

Milper Message Number

11-125

**Proponent
AHRC-PDP-A**

Title

ARMY DIRECTIVE 2011-07 (AWARDING THE PURPLE HEART)

...Issued: [29 Apr 11]...

A. DOD 1348-33M, MANUAL OF MILITARY DECORATIONS AND AWARDS, DATED 23 NOVEMBER 2010

B. AR 600-8-22, MILITARY AWARDS, DATED 11 DECEMBER 2006

C. EXECUTIVE ORDER 11016, AUTHORIZING AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART, DATED 25 APRIL 1962

D. USD (P&R) MEMORANDUM, SUBJECT: DOD BASELINE STANDARD FOR AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL FOR MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES (MTBI) AND CONCUSSION INJURIES NOT RESULTING IN A LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS, DATED 25 APRIL 2011

E. ARMY DIRECTIVE 2011-07, DATED 29 APR 2011

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO INFORM ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMY (LEADERS, SOLDIERS, AND CIVILIANS) THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS APPROVED ARMY DIRECTIVE 2011-07 (AWARDING THE PURPLE HEART).

2. THE DIRECTIVE PROVIDES CLARIFYING GUIDANCE TO ENSURE THE UNIFORM APPLICATION OF ADVANCEMENTS IN MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AND TREATMENT PROTOCOLS WHEN CONSIDERING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART FOR CONCUSSIONS (INCLUDING MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN AND CONCUSSIVE INJURIES THAT DO NOT RESULT IN A LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS). THIS MESSAGE DOES NOT CHANGE THE STANDARDS FOR AWARD OF THE PH FOR CONCUSSION INJURIES. THIS POLICY IS RETROACTIVE TO 11 SEPTEMBER 2001 IN COMPLIANCE WITH REFERENCE D LISTED ABOVE. ALL REQUESTS THAT ARE NOT PROCESSED WITHIN THEATER MUST BE PROCESSED THROUGH THE PEACETIME CHAIN OF COMMAND.

3. CLARIFYING GUIDANCE ON AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART FOR CONCUSSIONS. WHEN RECOMMENDING AND CONSIDERING AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART, THE CHAIN OF COMMAND WILL ENSURE THE CRITERIA IN PARAGRAPH 2-8 OF REFERENCE B IS MET, AND THAT BOTH DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT FACTORS ARE PRESENT AND DOCUMENTED IN THE SOLDIER'S MEDICAL RECORD BY A MEDICAL OFFICER. PARAGRAPH 4C BELOW DEFINES MEDICAL OFFICER.

A. THE FOLLOWING NON-EXCLUSIVE LIST PROVIDES EXAMPLES OF SIGNS, SYMPTOMS OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS DOCUMENTED BY A MEDICAL OFFICER OR MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL THAT MEET THE STANDARD FOR AWARD OF THE PH:

- (1) DIAGNOSIS OF CONCUSSION OR MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY;
- (2) ANY PERIOD OF LOSS OR A DECREASED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS;
- (3) ANY LOSS OF MEMORY FOR EVENTS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR AFTER THE INJURY;
- (4) NEUROLOGICAL DEFICITS (WEAKNESS, LOSS OF BALANCE, CHANGE IN VISION, PRAXIS (I.E. DIFFICULTY WITH COORDINATING MOVEMENTS), HEADACHES, NAUSEA, DIFFICULTY WITH UNDERSTANDING OR EXPRESSING WORDS, SENSITIVITY TO LIGHT, ETC.) THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE TRANSIENT; AND,
- (5) INTRACRANIAL LESION (POSITIVE COMPUTERIZED AXIAL TOMOGRAPHY (CAT) OR MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI) SCAN).

B. THE FOLLOWING NON-EXCLUSIVE LIST PROVIDES EXAMPLES OF MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR CONCUSSION THAT MEET THE STANDARD OF TREATMENT NECESSARY FOR AWARD OF THE PH:

- (1) LIMITATION OF DUTY FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT (LIMITED DUTY, QUARTERS, ETC.);
- (2) PAIN MEDICATION SUCH AS ACETAMINOPHEN, ASPIRIN, IBUPROFEN, ETC. TO TREAT INJURY, SUCH AS HEADACHE;
- (3) REFERRAL TO NEUROLOGIST OR NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST TO TREAT THE INJURY; AND,
- (4) REHABILITATION (SUCH AS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PHYSICAL THERAPY, ETC.) TO TREAT INJURY.

