

Personnel – General

FORSCOM SERGEANT AUDIE MURPHY AWARD

History. This is the first printing of United States Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) Regulation 600-80. It supersedes FORSCOM Regulation 215-7, FORSCOM Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, 1 July 1996.

Summary. This regulation provides guidance for administering the FORSCOM Sergeant Audie Murphy Award (SAMA). This regulation applies to FORSCOM Active Army units, Army Reserve (USAR), Army National Guard (ARNG) organizations, and Soldiers when serving in any Active Duty status and assigned or attached to a FORSCOM unit.

Supplementation. Supplementation of this regulation is prohibited without prior approval of Commander, FORSCOM, 1777 Hardee Avenue, SW., Fort McPherson, GA 30330-1062.

Suggested improvements. The proponent of this regulation is Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS), G-1, Adjutant General, Personnel Policy and Programs Branch (AFAG-PPP). Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) to Commander, FORSCOM, Leadership Programs (AFAG-PPP), 1777 Hardee Avenue, SW., Fort McPherson, GA 30330-1062.

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1. Purpose.

This regulation provides information and administrative instructions for the FORSCOM Sergeant Audie Murphy Award (SAMA) established under the provisions of AR 600-8-22, Military Awards, paragraph 1-7 and Chapters 10 and 11 as part of the FORSCOM Commander's Awards Program. Selection as a recipient of the FORSCOM SAMA is a reward for noncommissioned officers (NCOs) whose leadership achievements and performance merit special recognition. The SAMA is a means of recognizing those NCOs who have contributed significantly to the development of a professional NCO Corps and a combat ready Army. Members exemplify leadership characterized by personal concern for the needs, training, development, and welfare of Soldiers and concern for families of Soldiers. This regulation does not cover the operations of Sergeant Audie Murphy Clubs, which are private organizations. Any activities of Sergeant Audie Murphy Clubs, such as fundraising and membership, are governed by the Joint Ethics Regulation and applicable Army Regulations.

2. Explanation of Terms.

a. Sergeant Audie Murphy: The name of an NCO who, as a squad leader, consistently demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership, professionalism, and regard for the welfare of his Soldiers. Appendix A is a brief biography of Sergeant Audie Murphy.

b. Forces Command Sergeant Audie Murphy Award: A special FORSCOM certificate of achievement for NCOs whose demonstrated performance and inherent leadership qualities and abilities are characterized by those of Sergeant Audie Murphy. Forces Command Sergeant Audie Murphy Certificate of Achievement is FORSCOM Form 1027, revised on 1 March 2007

3. Responsibilities.

a. Forces Command Adjutant General will exercise overall program administration.

b. Subordinate commands will administer the four phases of the selection process locally.

c. Presentation of other local awards may be appropriate as deemed by the commander.

d. A variety of publicity will be used to provide recognition for SAMA recipients, such as local media coverage and hometown news releases. Photographs of Soldiers should be prominently displayed.

e. A list of suggestions for recognizing and utilizing SAMA recipients is at Appendix E.

f. The FORSCOM Command Sergeant Major (CSM) will conduct leadership program reviews to include oversight of subordinate command SAMA procedures and conduct program in briefs for all incoming Division/Corps CSMs. The FORSCOM CSM will exercise final authority for approval of any SAMA policy or procedure exceptions.

g. The president of the final selection board will be responsible for ensuring selectees receive certificates and medallions.

h. To obtain certificates and medallions the president of the final selection board will forward a copy of the board minutes to Commander, FORSCOM, Leadership Programs, ATTN: AFAG-PPP, 1777 Hardee Avenue SW., Fort McPherson, GA 30330-1062. The board minutes will include name, rank, SSN, and MOS of all new inductees. Upon approval by the FORSCOM CSM the board president will receive SAMA certificates and medallions from the FORSCOM Adjutant General.

4. Policies.

a. The CSM at each FORSCOM subordinate command reporting directly to HQ FORSCOM will exercise primary staff responsibility for the SAMA selection process at that level. Responsibility will not be delegated. Responsibilities include chairing final selection boards each quarter and the oversight, monitoring, and tracking of SAMA recipients in their command.

b. The SAMA selection process consists of four phases:

(1) Phase 1 – Senior NCOs Recommendation: Senior NCOs who recommend NCOs for receipt of the SAMA will screen and evaluate nominees prior to appearance before the initial selection board. A sample format for the senior NCOs nomination is at Appendix B.

