



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

JUN 30 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Award of the Armed Forces Service Medal and Humanitarian Service Medal for
Department of Defense Coronavirus Operations and Activities

The Armed Forces Service Medal (AFSM) and Humanitarian Service Medal (HSM) are approved for award to eligible Service members for qualifying DoD coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) operations and activities.

- Period of Award for the AFSM and HSM: January 31, 2020 to a future “to be determined” termination date.
- Area of Eligibility: Given the global nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no designated area of eligibility, and award authorities determine eligibility based on the nature of the qualifying DoD COVID-19 operation and/or activity.
- Eligible Personnel: Active and Reserve Component (including National Guard) members who meet AFSM and HSM eligibility criteria contained in DoD Manual 1348.33, Volume 2, “DoD Manual of Military Decorations and Awards – Campaign, Expeditionary, and Service Medals.”

Pursuant to DoD Manual 1348.33, Volume 2, paragraphs 4.4.e.(3) and 4.8.e.(6), each Military Department will prescribe appropriate regulations for administrative processing, awarding, and wearing of the AFSM and HSM, respectively. Accordingly, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned will determine eligibility for award of the AFSM and HSM to Service members in his or her respective Military Department based on the eligibility criteria. As an exception for DoD COVID-19 operations and activities, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau is authorized to determine eligibility for National Guard members who do not fall under the purview of a Secretary of a Military Department.

Award authorities determine which operations and/or activities are deemed to be humanitarian in nature based off of HSM award criteria. Service members are not eligible for both the AFSM and HSM based on the same activities, deployment, and/or period of service.

Due to the global nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, as an exception, the AFSM is authorized for award to qualifying Service members who deploy for at least 30 days (either

consecutively or non-consecutively). Additionally, the AFSM deployment requirement is waived for non-deployed Service members, provided the members were re-assigned from their normal duties to primarily perform duties related to DoD COVID-19 operations or activities for at least 30 days. Finally, due to the health risk posed by COVID-19, award of the AFSM is authorized for one day of qualifying service if that service resulted in the member contracting the virus.

Service members should direct eligibility questions to their respective Military Department.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew P. Donovan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being the most prominent part.

Matthew P. Donovan