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For Immediate Release:

April 29, 2011

Army clarifies guidance for Purple Heart award for concussion injuries

FORT KNOX, Ky. — The Army is clarifying its guidance for awarding the Purple Heart for concussion injuries. This is a clarification. This does not change the criteria or standard for the award of the Purple Heart. The clarifying guidance is designed to assist the Chain of Command, Soldiers and Veterans in understanding the specific requirements for consideration and reconsideration retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001.

The clarification:

- (1) More accurately outlines the signs and symptoms of a concussion injury following a hostile event and clearly outlines what constitutes treatment. This clarification includes requirements for commanders and medical professionals to use in reviewing award submissions/resubmissions. It clarifies what constitutes qualification for the Purple Heart for concussion injuries (including mild traumatic brain and concussive injuries that do not result in a loss of consciousness).

- (2) Outlines procedures to be used to reconsider previously disapproved Purple Hearts for concussion injuries. As part of this review, the first general officer in a Soldier's peacetime chain of command is the disapproval authority for these resubmissions.

The Army is encouraging Soldiers and Veterans who were previously denied a Purple Heart for concussion injuries to resubmit documentation for reconsideration. Soldiers currently serving in the Active Army, Army Reserves or Army National Guard should resubmit through their company chain of command.

Veterans should resubmit to the U.S. Army Human Resources Command at:

Commander, USA HRC
ATTN: Awards & Decorations Branch (AHRC-PDP-A)
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.
Fort Knox, KY 40122
1-888-276-9472
Email: hrc.tagd.awards@conus.army.mil
Website: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/awards>

CLARIFYING 2/2/2

Submission for reconsideration is not a guarantee of approval. Items that Soldiers and Veterans should include when resubmitting for the award are:

- DA Form 4187 (personnel action) Blank DA 4187 can be downloaded here:
<http://armypubs.army.mil/eforms/pdf/A4187.PDF>
 - For Soldiers still on Active, Guard or Reserve duty, the DA Form 4187 must be signed by the chain of command through the first General Officer in the Soldier's current chain of command. Veterans can do not require additional signatures.
- Deployment orders. Soldiers currently serving in the Army can obtain them from their Military Personnel Office. Veterans can obtain them from the Veteran's Inquiry Branch by emailing veterans@conus.army.mil. For more information visit <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Reserve/soldierservices/veteran/overview.htm>.
- Officer Record Brief or Enlisted Record Brief (DA Form 2-1) Soldiers currently serving in the Army can obtain them from the Military Personnel Office. Veterans can obtain them from the Veteran's Inquiry Branch at veterans@conus.army.mil
- One page narrative describing the qualifying incident and the conditions under which the Soldier was wounded.
- Two eyewitness statements (or other official documentation) corroborating the narrative.
- Casualty report.
- SF 600 (Chronological record of medical care), obtained from the Soldier's medical records.
- DD Form 214 (certificate of release/ discharge from active duty, if applicable).