

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR
WORLD WAR II
CAMPAIGN MEDAL

European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign
Dec. 7, 1941 - Nov. 8, 1945



Any member of the U.S. armed forces who has received the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal or the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal is eligible for VFW membership.

But the American Defense Service Medal and the American Campaign Medal can cause confusion. One reason may be their names, which can conjure up images of being stationed stateside. However, in order to be VFW-eligible, a veteran who received either of these two medals must have served outside the continental U.S., which included Alaska and Hawaii at that time.

To verify overseas duty for the American Defense Service Medal, recruiters must look for certain clasps attached to it.

The Army awarded a Foreign Service clasp. The Navy and Marine Corps awarded Fleet and Base clasps. Coast Guardsmen received a Sea clasp.

Members of the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard who served on the 179 vessels or with three naval air groups that operated in actual or potential belligerent contact with Axis forces in the Atlantic during the specified time frame also are eligible to wear a bronze "A" on the ribbon.

For veterans to be VFW-eligible based on receipt of the American Campaign Medal, they must have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days outside the continental limits of the United States, but within the American Theater of Operations. Naval personnel received one star for each operation—such as escort, anti-submarine or armed guard duty—they participated in. Recruiters can verify this information on discharge papers.

American Campaign
Dec. 7, 1941 - March 2, 1946



Asiatic-Pacific Campaign
Dec. 7, 1941 - March 2, 1946



American Defense Service Medal
Sept. 8, 1939 - Dec. 7, 1941



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.
www.vfw.org

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

Korean War veterans can take pride in being recipients of the Korean Service Medal (KSM), an award symbolizing honorable service and sacrifice in a full-scale war. Created by Executive Order No. 10179 on Nov. 8, 1950, the medal covers the period of June 27, 1950 through July 27, 1954—a full year after the armistice was signed. It includes service within the Far East Command—Korea, combat flight crews based on Japan and Okinawa, and ships in the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea. It also recognizes 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of temporary duty in the theater. Service with a unit or headquarters stationed outside the theater but directly supporting Korean War military operations during this time also entitles a veteran to the medal in some cases. Approximately 1.6 million troops earned their KSM



on the soil of South Korea. Others served offshore or in neighboring Japan (in direct support), bringing the total to 1.8 million.

Some 36,576 Americans died in the war; 103,284 were hospitalized for wounds.

Often called the “forgotten war,” it has been anything but that to the VFW. Instrumental in promoting the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the organization also donated \$600,000 toward its construction. VFW has welcomed Korean War vets into its ranks since 1950, shortly after the KSM was created. Multiple Korean War veterans have led the Veterans of Foreign Wars as commander-in-chief.

For the 50th anniversary of the war, VFW magazine published a series of 50 articles and produced a 132-page book, *Battles of the Korean War*.

Campaign	Inclusive Dates
U.N. Defensive	June 27 - Sept. 15, 1950
U.N. Offensive	Sept. 16 - Nov. 2, 1950
CCF Intervention.	Nov. 3, 1950 - Jan. 24, 1951
First U.N. Counteroffensive.....	Jan. 25 - April 21, 1951
CCF Spring Offensive	April 22 - July 8, 1951
U.N. Summer-Fall Offensive.....	July 9 - Nov. 27, 1951
Second Korean Winter.....	Nov. 28, 1951 - April 30, 1952
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952.....	May 1 - Nov. 30, 1952
Third Korean Winter	Dec. 1, 1952 - April 30, 1953
Korea, Summer 1953.....	May 1 - July 27, 1953

Note: These are the Army campaign designations. Other services vary in some of their titles and dates. A Bronze Service Star device was awarded for each campaign credit, or a Silver Service Star device for every five campaigns. Service members who participated in at least one airborne or amphibious assault landing are entitled to wear an arrowhead on the ribbon or bar.

CCF = Chinese Communist Forces



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

Vietnam veterans can take pride in being recipients of the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM), an award symbolizing honorable service and great sacrifice.

