

## Department of the Army, DoD

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ARMED FORCES" at the bottom. The ribbon is 1 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches wide and consists of the following stripes:  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch Bluebird 67117;  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch Goldenlight 67107;  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch Bluebird;  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch Green 67129;  $\frac{5}{32}$  inch Goldenlight; center  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch Green;  $\frac{5}{32}$  inch Goldenlight;  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch Green;  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch Bluebird;  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch Goldenlight; and  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch Bluebird.

### § 578.37 Army Good Conduct Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The Army Good Conduct Medal (AGCM) was established by Executive Order 8809, June 28, 1941 and was amended by Executive Order 9323, 1943 and by Executive Order 10444, April 10, 1953. It is awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity in active Federal military service. It is awarded on a selective basis to each soldier who distinguishes himself or herself from among his or her fellow soldiers by his exemplary conduct, efficiency, and fidelity throughout a specified period of continuous enlisted active Federal military service. There is no right or entitlement to the medal until the immediate commander has approved the award and the award has been announced in permanent orders.

(b) *Personnel eligible:* (1) Active Component enlisted soldiers.

(2) Active Guard Reserve (AGR) enlisted personnel serving on extended periods of active duty (other than for training) under 10 U.S.C. and 32 U.S.C. are eligible for award of the AGCM for qualifying service beginning on or after September 1, 1982, provided no period of the service has been duplicated by the same period of service for which the soldier has been awarded the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (ARCAM). The AGCM qualification period may commence anytime during the 3 years immediately preceding the September 1, 1982 effective date provided no portion of service for the AGCM is included in a period of service for which the ARCAM was awarded.

(3) Retroactively to eligible Army of the United States (AUS) enlisted personnel.

(4) Other Army enlisted personnel as may be directed by the Secretary of the Army.

(c) *Awarding authority.* Unit commanders are authorized to award the AGCM to enlisted personnel serving

under their command jurisdiction who meet the established criteria. Send requests for award of the AGCM for former soldiers to NPRC (see § 578.8(e) for address). Requests for award of the AGCM for Army National Guard and Army Reserve members for periods of active duty based on qualifying prior active Federal military service (Regular Army and AUS) will be forwarded through normal command channels to the Commander, USA HRC-St. Louis, ATTN: ARPC-PSP-R, One Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200. Separation transfer points will review the records of enlisted personnel being separated to determine whether they qualify for the AGCM. Where possible, make a reasonable effort to contact the unit commander before awarding the medal to qualified members.

(d) *Basis for approval.* The immediate unit commander's decision to award the AGCM will be based on his or her personal knowledge and of the individual's official records for periods of service under previous commanders during the period for which the award is to be made. The lack of official disqualifying comment by such previous commanders qualifies the use of such period toward the award by the current commander.

(e) *Qualifying periods of service.* Any one of the following periods of continuous enlisted active Federal military service qualifies for award of the AGCM or of an AGCM Clasp (see paragraph (h) of this section in conjunction with the criteria in paragraph (f) of this section):

(1) Each 3 years completed on or after August 27, 1940.

(2) For first award only, 1 year served entirely during the period December 7, 1941 to March 2, 1946.

(3) For first award only, upon termination of service on or after June 27, 1950, of less than 3 years but more than 1 year.

(4) For first award only, upon termination of service, on or after June 27, 1950, of less than 1 year when final separation was by reason of physical disability incurred in the line of duty.

(5) For first award only, for those individuals who died before completing 1 year of active Federal military service

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if the death occurred in the line of duty.

(f) *Character of service.* Throughout a qualifying period, each enlisted soldier must meet all of the following criteria for an award:

(1) The immediate commander evaluates the soldier's character as above reproach.

(2) The record of service indicates that the soldier has—

(i) Willingly complied with the demands of the military environment.

(ii) Been loyal and obedient to their superiors.

(iii) Faithfully supported the goals of their organization and the Army.

(iv) Conducted themselves in such an exemplary manner as to distinguish them from their fellow soldiers.

(3) While any record of non-judicial punishment could be in conflict with recognizing the soldier's service as exemplary, such record should not be viewed as automatically disqualifying. The commander analyzes the record, giving consideration to the nature of the infraction, the circumstances under which it occurred and when. Conviction by court-martial terminates a period of qualifying service; a new period begins following the completion of sentence imposed by court-martial.

(4) In terms of job performance, the soldier's efficiency must be evaluated and must meet all requirements and expectations for that soldier's grade, Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), and experience.

(5) Individuals whose retention is not warranted under standards prescribed in AR 604-10, or for whom a bar to reenlistment has been approved under the provisions of AR 601-280, chapter 6 (specifically for the reasons enumerated in paragraphs 6-4a, b, and d), are not eligible for award of the AGCM.

