

## ALMAR 010/06

**Date signed:** 02/24/2006                      **MARADMIN Number:** 010/06  
**Subject:** CLARIFICATION OF COMBAT ACTION RIBBON (CAR) ELIGIBILITY  
CRITERIA

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FM CMC WASHINGTON DC(UC)

TO AL ALMAR(UC)

UNCLASSIFIED//

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MSGID/GENADMIN/CMC WASHINGTON DC/MRA/FEB/AMP//

SUBJ/CLARIFICATION OF COMBAT ACTION RIBBON (CAR)

/ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA//

REF/A/DOC/SECNAV/07JAN2002//

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GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. THIS ALMAR PROVIDES CLARIFICATION OF THE  
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE CAR.

2. PER REFERENCE (A), THE TWO ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE CAR ARE:

(1) THE INDIVIDUAL MUST HAVE PARTICIPATED IN A BONA FIDE GROUND OR  
SURFACE COMBAT FIRE-FIGHT OR ACTION DURING WHICH HE/SHE WAS  
UNDER

ENEMY FIRE AND (2) HIS/HER PERFORMANCE WHILE UNDER FIRE WAS  
SATISFACTORY.

3. USING THIS DEFINITION AS A BASELINE, THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS  
PROVIDED:

A. THE EVOLUTION IN WARFARE THAT HAS OCCURRED DURING COMBAT  
OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ, ESPECIALLY IN REGARDS TO THE  
THREAT POSED BY IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (IED), CAUSES  
CONSIDERATION TO BE GIVEN TO ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CAR.

B. THE USE OF THE WORD "OR" IN THE PHRASE "FIRE-FIGHT OR ACTION"  
CLEARLY ALLOWS A COMMANDER CONSIDERABLE LEEWAY IN DETERMINING  
ELIGIBILITY BEYOND THE SCOPE OF A FIRE-FIGHT ENGAGEMENT ONLY.

C. PURSUANT TO THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CAR, I  
CONSIDER

EXPOSURE TO A DETONATED IED AS BEING UNDER ENEMY FIRE.

THEREFORE,

MARINES WHO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS DURING SUCH AN

ENGAGEMENT MEET

BOTH CAR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

4. THIS GUIDANCE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. IT IS ALSO RETROACTIVE TO 7 OCTOBER 2001. U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND WILL BE

RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING A REVIEW OF THOSE INDIVIDUAL CASES PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED BUT NOT APPROVED FOR THE CAR. FURTHER AMPLIFYING GUIDANCE ON RETROACTIVITY WILL BE PUBLISHED VIA SEPARATE

CORRESPONDENCE.

5. AS WITH ALL INDIVIDUAL AWARDS, THIS GUIDANCE REQUIRES JUDGMENT IN APPLICATION AND WILL REQUIRE THE PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF COMMANDERS AT ALL LEVELS.

6. KEEP ATTACKING, M. W. HAGEE, GENERAL, U.S. MARINE CORPS, COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS.//