

R291900ZMAR05 CMC WASHINGTON DC MRA MM COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR  
THE AWARDING OF THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL

TO COMUSMARCENT G1(mc)  
CC CMC WASHINGTON DC MRA MM MMSB  
HQBN HQMC ARLINGTON VA(uc)  
CMC WASHINGTON DC MRA MM MMMA  
CMC WASHINGTON DC MRA MR MRC  
CMC WASHINGTON DC MRA MM MMMA

MSGID/GENADMIN/CMC WASHINGTON DC/MMMA//  
SUBJ/COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE AWARDING OF THE PURPLE HEART  
/MEDAL//

REF/A/MSG/CMC/242232ZMAR2005//

REF/B/DOC/SECNAV/07JAN2002//

NARR/REF A IS CMC MSG PUBLISHING REVISED DELEGATION OF WARTIME  
AWARDING AUTHORITY. REF B IS SECNAVISNT 1650.1G, NAVY AND MARINE  
CORPS AWARDS MANUAL.//

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- GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. PER REF A, CMC HAS DELEGATED TO THE COMMANDER,  
MARINE FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND (MARCENT) THE AUTHORITY TO AWARD THE  
PURPLE HEART (PH) TO MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION  
ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) AND OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF). THIS  
AUTHORITY CANNOT BE SUBDELEGATED.
2. STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN  
PARAGRAPH 230.9 OF REF B IS REQUIRED.
3. EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A PRISONER OF WAR, THE WOUND FOR WHICH THE  
AWARD IS CONSIDERED MUST HAVE REQUIRED TREATMENT BY A MEDICAL  
OFFICER AT THE TIME OF INJURY. ONLY ONE AWARD IS AUTHORIZED FOR  
MORE THAN ONE WOUND OR INJURY RECEIVED AT THE SAME INSTANT FROM THE  
SAME MISSILE, FORCE, EXPLOSION, OR AGENT. PRISONERS OF WAR, IF  
ENTITLED, WILL BE LIMITED TO A SINGLE PH COVERING THE ENTIRE PERIOD  
OF THEIR CAPTIVITY.
4. THE FOLLOWING INJURIES ARE NOT CONSISTENT WITH SECNAV GUIDANCE  
FOR APPROVAL OF THE PH:
- A. BRUISES (ONLY THOSE CAUSED BY ENEMY ACTION QUALIFY FOR THE PH;  
I.E., BULLET STOPPED BY BODY ARMOR)
  - B. HEARING LOSS (ONLY A PERFORATED EARDRUM QUALIFIES FOR THE PH),  
AND RINGING EARS
  - C. COLD AND HEAT RELATED INJURIES (FROSTBITE OR HEAT EXHAUSTION)
  - D. ABRASIONS
  - E. CONCUSSIONS (ONLY LEVEL III CONCUSSION QUALIFIES)
  - F. VEHICLE ACCIDENTS
  - G. ACCIDENTS ON THE BATTLE FIELD (E.G., RUNNING FOR COVER AND BREAK  
A LEG)
  - H. SOFT TISSUE INJURIES SUCH AS LIGAMENT/TENDON/MUSCLE STRAINS OR  
SPRAINS
  - I. ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF WEAPONS
  - J. MUGGINGS AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTS THAT CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED AS  
TERRORIST RELATED (I.E., BRICK THROWN BY CIVILIAN)
  - K. SMOKE INHALATION
5. PERSONNEL CASUALTY REPORTS (PCR) SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW MUST  
PROVIDE SUFFICIENT DETAILED INFORMATION TO ALLOW FOR APPROPRIATE  
DECISIONING OF THE PH MEDAL. A REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION  
SHOULD BE MADE FOR ANY INITIAL PCR THAT LACKS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION  
TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION.
- A. PERSONNEL MEDICALLY EVACUATED TO THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION:  
MARCENT MUST COORDINATE WITH HQBN, HENDERSON HALL, FOR TIMELY

PRESENTATION OF PH MEDALS FOR MARINES AND SAILORS ASSIGNED TO MARINE CORPS UNITS THAT ARE EVACUATED TO THIS REGION. THE POC FOR HQSN IS MAJ BROWN AT DSN 224-7145 OR BY EMAIL: BROWNBB@HQMC.USMC.MIL. COORDINATION WITH HQMC (MMMA) FOR ASSISTANCE IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE CAN BE MADE TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS BY EMAIL: CAPT ROBERTS (ROBERTSJK@MANPOWER.USMC.MIL) OR SSGT HJORTEN (MICHAEL.HJORTEN@USMC.MIL).