Created by Executive Order No. 11231 on July 9, 1965, it covers the period through March 28, 1973. It includes service in the Southeast Asia Theater—Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and adjacent waters of the South China Sea. It also recognizes 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of temporary duty in Vietnam.

Campaigns waged in Vietnam between July 1, 1958 and July 3, 1965, are covered by the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM). Veterans who qualified for both medals had the option of



choosing the VSM over the AFEM, if they so desired.

An estimated 2.6 million veterans earned their VSMs on South Vietnam's soil. Others served offshore or in neighboring countries, bringing the total to 3.4 million. Some 58,235 Americans died in the war; 153,362 were seriously wounded. VFW has welcomed Vietnam veterans into its ranks since 1962, shortly after the AFEM was announced. Over a dozen Vietnam veterans have led the organization as commander-in-chief. Vietnam veterans now lead the VFW at all organizational levels.

Besides championing the Vietnam-era GI Bill and other relevant legislation such as Agent Orange laws, VFW contributed \$300,000 to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Campaign	Inclusive Date		
Advisory	March 15, 1962 - March 7, 1965	Sanctuary Counteroffensive	May 1, 1970 - June 30, 1970
Defense	March 8, 1965 - Dec. 24, 1965	Counteroffensive, Phase VII	July 1, 1970 - Nov. 30, 1971
Counteroffensive	Dec. 25, 1965 - June 30, 1966	Consolidation I	July 1, 1971 - Nov. 30, 1971
Counteroffensive, Phase II	July 1, 1966 - May 31, 1967	Consolidation II	Dec. 1, 1971 - March 29, 1972
Counteroffensive, Phase III	June 1, 1967 - Jan. 29, 1968	Ceasefire	March 30, 1972 - Jan. 28, 1973
Tet Counteroffensive	Jan. 30, 1968 - April 1, 1968		
Counteroffensive, Phase IV	April 2, 1968 - June 30, 1968		
Counteroffensive, Phase V	July 1, 1968 - Nov. 1, 1968		
Counteroffensive, Phase VI	Nov. 2, 1968 - Feb. 22, 1969		
Tet '69 Counteroffensive	Feb. 23, 1969 - June 8, 1969		
Summer-Fall 1969	June 9, 1969 - Oct. 31, 1969		
Winter-Spring 1970	Nov. 1, 1969 - April 30, 1970		

Note: These are the Army campaign designations. Other services vary in some of their titles and dates. A Bronze Service Star device was awarded for each campaign credit, or a Silver Service Star device for every five campaigns. Those who were in Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of Saigon during April 29-30, 1975, received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

Note: These are the Army campaign designations. Other services vary in some of their titles and dates. A Bronze Service Star device was awarded for each campaign credit, or a Silver Service Star device for every five campaigns. Those who were in Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of Saigon during April 29-30, 1975, received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR

SOUTHWEST ASIA

SERVICE MEDAL

Persian Gulf War veterans should be proud of their service, which earned them the Southwest Asia Service Medal (SWASM). The medal recognizes one of the swiftest victories in American military history. Executive Order No. 12754 established the medal on March 12, 1991. It was awarded to all U.S. troops who served in Southwest Asia—or its contiguous waters or airspace—from Aug. 2, 1990, to Nov. 30, 1995 (covers pre- and post-war operations).

For the medal's purpose, the land area of Southwest Asia included Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and United Arab Emirates. "Contiguous waters" was defined as the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden and the portion of the Arabian Sea that lay north of 10 degrees North latitude and west of 68 degrees East longitude. GIs who served under U.S. Central Command in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria and Jordan—or their territorial waters or airspace—between Jan. 17 and April 11, 1991, also received the medal.



As long as service members were permanently assigned to ground, shore, sea or aerial units located in the areas specified, they are eligible for the SWASM. For individuals on temporary duty, they must have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. However, if they participated in actual combat—or died during their service there—these time limitations could have been waived. Perhaps as many as 670,000 Gulf vets qualified for the SWASM.