C. COMBAT THEATER AND UNIT COMMAND POLICIES MANDATING REST PERIODS OR "DOWN TIME" FOLLOWING INCIDENTS DO NOT CONSTITUTE QUALIFYING TREATMENT FOR CONCUSSION INJURIES. TO QUALIFY AS MEDICAL TREATMENT, THIS REST PERIOD MUST HAVE BEEN DIRECTED BY A MEDICAL OFFICER OR MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AFTER DIAGNOSIS OF AN INJURY AS INDICATED IN B(1) ABOVE.

4. ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE:

A. AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART MAY BE MADE FOR WOUNDS (INCLUDING MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES AND CONCUSSIVE INJURIES) TREATED BY A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL OTHER THAN A MEDICAL OFFICER, PROVIDED A MEDICAL OFFICER INCLUDES A STATEMENT IN THE SOLDIER'S MEDICAL RECORD THAT THE EXTENT OF THE WOUNDS WAS SUCH THAT THEY WOULD HAVE REQUIRED TREATMENT BY A MEDICAL OFFICER, IF ONE HAD BEEN AVAILABLE TO TREAT THEM.

B. A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL IS DEFINED AS A CIVILIAN PHYSICIAN OR A PHYSICIAN EXTENDER. PHYSICIAN EXTENDERS INCLUDE NURSE PRACTITIONERS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, AND OTHER MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE INDEPENDENT TREATMENT (TO INCLUDE SPECIAL FORCES MEDICS). MEDICS (SUCH AS COMBAT MEDICS – MOS 68W) ARE NOT PHYSICIAN EXTENDERS.

C. A MEDICAL OFFICER IS DEFINED AS A PHYSICIAN WITH OFFICER RANK. THE FOLLOWING ARE MEDICAL OFFICERS: AN OFFICER OF THE MEDICAL CORPS OF THE ARMY, AN OFFICER OF THE MEDICAL CORPS OF THE NAVY, OR AN OFFICER IN THE AIR FORCE DESIGNATED AS A MEDICAL OFFICER IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 101.

D. ALL ACOM, ASCC, AND DRU COMMANDERS WILL PROVIDE A MONTHLY AWARDS REPORT OF ALL CONCUSSION RELATED PURPLE HEART RECOMMENDATIONS IN EXCEL FORMAT ONLY. SUBORDINATE COMMANDS WILL SUBMIT THEIR ROLL-UP TO PARENT ORGANIZATIONS TO INCLUDE STATE ARNG ADJUTANT GENERALS TO THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU (NGB). NGB AND THOSE UNITS THAT ARE NOT COVERED BY THE CRITERIA MENTIONED ABOVE WILL FORWARD THEIR LIST DIRECTLY TO HRC, AWARDS AND DECORATIONS BRANCH. SAMPLE EXCEL FORMAT IS LOCATED ON THE HRC AWARDS AND DECORATIONS BRANCH WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.HRC.ARMY.MIL/SITE/ACTIVE/TAGD/AWARDS/PURPLEHEART/SAMPLEPURPLEHEARTEXCELSHEET.XLSX](https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/awards/purpleheart/samplepurpleheartexcelsheet.xlsx).

