



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF G-1**  
**300 ARMY PENTAGON**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310-0300**

August 4, 2022

Director, Military Personnel Management

The Honorable Trent Kelly  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kelly:

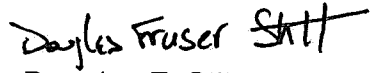
Thank you for your May 25, 2022, letter regarding your request to appropriately recognize Soldier experiences and sacrifices while serving under austere locations outside of a declared combat zone. I am responding on behalf of Secretary of the Army Christine E. Wormuth. We acknowledge your desire to amend current policy to grant combat tour service credit and authorize the wear of the Shoulder Sleeve Insignia – Military Operations in Hostile Conditions (SSI-MOHC) to Soldiers who meet the criteria for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOT-EM) while serving in an area authorized for Imminent Danger Pay/Hostile Fire Pay (IDP/HFP).

While we agree that it is important to ensure Soldiers are properly recognized for their operational experiences, the Army does not directly control which Soldiers can receive credit for having served in combat (combat tour credit). Combat tour credit is contingent upon a deployment to a designated combat zone. A combat zone is designated by the President in an Executive Order. In addition, Soldiers can receive combat service tour credit if they serve in a Qualified Hazardous Duty Area (QHDA), as designated by Congress, if the Soldier is entitled to Hostile Fire Pay/Imminent Danger Pay (HFP/IDP). Soldiers also receive combat tour credit for service outside of a combat zone or QHDA when the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) certifies that their service is in direct support of military operations in a combat zone or QHDA and the Soldier is entitled to HFP/IDF. As a follow-up to your letter, the Army G-1 will coordinate with USD (P&R) to validate currently established combat zones.

As for the wear of the SSI-MOHC, current Army regulation outlines that eligibility for wear is contingent upon a Soldier's participation in or support of military operations in hostile conditions and must occur while the Soldier is located in an area in which they can receive combat tour credit (as outlined above) and HFP/IDP. I have directed the Uniform Policy Branch, G-1, to review and determine if it is feasible to add to the authorized criteria for approval of wear of the SSI-MOHC instances where Soldiers were awarded the GWOT-EM while serving in IDP/HFP area.

Thank you for your inquiry and for the continued support of our Soldiers and Families. I hope I adequately addressed your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas F. Stitt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Douglas F. Stitt  
Major General, US Army  
Director, Military Personnel Management