

Combat Action Ribbon



Establishing Authority:

The Combat Action Ribbon was established on February 17, 1969, by Secretary of the Navy John H. Chafee and announced by SECNAVNOTE 1650 of February 17, 1969. The Annual Defense Authorization Bill (Public Law 106-65) signed into law by President Clinton on October 5, 1999, authorized the Secretary of the Navy to award the Combat Action Ribbon to members of the Navy or Marine Corps who participated in combat during any period after December 6, 1941.

Effective Dates:

The Combat Action Ribbon originally took effect on March 1, 1961; however, with the passage of Public Law 106-65 (cited above), award of the Combat Action Ribbon may now be made retroactive to December 7, 1941.

Criteria:

The Combat Action Ribbon is a personal decoration awarded to members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard (when operating under the control of the Navy) in the grade of captain (or colonel in the Marine Corps) and below who have actively participated in ground or surface combat. Personnel who earned the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge while a member of the Army may be authorized to wear the Combat Action Ribbon. The principal criterion is that the recipient must have participated in a bona fide ground or surface combat firefight or in an action during which he was under enemy fire and his performance while under fire was satisfactory.

Order of Precedence:

The Combat Action Ribbon is worn after the Navy Achievement Medal and before the Navy Presidential Unit Citation.

Devices:

Because this ribbon is considered to be a personal decoration, additional awards are indicated by gold stars five-sixteenths of an inch in diameter (an additional star in silver of the same size denotes a sixth award).

Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation



Establishing Authority:

Established by order of the Secretary of the Navy, 17 July 1967, it is awarded by the Secretary to any unit of the Navy or Marine Corps which has distinguished itself under combat or noncombatant conditions, by either valorous or meritorious achievement compared to other units performing similar service, but not sufficient to justify the award of the Navy Unit Commendation.

China Service Medal



Description:

Obverse:

In the center of a bronze medallion one and a quarter inches in diameter, a Chinese junk in full sail is shown upon scroll waves; the junk is encircled by the words CHINA SERVICE in stylized lettering. The Chinese junk was used because it is a common sight in Chinese inland and coastal waters and thereby symbolizes the geographic area of operations for which the medal was awarded.

Reverse:

In the center of a bronze medallion, an eagle is shown perched on an anchor; the eagle is facing to the left, and the flukes of the anchor are to the right side of the medallion. The eagle is grasping sprigs of laurel, which extend beyond the anchor in both directions. Above the eagle are the words UNITED STATES NAVY (or UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS). Above the laurel on the left is the word FOR, and over the laurel on the right, SERVICE. The eagle is the American bald eagle and represents the United States; the anchor alludes to naval service. The laurel is symbolic of victory and achievement.

Ribbon:

The ribbon to the China Service Medal consists of a gold background with a red stripe inside each edge. These colors were selected because they are popular Asian colors and represent the geographic area of operations for which this medal was awarded.

2. Criteria:

The China Service Medal was awarded to Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel who:

a.) Served ashore in China or who were attached to any of the vessels that operated in support of the operations in China between July 7, 1937, and September 7, 1939.

b.) Served ashore in China or were attached to any of the vessels that operated in support of operations in China between September 2, 1945 and April 1, 1957. Military services performed in the Asiatic-Pacific area between September 2, 1945 and March 2, 1946 could be credited for eligibility for the China Service Medal unless the individual was eligible for the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal based on service performed prior to September 2, 1945.

3. Devices:

Individuals who received the China Service Medal for service during both periods of eligibility were authorized to wear a bronze star on the ribbon.

4. Background:

The China Service Medal was established on August 23, 1940, by Navy Department General Orders Number 135 as amended on January 22, 1947, by ALNAV 25 (further amended on January 28, 1948, by Navy Department General Orders Number 255). The China Service Medal was awarded for qualifying service between the inclusive dates of July 7, 1937, and September 7, 1939; and was subsequently extended to include service rendered between September 2, 1945, to April 1, 1957. The China Service Medal was designed by George H. Snowden.

American Campaign Medal



1. Description:

The Bronze medal is 1 1/4 inches in width. On the obverse is a Navy cruiser under full steam with a B-24 airplane flying overhead with a sinking enemy submarine in the foreground on three wave symbols, in the background a few buildings representing the arsenal of democracy, above the scene the words "AMERICAN CAMPAIGN." On the reverse an American bald eagle close between the dates "1941 - 1945" and the words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

2. Ribbon:

The ribbon is 1 3/8 inches wide and consists of the following stripes: 3/16 inch oriental blue 67172; 1/16 inch white 67101; 1/16 inch black 67138; 1/16 inch scarlet 67111; 1/16 inch white; 3/16 inch oriental blue; center 1/8 triparted old glory blue 67178, white and scarlet; 3/16 inch oriental blue; 1/16 inch white; 1/16 inch scarlet; 1/16 inch black; 1/16 inch white; and 3/16 inch oriental blue.

3. Criteria:

a.) The American Campaign Medal was awarded to personnel for service within the American Theater between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 under any of the following conditions.

(1) On permanent assignment outside the continental limits of the United States.

(2) Permanently assigned as a member of a crew of a vessel sailing ocean waters for a period of 30 days or 60 nonconsecutive days.

(3) Permanently assigned as a member of an operating crew of an airplane actually making regular and frequent flights over ocean waters for a period of 30 days.

(4) Outside the continental limits of the United States in a passenger status or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 days not consecutive.

