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Subject: MODIFICATION TO DELEGATION OF WAR TIME AWARDING AUTHORITY//
Originator: CMC WASHINGTON DC MRA MM MMMA(UC)
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To: COMMARFORSOC(UC), COMMARFORSOC G1(UC)
cc: CMC WASHINGTON DC MRA MM MMMA(UC)

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MSGID/GENADMIN,USMTF,2007/CMC WASHINGTON DC MRA MM MMMA(UC)/F002//
SUBJ/MODIFICATION TO DELEGATION OF WAR TIME AWARDING AUTHORITY//
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REF/B/MSGID:DOC/SECNAV/08MAR2012//
REF/C/MSGID:MSG/CMC WASHINGTON DC MMMA/041450ZAUG2010//
REF/D/MSGID:MSG/CMC WASHINGTON DC MMMA/051726ZFEB2009//
NARR/REF A IS SECNAVINST 1650.1H, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS AWARDS MANUAL. REF B IS SECNAV MEMO AUTHORIZING SUB-DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO AWARD THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL. REF C IS THE EXTENSION OF DELEGATED WARTIME AWARDING AUTHORITY. REF D IS MARADMIN 074/09 CLARIFICATION ON POLICY FOR OTHER U.S. ARMED SERVICE AWARDS FOR COMBAT AREA SERVICE.//
POC/S. K. VANCE/CAPT/UNIT:HQMC MMMA/NAME:MCB QUANTICO /TEL:(703) 784-9342/EMAIL:SUSAN.KOZA@USMC.MIL//
GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A AND B, REF C IS HEREBY CANCELED AND REPLACED WITH THIS MESSAGE.
2. THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS DELEGATES THE COMMANDER, U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND (COMMARFORSOC) AWARD AUTHORITY FOR MARINES AND SAILORS IN THE GRADE OF O-6 AND BELOW ASSIGNED TO MARFORSOC IN SUPPORT OF OEF IN THE USCENTCOM AOR FOR THE FOLLOWING AWARDS: THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH COMBAT "V" (BV), THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL (BS), THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL (PH), THE AIR MEDAL - INDIVIDUAL ACTION WITH COMBAT "V" (AH), THE AIR MEDAL - INDIVIDUAL ACTION (AF), THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH COMBAT "V" (CV), THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL WITH COMBAT "V" (NV), AND THE COMBAT ACTION RIBBON (CR). COMMARFORSOC IS DELEGATED AWARD AUTHORITY FOR THE AIR MEDAL - STRIKE/FLIGHT (AS) ONLY TO MARINES AND SAILORS IN THE GRADE OF O-5 AND BELOW. AWARD AUTHORITY FOR THE CV, NV AND CR MAY BE FURTHER SUB-DELEGATED TO COMMANDERS IN THE GRADE OF O-6 BUT NO LOWER.
A. THIS AWARD AUTHORITY WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR THE DURATION OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, AND FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT OTHER-NAMED OPERATION IN AFGHANISTAN.
B. THIS AWARD AUTHORITY EXTENDS TO AWARDS FOR MARINES AND SAILORS IN THE GRADE OF O-6 AND BELOW, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE AS, WHICH ONLY EXTENDS TO AWARDS FOR MARINES AND SAILORS IN THE GRADE OF O-5 AND BELOW.
C. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS OF HIGHER PRECEDENCE THAN THE BV, AWARDS TO MARINES AND SAILORS IN THE GRADE OF O-7, OR AWARDS OF THE AS TO MARINES AND SAILORS IN THE GRADE OF O-6 WILL BE FORWARDED TO CMC (MMMA) FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION.
3. IAW REF A AND D, THIS AUTHORITY DOES NOT EXTEND TO OTHER SERVICE PERSONNEL. AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTHER SERVICE PERSONNEL

ASSIGNED TO MARINE COMMANDS FOR COMBAT AREA SERVICE MEETING THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY (DON) AWARDS MUST BE FORWARDED TO CMC (MMMA) FOR APPROVAL.

4. IAW REF A, ALL AWARDS FROM OTHER SERVICES WITH THE COMBAT "V", OR OF HIGHER PRECEDENCE THAN THE SERVICE'S COMMENDATION MEDAL, AWARDED TO INDIVIDUAL MARINES FOR COMBAT AREA SERVICE MEETING THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS CLARIFIED IN REF D MUST FIRST RECEIVE CONCURRENCE FROM THE MARINE CORPS PRIOR TO BEING ACCEPTED AND RETAINED. ALTHOUGH A SIGNED CERTIFICATE MAY ACCOMPANY THE AWARD RECOMMENDATION, THE AWARDING PROCESS IS NOT FINALIZED UNTIL THE MARINE CORPS PROVIDES SERVICE CONCURRENCE. COMMARFORSOC RETAINS CONCURRENCE AUTHORITY EQUIVALENT TO THE CURRENT DELEGATED AWARD AUTHORITY SPECIFIED IN THIS MESSAGE FOR AWARDS TO INDIVIDUAL MARFORSOC MARINES IN THE GRADE OF 0-6 AND BELOW ASSIGNED TO OTHER SERVICE COMMANDS OR JOINT COMMANDS IN SUPPORT OF OEF IN THE USCENTCOM AOR, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT CONCURRENCE AUTHORITY FOR AWARD OF THE AS IS ONLY DELEGATED FOR AWARDS TO MARINES IN THE GRADE OF O-5 AND BELOW. CONCURRENCE AUTHORITY WILL NOT BE FURTHER SUB-DELEGATED.