VFW has been a relentless supporter of medical benefits for vets suffering from Gulf War illnesses. Today, Persian Gulf War veterans are assuming their rightful leadership roles within the organization.

One Bronze Service Star device was awarded for participation in each designated campaign of the Gulf War:

- Defense of Saudi Arabia, Aug. 2, 1990 - Jan. 16, 1991.
- Liberation and Defense of Kuwait, Jan. 17, 1991 - April 1, 1991.
- Cease-Fire Campaign, April 12, 1991 - Nov. 30, 1995.

Participants in post-Dec. 1, 1995 operations in the region were awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Afghanistan War veterans wear an award specific to that theater. Nearly a year after it was enacted, the law establishing a separate campaign medal for service in Afghanistan was implemented on April 7, 2005.

To receive the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, U.S. troops must have served in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom on or after Oct. 24, 2001. The area of eligibility encompasses all of Afghanistan and its air space. Five service stars are authorized. Veterans must have served in the theater of operations for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days.

Time limits are waived if a veteran engaged in combat or was wounded and evacuated. For air crews, each day of operations counts as one day of eligibility. The medal may be issued posthumously.

This campaign medal replaced the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM), which expired April 30, 2005, for the Afghanistan War.



Veterans who served in Afghanistan before the GWOTEM expired can choose to wear either the GWOTEM or the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

The war in Afghanistan had claimed more than 2000 American lives in combat by September 2012. Though not nearly as often publicized as Iraq, the fighting in Afghanistan remains intense for those involved. For the U.S. troops still serving there today, the war in this zone is as real as ever. Anyone who has performed duty in this hostile land can take pride in performing a mission of utmost importance.

Afghanistan Campaign Medal Sept. 11, 2001 - Open
Liberation of Afghanistan September 11, 2001 to November 30, 2001
Consolidation I December 1, 2001 to September 30, 2006
Consolidation II October 1, 2006 to November 30, 2009
Consolidation III December 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011
Transition I July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2014
Transition II January 1, 2015 to a date to be determined



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR IRAQ CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Veterans of the war in Iraq wear an award specific to that theater. Nearly a year after it was enacted, the law establishing a separate campaign medal for service in Iraq was implemented on April 7, 2005.

To be eligible for the Iraq Campaign Medal, veterans must have served in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on or after March 19, 2003. The area includes Iraq, 12 miles offshore and the air space above both. Veterans must have served in the area 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. Time limits are waived if a veteran engaged in combat or was wounded and evacuated. For air crews, each day of operations counts as one day of eligibility. The medal may be issued posthumously. The campaign medal replaced the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM), which expired Feb. 28, 2005, for the Iraq War. Veterans who served in Iraq before the GWOTEM expired can choose to wear either the GWOTEM or the Iraq Campaign Medal.



The war in Iraq has created a new generation of veterans. Along with those Americans who served in Afghanistan and other countries tied to the campaign against terrorism, they have performed a duty for which relatively few citizens are willing to volunteer. Whether still on active duty, in the National Guard or Reserves, or discharged from the service, anyone who earned this campaign medal is eligible for and welcome into the VFW. Recognition and respect should automatically be bestowed upon all who wear the Iraq Campaign Medal.

Iraq Campaign Medal	March 19, 2003 - December 31, 2011
Liberation of Iraq	March 19 to May 1, 2003
Transition of Iraq	May 2, 2003 to June 28, 2004
Iraqi Governance	June 29, 2004 to December 15, 2005
National Resolution	December 16, 2005 to January 9, 2007
Iraqi Surge	January 10, 2007 to December 31, 2008
Iraqi Sovereignty	January 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010
New Dawn	September 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

Veterans of the military actions recognized by the prestigious Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) can take pride. They form a long line of American veterans who have served overseas in times of crisis and actual combat.

Since the medal's inception, 31 distinct military operations have been conducted that rated award of the AFEM. Rooted in "brush fire" operations conducted during the Cold War, the AFEM was created by Executive Order No.10977 on Dec. 4, 1961.