(5) In active combat against the enemy and was awarded a combat decoration or furnished a certificate by the commanding general of a corps, higher unit, or independent force that he actually participated in combat.

(6) Within the continental limits of the United States for an aggregate period of one year.

b.) The eastern boundary of the American Theater is from the North Pole, south along the 75th meridian west longitude to the 77th parallel north latitude, then southeast through Davis Strait to the intersection of the 40th parallel north latitude and the 35th meridian west longitude, then south along the meridian to the 10th parallel north latitude, then southeast to the intersection of the Equator and the 20th meridian west longitude, then south along the 20th meridian west longitude to the South Pole. The western boundary is from the North Pole, south along the 141st meridian west longitude to the east boundary of Alaska, then south and southeast along the Alaska boundary to the Pacific Ocean, then south along the 130th meridian to its intersection with the 30th parallel north latitude, then southeast to the intersection of the Equator and the 100th meridian west longitude to the South Pole. The American Theater included North America (excluding Alaska) and South America.

4. Components:

The following are authorized components:

a.) Medal (regular size): MIL-DTL-3943/227. Medal set with full size medal and ribbon bar. NSN 8455-00-269-5760.

b.) Medal (miniature size): MIL-DTL-3943/227. Available commercially.

c.) Ribbon: MIL-DTL-11589/9. NSN 8455-00-257-0517. Available commercially.

d. Streamer: The American Campaign ribbon is used as a streamer for one streamer on the Army flag. Although there are three designated campaigns in the American Theater, no Army units received campaign participation credit.

5. Background:

a.) The American Campaign Medal was established per Executive Order 9265, dated 6 November 1942, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and announced in War Department Bulletin 56, 1942. The criteria was initially announced in Department of the Army (DA) Circular 1, dated 1 January 1943, so that the ribbon could be authorized prior to design of the medal. The criteria for the medal was announced in DA Circular 84, dated 25 March 1948 and subsequently published in Army Regulation 600-65, dated 22 September 1948.

b.) The ribbon design was approved by the Secretary of War on 24 November 1942. The blue color represents the Americas; the central blue, white and red stripes (taken from the American Defense Service Medal ribbon) refers to the continuance of American defense after Pearl Harbor. The white and black stripes refer to the German part of the conflict on the Atlantic Coast, while the red and white stripes are for the Japanese colors and refer to that part of the conflict on the Pacific Coast.

c.) The medal was designed by Mr. Thomas Hudson Jones. The reverse side was designed by Mr. A. A. Weinman and is the same design as used on the reverse of the European-African-Middle Eastern and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medals. The

first medal was presented to General of the Army George C. Marshall on 17 December 1947.

d.) One bronze star is worn on the ribbon to indicate participation in an authorized campaign. There were three campaigns in the American Theater:

- * (1) Antisubmarine: 7 Dec 41 - 2 Sep 45
- * (2) Ground Combat: 7 Dec 41 - 2 Sep 45
- * (3) Air Combat: 7 Dec 41 - 2 Sep 45

**** These campaigns are not displayed as streamers on the Army flag***

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal



1. Description:

The bronze medal is 1-1/4 inches in width. On the obverse is a tropical landing scene with a battleship, aircraft carrier, submarine and an aircraft in the background with landing troops and palm trees in the foreground with the words "ASIATIC PACIFIC CAMPAIGN" above the scene. On the reverse, an American bald eagle close between the dates "1941 - 1945" and the words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA".

2. Ribbon:

The ribbon is 1 3/8 inches wide and consists of the following stripes: 3/16 inch yellow 67108; 1/16 inch white 67101; 1/16 inch scarlet 67111; 1/16 inch white; 1/4 inch yellow; center 1/8 triparted old glory blue 67178, white and scarlet; 1/4 inch yellow; 1/16 inch white; 1/16 inch scarlet; 1/16 inch white; and 3/16 inch yellow.

3. Criteria:

a.) The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal was awarded to personnel for service within the Asiatic-Pacific Theater between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 under any of the following conditions:

- (1) On permanent assignment.
- (2) In a passenger status or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 days not consecutive.
- (3) In active combat against the enemy and was awarded a combat decoration or furnished a certificate by the commanding general of a corps, higher unit, or independent force that he actually participated in combat.

b.) The eastern boundary of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater is from the North Pole, south along the 141st meridian west longitude to the east boundary of Alaska, then south and southeast along the Alaska boundary to the Pacific Ocean, then south along the 130th meridian to its intersection with the 30th parallel north latitude, then southeast to the intersection of the Equator and the 100th meridian west longitude, then to the South Pole. The western boundary of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater is from the North Pole south along the 60th meridian east longitude to its intersection with the east boundary of Iran, then south along the Iran boundary to the Gulf of Oman and the intersection of the 60th meridian east longitude, then south along the 60th meridian east longitude to the South Pole. The Asiatic-Pacific Theater included Alaska, Hawaii, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, and all of Asia.

4. Components:

The following are authorized components:

a.) Medal (regular size): MIL-DTL-3943/247. Medal set with full size medal and ribbon bar. NSN 8455-00-269-5764.

b.) Medal (miniature): MIL-DTL-3943/247. Available commercially.

c.) Ribbon: MIL-DTL-11589/17. NSN 8455-00-257-0525. Available commercially.

d.) Streamer: The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign ribbon is used as a streamer for 21 streamers on the Army flag. Units that received campaign credit display the streamers with the inscription as listed on their lineage and honors.

