



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Posthumous Award of the Purple Heart Medal to Prisoners of War Who Died While in Captivity as a Prisoner of War

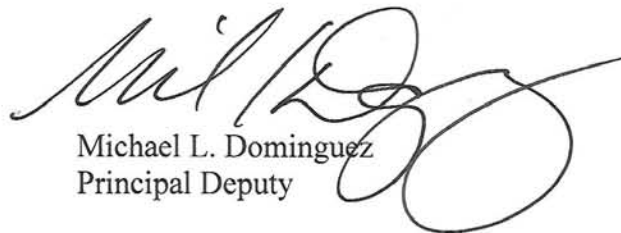
The Department provides the following policy guidance authorizing award of the Purple Heart Medal to qualifying prisoners-of-war (POWs) who are killed or die while in captivity as POWs provided they qualify for award of the POW Medal in accordance with Title 10 United States Code, §1128, titled "Prisoner-of-war medal: issue" and DoD 1348.33-M, *Manual of Military Decorations and Awards*, Section C6.2, titled "Prisoner of War Medal."

The revised policy is consistent with a Department report to Congress subject: "Report on the Advisability of Modifying the Criteria for the Award of the Purple Heart," dated August 8, 2007. The report stated, "The Department advises that changing the eligibility criteria for the Purple Heart has merit for those Prisoners of War, under circumstances establishing eligibility for the prisoner-of-war medal under section 1128 [10 U.S.C.], who die while prisoners of war that are not otherwise eligible for the Purple Heart under the circumstances causing death."

DoD 1348.33-M, *Manual of Military Decorations and Awards*, Appendix 1, Section AP1.1.2.21., Purple Heart, paragraph AP1.1.2.21.2.10., is added: "After December 7, 1941, to a Service member who is killed or dies while in captivity as a prisoner-of-war under circumstances establishing eligibility for the POW medal under Title 10 U.S.C., §1128 and DoD 1348.33-M, *Manual of Military Decorations and Awards*, Section C6.2, titled, 'Prisoner of War Medal,' unless compelling evidence is presented which shows the member's death was not the result of enemy action."

The Military Departments shall establish procedures by which the representative, as designated by the Secretary concerned, of a former Service member who was killed or died while in captivity as a POW can apply for posthumous award of the PH. These procedures must be made available to the general public to facilitate ease of application.

The preceding policy guidance will be incorporated into the upcoming revision of DoD 1348.33-M, *Manual of Military Decorations and Awards*.



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cc:
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