It was made retroactive to July 1, 1958, to include participants in Operation Bluebat during the first U.S. intervention in Lebanon, as well as early



Vietnam veterans. Since then, the Joint Chiefs of Staff has selected all qualifying operations except El Salvador and Bosnia. Congress authorized the AFEM for those missions. Operations have included keeping world peace, advising and defending allies, demonstrating U.S. military resolve, maintaining freedom of the seas, rescuing hostages, evacuating American citizens, averting full-scale war and thwarting terrorism. Dating back to Lebanon and Vietnam, and ranging through Bosnia and Iraq-related missions in the Persian Gulf, recipients of the AFEM have had a profound impact on the outcome of U.S. foreign policy.

Military Actions Covered by the AFEM

Former Republic of YugoslaviaJan. 1, 2014 - Open
Haiti (Secure Tomorrow) Feb. 29, 2004 - June 15, 2004
Kuwait (Desert Spring) Dec. 31, 1998 - March 18, 2003
Iraq (Desert Fox)Dec. 16 - 22, 1998
Iraq (Desert Thunder) Nov. 11 - Dec. 22, 1998
Iraq (Northern Watch)Jan. 1, 1997 - March 18, 2003
Middle East (Vigilant Sentinel) ... Dec. 1, 1995 - Feb. 15, 1997
Persian Gulf (intercept operations) Dec. 1, 1995 - Open
Iraq (Southern Watch)Dec. 1, 1995 - March 18, 2003
Bosnia (former Yugoslavia) June 1, 1992 - Open*
Haiti (Uphold Democracy) ... Sept. 16, 1994 - March 31, 1995

Somalia (Restore Hope)Dec. 5, 1992 - March 31, 1995
Panama (Just Cause) Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990
Persian Gulf (Earnest Will) July 24, 1987 - Aug. 2, 1990
Libya (El Dorado Canyon) April 12 - 17, 1986
Grenada (Urgent Fury)Oct. 23 - Nov. 21, 1983
Lebanon June 1, 1983 - Dec. 1, 1987
El SalvadorJan. 1, 1981 - Feb. 1, 1992
Cambodia (Mayaguez rescue) May 15, 1975
Vietnam (Frequent Wind) April 29 - 30, 1975
Cambodia (Eagle Pull) April 11 - 13, 1975
Cambodia (Bombing) March 29 - Aug. 15, 1973

Korea** Oct. 1, 1966 - June 30, 1974
Dominican Republic April 28, 1965 - Sept. 21, 1966
Congo Nov. 23 - 27, 1964
Cuba Oct. 24, 1962 - June 1, 1963
Berlin Aug. 14, 1961 - June 1, 1963
Laos April 19, 1961 - Oct. 7, 1962
Congo July 14, 1960 - Sept. 1, 1962
Quemoy & Matsu Islands Aug. 23, 1958 - June 1, 1963
Taiwan Straits Aug. 23, 1958 - Jan. 1, 1959
Vietnam July 1, 1958 - July 3, 1965
Lebanon July 1, 1958 - Nov. 1, 1958

*Mission declared officially accomplished Nov. 24, 2004, but remains open because small numbers of U.S. troops rotate there to assist NATO in tracking down war criminals.

** Korea Defense Service Medal available since 2002.



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR NAVY & MARINE EXPEDITIONARY MEDALS

Navy Expeditionary Medal



Campaign (post-WWII)

Inclusive Dates

Operation Determined Response (USS Cole) . Oct. 12, 2000 - Dec. 15, 2002
 Eritrea (Operation Safe Departure) June 6 - 23, 1998
 Rwanda (Operation Distant Runner)..... April 7 - 18, 1994
 Liberia (Operation Sharp Edge) Aug. 5, 1990 - Feb. 21, 1991
 Persian Gulf (USS Stark, etc.) Feb. 1 - July 23, 1987
 Libya (Operation Prairie Fire, etc.) Jan. 20 - June 27, 1986
 Lebanon..... Aug. 20, 1982 - May 31, 1983
 Indian Ocean Contingency Operation/
 Iran Hostage Crisis Nov. 21, 1979 - Oct. 21, 1981
 Gulf of Aden/Yemen Dec. 8, 1978 - June 6, 1979
 Thailand..... May 16 - Aug. 10, 1962
 Cuba ("Bay of Pigs" and before and after) Jan. 3, 1961 - Oct. 23, 1962
 *Only Marines received a medal.

Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal



Members of the seafaring services often intervene in distant corners of the world. Those who perform this dangerous duty seldom gain notoriety. The Navy and Marine Corps Expeditionary Medals (N/MCEMs) are the nation's method of recognizing their sacrifices. Created separately—MCEM (1919) and NEM (1936)—the medals were both made retroactive to 1874. Since then, 65 operations in 29 different countries have been recognized. In most cases, both medals were awarded in each operation.

Since World War II, participants of 12 operations are authorized to wear the medals. One battle of WWII is covered, too: Wake Island.

From Dec. 7-22, 1941, the 1st Marine Defense Battalion, Marine Fighter Squadron VMF-211,

69 Navy and six Army Signal Corps personnel, as well as some civilian construction workers, took on the Japanese Fourth Fleet and Special Naval Landing Force on that Pacific island.

Though seriously outnumbered, the Americans managed to repulse—for the first and only time during WWII—a major amphibious landing. The valiant effort earned the sailors and Marines a special device to be worn on their medals—a silver "W" on the ribbon bar and a clasp inscribed "Wake Island" on the suspension ribbon.

In recent years, medal recipients have engaged in operations in West, Central and East Africa to protect U.S. citizens and threatened embassies and to fight the spread of terrorism in those developing areas.



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL

Army of Occupation Medal

Europe (front)



Far East (back)



Navy Occupation Service Medal



Eligibility in VFW based on post-war occupation duty is a tradition dating back to Cuba in 1902 after the Spanish-American War. Occupation of the Rhineland, in the aftermath of WWI, lasted until 1922. All these veterans qualified for VFW.

After WWII, veterans occupied countries on two continents. In Asia, the Army's 6th, 7th and 40th Infantry divisions, as part of the 24th Corps, were stationed in Korea. Troop strength reached 45,000 in 1946-47. Japan was occupied by the 11th Airborne Division and elements of the 1st Marine Division on Aug. 30, 1945. The Americal, 32nd and 77th Infantry divisions also were among the early occupiers. So were the 2nd and 5th Marine divisions.

By the time occupation ended in April 1952, the 1st Cavalry, 7th, 24th and 25th Infantry divisions had been

stationed in Japan. The 5th Air Force and Naval Forces Far East also had been present.

During the 10-year occupation period in Europe, more than a million veterans rotated through Germany, while thousands more served in Italy and Austria.

The Fifth Army's II Corps, 10th Mountain Division, and the 34th, 85th, 88th and 91st Infantry divisions participated in Italy's occupation. They were all gone by Dec. 14, 1947—almost three months to the day after the Italian peace treaty had been signed.

The longest period of occupation was of West Berlin, which lasted until October 1990.

Over the years, the VFW has been led by several commanders-in-chief who became eligible through occupation duty.

Army of Occupation Medal (30 consecutive days)

Italy	May 9, 1945 - Sept. 15, 1947
Germany (except W. Berlin)	May 9, 1945 - May 5, 1955
W. Berlin	May 9, 1945 - Oct. 2, 1990
Austria	May 9, 1945 - July 27, 1955
Korea	Sept. 3, 1945 - June 29, 1949
Japan	Sept. 3, 1945 - April 27, 1952

Navy Occupation Service Medal

Italy	May 8, 1945 - Dec. 15, 1947
Trieste	May 8, 1945 - Oct. 25, 1954
Germany (Except W. Berlin)	May 8, 1945 - May 5, 1955
Austria	May 9, 1945 - Oct. 25, 1955
Asiatic/Pacific	Sept. 2, 1945 - April 27, 1952



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR CHINA SERVICE MEDAL

The China Service Medal covers two periods. The first was July 7, 1937, through Sept. 7, 1939, and applied to Navy and Marine Corps members who served in China and on vessels offshore.