5. Background:

a.) The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal was established per Executive Order 9265, dated 6 November 1942, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and announced in War Department Bulletin 56, 1942. The criteria was initially announced in Department of the Army (DA) Circular 1, dated 1 January 1943, so that the ribbon could be authorized prior to design of the medal. The criteria for the medal was announced in DA Circular 84, dated 25 March 1948, and subsequently published in Army Regulation 600-65, dated 22 September 1948.

b.) The ribbon design was approved by the Secretary of War on 24 November 1942. The yellow ribbon has white and red on each side to represent the Japanese colors. The center blue, white, and red stripes are taken from the American Defense Service Medal ribbon and refers to the continuance of American Defense after Pearl Harbor.

c.) The medal was designed by Mr. Thomas Hudson Jones. The reverse side was designed by Mr. A. A. Weinman and is the same design as used on the reverse of the European-African-Middle Eastern and American Campaign Medals. The medal design was submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts on 22 May 1947 and the first medal was presented to General of the Army Douglas MacArthur on 17 December 1947.

d.) A bronze star is worn on the ribbon to indicate participation in designated campaigns. The designated campaigns for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and inscriptions used on the Army Flag streamer set are:

Philippine Island 7 Dec 41 - 10 May 42

Burma, 1942 7 Dec 41 - 26 May 42

Central Pacific 7 Dec 41 - 6 Dec 43

East Indies 1 Jan 42 - 22 Jul 42

India-Burma 2 Apr 42 - 28 Jan 45

Air Offensive, Japan 17 Apr 42 - 2 Sep 45

Aleutian Islands 3 Jun 42 - 24 Aug 43

China Defensive 4 Jul 42 - 4 May 45

Papua 23 Jul 42 - 23 Jan 43
Guadalcanal 7 Aug 42 - 21 Feb 43
New Guinea 24 Jan 43 - 31 Dec 44
Northern Solomons 22 Feb 43 - 21 Nov 44
Eastern Mandates 7 Dec 43 - 14 Jun 44
Bismarck Archipelago 15 Dec 43 - 27 Nov 44
Western Pacific 17 Apr 44 - 2 Sep 45
Lyete 17 Oct 44 - 1 Jul 45
Luzon 15 Dec 44 - 4 Jul 45
Central Burma 29 Jan 45 - 15 Jul 45
Southern Philippines 27 Feb 45 - 4 Jul 45
Ryukyus 26 Mar 45 - 2 Jul 45
China Offensive 5 May 45 - 2 Sep 45
* Antisubmarine 7 Dec 41 - 2 Sep 45
* Ground Combat: 7 Dec 41 - 2 Sep 45
* Air Combat: 7 Dec 41 - 2 Sep 45

*** *These campaigns are not displayed as streamers on the Army flag.***

e.) A bronze arrowhead is worn on the ribbon to indicate participation in a combat parachute jump, combat glider landing, or amphibious assault landing within the Asiatic-Pacific Theater.

World War II Victory Medal



1. Description:

The bronze medal is 1 3/8 inches in width. On the obverse is a figure of Liberation standing full length with head turned to Dexter looking to the dawn of a new day, right foot resting on a war god's helmet with the hilt of a broken sword in the right hand and the broken blade in the left hand, the inscription "WORLD WAR II" placed immediately below the center. On the reverse are the inscriptions "FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND WANT" and "FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND RELIGION" separated by a palm branch, all within a circle composed of the words "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1914 1945".

2. Ribbon:

The ribbon is 1 3/8 inches wide and consists of the following stripes: 3/8 inch double rainbow in juxtaposition (blues, greens, yellows, reds (center), yellows greens and blues); 1/32 inch White 67101; center 9/16 inch Old Glory Red 67156; 1/32 inch White; and 3/8 inch double rainbow in juxtaposition. The rainbow on each side of the ribbon is a miniature of the pattern used in the WWI Victory Medal.

3. Criteria:

The WW II Victory Medal was awarded to all military personnel for service between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946.

4. Components:

The following are authorized components and related items:

a.) Medal (regular size): MIL-DTL-3943/237. Medal set with full size medal and ribbon bar. NSN 8455-00-269-5782.

b.) Medal (miniature): MIL-DTL-3943/237. Available commercially.

c.) Ribbon: MIL-DTL-11589/149. NSN 8455-00-257-0577. Available commercially.

d.) Streamer: The WW II Victory Medal ribbon is not used as a streamer by the Army. The Navy and Marine Corps does use the ribbon design for a streamer.

5. Background:

a.) The World War II Victory Medal was established by an Act of Congress on 6 July 1945 (Public Law 135, 79th Congress) and promulgated by Section V, War Department Bulletin 12, 1945.

b.) The medal was designed by Mr. Thomas H. Jones and approved by the Secretary of War on 5 February 1946.

c.) The Congressional authorization for the World War II Victory Medal included members of the Armed Forces of the Government of the Philippine Islands. It also specified the ending date would be the date of the termination of hostilities as proclaimed by the President. President Truman officially ended the state of hostilities on 31 December 1946.

National Defense Service Medal



1. Description:

On a Bronze medal, 1 ¼ inches in diameter, an eagle displayed with inverted wings standing on a sword and palm branch, all beneath the inscription "NATIONAL DEFENSE". On the reverse is a shield taken from the Coat of Arms of the United States with an open wreath below it, the right side of oak leaves and the left side of laurel leaves.