(2) Phase 2 - Performance Test: The SAMA performance test is based on recorded accomplishments of the nominee and their subordinates (when applicable) and must be enclosed with the senior NCOs nomination. A sample format of the performance test is at Appendix C.

(3) Phase 3 - Initial Selection Board: An initial selection board will be conducted at unit level under the direction of the unit's senior NCO. Board members will be provided a packet which consists of the senior NCOs nomination, a biography of the Soldier, a DA photo, the performance test, and an Enlisted Records Brief (DA Form 2A for Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers). The nominees will provide a leader's book for the board members to review. Nominees who do not have direct supervision of Soldiers may submit proof of active participation in external leadership roles. The board will be comprised of voting members senior to the nominee and will include at least one voting member of the same sex as the nominee. Numerical scoring on subject matters contained on the score sheets at Appendix D will determine if a nominee should continue in the selection process. Nominees selected to continue will be scheduled to appear before the final selection board. Requests to appear before the final selection board will be submitted via memorandum to the SAMA final selection board president and signed by the appropriate Command Sergeant Major.

(4) Phase 4 - Final Selection Board: The SAMA final selection board at each location will be comprised of the FORSCOM direct reporting subordinate command's Command Sergeant Major as president, five CSMs or SGMs appointed by the president and a recorder without vote. At least one board member must be of the same sex as the nominee being considered. The board may be reduced by one Sergeant Major when replaced by a SAMA recipient senior in grade to the Soldier being considered. The final selection board will determine through a scenario-driven question and answer system whether or not the candidate has reached a level of knowledge in a range of subject matters to warrant the FORSCOM SAMA. The board president has the final approval on all nominees appearing before the board. Non-selectees will be counseled by the board president. The SAMA selection boards for nominees assigned to duty stations at other than FORSCOM installations may be considered by the first FORSCOM CSM in the unit's administratively controlled (ADCON) or operationally controlled (OPCON) chain-of-command. Selection boards for Army Reserve or Army National Guard candidates who are mobilized or serving on active duty tours may be convened by their unit of assignment or attachment, or First US Army as determined by the First US Army CSM.

APPENDIX A – The Biography of Audie Murphy

Audie Leon Murphy was a legend in his own time; a war hero, movie actor, writer of country and western songs, and a poet. His biography reads more like fiction than fact. He lived only 46 years, but he made a lasting imprint on American history. Audie was born on a sharecropper's farm in North Texas on June 20, 1924. As a boy, he chopped cotton for one dollar a day and was noted for his feats of derring-do and his accuracy with a gun. He had only 5 years of schooling and was orphaned at age 16. After being refused enlistment during World War II in both the Marines and Paratroopers for being too small (5'5") and underweight (110 lbs), he enlisted in the US Army a few days after his 18th birthday. After basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas, and advanced training at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, Audie was sent overseas. He was assigned to the famous 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division where he fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany. He earned a battlefield commission for his courage and leadership ability as well as citations and decorations including every medal for valor that America gives. He was also awarded three French and one Belgian medal. Lieutenant Audie Murphy was the highest decorated Soldier in American history. Discharged from the Army on September 21, 1945, Audie went to Hollywood at the invitation of movie star James Cagney. He remained in California for the rest of his life and was closely associated with the movie industry, both as an actor and a producer. He acted in 44 films, starring in 39 of them. His best known film was "To Hell and Back," adopted from the best selling book of his war experiences by the same name. Most of his movies were westerns. In 1955, Audie Murphy was voted the Most Popular Western Actor in America by the Motion Picture Exhibitors. Audie wrote the lyrics to 16 country and western songs, the most popular of which was "Shutters and Boards," written with Scott Turner in 1962. The song was recorded by over 30 pop singers, including Jerry Wallace, Dean Martin, and Porter Waggoner. He was an accomplished poet; unfortunately, only a few of his poems have survived. In 1950 Audie joined the 36th Infantry Division ("T-Patchers") of the Texas National Guard and served with it until 1966. He was a Mason and Shriner and belonged to several veterans' organizations. Audie Murphy was killed in a plane crash on a mountain top near Roanoke, Virginia on May 28, 1971. Fittingly, his body was recovered 2 days later on Memorial Day. Audie could very well be the last American war hero. He was the greatest combat Soldier in the 200 plus year history of the United States.