During the extended period, the medal was awarded to “officers and enlisted men of the armed forces who participated in operations in China, including Formosa [Taiwan], between Sept. 2, 1945, and April 1, 1957,” according to the book *American War Medals and Decorations* by Evans E. Kerrigan.

The extended period incorporates three main actions: Marine ground operations in North China, Taiwan Strait sea patrols and Navy aviation reconnaissance.

The situation in North China following the Japanese surrender on Aug. 15, 1945, was chaotic. The struggle between Chinese Nationalist and Communist forces, which had been more or less dormant since 1937, flared anew after WWII. The Chinese Civil War would last until 1949.



Marines ashore at this time initially disarmed the Japanese, while the Navy transported Chinese Nationalists up the Yangtze River. By May 1949, all remaining Marines had left China. Their combat casualties totaled 12 KIA and 42 WIA. The U.S. Navy reduced its forces off China as well, leaving a contingent of about a dozen cruisers and destroyers.

Quemoy, Matsu and the Tachens— islands off the mainland coast—soon became the focus of an intense rivalry between the Communists and Nationalists.

For the next decade, the U.S. Seventh Fleet became a permanent fixture in the Straits.

In January 1955, the Communists attacked the Tachen Islands. The Seventh Fleet evacuated some 42,000 Nationalist military personnel and civilians. The 18th Fighter Bomber Wing provided cover, and a carrier task force was deployed. A total of 50 U.S. ships were involved in the operation.

All told, between 1945-57, the extended period of the China Service Medal’s activation saw more than 1,000 ships’ crews qualify for the award.

USS Panay, etc. (Navy/Marines) July 7, 1937 - Sept. 7, 1939

Extended Period

Chinese Civil War, 1945-49 (All Services) Sept. 2, 1945 - April 1, 1957

China/Formosa, 1950-57 (All Services)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

www.vfw.org

Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR KOSOVO CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Kosovo veterans have specific recognition of their service in the Balkans. It comes in the form of the Kosovo Campaign Medal (KCM), created on May 3, 2000. It covers both the air campaign waged over Serbia and the subsequent U.S. ground role in the Serbian province of Kosovo.

U.S. troops who have participated in or provided direct support for operations in Kosovo from March 24, 1999 through December 31, 2013 are eligible.

VFW recruiters should understand that eligible duty covers two distinct time frames: the Kosovo Air Campaign (Operation Allied Force) from March 24, 1999 to June 10, 1999; and the Kosovo Defense Campaign from June 11, 1999, to December 31, 2013.

All U.S. troops who directly participated in the air campaign are eligible for the medal. This includes pilots and air crew members who flew into the area of eligibility (AOE), as well as their ground crews based in the AOE.

The AOE for the air campaign encompasses Serbia (including Kosovo), Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy and Slovenia—as well as the water and air space of the Adriatic and Ionian seas north of 39 degrees north latitude.



The Kosovo Defense Campaign began June 11, 1999—the day U.S. ground troops entered Kosovo. For the defense campaign, the AOE comprises Serbia (including Kosovo), Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia. Some sailors and airmen have earned their eligibility because the AOE also included the waters and air space of the Adriatic Sea within 12 nautical miles of the Montenegrin, Albanian and Croatian coastlines south of 42 degrees, 52 minutes north latitude.

To be eligible, veterans must have served in the AOE for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. Time in the AOE is waived if troops were:

- Engaged in combat, or “duty that is equally as hazardous,” with armed opposition.
- Wounded and evacuated from the AOE.
- Members of an air crew that flew into, out of, within or over the AOE in direct support of the campaign.

