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SUBJ/CHANGES TO THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL//

REF/A/LTR/UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE/9FEB2015//

REF/B/LTR/UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE/11MAR2015//

REF/C/DOC/SECNAV/22AUG2006//

NARR/REF A is Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) memorandum approving service stars for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. REF B is Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) memorandum approving Operation FREEDOMS SENTINEL as a qualifying operation for award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. REF C is SECNAVINST 1650.1H Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual.//

RMKS/1. This ALNAV announces authorization of Service Stars for wear on the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM) and the approval of Operations INHERENT RESOLVE and FREEDOMS SENTINEL as designated operations for award of the GWOTEM per references (a) and (b). Paragraph two of this message recapitulates and updates the entire section of reference (c) pertaining to the GWOTEM. Paragraph 3 provides additional administrative guidance.

2. Article 420.14 of reference (c) shall now read as follows:

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

a. Authorization. E.O. 13289 of 12 March 2003.

b. Eligibility Requirements

(1) Service in direct support of the Global War on Terrorism by military personnel deployed abroad for designated operations in a specified area of eligibility (AOE). The period of eligibility is 11 September 2001 to a date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense.

(2) A Service Member must be permanently assigned, attached, or mobilized to a unit participating in a designated operation for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days.

(3) Participation as a regularly assigned aircrew member flying sorties into, out of, within, or over the AOE in direct support of designated operations may also qualify for the GWOTEM. Each day that one or more sorties are flown, into, out of, within, or over the AOE shall count as one day towards the 30 day consecutive or 60 day non-consecutive requirement.

(4) The following are the only exceptions in which a Service Member who does not meet the 30 day consecutive or 60 non-consecutive day requirement may be awarded the GWOTEM:

(a) Service Member was engaged in actual combat against the enemy under circumstances involving grave danger of death or serious bodily injury from enemy action; or

(b) While participating in the designated operation, the Service

Member was either killed, or received wounds or injuries that required medical evacuation from the AOE.

(5) United States Public Health Service (USPHS) officers are eligible for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM).

(6) Civilians and foreign military personnel are not eligible for the

#### GWOTEM

##### c. Designated Operations and Areas of Eligibility (AOE)

(1) The Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) designates the qualifying operations for the GWOTEM. Requests for future operation designation must be submitted from the appropriate Combatant Commander to SECDEF, via Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(2) An updated list of GWOTEM qualifying operations and their associated AOE is maintained at:

<http://prhome.defense.gov/RFM/MFP/OEPM/Functions.aspx>

The currently approved operations are:

- (a) Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (11 Sep 01 TBD)
- (b) Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (19 Mar 03 31 Aug 10)
- (c) Operation NEW DAWN (1 Sep 10 31 Dec 11)
- (d) Operation NOMAD SHADOW (5 Nov 07 TBD)
- (e) Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (15 Jun 14 TBD)
- (f) Operation FREEDOMs SENTINEL (1 Jan 15 TBD)

(3) Under no circumstances will units or personnel within the 50 United States or within 200 nautical miles of the shores of the United States be eligible for the GWOTEM.

(4) No person is authorized two campaign or expeditionary medals for the same period of deployed service.

(5) The GWOTEM is only authorized for service within Afghanistan and Iraq on or before 30 April 2005. If the qualifying service occurred after 30 April 2005 within the AOE for the Afghanistan Campaign Medal (ACM) or Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM), the ACM or ICM shall be awarded. See subparagraph (f) below for medal election options if the service occurred on or before 30 April 2005.

d. Subsequent Awards and Service Stars. A Service Star is a 3/16-inch bronze star worn on the suspension ribbon and ribbon bar. Initial award of the GWOTEM is the medal only without a Service Star. Subsequent qualifications for the GWOTEM under different operations are denoted with a Service Star. For example, a Service Member awarded the GWOTEM for an Operation ENDURING FREEDOM deployment would wear the medal/ribbon only without a Service Star. If the Service Member subsequently qualifies for the GWOTEM for an Operation INHERENT RESOLVE deployment, a single Service Star would be worn on the medal/ribbon. Only one award of the GWOTEM may be earned for each qualifying operation, regardless of the number of deployments within that operation. A 3/16-inch silver star is worn to denote five 3/16 inch bronze stars. This policy is retroactive to 11 September 2001.

e. Awarding Authority. The GWOTEM may be approved for a qualifying operation within a geographic Combatant Command by the Commander of the Navy or Marine Corps Component Command within that geographic Combatant Command. For example, NAVCENT and MARCENT are the GWOTEM approval authorities for qualified U.S. Central Command operations. For any operation not under the direction of a geographic Combatant Commander, the approval authority is CNO or CMC.