B. DECEASED MARINES; HQMC (MMMA) REMAINS THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VERIFICATION OF AWARDS FOR ALL MARINES WHO ARE KILLED IN A COMBAT AREA. THEREFORE, MARCENT MUST NOTIFY HQMC (MMMA) IMMEDIATELY BY EMAIL OF A DECEASED MARINE'S PCR ENTRY INTO DCIPS (INCLUDING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS). MARCENT'S DETERMINATION OF THE MARINES ENTITLEMENT TO THE PH MUST BE PROVIDED AT THE TIME HQMC (MMMA) IS NOTIFIED. MARCENT MUST FEDEX A SIGNED PH CERTIFICATE TO HQMC (CASUALTY SECTION) FOR INCLUSION IN THE CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CALLS OFFICER (CACO) PACKAGE FOR PRESENTATION TO THE MARINE'S NEXT-OF-KIN. THE POC FOR THE CASUALTY SECTION IS GYSGT GRUBB AT DSN 278-9512 OR BY EMAIL: GRUBBCV@MANPOWER.USMC.MIL. TIMELINESS IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE AS OTHER AGENCIES ARE DEPENDENT ON MARCENT'S PH DETERMINATION AND PH CERTIFICATE PROCESSING.

C. PERSONNEL WOUNDED IN ACTION (WIA)/NON-HOSTILE INJURIES: A SPREADSHEET PROVIDED VIA THE AWARDS WEB SITE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO HQMC (MMMA) EVERY MONDAY. THIS SPREADSHEET WILL IDENTIFY THE PREVIOUS WEEKS CASUALTIES (WIA/KIA/NBD/NON-HOSTILE). ALL FIELDS MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO HQMC (MMMA) WITH THE PH DETERMINATION WHERE REQUIRED.

D. MARCENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO VERIFY IF A MARINE OR SAILOR HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN AWARDED A PH MEDAL AND MAY BE ENTITLED TO A SECOND OR THIRD AWARD AND PREPARE THE APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATE.

E. ALTHOUGH A PCR CAN CATEGORIZE AN INJURY AS BEING THE RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION, THIS CATEGORIZATION ALONE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE PH ELIGIBILITY. WHEN THE SUBJECT OF A HOSTILE PCR IS SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINED TO BE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE PH, FORWARD SUCH OFFICIAL DETERMINATIONS TO HQMC (MMSB) FOR INCLUSION IN THE MARINE'S OMPF.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE CORRECTION OF ERRONEOUS DETERMINATIONS. UPON SUBSEQUENT REVIEW, IF A MARINE OR SAILOR ATTACHED TO A MARINE CORPS UNIT DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR THE PH AND HAS NOT BEEN PRESENTED WITH THE MEDAL AND OR CERTIFICATE, MARCENT SHALL REMOVE THAT ENTRY FROM THE LIST OF APPROVED PH RECIPIENTS, AND INSURE THAT MARINE CORPS TOTAL FORCE SYSTEM (MCTFS) DATA IS CORRECTED. HQMC (MMSB) MUST BE CONTACTED TO REMOVE THE PH DOCUMENTATION FROM THE MARINE'S OMPF.

7. THE PH MEDAL MAY BE PROCURED FROM THE DEFENSE LOGISTIC AGENCY, DEFENSE SUPPLY CENTER PHILADELPHIA VIA THE NORMAL SUPPLY CHANNELS. THE NSN FOR THE PH DECORATION SET IS 8455-00-269-5757.

8. MARCENT WILL MAINTAIN AND ISSUE PH CERTIFICATES. ONLY THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY (COMMANDER, MARCENT) CAN SIGN PH CERTIFICATES. PH CERTIFICATES MAY BE PURCHASED FROM THE BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING (BUE&P). MR. FRANCISCO (MMMA) WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THE PROCUREMENT OF PH CERTIFICATES. HE CAN BE REACHED AT (703) 784-9206, DSN 278-9206 OR BY EMAIL: NELSON.FRANCISCO@USMC.MIL.

9. ADDRESS QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS MESSAGE TO CAPT ROBERTS AT (703) 784-9342, DSN 278-9342 OR BY EMAIL: ROBERTSJK@MANPOWER.USMC.MIL.//