(g) *Additional implementing instructions.* (1) Qualifying periods of service (paragraph (e) of this section) must be continuous enlisted active Federal military service. When an interval in excess of 24 hours occurs between enlistments, that portion of service before the interruption is not creditable toward an award.

(2) Release from enlisted status for entry into service as a cadet or midshipman at any U.S. service academy,

or discharge from enlisted status for immediate entry on active duty in an officer status is considered termination of service for awarding the AGCM. A minimum of 12 months enlisted service is required and must have been completed for first award of the AGCM; otherwise, the full 3 years of qualifying enlisted service is required.

(3) A qualified person scheduled for separation from active Federal military service should receive the award at his or her last duty station. Such award is authorized up to 30 days before the soldier's departure en route to a separation processing installation in CONUS or overseas. Orders announcing such advance awards will indicate the closing date for the award prefixed with date of separation, on or about, as the response to the "Dates or period of service" lead line. Example: From October 31, 1977 to date of separation on or about October 30, 1980. For soldiers who are granted terminal leave prior to retirement or End Tour of Service (ETS), orders awarding second and subsequent awards of the AGCM may be issued up to 90 days before retirement or ETS date.

(4) An award made for any authorized period of less than 3 years must be for the total period of obligated active Federal military service. This applies to first award only, all other awards of the AGCM require 3 full years qualifying service.

(5) Discharge under provisions of AR 635-200 for immediate (re)enlistment is not termination of service.

(h) *Disqualification for the Army Good Conduct Medal.* (1) Conviction by courts-martial terminates a period of qualifying service; a new period begins the following day after completion of the sentence imposed by the court-martial.

(2) Individual whose retention is not warranted under standards prescribed in AR 604-10, or for whom a bar to reenlistment has been approved under the provisions of AR 601-280, chapter 6 (specifically for the reasons enumerated in, paragraphs 6-4a, b, and d, AR 601-280), are not eligible for award of the AGCM.

(3) In instances of disqualification as determined by the unit commander,

the commander will prepare a statement of the rationale for his or her decision. This statement will include the period of disqualification and will be referred to the individual according to AR 600-37. The unit commander will consider the affected individual's statement. If the commander's decision remains the same, the commander will forward his or her statement, the individual's statement, and his or her consideration for filing in the individual's military record.

(4) Disqualification for an award of the AGCM can occur at any time during a qualifying period (for example, when manner of performance or efficiency declines). The custodian of the soldier's record will establish the new "beginning date" for the soldier's eligibility for award of the AGCM, annotate the date on the soldier's DA Form 2-1, and submit an automated transaction. These procedures do not apply if the soldier is disqualified under the provisions of paragraph (h)(2) of this section.

(i) *Subsequent awards and clasps.* A clasp is authorized for wear on the AGCM to denote a second or subsequent award. Clasps authorized for second and subsequent award are:

- (1) Award: 2d; Clasp: Bronze, 2 loops;
  - (2) Award: 3d; Clasp: Bronze, 3 loops;
  - (3) Award: 4th; Clasp: Bronze, 4 loops;
  - (4) Award: 5th; Clasp: Bronze, 5 loops;
  - (5) Award: 6th; Clasp: Silver, 1 loop;
  - (6) Award: 7th; Clasp: Silver, 2 loops;
  - (7) Award: 8th; Clasp: Silver, 3 loops;
  - (8) Award: 9th; Clasp: Silver, 4 loops;
  - (9) Award: 10th; Clasp: Silver, 5 loops;
  - (10) Award: 11th; Clasp: Gold, 1 loop;
  - (11) Award: 12th; Clasp: Gold, 2 loops;
  - (12) Award: 13th; Clasp: Gold, 3 loops;
  - (13) Award: 14th; Clasp: Gold, 4 loops;
- and
- (14) Award: 15th; Clasp: Gold, 5 loops.

(j) *Army Good Conduct Medal certificate policy.* (1) The DA Form 4950 (Good Conduct Medal Certificate) may be presented to enlisted soldiers only on the following occasions:

(i) Concurrent with the first award of the AGCM earned on or after January 1, 1981.

(ii) Concurrent with retirement on or after January 1, 1981.

(2) When presented at retirement, the DA Form 4950 will reflect the last approved award of the AGCM earned by

the soldier before retirement. The number of the last earned will be centered immediately beneath the line "THE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL;" for example, "Sixth Award." The period shown on the certificate will be the period cited in the last award earned by the soldier. The words "UPON HIS OR HER RETIREMENT" may be typed below the soldier's name.

(3) The DA Form 4950 will not be presented for second or subsequent awards of the AGCM except as provided in paragraph (j)(2) of this section.

(4) DA Form 4950 is available from the U.S. Army Publications Distribution Center, St. Louis, MO.