2. Ribbon:

The ribbon is 1 3/8 inches wide and consists of the following stripes: 7/16 inch Scarlet 67111; 1/32 inch White 67101; 1/32 inch Old Glory Blue 67178; 1/32 inch White; 1/32 inch Scarlet; center ¼ inch Golden Yellow 67104; 1/32 inch Scarlet; 1/32 inch White; 1/32 inch Old Glory Blue; 1/32 inch White; and 7/16 inch Scarlet.

3. Criteria:

a.) The National Defense Service Medal was awarded for honorable active service for any period between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954; between 1 January 1961 and 14 August 1974; between 2 August 1990 and 30 November 1995 and between 11 September 2001 and a closing date to be determined. For the purpose of the award, the following persons will not be considered as performing active service:

(1) Guard and Reserve forces personnel on short tours of duty to fulfill training obligations under an inactive duty training program.

(2) Any person on active duty for the sole purpose of undergoing a physical examination.

(3) Any person on temporary active duty to serve on boards, courts, commissions and like organizations or on active duty for purposes other than extended active duty.

(4) A one time only exception, for members of the Army National Guard and United States Army Reserve, who were part of the selected reserve in good standing, was authorized, per executive orders 12778, dated 18 October 1991, for the period 2 August 1990 to 30 November 1995.

b.) The National Defense Service Medal may be awarded to members of the Reserve Components who are ordered to Federal active duty, regardless of duration, except for the categories listed above. Any member of the Guard or Reserve who, after 31 December 1960, becomes eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal or the Southwest Asia Service Medal is also eligible for the National Defense Service Medal.

c.) To signify receipt of a second or subsequent award of the NDSM, a bronze service star will be worn on the service ribbon by U.S. Army personnel so qualified. Second or third award of the NDSM is authorized for soldiers who served in one or more of the four qualifying time periods. It is not authorized for soldiers who met the criteria in one time period, left active duty and returned during the same period of eligibility.

d.) Cadets of the U.S. Military Academy are eligible for the NDSM, during any of the inclusive periods listed above, upon completion of the swearing-in ceremonies as a cadet.

e.) The NDSM may be issued posthumously.

4. Components:

The following are authorized components:

a.) Medal (regular size): MIL-DTL-3943/234. NSN 8455-00-281-3214 for set which includes regular size medal and ribbon bar.

b.) Medal (miniature size): MIL-DTL-3943/234. Available commercially from certified manufacturers.

c.) Ribbon: MIL-DTL-11589/97. NSN 8455-00-264-1478.

d.) Lapel Button: MIL-DTL-11484/185. Available commercially.

5. Background:

a.) The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) was established by President Eisenhower per Executive Order 10448, dated 22 April 1953, for service between 27 June 1950 and a date to be announced. On 17 June 1954, the Chief of Staff approved establishment of 27 July 1954 as the termination date for award of the NDSM. Executive Order 11265, dated 11 January 1966, amended Executive Order 10488, to include a termination date and authorized the Secretary of Defense to establish periods of eligibility subsequent to 31 December 1960. Eligibility for award, commencing with the period after 31 December 1960, was established by DOD Directive 1348.7, dated 1 April 1966, and terminated effective 15 August 1974, per letter from Manpower and Reserve Affairs, subject: Termination of Eligibility for the National Defense Service Medal, dated 30 June 1974. The NDSM was again authorized by memorandum, dated 20 February 1991, from Secretary of Defense Cheney for active service on or after 2 August 1990 with no termination date established. The termination date was later established as 30 November 1995. The NDSM was reinstated by memorandum from The Deputy Secretary of Defense, dated 26 April 2002, from 11 September 2001 to a termination date to be determined in the future.

b.) The Heraldic Division, Quartermaster General's Office, was requested to provide proposed designs for the NDSM and designs created by Mr. T. H. Jones were

submitted to the G1 on 26 May 1953. A committee appointed by DOD, which included representatives of all services, met on 27 May 1953 and 3 June 1953 and selected the design for final approval. The eagle, our National emblem, together with the shield of the Coat of Arms of the United States is used to symbolize the defense of the United States. The combination of oak and palm leaves signify strength and preparedness.

c.) Order of precedence and wear policy for medals awarded to Army personnel is contained in AR 670-1. Policy for awards, approving authority and supply of medals is contained in AR 600-8-22.

Korean Service Medal



1. Description:

On a bronze medal, 1 ¼ inches in diameter, a Korean gateway, encircled by the inscription "KOREAN SERVICE". On the reverse is the Korean symbol taken from the center of the Korean National flag with the inscription "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and a spray of oak and laurel encircling the design.

2. Ribbon:

The ribbon is 1 3/8 inches wide and consisting of the following stripes: 1/32 inch White 67101; 19/32 inch Bluebird 67117; center 1/8 inch White; 19/32 inch Bluebird; and 1/32 inch White.

3. Criteria:

The Korean Service Medal was awarded for service between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954 under and of the following conditions:

- a.) Within the territorial limits of Korea in waters immediately adjacent thereto: or
- b.) With a unit under the operational control of the Commander-in-Chief, Far East, other than those units within the territorial limits of Korea, which has been designated by the Commander-in-Chief, Far East, as having directly supported the military efforts in Korea; or
- c.) Was furnished an individual certificate by the Commander-in-Chief, Far East, testifying to material contribution made in direct support of the military efforts in Korea.