The Kosovo Campaign Medal is unique in that one Bronze Service Star device is worn for participation in each of the two campaigns.

Campaign	Inclusive Dates
Kosovo Air Campaign	March 24 - June 10, 1999
Kosovo Defense Campaign	June 11, 1999 - Dec. 31, 2013



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR COMBAT DUTY



Combat Infantry and Combat Medical Badges (Army)

War/Campaign	Inclusive Dates
Iraq.....	2003 - Dec. 31, 2011
Afghanistan	2001 - Open
Somalia	June 5, 1993 - March 31, 1994
Persian Gulf War	Jan. 17 - April 11, 1991
Grenada.....	Oct. 22 - Nov. 21, 1983
El Salvador	Jan. 1, 1981 - Feb. 1, 1992
Korea DMZ	Jan. 4, 1969 - Open
Dominican Republic.....	April 28, 1965 - Sept. 1, 1966
Laos	April 19, 1961 - Oct. 6, 1962
Vietnam.....	March 1, 1961 - March 29, 1973
Korean War.....	June 27, 1950 - July 27, 1953
World War II	Dec. 7, 1941 - Sept. 3, 1945

Imminent Danger and Hostile Fire Pay

Receipt of these special pays has qualified veterans for membership since Congress amended VFW's charter on Oct. 16, 2002 (P.L. 107-242).

Though sometimes confused or used interchangeably, Hostile Fire Pay (HFP) and Imminent Danger Pay (IDP) are distinct. HFP is an "event-based pay," meaning a service member must actually face hostile fire or explosion of an enemy mine. IDP is a "threat-based pay" and goes to service members assigned to areas deemed dangerous by the Pentagon. The imminent danger can be caused by civil insurrection, civil war, terrorism or wartime conditions.

HFP or IDP is verified through a service member's Leave and Earnings Statement (DFAS Form 702), issued by the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. The Marine Corps issues the DFAS-KC Form 7220/39.



Combat Action Badge (Army)

Sept. 18, 2001 - Open

Created May 2, 2005, this newest Army award is given to soldiers of any military occupational specialty who engage in qualifying combat actions.



Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Combat Frame

June 18, 2003 - Open

Awarded to Air Force active-duty, Reserve and Guard personnel who complete a deployment for 45 consecutive or 90 non-consecutive days overseas in a combat zone, fly combat or combat-support sorties in a combat zone or employ a weapon from outside the combat zone.



SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia (Navy)

Jan. 21, 1961 - Open

Authorized Jan. 21, 1961, this insignia is awarded to submariners based on alert status and operational circumstances during patrols.

Air Force Combat Action Medal (AFCAM)

Sept. 11, 2001 - Open

Created June 12, 2007, for Air Force personnel who have directly participated in active combat, in air or on the ground, as part of their official duty.



Combat Action Ribbon (CAR) (Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard)



Coast Guard Combat Action Ribbon

War/Campaign	Years
Iraq.....	2003 - Dec. 31, 2011
Afghanistan	2001 - Open
Kosovo.....	1999
Liberia	1998
Albania	1997
Liberia	1996
Haiti	1994
Somalia	1992 - 95
Persian Gulf War	1991
Liberia	1990 - 91
Panama	1989 - 90
Persian Gulf (select ships and operations)	1987 - 88
Grenada (no ships)	1983
Lebanon (no ships)	1982 - 84
El Salvador	1981 - 92
Cambodia—(Mayaguez rescue)	1975
USS Pueblo	1968
USS Liberty	1967
Dominican Republic (no ships)	1965 - 66
Vietnam War	1961 - 73
Korean War.....	1950 - 53
World War II	1941 - 45

Award of the CAR is based on specific unit or ship participation in actual hostilities and recommended by a commanding officer. In each action, precise dates are designated.

The CAR was authorized retroactively for Korea and WWII under the 2000 Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 106-65).

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR KOREA DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

Veterans of Korea duty can take pride in defending a staunch ally and protecting their nation's vital interests in Northeast Asia for more than 50 years.

