



## DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCES CENTRAL (USAFCENT)  
SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA

24 October 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR AMC/CC

402 Scott Drive, Unit 3EC  
Scott AFB IL 62225-5310

FROM: USAFCENT/CC

524 Shaw Drive, Suite 200  
Shaw AFB SC 29152

SUBJECT: Air Medals for Critical Care Air Transport Team Members

1. Sir, I received and reviewed your request for reconsideration of my decision to exclude Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT) members from eligibility for the Air Medal (AM). Please note, although your request is dated 31 January 2008, my staff did not receive a copy until 31 July 2008.
2. After careful review, I respectfully do not support this request. AFI 36-2803 only authorizes Air Medals (AM) for aircrew – either operating aircraft or performing other aircrew member duties to recognize distinction in aerial flight and related airmanship. Accordingly, HAF/A-1, through AFI 36-3208 has drawn the line on AM eligibility at aircrew. Aircrew, defined in AFI 11-401, does not include non-rated or non-Career Enlisted Aviator (CEA) personnel. Resulting “haves” or “have-nots” stem from these AFI definitions and award criteria.
3. CCATT members are non-rated/non-CEA personnel with extensive medical, medical transport, and aerospace medicine skills. CCATT personnel perform a highly valued medical service, essential to saving lives of U.S. military personnel. CCATT often perform such vital service to supplement Aeromedical Evacuation (AE) aircrew personnel; yet, CCATT are not aircrew.
4. Clearly, CCATT and AE both are vital, important and key teams to treating patients; however, they are different in that AE are full-time aircrew. CCATT are neither full-time engaged in flight duty, nor are they aircrew – a key distinction. The primary focus of CCATT members, when not transporting patients, is medical care, not aviation duties. Their aviation nexus is medical care while in flight – a part-time duty of CCATT as non-rated/non-CEA personnel.
5. Through limited discretion authority, I authorized CCATT member eligibility for the Aerial Achievement Medal (AAM) – along with other decorations available to recognize CCATT members for exceptional achievement or heroism in a combat zone. CCATT members who flew qualifying missions on or after 11 September 2001 will remain eligible for the award of the AAM when properly documented and submitted.
6. Upon CCATT designation as aircrew in AFI 11-401 or with expanded AM eligibility to include both aircrew and non-rated/non-CEA personnel in AFI 36-2803, I can then authorize the AM for CCATT as non-rated operational support personnel. Until then, I cannot support such recognition. My POC is Colonel Donald Barnes, USAFCENT/A1, at DSN 965-3045.

  
GARY L. NORTH  
Lieutenant General, USAF  
Commander

cc: ACC/CC, AF/A1