4. Components:

The following are authorized components and related items:

- a.) Medal (regular size): MIL-DTL-3943/223. NSN 8455-00-269-5771 for set which includes regular size medal and ribbon bar.
- b.) Medal (miniature): MIL-DTL-3946/223. Available commercially.
- c.) Ribbon: MIL-DTL-11589/78. NSN 8455-00-264-1478.
- d.) Streamers for units receiving campaign credit - manual requisition in accordance with AR 840-10. The inscription will be as shown on the unit's lineage and honors.

5. Background:

a.) The Korean Service Medal was established by President Truman per Executive Order 10179, dated 8 November 1950, and announced in DA Bulletin 21, 1950. The design, created by Mr. Thomas J. Jones, uses the symbols associated with Korea to reflect service in that Country.

b.) There were ten campaigns designated for the Korean War and displayed as streamers on the Army flag. The campaign streamers are of the same design as the suspension ribbon for the metal. A bronze star is worn on the ribbon to indicate individual participation for each campaign. The inscriptions on the Army flag streamers are:

- UN Defensive 27 Jun - 15 Sep 50
- UN Offensive 16 Sep - 2 Nov 50
- CCF Intervention 3 Nov 50 - 24 Jan 51
- First UN Counteroffensive 25 Jan - 21 Apr 51
- CCF Spring Offensive 22 Apr - 8 Jul 51
- UN Summer-Fall Offensive 9 Jul - 27 Nov 51
- Second Korean Winter 28 Nov 51 - 30 Apr 52
- Korean, Summer-Fall 1952 1 May - 30 Nov 52
- Third Korean Winter 1 Dec 52 - 30 Apr 53
- Korean, Summer 1953 1 May - 27 Jul 53

c.) Order of precedence and wear policy for service medals awarded to Army personnel is contained in AR 670-1. Policy for awards, approving authority and supply of medals is contained in AR 600-8-22. Policy for display of campaign streamers on guidons/flags and supply of streamers is contained in Chapter 9, AR 840-10.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal



1. Description:

On a bronze medal, 1 ¼ inches in diameter, an eagle, with wings addorsed and inverted, standing on a sword loosened in its scabbard, and superimposed on a radiant compass rose of eight points, all within the circumscription "ARMED FORCES" above and "EXPEDITIONARY SERVICE" below with a sprig of laurel on each side. On the reverse is the shield from the United States Coat of Arms above two laurel branches separated by a bullet, all within the circumscription "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA".

2. Ribbon:

The ribbon is 1 3/8 inches wide and consists of the following stripes: 3/16 inch green 67129; 3/16 inch golden yellow 67104; 3/16 inch spicebrown 67196; 3/16 inch black 67138; 7/16 inch bluebird 67117; 1/8 inch ultramarine blue 67118; 1/8 inch white 67101; 1/8 inch scarlet; 7/16 inch bluebird; 3/16 inch black; 3/16 inch spice brown; 3/16 inch golden yellow; and 3/16 inch green.

3. Criteria:

a.) The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal may be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who after 1 July 1958 participate as members of U.S. military units in a U.S. military operation in which service members of any Military Department participate, in the opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), in significant numbers and encounter during such participation foreign armed opposition, or are otherwise placed in such a position that in the opinion of the JCS, hostile action by foreign armed forces was imminent even though it does not materialize.

b.) The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal may be authorized for three categories of operations: U.S. military operations; U.S. military operations in direct support of the United Nations; and U.S. operations of assistance to friendly foreign nations.

c.) The medal shall be awarded only for operations for which no other U.S. campaign medal is approved.

4. Components:

The following are authorized components and related items:

a.) Medal (regular size): MIL-DTL-3943/230. NSN 8455-00-082-5638 for set which includes regular size medal and ribbon bar.

b.) Medal (miniature size): MIL-DTL-3946/230. Available commercially.

c.) Ribbon: MIL-DTL-11589/12. NSN 8455-00-082-2344.

d.) Lapel Button: MIL-DTL-11484. Available commercially.

e.) Streamers: MIL-S-14650. Manual requisition in accordance with AR 840-10.

5. Background:

a.) During the late 1950's, it became apparent that a medal was needed to recognize the services of the Armed Forces who participated in the increased involvement of the American military in peacekeeping activities. As a result, President Kennedy established the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, per Executive Order 10977, dated 4 December 1961, for operations on or after 1 July 1958.

b.) In a memorandum dated 20 December 1961, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense requested that The Institute of Heraldry submit proposed designs as soon as possible. Proposed designs were submitted on 25 January 1962 and a design, created by Mr. Jay Morris, was tentatively selected. The design was submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for comments prior to approval by the Deputy Secretary of Defense on 24 April 1962.

c.) The selected design uses the eagle to represent the strength of our Armed Forces, and the sword, loose in its scabbard, denotes the readiness to serve wherever needed, as further suggested by the compass rose.

d.) At the present time, JCS has designated 22 operations for which the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal may be awarded. A bronze service star is worn to denote second and subsequent awards of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Each Service may authorize the use of campaign streamers for operations in the designated areas. The Army has authorized campaign credit and display of streamers for three areas: Grenada, Panama and the Dominican Republic. The Air Force has authorized display of streamers for all 22 operations. The Navy authorizes display of three silver stars and four bronze stars on the streamer representing 19 operations.

