

## Combat Action, 2001-present



A Combat Action Badge introduced in June 3, 2005, is shown above. The award was retroactive to September 18, 2001. Although at the announced time soldiers could be awarded only one badge, even for service in both Iran and Afghanistan, the army authorized two and three awards with the addition of one and two stars.

Requirements for a combat action badge include that the soldier had to be personally present and actively engage the enemy (or the soldier could have been engaged by the enemy), be performing duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay was authorized, and not be eligible for the combat infantry or the combat medical badge. Foreign soldiers assigned to the US Army (Korean Augmentees to the US Army) were also eligible. Authorization is by general orders issued by commanders who were major general or higher. Soldiers who had the combat infantry, the combat medical badge, and the combat action badge could wear only one of these badges, and the soldiers had his or her choice. General Schoomaker awarded the first five badges on June 29, 2005, at the Pentagon.