(k) *Retroactive award.* (1) Retroactive award to enlisted personnel, and to officer personnel who qualified in an enlisted status, is authorized provided evidence is available to establish qualification. Where necessary, to correct conflicting or duplicate awards, previous general or permanent orders may be revoked and new orders published, citing this paragraph as authority.

(2) Requests for retroactive awards to enlisted persons which cannot be processed due to lack of information will be forwarded to Commander, U.S. Army Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center, Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN 46249-5301, by the commander having command jurisdiction. Upon receipt of eligibility information from U.S. Army Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center (USAEREC), the commander can take action to confirm retroactive award of the AGCM by publication of orders, or by informing the soldier of findings of ineligibility.

(1) *Description.* The medal is Bronze, 1¼ inches in diameter, with an eagle, wings spread, standing on a closed book and sword, encircled by the words "EFFICIENCY HONOR FIDELITY". On the reverse is a five-pointed star and a scroll between the words "FOR GOOD" and "CONDUCT", surrounded by a wreath formed by a laurel branch on the left and an oak branch on the right. Clasps are placed on the ribbon to represent subsequent awards. The ribbon is 1¾ inches ribbon consisting of the following stripes: ¼ inch Soldier Red 67157; ¼ inch White 67101; ¼ inch Soldier Red; ¼ inch White; ¼ inch Soldier Red; ¼ inch White; center ⅝

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inch Soldier Red;  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch White;  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch Soldier Red;  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch White;  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch Soldier Red;  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch White; and  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch Soldier Red.

**§ 578.38 Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal.**

(a) *Criteria.* The Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (ARCAM) was established by the Secretary of the Army on March 3, 1971 and amended by Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) 4, 1974. It is awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity while serving as a member of an Army National Guard (ARNG) or USAR troop program unit (TPU) or as an individual mobilization augmentee (IMA). The first design bears the inscription "United States Army Reserve," the other design bears the inscription, "Army National Guard."

(b) *Personnel eligible.* The ARCAM is authorized for award to Army personnel including Active Guard Reserve (AGR) officers in the rank of colonel and below. Individual must have been a member of an ARNG unit or USAR TPU, excluding enlisted soldiers in an AGR status. AGR enlisted soldiers are eligible for the AGCM under the provisions of § 578.37(b). The medal is also awarded to USAR soldiers serving as IMA after completing qualifying service and on recommendation of the unit commander or HQDA official to which the IMA is assigned.

(c) *Award approval authority.* Approval authority for award of the ARCAM for ARNG units and USAR TPU soldiers is the soldier's unit commander. Commander, USA HRC-St. Louis, One Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200, is the approval authority for award of the ARCAM to USAR IMA soldiers. Orders are not published for the award of this medal. Approved ARCAM is announced using an official memorandum. The records custodian will then annotate the records.

(d) *Peacetime and wartime applicability.* The ARCAM is awarded to eligible Army Reserve Component soldiers during times of peace and war. However, during periods of war, the length of qualifying service is subject to change at the discretion of the Secretary of the Army.

(e) *Basis or criteria for approval.* (1) Between March 3, 1972 and March 28, 1995, the medal was authorized on completion of 4 years' service with a Reserve Component unit. Individual must have completed 4 years of qualifying service on or after March 3, 1972 and before March 28, 1995. A qualifying year of service is one in which a Reserve soldier earns a minimum of 50 retirement points during his/her retirement year. Qualifying service for computation purposes is based only by retirement ending year dates.

(2) Effective March 28, 1995, the period of qualifying service for award of the ARCAM is reduced from 4 to 3 years. That is, soldiers completing 3 years of qualified service on or after March 28, 1995 are eligible for ARCAM consideration. This change is not retroactive.

(3) All awards of the ARCAM must be made under the following conditions:

(i) Such years of qualifying service must have been consecutive. A period of more than 24 hours between Reserve enlistments or officer's service will be considered a break in service. Credit toward earning the award must begin anew after a break in service. Service while attending Officer Candidate School or Warrant Officer Candidate school will be considered enlisted service, and termination will occur when the soldier is commissioned or appointed a warrant officer.

(ii) Although only unit service may be credited for award of this medal, consecutive Ready Reserve service between periods of unit service will not be considered as a break in service and service in the first unit may be added to service in the second unit to determine total qualifying service.

(iii) Soldiers who are ordered to active duty in the AGR program will be awarded the ARCAM if they have completed 2 of the 3 years required (Army Good Conduct Medal eligibility starts on the effective date of the AGR order). Soldiers with less than 2 years will not receive an award. Service lost may be recovered if the soldier is separated honorably from the AGR program and reverts to troop program unit service, for example, a soldier serves 1 year and 6 months of qualifying service and is ordered to an AGR tour. This service is