e.) Order of precedence and wear policy for service medals awarded to Army personnel is contained in Army Regulation (AR) 670-1. Policy for awards, approving authority and supply of medals is contained in AR 600-8-22. The policy for display of campaign streamers on guidons/flags and supply of streamers is contained in Chapter 9, AR 840-10

f.) The following areas have been designated for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal:

Lebanon 1 Jul 58 - 1 Nov 58

Quemoy and Matsu Islands 23 Aug 58 - 1 Jun 63

Taiwan Straits 23 Aug 58 - 1 Jan 59

Vietnam 1 Jul 58 - 3 Jul 65

Congo 14 Jul 60 - 1 Sep 62

Laos 19 Apr 61 - 7 Oct 62

Berlin 14 Aug 61 - 1 Jun 63

Cuba 24 Oct 62 - 1 Jun 63
Cambodia 29 Mar 73 - 15 Aug 73
Thailand (Support of Cambodia) 29 Mar 73 - 15 Aug 73
Congo 23 Nov 64 - 27 Nov 64
Dominican Republic 28 Apr 65 - 21 Sep 66
Korea 1 Oct 66 - 30 Jun 74
Cambodia 11 Apr 75 - 13 Apr 75
Vietnam 29 Apr 75 - 30 Apr 75
Mayaguez 15 May 75
Grenada 23 Oct 83 - 21 Nov 83
Lebanon 1 Jun 83 - 1 Dec 87
Libya 12 Apr 86 - 17 Apr 86
Persian Gulf 24 Jul 87 - 1 Aug 90
Panama 20 Dec 89 - 31 Jan 90
Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq 1 Dec 95 - TBD
Former Republic of Yugoslavia - pending

g.) The following designated U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations have been designated for this award:

Congo 14 Jul 1960 - 1 Sep 1962
Somalia (Operations Restore Hope & United Shield) 5 Dec 1992 - 31 Mar 1995
Former Republic of Yugoslavia (Operations Joint Endeavor & Joint Guard) 1 Jun 1992 - 20 Jun 1998, only for participants deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia
Former Republic of Yugoslavia (Operation Joint Forge) 21 Jun 1998 to a date to be determined

h.) The following designated U.S. operations of assistance for a friendly foreign nation have been designated for this award:

Vietnam 1 Jul 1958 - 3 Jul 1965
Laos 19 Apr 1961 - 7 Oct 1962
Cambodia 29 Mar 1973 - 15 Aug 1973
Thailand (Only those in direct support of Cambodia operations) 29 Mar 1973 - 15 Aug 1973
El Salvador 1 Jan 1981 - 1 Feb 1992
Lebanon 1 Jun 1983 - 1 Dec 1987
Persian Gulf (Operation Earnest Will) 24 Jul 1987 - 1 Aug 1990
Southwest Asia (Operation Southern Watch) 1 Dec 1995 - 18 Mar 2003
Southwest Asia (Maritime Intercept Operation) 1 Dec 1995 - 18 Mar 2003
Southwest Asia (Vigilant Sentinel) 1 Dec 1995 - 15 Feb 1997
Southwest Asia (Operation Northern Watch) 1 Jan 1997 - 18 Mar 2003
Southwest Asia (Operation Desert Thunder) 11 Nov 1998 - 22 Dec 1998
Southwest Asia (Operation Desert Fox) 16 - 22 Dec 1998
Southwest Asia (Operation Desert Spring) 31 Dec 1998 - 18 Mar 2003

Vietnam Service Medal



1. Description:

On a bronze medal, 1 ¼ inches in diameter, an oriental dragon behind a grove of bamboo trees above the inscription "REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM SERVICE." On the reverse, a crossbow surmounted by a torch above the arched inscription "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA".

2. Ribbon:

The ribbon is 1 3/8 inches wide and consists of the following stripes: 1/8 inch Primitive Green 67188; 5/16 inch Air Force Yellow 67103; 1/16 inch Old Glory Red 67156; 5/32 inch Air Force Yellow; center 1/16 inch Old Glory Red; 5/32 inch Air Force Yellow; 1/16 inch Old Glory Red; 5/16 inch Air Force Yellow; and 1/8 inch Primitive Green.

3. Criteria:

a.) Awarded to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in Vietnam and contiguous waters or airspace thereover, after 3 July 1965 through 28 March 1973. Members of the Armed Forces of the United States in Thailand, Laos, or Cambodia, or the airspace thereover, during the same period and serving in direct support of operations in Vietnam are also eligible for this award. To be eligible for award of the medal, individual must- -

(1) Be attached to or regularly serve for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations; or

(2) Be attached to or regularly serve for one or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations; or

(3) Actually participate as a crewmember in one or more aerial flights into airspace above Vietnam and contiguous waters directly supporting military operations; or

(4) Serve on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in Vietnam or contiguous areas, except that the time limit may be waived for personnel participating in actual combat operations.

b.) Individuals qualified for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Vietnam between 1 July 1958 and 3 July 1965 shall remain qualified for the medal. Upon request, the individual may be awarded the Vietnam Service Medal in lieu of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. In such instances, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal will be deleted from the list of authorized medals in the individual's personnel records. No person shall be entitled to both awards for Vietnam Service.