(1) Unit Commanding Officers shall nominate qualified participating units or personnel, including location within the AOE and specific dates served in the designated operation, to the awarding authority via the chain of command. Awarding authorities will notify CNO (DNS-35) or CMC (MMA), as appropriate, of all approval and disapproval actions taken so permanent records can be centrally maintained for future reference.

(2) When award of the GWOTEM is approved, Commanding Officers shall ensure their personnel are issued the medal (or Service Star) and that the award is properly recorded in the service record.

(3) The miniature bronze Fleet Marine Force Combat Operation Insignia may be authorized for wear on the GWOTEM for certain Navy personnel, but only if the requirements in Chapter 1, Article 123 are met. When this device is authorized, appropriate entry must be made in the service record.

f. Medal Election Guidelines for Service Prior to 1 May 2005

(1) Eligibility for the GWOTEM for service in Afghanistan and Iraq terminated on 30 April 2005. From 1 May 2005 to a date to be determined, personnel are eligible only for the ACM for service in Afghanistan. From 1 May 2005 to 31 December 2011, personnel are eligible only for the ICM for service in Iraq. Personnel who earned the GWOTEM for qualifying service in Afghanistan or Iraq prior to 1 May 2005 shall remain qualified for the GWOTEM; however, they may elect to receive the ACM or ICM in lieu of the GWOTEM for such service. The election of the ACM or ICM vice the GWOTEM shall be documented with an appropriate service record entry signed by the member. Personnel who elect to retain the GWOTEM for qualifying service in Afghanistan or Iraq prior to 1 May 2005 are eligible to earn the ACM or ICM, respectively, for subsequent deployments. Personnel who met the eligibility criteria for the GWOTEM and ACM, or the GWOTEM and ICM, during a single deployment must elect one of these medals. No individual may be issued both medals for the same period of service. A period of service is defined as a single tour or deployment.

(2) Service Members may be awarded both the GWOTEM and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (GWOTSM) if they meet the eligibility criteria for both awards. The qualifying period of service used to establish eligibility for one award cannot be used to establish eligibility for the other.

3. Administrative Procedures. Commanding Officers of qualified units are authorized to issue Service Stars for the GWOTEM to Sailors and Marines assigned to their command according to the criteria in subparagraph (d) above. Commanding Officers shall ensure appropriate Electronic Service Record (ESR) entries within the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) or Marine Corps Total Force System (MCTFS) entries are made to properly reflect award of the GWOTEM with the authorized number of Service Stars. Commanding Officers shall ensure that each Service Member approaching the end of his/her active obligated service has award eligibility reviewed and updated so the DD-214 will accurately reflect all authorized GWOTEM Service Stars.

a. Navy personnel who have been discharged or retired and desire to have their award eligibility updated in their official records must submit a written request indicating unit and dates assigned, along with a current mailing address and copy of the undeleted version of their DD-214, to

Navy Personnel Command (PERS-312)  
5720 Integrity Drive  
Millington, TN 38055-3120.

If available, supporting documentation showing qualifying service should be included.

b. Marines who have been retired or discharged without further obligated service must submit their requests to Manpower Management Division, Military Awards Branch (MMMA), 2008 Elliot Road, Quantico, VA 22134-5030. Marines who have been released from active duty with further obligated service, but not in an active drilling status (e.g., IRR status), must submit their requests to the Marine Corps Mobilization Command, 15303 Andrews Road, Kansas City, MO 64147-1207. All requests for the GWOTEM must include the following: copy of DD-214, unit and dates served in qualifying operations, and any other documentation to verify service in the AOE (e.g., orders, personal award citations, etc.).

c. Questions regarding eligibility should be addressed to CNO (DNS-35) or CMC (MMMA), as appropriate.

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

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