



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MAY 11 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal Eligibility Criteria

The nature of operations in Iraq and Syria for Operation INHERENT RESOLVE require commanders to move forces into and out of the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal (IRCM) Area of Eligibility (AOE) frequently. Accordingly, Service member presence in the IRCM AOE is more temporary and transient in nature than the way we have historically managed conflicts. As a result, the 60 non-consecutive day eligibility requirement has been revised to allow award of the IRCM for 30 non-consecutive days of qualifying service in the AOE during the established period of award. The IRCM award criteria and eligibility requirements are hereby revised as follows:

*(1) The IRCM will be awarded to each Service member who, during the Period of Award, was permanently assigned, attached, or detailed for 30 days (consecutive or non-consecutive) to a unit operating in the Area of Eligibility (AOE) or who meets one of the following criteria, regardless of time spent in the AOE:*

*(a) Was engaged in combat during an armed engagement.*

*(b) While participating in an operation or on official duties was killed, or was wounded or injured and medically evacuated from the AOE.*

The revised IRCM award criteria and eligibility requirements will be incorporated into the next revision of Department of Defense Manual 1348.33, Volume 2, "Manual of Military Decorations and Awards: DoD Service Awards – Campaign, Expeditionary, and Service Medals."

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. M. Kurta".

A. M. Kurta  
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of  
Defense for Personnel and Readiness