4. Components:

The following are authorized components and related items:

a.) Medal (regular size): MIL-DTL-3943/230. NSN 8455-00-926-1664 for set which includes a regular size medal and ribbon bar.

b.) Medal (miniature size): MIL-DTL-3943/230. Available commercially.

c.) Ribbon: MIL-DTL-11589/151. NSN 8455-00-926-1530.

d.) Lapel Button (metal replica of ribbon bar): MIL-L-11484/69. Available commercially.

e.) Streamer: MIL-S-14650. Manual requisition in accordance with Chapter 9, Army Regulation (AR) 840-10.

5. Background:

a.) On 21 August 1964, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DCSPER) requested that The Institute of Heraldry provide proposed designs for the possible adoption of a Vietnam Service Medal. Proposed designs were submitted to DCSPER on 29 September 1964. The Vietnam Service Medal was established by Executive Order 11231, dated 8 July 1965. The design approved by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, 12 July 1965, and the policy for award was promulgated by DOD Directive 1348.15, dated 1 October 1965.

b.) The design, created by Miss Mercedes Lee, includes bamboo trees which are adapted from the flag of the President of Vietnam and the half-concealed dragon represents the subversive nature of the conflict. The crossbow, on the reverse, is the ancient weapon of Vietnam and the torch of the Statue of Liberty is a symbol of the United States devotion to liberty and freedom. The yellow ribbon with three vertical red stripes suggests the color of the flag of the Republic of Vietnam. The green border on each side alludes to the jungle of that Country.

c.) Soldiers receiving the Vietnam Service Medal are authorized to wear a bronze star to indicate each campaign. There are 17 designated campaigns during the period of 15 March 1962 through 28 January 1973. Units which receive campaign credit for any of the campaigns would display a streamer with inscription as shown on the unit's lineage and honors. The designated campaigns are:

Vietnam Advisory 1962-1965

Vietnam Defense 1965

Vietnam Counteroffensive 1965-1966

Vietnam Phase II 1966-1967

Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase III 1967-1968

Tet Counteroffensive 1968

Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase IV 1968

Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase V 1968

Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase VI 1968-1969
Tet 69 Counteroffensive 1969
Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969
Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive 1970
Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase VII 1970-1971
Consolidation I 1971
Consolidation II 1971-1972
Vietnam Cease-Fire 1972-1973

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation



1. Description:

The ribbon is 1 3/8 inches in width and consists of the following stripes: 13/64 inch Hunter Green; 1/64 inch White; 1/64 inch Old Glory Red; 1/64 inch White; 1/64 inch Old Glory Red; 1/64 inch White; 1/64 inch Hunter Green; 25/32 inch White; 1/64 Hunter Green; 1/64 inch White; 1/64 inch Old Glory Red; 1/64 inch White; 1/64 inch Old Glory Red; 1/64 inch White; and 13/64 inch Hunter Green. A Taeguk (Old Glory Red above Cobalt Blue), 15/64 inch diameter, is centered at the center of the ribbon. The ribbon is enclosed behind a gold color metal frame.

2. Criteria:

The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation is awarded by the Korean government. Not more than one Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation will be worn by any individual and no oak leaf cluster or other appurtenance is authorized.

3. Background:

a.) The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation emblem is authorized for permanent wear by personnel assigned to the organization during the period cited. Other personnel may wear this decoration while serving with an organization, stationed in the Republic of Korea, to indicate the unit has been awarded the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

B.) Organizations which have been awarded the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation may display a streamer on the organizational flag. The streamer is the same pattern as the ribbon with the Taeguk near the heading of the streamer. The inscription will be as indicated on the unit's lineage and honors.

United Nations Service Medal



1. Description:

A bronze medal, 1 3/8 inches in diameter, with a top view of the globe enclosed at sides and bottom by a wreath and the letters "UN" at the top of the medal. On the reverse side is the inscription "IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE". The United Nations Service Medal Korea is the same design, except the obverse does not include the letters "UN" and the medal has a hanger bar with the inscription "KOREA". On the reverse side of the United Nations Service Medal Korea is the inscription "FOR SERVICE IN DEFENCE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS".

2. Ribbons:

Although the same medal is used for all the United Nations Medals, a different ribbon is authorized for each operation. The operations in which United States military personnel were awarded the medal and authorized by DOD to accept the medal are:

United Nations Service Medal Korea:

Equal stripes of Bluebird 67117 and White 67101 (9 Bluebird and 8 White stripes), each 5/64 inch wide.



United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) in Palestine (UNTSO Ribbon). 7/32 inch Bluebird, 3/32 inch White, 3/4 inch Bluebird; 3/32 inch White; and 7/32 inch Bluebird.

3. Wear Policy.

Prior to 13 October 1995, all US Military personnel wore the blue and white United Nations Ribbon (UNTSO) regardless of the ribbon awarded. On 13 October 1995, the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) approved a change to the wear policy of the United Nations Medal. Effective on that date, personnel who are awarded the United Nations Medal may wear the first medal and ribbon for which they qualify. Subsequent awards of the United Nations Medal for service in a different mission will be denoted by a bronze service star. Not more than one ribbon may be worn at any time.

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal



1. Description:

A gold six pointed star with rays, 32cm in diameter, superimposed by a White enameled star, 42cm in diameter, overall in center a Green disc, 18cm in diameter, with the outline of the Vietnamese Country with a Red flame of three rays between North and South Vietnam. On the reverse of the medal is a circle with a designation band containing the word "CHIEN-DICH" (Campaign) at the top and "BOI-TINH" (Medal) at the bottom. Across the center of the circle is the word "VIET-NAM".