Since 1945, U.S. troops have occupied the southern part of the peninsula, fought a full-fledged war, waged a hot campaign on the DMZ during the Cold War and stood guard along a hostile border.

To recognize veterans who have served in the country since 1954, Congress established the Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM). Through approval of Public Law 107-314 on Dec. 2, 2002, the KDSM gives "special recognition for the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the U.S. armed forces who have served or are serving in the Republic of Korea," according to the Pentagon.

It is open to all veterans who have served at least 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in South



Korea since July 28, 1954. The area of eligibility includes the contiguous water out to 12 nautical miles and all air spaces above the land and water areas.

According to the Pentagon, more than 40,000 veterans have served in South Korea every year since the cease-fire agreement ending the war was signed in July 1953. After 1994, when VFW amended its bylaws, the organization exerted a special effort to welcome all Korea-duty veterans into its ranks. This included the one-year period between June 1949 and June 1950 when the Korean Military Advisory Group was stationed in Korea.

But with the creation of the KDSM, the nation as a whole recognized the importance of the U.S. military mission in South Korea. Despite other worldwide commitments, veterans still stand as sentinels in this land.

Korea Defense Service Medal

Created Dec. 2, 2002, under Public Law 107-314, the KDSM recognizes Korea service since July 28, 1954. Awarded for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in South Korea or its territorial waters.



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

Veterans of America's war on terrorism should be proud of their service. To recognize it, President George W. Bush signed Presidential Executive Order 13289 on March 12, 2003, establishing the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM).

Originally created to recognize service in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, it now covers a multitude of other overseas stations (see box.) To be eligible, veterans must have been deployed overseas on or after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

It is truly a worldwide award. The areas of eligibility encompass the U.S. Central Command (less the lower Horn of Africa); Middle East; eastern Turkey; Philippines; Diego Garcia and all air spaces above the land and adjacent water areas. Veterans must have served in the area for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. Those time limits may be waived if veterans were engaged in combat or were killed, wounded or required medical evacuation for an injury.

Regularly assigned members of air crews that flew sorties into, out of, within or over the areas of eligibility earn one day of credit toward the 30- or 60-day requirement for each day they fly sorties in the area of eligibility.



Recipients of the GWOTEM are authorized to wear a Bronze Service Star device for each additional campaign beyond the first for which they were awarded the medal. Authorized campaigns include Enduring Freedom (OEF), Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Nomad Shadow, New Dawn, Inherent Resolve and Freedom's Sentinel. Veterans who have earned the GWOTEM can be rightfully proud of the award because it recognizes arduous duty. Those veterans display the highest ideals of the VFW and the organization is proud to have them as members.

Areas Covered by GWOTEM since September 11, 2001

Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, Crete, Cyprus, Diego Garcia, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

Off shore: Arabian Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Aqaba, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Suez, Mediterranean Sea, Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Strait of Hormuz and Suez Canal.



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR
**INHERENT
RESOLVE**
CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Veterans of America's fight against ISIS/ISIL in Iraq and Syria should be proud of their service. To recognize that service, President Barack Obama signed Presidential Executive Order 13723 on March 30, 2016, establishing the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal (IRCM). Created to recognize those members of the U.S. Armed Forces serving in Iraq, Syria, and contiguous waters and airspace, retroactive to June 15, 2014. Veterans who previously received the Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM) for service in these areas for service that is now covered by the IRCM may make an application to be awarded the IRCM in place of the GWOTEM.



To qualify for the medal, personnel must have been based in Iraq or Syria, flown missions over those countries, and/or served in contiguous waters for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days. Service members who were killed or medically evacuated from theater due to wounds or injuries automatically qualify for the award, as do all service members who engaged in direct combat.

Veterans who have earned the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal can be rightfully proud of the award because it recognizes arduous duty. Those veterans display the highest ideals of the VFW and the organization is proud to have them as members.



Membership Department • 1.888.JOIN.VFW • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111