5. ANY MEMBER OF THE U.S. ARMY WHO BELIEVES THAT HE OR SHE IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PURPLE HEART, BUT THROUGH UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES NO AWARD WAS MADE MAY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION THROUGH THE MEMBER'S CHAIN OF COMMAND TO THE COMMANDER, USA HRC, ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A. IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE INJURY MEETS ALL OF THE STANDARDS PRESCRIBED IN THE ARMY DIRECTIVE AND AR 600-8-22, AND TO FACILITATE THE ISSUANCE OF ORDERS AND UPDATING OF RECORDS AS REQUIRED, THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY EACH REQUEST OF THE PURPLE HEART:

A. DA FORM 4187 (PERSONNEL ACTION);

B. CHAIN OF COMMAND ENDORSEMENT (THROUGH THE FIRST GENERAL OFFICER IN THE SOLDIER'S CURRENT CHAIN OF COMMAND FOR SOLDIERS CURRENTLY SERVING);

C. DEPLOYMENT ORDERS;

D. OFFICER RECORD BRIEF/ENLISTED RECORDS BRIEF/DA FORM 2-1, 2A, 2B, OR 2C;

E. ONE-PAGE NARRATIVE DESCRIBING THE QUALIFYING INCIDENT AND THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE SOLDIER WAS INJURED OR WOUNDED;

F. STATEMENTS FROM AT LEAST TWO INDIVIDUALS OTHER THAN THE PROPOSED RECIPIENT, WHO WERE PERSONALLY PRESENT, OBSERVED THE INCIDENT AND HAVE DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF THE EVENT. ALTERNATIVELY, OTHER OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION MAY BE USED TO CORROBORATE THE NARRATIVE;

G. CASUALTY REPORT;

H. SF 600 (CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MEDICAL CARE); AND,

I. DD FORM 214 (CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE/DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY) (IF APPLICABLE).

6. RECONSIDERATION AUTHORITY

A. ON REQUEST FROM THE SOLDIER OR VETERAN, ARMY OFFICIALS SHALL CONDUCT A ONE-TIME RECONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR PREVIOUSLY DENIED PURPLE HEARTS RELATING TO CONCUSSION INJURIES.

B. AUTHORITY TO RECONSIDER PURPLE HEART RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEPLOYED SOLDIERS WHO WERE WOUNDED ON THEIR CURRENT DEPLOYMENT RESTS WITH THE FIRST COMMANDING GENERAL OR DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE DELEGATION OF AWARDS APPROVAL AUTHORITY APPROVED BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS).

C. AWARDS OF THE PURPLE HEART FOR INJURIES INCURRED IN A PREVIOUS DEPLOYMENT MUST BE PROCESSED THROUGH THE SOLDIER'S CURRENT CHAIN OF COMMAND TO THE COMMANDER, U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND. ADDITIONALLY, REQUESTS THAT ARE NOT PROCESSED IN THE COMBAT THEATER MUST BE PROCESSED THROUGH THE CURRENT CHAIN OF COMMAND TO THE COMMANDER, U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND.

D. THE FIRST GENERAL OFFICER IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND OF THE SOLDIER RECOMMENDED FOR AWARD OF THE PURPLE HEART FOR INJURIES RECEIVED DURING A PREVIOUS DEPLOYMENT MAY DISAPPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION.

E. VETERANS AND RETIREES SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR REQUESTS TO THE COMMANDER, USA HRC, ATTN: AWARDS AND DECORATIONS BRANCH (AHRC-PDP-A), 1600 SPEARHEAD DIVISION AVENUE, FORT KNOX, KY 40122-5408 OR VIA EMAIL AT HRC.TAGD.AWARDS@CONUS.ARMY.MIL.

7. COMMANDERS, UNIT S-1/G-1S AND COMMAND SURGEONS, SHALL EMPLOY A JOINT EFFORT TO ENSURE THIS CLARIFIED GUIDANCE IS CONSISTENTLY AND UNIFORMLY APPLIED WITHIN THEIR UNITS.

8. REQUEST WIDEST DISSEMINATION OF THIS MESSAGE.

9. THIS MESSAGE WILL EXPIRE UPON PUBLICATION OF THE REVISION OF REFERENCE B.

10. FOR CLARIFICATION OF INFORMATION PROVIDED, CONTACT THE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS BRANCH AT HRC.TAGD.AWARDS@CONUS.ARMY.MIL OR VISIT THE HRC WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://WWW.HRC.ARMY.MIL/SITE/ACTIVE/TAGD/AWARDS/INDEX.HTM](https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/awards/index.htm).
