edward F. Fox	20252769
Cpl George E. Jusseaume	31063532	Pvt Charles Frank	33473753
Cpl Joseph D. Lang	33278237	Pvt Paul Stanley	36105601
Cpl Gordon F. Matheson	11049163		32108768
Cpl Rudolph R. Sitek	36322550	Cpl Charles W. Cleveland	39306520
Cpl John H. Sumner	14119675	Cpl. Herbert W. Skarie	37271527
Cpl Walter Wolosyn	33037169	Tec 5 Leslie H. Nicoll	32319258
Tec 5 Thomas E. Brienza	37121065	Pfc Charles A. Peringian	32573618
Tec 5 Walter B. Emery	34086494	Pfc Leon B. Yee	39011205
Tec 5 Carl E. Hamrin	39690559	Pfc Nicholas Festa	12060392
Tec 5 Earl R. Kirker	35207022	S/Sgt John P. Rea	12072252
Tec 5 William A. Ormsby	12017700		
Tec 5 Kenneth F. Robinson	14080500		
Tec 5 Avery L. Rogers	39840978		

SERVICE COMPANY

CAPT GORDON S. SHOTWELL	0343939	1ST LT KARL W. LILIGE	01289760
1ST LT RUFUS K. BROADWAY	01300124	2ND LT BERNARD R. WALLACE	01296454
1ST LT WILLIAM M. HARVILL	01287347	WO (Jg) TRAVIS E. LYON	W-2116114
WO (Jg) HARRY GOLDMAN	W-2120698		