A. CONCURRENCE ON AWARDS TO MARFORSOC MARINES ORIGINATING FROM OTHER SERVICES OR JOINT COMMANDS SHALL BE BASED ON THE SAME CRITERIA AS AWARDS APPROVED FROM MARINE CORPS COMMANDS. ONCE A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE, NOTIFY THE AWARDING COMMAND OF THE DECISION AND PROVIDE CMC (MMMA) WITH A COPY OF THE AWARD RECOMMENDATION AND DECISION ON ALL CASES WHERE CONCURRENCE IS GRANTED.

B. ALL REQUESTS FOR CONCURRENCE ON AWARDS FROM OTHER SERVICES OR JOINT COMMANDS FOR MARFORSOC MARINES IN THE GRADE OF 0-7 AND ABOVE, FOR AWARDS OF HIGHER PRECEDENCE THAN THE BV, OR FOR AWARD OF THE AS FOR MARFORSOC MARINES IN THE GRADE OF O-6, WILL BE ENDORSED AND FORWARDED TO CMC (MMMA) FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION.

5. NO LATER THAN THE 5TH OF EACH MONTH, COMMARFORSOC WILL PROVIDE CMC (MMMA) WITH ROSTERS OF APPROVED AND DISAPPROVED PURPLE HEARTS ADJUDICATED DURING THE PREVIOUS MONTH, ALONG WITH A REPORT OF THE NUMBER OF PURPLE HEARTS AWARDED, BROKEN DOWN BY OFFICER AND ENLISTED RECIPIENTS.

6. TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY ACROSS DELEGATED MARINE CORPS APPROVAL AUTHORITIES AND TO MAINTAIN THE HISTORIC COMBAT NATURE OF THE BS, THE FOLLOWING AMPLIFYING GUIDANCE FOR ADJUDICATING AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BS FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE AND THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (MM) IS PROVIDED. BOTH AWARDS ARE CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED FOR SERVICE WITHIN THE USCENTCOM AOR.

A. THE BS FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE MAY ONLY BE AWARDED TO MARINES AND SAILORS WHO ARE IN RECEIPT OF IMMINENT DANGER PAY (IDP) AT THE TIME OF SERVICE. IN ADDITION TO BEING IN RECEIPT OF IDP, THE MARINE OR SAILOR MUST HAVE EITHER BEEN EXPOSED TO, OR AT SIGNIFICANT RISK OF EXPOSURE TO, THE EFFECTS OF ENEMY HOSTILITIES.

B. THE MM IS THE APPROPRIATE AWARD FOR MARINES AND SAILORS IN RECEIPT OF IDP WHOSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE IS AT THE LEVEL OF THE BS BUT THE MARINE OR SAILOR WAS NEITHER EXPOSED TO, NOR AT SIGNIFICANT RISK OF EXPOSURE TO, THE EFFECTS OF ENEMY HOSTILITIES.

7. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE APPLIES TO AUTHORIZATIONS OF THE COMBAT

"V" (COMBAT DISTINGUISHING DEVICE) FOR AWARDS WITHIN THE USCENTCOM AOR.
A. THE COMBAT "V" IS AUTHORIZED ON PERSONAL AWARDS IAW REF A FOR BOTH HEROIC AND MERITORIOUS ACTION/SERVICE FOR MARINES AND SAILORS WHO ARE EXPOSED TO PERSONAL HAZARD INVOLVING DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN COMBAT OPERATIONS; I.E., THE MARINE OR SAILOR WAS DIRECTLY ENGAGED WITH THE ENEMY OR EXPOSED TO THE EFFECTS OF THE ENEMY'S FIRES. BY DEFINITION, ALL AWARDS FOR HEROIC ACTION/SERVICE IN THE COMBAT AOR (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL) AND ALL AWARDS FOR MERITORIOUS ACTION/SERVICE FOR A PERIOD DURING WHICH THE MARINE OR SAILOR EARNED THE CR WOULD BE AUTHORIZED THE COMBAT "V". HOWEVER, AWARD OF THE CR DURING THE PERIOD OF THE AWARD IS NOT A REQUIREMENT FOR AUTHORIZING THE COMBAT "V".
B. FOR MERITORIOUS ACTION/SERVICE WHERE THE MARINE OR SAILOR MAY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS IN THE COMBAT AOR, BUT DID NOT DIRECTLY ENGAGE THE ENEMY OR WAS NOT DIRECTLY ENGAGED BY THE ENEMY OR THE EFFECTS OF THE ENEMY'S FIRES, THE COMBAT "V" IS NOT APPROPRIATE.
8. ANY QUESTIONS ON THE AUTHORITY SPECIFIED IN THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE POC LISTED ABOVE.//