

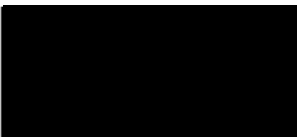


REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF
DAPE-PSA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON, DC 20310

8 December 1982

Mr. Ken Follett



Ken
Dear Ken:

Summabitch, you did it. You kept me up all night long and screwed up my clock for the next few days, but...Jesus, what a story.

It was very kind of you to mention me in the acknowledgments, and it got my sons very excited. I don't think I really helped you all that much, but it was very thoughtful to include me.

The only technical comment I have follows the assertion on page 6 that "in those days the Army had given an Oak Leaf Cluster for every 25 hours of combat flying..." An oak leaf cluster represents an additional award of the basic medal, in this case the Air Medal. I called Mr. Coburn to clarify the point. He said he had 39 Air Medals, which translates as 1 Air Medal and 38 oak leaf clusters. I suggest that you say he was awarded the Air Medal 39 times. Enclosed is the Army regulation that describes the medal.

It took me about 30 minutes to find a copy of the reg and get back to typing this, because I started talking to the sergeant major who runs the library. He knew Simons, and when I started describing The Bull and The Peacock, it was hard to stop. The punchline was that we see in Simons, Perot and crowd the prototype of the American ideal, and how strange it is that you--an outsider, I suppose--have been able to capture it so well...and with such sympathy. The story itself is inspirational on its merits, as you suggest. It's like the story of the Alamo, except no one got killed.

It was a pleasure to help in this enterprise and an honor to be connected with the legendary characters who made it happen. Please let me know if there's anything more I can do to help.

My very best wishes to you and your family this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Chas A. Krohn
Chas A. Krohn

PS Please plan an autograph event, for The Pentagon book store... don't forget lunch!

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1 November 1979

C 5, AR 672-5-1

involving superior airmanship, which are of a lesser degree than required for award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, but nevertheless were accomplished with distinction beyond that normally expected.

c. Meritorious Service. Awards for meritorious service may be made for sustained distinction in the performance of duties involving regular and frequent participation in aerial flight for a period of at least 6 months. In this regard, accumulation of a specified number of hours and missions will not serve as the basis for award of the Air Medal. Criteria in paragraph *a* above, concerning conditions of conflict, are applicable to award of the Air Medal for meritorious service.

d. Award of the Air Medal is primarily intended to recognize those personnel who are on current crewmember or noncrewmember flying status which requires them to participate in aerial flight on a regular and frequent basis in the performance of their primary duties. However, it may also be awarded to certain other individuals whose combat duties require regular and frequent flying in other than a passenger status, or individuals who perform a particularly noteworthy act while performing the function of a crewmember, but who are not on flying status as prescribed in AR 600-106. These individuals must make a discernible contribution to the operational land combat mission or to the mission of the aircraft in flight. Examples of personnel whose combat duties require them to fly include those in the attack elements of units involved in air-land assaults against an armed enemy and those directly involved in airborne command and control of combat operations. Involvement in such activities, normally at the brigade/group level and below, serves only to establish eligibility for award of the Air Medal; the degree of heroism, meritorious achievement or exemplary service determines who should receive the award. Awards will not be made to individuals who use air transportation solely for the purpose of moving from point to point in a combat zone.

★2-17. Joint Service Commendation Medal. The Joint Service Commendation Medal is awarded

in the name of the Secretary of Defense and takes precedence with, but before, the Army Commendation Medal when both are worn on the uniform. The decoration is not awarded to any individual for a period of service for which another meritorious decoration has been awarded. Each recommendation for award of the Joint Service Commendation Medal must be entered administratively into command channels within one year of the achievement or service to be honored.

a. Eligibility. Any active member of the Armed Forces of the United States who distinguishes himself/herself by meritorious achievement or service while serving in any assignment specified in *b* below after 1 January 1963 is eligible for this award. Individuals on temporary duty for at least 60 days to activities listed in paragraph *b* below are also eligible for this award. The required achievement or service, while of lesser degree than that required for award of the Meritorious Service Medal must nevertheless have been accomplished with distinction. Recommendations will be restricted to the recognition of outstanding performance of duty and meritorious achievement that are incontestably exceptional and of a magnitude that clearly places an individual above his/her peers. Awards made for acts or services involving direct participation in combat operations during the period 25 June 1963 to 31 March 1976 may include the "V" device. Effective 1 April 1976, the "V" device is authorized if the citation is approved for valor (heroism) in a designated combat area.

b. Joint activities. Military personnel assigned to the following joint activities are eligible for the award:

- (1) Office of the Secretary of Defense.
- (2) Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and joint activities reporting through the JCS.
- (3) Defense Agencies.
- (4) Headquarters, Unified and Specified Commands.
- (5) Headquarters of joint forces, headquarters of joint commands or control groups report-

The decoration shall not be awarded to any individual for a period of service for which another meritorious decoration has been awarded. Each recommendation for award of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal must be entered administratively into command channels within one year of the achievement or service to be honored.

a. Eligibility. Any active member of the Armed Forces of the United States who distinguishes himself/herself by noncombat meritorious achievement or service while serving in any assignment specified in *b*, below, after 3 November 1977, is eligible for this award. Individuals on temporary duty for at least 60 days to activities listed in paragraph *b* below, are also eligible for this award. The required achievement or service, while of lesser degree than that required for award of the Defense Superior Service Medal must nevertheless have been accomplished with distinction. Recommendations will be restricted to the recognition of noncombat meritorious achievement/service that is incontestably exceptional and of a magnitude that clearly places an individual above his/her peers.

b. Joint activities. Military personnel assigned to the following joint activities are eligible for the award.

- (1) Office of the Secretary of Defense.
- (2) Washington Headquarters Services.
- (3) Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and joint activities reporting to or through the JCS, and other agencies of the JCS.
- (4) Defense Agencies.
- (5) Headquarters, Unified and Specified Commands.
- (6) Headquarters of joint forces, headquarters of joint commands or control groups reporting to or through the JCS, and headquarters of subordinate joint commands.
- (7) Other joint activities reporting to Commanders of Unified and Specified Commands (e.g., Military Assistance Advisory Groups and Joint Missions).

(8) Jointly manned staffs within Allied Command Europe and Allied Command Atlantic, the NATO Military Committee and military agencies, associated with the functions of the Military Committee, the Inter-American Defense Board, the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the Division of Military Application, Department of Energy, and the combined staff of the North American Air Defense Command.

(9) Joint Activities for which the Secretary of a Military Department has been designated by DOD directive as the Executive Agent for the Secretary of Defense.

(10) Joint Activities for which a principal staff assistant to the Secretary of Defense has been designated by DOD directive as the Executive Agent for the Secretary of Defense.

c. Personnel who are assigned to Military Department components that are assigned or attached to a joint command for administrative/exercise purposes may not be awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

★2-15. Meritorious Service Medal. The Meritorious Service Medal is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving in a noncombat area after 16 January 1969, has distinguished himself by outstanding meritorious achievement or service.

2-16. Air Medal. The Air Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the United States Army, shall have distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit or heroism, or for meritorious service as described below.

a. Heroism. Awards may be made for acts of heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party, which are of a lesser degree than required for award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

b. Meritorious Achievement. Awards may be made for single acts of meritorious achievement,

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people have helped me, by talking to me for hours on end, by patiently replying to my letters, and by reading drafts of this book. I thank the following especially:

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*

As usual, I was helped by two indefatigable researchers, Dan Starer in New York and Caren Meyer in London.

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*

And finally Ross Perot, without whose astonishing energy and determination not only this book, but the adventure which is its subject, would have been impossible.