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SUBJ/AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL FOR OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL//

REF/A/LTR/UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE/13FEB2015//
 REF/B/DOC/SECNAV/22AUG2006//

NARR/REF A IS UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PERSONNEL AND READINESS) MEMO APPROVING OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL AS A QUALIFYING OPERATION FOR AWARD OF THE AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL. REF B IS SECNAVINST 1650.1H NAVY AND MARINE CORPS AWARDS MANUAL.//

POC/LT K. AHLER/NDBDM/LOC: WASH DC/TEL: 202-685-8141//

RMKS/1. Per reference (a), the qualifying Afghanistan Campaign Medal (ACM) operations, campaign phases, and associated inclusive dates are as follows:

Operation	Inclusive Dates
ENDURING FREEDOM	11 Sep 2001 - 31 Dec 2014
FREEDOM's SENTINEL	01 Jan 2015 - TBD

Campaign Phase	Inclusive Dates
Liberation of Afghanistan	11 Sep 2001 - 30 Nov 2001
Consolidation I	01 Dec 2001 - 30 Sep 2006
Consolidation II	01 Oct 2006 - 30 Nov 2009
Consolidation III	01 Dec 2009 - 30 Jun 2011
Transition I	01 Jul 2011 - 31 Dec 2014
Transition II	01 Jan 2015 - TBD

Qualifying ACM operations, campaign phases, and associated inclusive dates can also be viewed at: <http://prhome.defense.gov/RFM/MPP/OEPM/Functions.aspx>

2. Campaign stars are worn on the ACM for each campaign phase in which the service member participated. Only one campaign star is authorized for each phase. Campaign stars designate the number of campaign phases in which a service member has participated and do not represent subsequent awards of the ACM. The campaign star is a 3/16-inch bronze star worn on the suspension ribbon and ribbon bar. A 3/16-inch silver star is worn to denote five 3/16-inch bronze stars. Eligibility criteria for award of the ACM contained in reference (b) remain unchanged.

3. Sailors or Marines who qualified for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM) for deployments to Afghanistan prior to 1 May 2005 may still elect to receive the ACM in lieu of the GWOTEM, per Article 420.14 of reference (b). Those campaign phases in which the Sailor or Marine participated during that deployment will be used to determine

campaign stars for the ACM. However, if the Sailor or Marine elected to retain the GWOTEM for a deployment prior to 1 May 2005, that deployment period will not be used to determine campaign stars for a subsequent ACM awarded.

4 Administrative Procedures

a. Navy Personnel. Commanding Officers exercising Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal awarding authority are authorized to award the ACM and campaign stars. Commands shall make the appropriate service record entries and issue the medals and campaign stars. Navy personnel attached to DoD, Joint, or other non-DON commands who believe they meet the eligibility criteria should have their command confirm eligibility and submit the appropriate service record documentation. The service record entry made at the time of the initial award of the ACM will also serve to authorize the first campaign star(s). Additional campaign stars require a subsequent service record entry documenting the first day of qualifying service in that designated phase for the ACM. Commanding Officers whose units meet the criteria for the ACM must submit their unit name with start and end dates in the Area of Eligibility to CNO (DNS-35) for reporting to NDAWS. The miniature bronze Fleet Marine Force Combat Operation emblem may be authorized for qualified Navy personnel who have engaged in actual combat; see Chapter 1, Article 123 of reference (b).

b. Marine Corps Personnel. Unit Commanders are authorized to issue the ACM and campaign stars to personnel permanently assigned who meet the eligibility criteria. Commands shall make appropriate entries in the MCTFS and service record and issue the medals and campaign stars. Marines attached to DoD, Joint, or other non-DON commands shall submit confirming documentation to their administrative chain of command for recording in MCTFS and entry into their Official Military Personnel File. The service record entry made at the time of the initial award will also serve to authorize the first campaign star(s). Additional campaign stars require a subsequent service record entry documenting the first day of qualifying service in that designated phase for the ACM.

5. Released by Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy.//

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