APPENDIX B – Sample Format for Senior NCOs Nomination

AFXX-CSM

MEMORANDUM FOR Sergeant Audle Murphy Award (SAMA) Selection Board

SUBJECT: Sergeant Audle Murphy Award Nomination

Recommend _____ be considered for the FORSCOM SAMA.

NAME _____ SSN _____
RANK _____

UNIT _____
DUTY PHONE _____

PMOS _____
SMOS _____

DUTY POSN _____
DATE ASSIGNED _____

BASD _____ ETS _____
NUMBER SOLDIERS SUPV _____

CIV EDUC _____ MIL
EDUC _____

- 2 Encls**
- 1. DD 2266**
- 2. Bio Sketch**

1SG/SGM/CSM
Signature Block

APPENDIX C – Performance Test

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMA Selection Board

SUBJECT: SAMA Performance Test

1. The following performance test results are submitted for _____,
a SAMA nominee:

NAME _____ SSN _____ UNIT _____
DOR _____
DOB _____ ETS _____
PMOS _____ NCOES _____
NUMBER OF SOLDIERS SUPV _____
NAME/ADDRESS OF PNOK _____
AWARDS/DECORATIONS _____
PERSONAL
ACHIEVEMENTS: _____
APFT _____ WEAPON QUAL _____
SUBORDINATE
ACHIEVEMENTS: _____
APFT _____ WEAPON QUAL _____

2. The following information concerning discipline of subordinates is provided:

AWOL _____ UCMJ _____
DWI _____

3. The following additional comments are provided:

**1SG/SGM/CSM
Signature Block**

Appendix D – SAMA Score sheets

TYPE BOARD _____

DATE _____

NAME _____

RANK _____

UNIT _____

I. Common Scored Areas 5pt Max

- a. Reporting
- b. Uniform and Appearance
- c. Oral Expression
- d. Military Bearing

TOTAL:

II. Group 1

- a. Weapons Qualification (MM=1, SS=3, EXP=5)
- b. Weapons
- c. Land Navigation
- d. FM 23-9 BRM
- e. Promotion Policy and Regulations

TOTAL:

III. Group 2

- a. NBC
- b. First Aid
- c. APFT (180-229=1, 230-269=3, 270-300=5)
- d. Uniform and Awards AR 670-1
- e. FM 25-101

TOTAL:

APPENDIX D – SAMA Score Sheet (continued)

IV. Group 3

- a. Leadership
- b. Counseling
- c. Customs and Courtesy
- d. NCOER

TOTAL:

V. Group 4

- a. PMCS
- b. Supply Economy
- c. Chain of Command
- d. Standards of Conduct

TOTAL:

VI. Group 5

- a. Soldier Support Activities
- b. Education Programs
- c. Sponsorship
- d. U.S. Government
- e. Unit Policies/History of NCO

TOTAL:

TOTAL BOARD SCORE _____

Recommended for award: YES _____ **NO** _____

BOARD MEMBER _____

APPENDIX E – Suggestions for Recognizing and Using SAMA Recipients

- 1. Interview SAMA recipients as possible officer candidate school or warrant officer candidates.**
- 2. Encourage assignments to leadership positions that will allow SAMA members to further develop leadership skills.**
- 3. Assign to instructor duties or positions and teach NCO Development classes.**
- 4. Encourage further participation in off-duty education programs to set an example for younger Soldiers.**
- 5. Accompany Sergeants Major on unit visit and talk to individual NCOs.**
- 6. Use their talents as.**
 - a. Guest speakers at command information classes and seminars**
 - b. Speakers at NCO Leadership Schools**
 - c. Participants in various Corps, Division, and Brigade ad hoc committees.**
 - d. Attendees at selected command briefings.**
 - e. Greeters/escorts for VIPs visiting local commands.**
 - f. Participants in sponsorship and reception programs.**
- 7. Encourage their involvement in community activities, e.g., Youth Services, Army Community Service (ACS), Parent Teachers Associations (PTA).**
- 8. Encourage them to help identify potential SAMA nominees to their NCO chain-of-command.**