2. Ribbon:

The ribbon is 1 3/8 inches wide and consists of the following stripes: 1/16 inch Gherkin Green 67183; 3/16 inch White 67101; 5/16 inch Gherkin Green; 1/4 inch White; 5/16 inch Gherkin Green; 3/16 inch White; and 1/16 inch Gherkin Green.

3. Criteria:

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal is awarded to personnel who meet one of the following requirements:

- a.) Served in the Republic of Vietnam for six months during the period of 1 March 1961 and 28 March 1973.
- b.) Served outside the geographical limits of the Republic of Vietnam and contributed direct combat support to the Republic of Vietnam and Armed Forces for six months. Such individuals must meet the criteria established for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (for Vietnam) or the Vietnam Service Medal, to qualify for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

c.) Six months service is not required for individuals who were wounded by hostile forces; killed in action or otherwise in line of duty; or captured by hostile forces.

4. Components:

The following are authorized components:

- a.) Medal (regular size): Available commercially.
- b.) Medal (miniature size): Available commercially.
- c.) Ribbon: MIL-R-11589/158. Available commercially.
- d.) Ribbon Attachment: MIL-R-41819/23. Available commercially.

5. Background:

a.) The Secretary of Defense approved a request for approval of foreign awards to US Military personnel on 7 February 1966. As a result of this approval, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with device bar (1960-) was awarded to US Armed Forces personnel by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam per Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Order No. 48, dated 24 March 1966. The acceptance, criteria and description was announced in the Federal Register, Volume 31, No. 147, 30 July 1966 (Title 32, Code of Federal Regulation 47).

b.) The Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Memorandum 2655 prescribed there were two devices to be worn on the ribbon. The first device was for the period 8 March 1949 - 20 July 1954 and is not authorized for wear by American Military Personnel. The second period was from 1 January 1960 with the last period to be decided after the war was over. The ending period remains blank, since the Republic of Vietnam Government ceased to exist before the ending period was established. The devices for the medal are in two sizes - - the large size is 1 13/64 inches in width and is worn on the suspension ribbon of the full size decoration. The regular size is 19/32 inch wide and is worn on the miniature decoration and service ribbon bar.

c.) Since the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal is a foreign award, it is not issued by the United States Government. The medal may be purchased from commercial sources.

Republic of Korea War Service Medal



U.S. veterans of the Korean War are now eligible to wear a medal initially offered to them more than 50 years ago, but never issued. In a May 13, 2000 letter to Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, Republic of Korea Defense Minister Seong Tae Cho formally announced that his government would provide the Republic of Korea War Service Medal (ROKWSM) to eligible U.S. veterans of that conflict, or to their surviving next of kin. The medal will be provided at no cost to veterans. The U.S. Air Force has been designated the lead agency to receive and distribute the medals.

"On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War," Cho wrote, "the ROK government decided to issue the ROKWSM to pay tribute to the Korean War veterans for their historic endeavors to preserve freedom of the ROK and the free world." The two governments will conduct fiftieth anniversary ceremonies throughout 2000-2003 and medals may be applied for at any time during this period. The war began on June 25, 1950 when North Korean forces invaded ROK territory. The armistice on July 27, 1953 ended the fighting, although a formal peace treaty has never been completed.

The medal was originally offered by the ROK in 1951 to United Nations forces serving in Korea and adjacent waters. At the time U.S. law prohibited the U.S. military from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. Congress changed that in 1954, but by then most U.S. service members eligible for the medal had returned home.

In 1998 the government of the Republic of Korea renewed its original offer of the ROKWSM to U.S. military personnel. On Aug. 20, 1999, the Defense Department approved the acceptance and wear of the medal. Approximately 1.8 million U.S.

veterans of the Korean War are eligible to receive it. Next of kin to eligible deceased veterans can also apply for the medal.

To wear this medal on U.S. military uniforms, U.S. military personnel must have:

- a.)** Served between the outbreak of hostilities, June 25, 1950, and the date the armistice was signed, July 27, 1953;
- b.)** Been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days; and
- c.)** Performed their duty within the territorial limits of Korea, in the waters immediately adjacent thereto or in aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations.

The ROK specifies the eligibility period and criteria. Only the ROK-provided medal is approved by the U.S. Government to meet the U.S. criteria for wear on the military uniform.

To apply, veterans must provide a copy of their discharge paper, commonly known as a "DD-214," or a corrected version of that document, a "DD-215." National Guard members must provide their statement of service equivalent, "NGB Form 22." Additional information on how to apply for or request the medal can be found by contacting the Air Force Personnel Center, Monday - Friday, 0730-1630 (CST) at (800) 558-1404, or the Awards and Decorations Section (210) 565-2432/2520/2516, or by writing to HQ AFPC/DPPRA , 550 C Street West, Suite 12, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78150-4714 or by visiting our web site:

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/>. The organization's fax number is (210) 565-3118.

General information on the medal can also be found by writing the DoD 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee, 1213 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Gateway 4, Arlington, VA 22202, by calling (703) 604-0831 or by visiting its web site: <http://korea50.army.mil>.

Because the order of precedence for non-U.S. service medals and ribbons is determined by date of approval, the ROKWSM should be worn after the Kuwait Liberation Medal, which was the last foreign medal approved for wear by U.S. military personnel. For the majority of Korean War veterans the medal will be worn after the United Nations Medal, or the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal if they served during that conflict.

Source

<http://www.grunsmilitary.com/navyribs.php>