

# 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, GIs 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. GIs must have served in the area for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days.

Those time limits may be waived if GIs 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.



According to the Pentagon, "Only one award of the medal ... may be authorized for any individual; therefore no service stars are prescribed."

(For these purposes, battle stars are distinct from service stars.)

Veterans who have earned the GWOTEM can be rightfully proud of the award because it recognizes arduous duty. While most media attention is focused on the war zones, U.S. troops continue to serve around the globe in other less-publicized countries. The medal denotes real sacrifice—difficult overseas service that truly protects the United States and its citizens. Those veterans exemplify VFW's ideals and the organization is proud to have them as members.

#### Areas Covered by GWOTEM

*Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Chad, Colombia, Crete, Cyprus, Diego Garcia, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), Hungary, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, 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.*



**JOIN THE ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
**1-888-JOIN-VFW**

Membership Department • 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.

One GI reflected the feelings of many when, in referring to Iraq and Afghanistan, he said: "There are two different wars. There should be two different campaign medals."

Lawmakers, reacting to complaints from GIs who believed their service warranted unique recognition, pushed through legislation in 2004.

The troops had a valid point. Four separate campaign medals were issued for the Europe, Pacific and American (two) theaters during WWII. A campaign medal was even created in 2000 for the bombing of Kosovo in 1999.

To be eligible for the Iraq Campaign Medal, GIs 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.

Troops must have served in the area 30 consecutive



or 60 non-consecutive days. Time limits are waived if a GI 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. GIs 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 VFW.

Recognition and respect should automatically be bestowed upon all who wear the Iraq Campaign Medal.

**Iraq Campaign Medal**

March 19, 2003 - Open



**JOIN THE ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
**1-888-JOIN-VFW**

Membership Department • 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.

Referring to Afghanistan and Iraq, one GI remarked: "There are two different wars. There should be two different campaign medals."

Lawmakers, reacting to complaints from GIs who believed their service warranted unique recognition, pushed through legislation in 2004.

The troops had a valid point. Four separate campaign medals were issued for the Europe, Pacific and American (two) theaters during WWII. A campaign medal was even created in 2000 for the bombing of Kosovo in 1999.

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. No service stars are prescribed.



Troops must have served in the war zone 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. Time limits are waived if a GI 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. GIs 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 200 American lives in combat by October 2005. Though not nearly as often publicized as Iraq, the fighting in Afghanistan remains intense for those involved.

For the 18,000 U.S. troops still serving there at mid-decade, the war in this zone was as real as ever. Anyone who did duty in this hostile land can take pride in performing a mission of utmost importance.

#### Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Sept. 11, 2001 - Open



**JOIN THE ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
1-888-JOIN-VFW

Membership Department • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

# TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR KOSOVO CAMPAIGN MEDAL

KOSOVO VETS 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 since March 24, 1999, are eligible. Because the award is still open, those currently serving there are eligible as well.

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 a date to be determined.

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. This does not include, therefore, ground crews at overseas U.S. bases in Germany, England, Spain, or at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri.

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. The Pentagon has not set an end date for the defense campaign. Therefore, all troops who are serving, or will serve, in the AOE are eligible.

For the defense campaign, the AOE comprises Serbia (including Kosovo), Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia. Some sailors and airmen are still earning eligibility because the AOE also includes 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, GIs 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, with-in or over the AOE in direct support of the campaign.

Kosovo vets who qualify for both campaigns may wear a bronze service star on the medal’s ribbon.

Campaign	Inclusive Dates
Kosovo Air Campaign .....	March 24 - June 10, 1999
Kosovo Defense Campaign .....	June 11, 1999 - Open



**JOIN THE ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
1-888-JOIN-VFW

Membership Department • 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 (SASM). The medal recognizes one of the swiftest victories in American military history.

*Executive Order 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. This included, for example, the four Patriot missile batteries manned by U.S. soldiers in Israel, such as the 4th Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery.



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 SASM.

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 SASM.

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-colored service star 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.*



**JOIN THE ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
**1-888-JOIN-VFW**

Membership Department • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

# TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

VETS 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 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 vets. 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

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 Salvador .....Jan. 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.



**JOIN THE ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
1-888-JOIN-VFW

Membership Department • 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 - Open
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.



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

War/Campaign	Years
Iraq	2003 - Open
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).



**JOIN THE ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
1-888-JOIN-VFW

Membership Department • 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 ( <i>USS Cole</i> ).....	Oct. 12, 2000 - Dec. 15, 2002
Eritrea ( <i>Operation Safe Departure</i> ).....	June 6 - 23, 1998
Rwanda ( <i>Operation Distant Runner</i> ) .....	April 7 - 18, 1994
Liberia ( <i>Operation Sharp Edge</i> ) .....	Aug. 5, 1990 - Feb. 21, 1991
Panama* (pre- and post-invasion) .....	April 1, 1988 - Dec. 19, 1989
	Feb. 1 - June 13, 1990
Persian Gulf ( <i>USS Stark</i> , etc.) .....	Feb. 1 - July 23, 1987
Libya ( <i>Operation Prairie Fire</i> , 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 13 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.

More recently, during the 1990s, medal recipients have landed in West, Central and East Africa to protect U.S. citizens and threatened embassies. They have also countered terrorism.



JOIN THE

ELITE

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)

1-888-JOIN-VFW

Membership Department • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

# 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 GIs 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 GIs 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, GIs 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.*



**JOIN THE  
ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
**1-888-JOIN-VFW**

Membership Department • 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). Americans who qualified for both medals had the option of choosing the VSM over the AFEM, if they so desired.



An estimated 2.6 million GIs 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 vets into its ranks since 1962, shortly after the AFEM was announced. Sixteen Vietnam vets have led the organization as commander-in-chief. Today, the directors in Kansas City, Mo., and Washington, D.C., are almost exclusively made up of Vietnam vets.

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. Vietnam vets now lead VFW at all organizational levels.

Campaign	Inclusive Date
Advisory	March 15, 1962 - March 7, 1965
Defense	March 8, 1965 - Dec. 24, 1965
Counteroffensive	Dec. 25, 1965 - June 30, 1966
Counteroffensive, Phase II	July 1, 1966 - May 31, 1967
Counteroffensive, Phase III	June 1, 1967 - Jan. 29, 1968
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
Sanctuary Counteroffensive	May 1, 1970 - June 30, 1970
Counteroffensive, Phase VII	July 1, 1970 - Nov. 30, 1971
Consolidation I	July 1, 1971 - Nov. 30, 1971
Consolidation II	Dec. 1, 1971 - March 29, 1972
Ceasefire	March 30, 1972 - Jan. 28, 1973

*Note: These are the Army campaign designations. Other services vary in some of their titles and dates. A bronze service star was awarded for each campaign credit, or a silver service star 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.*



**JOIN THE ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
1-888-JOIN-VFW

Membership Department • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

# 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 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 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. Six vets of Korea have led the organization 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 was awarded for each campaign credit, or a silver service star 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



**JOIN THE ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
1-888-JOIN-VFW

Membership Department • 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)



**JOIN THE ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
**1-888-JOIN-VFW**

Membership Department • 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 vets qualified for VFW.

After WWII, GIs 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 GIs 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, 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



**JOIN THE ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
**1-888-JOIN-VFW**

Membership Department • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

# 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 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.

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



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



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



**JOIN THE ELITE**

[www.JoinTheElite.org](http://www.JoinTheElite.org)  
1-888-JOIN-VFW

Membership Department • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111