



VetGuide Appendix A:

Wars, Campaigns, and Expeditions of the Armed Forces Since WW II Which Qualify For Veterans' Preference

War Service Creditable for Veterans' Preference. In the absence of statutory definition for "war" and "campaign or expedition," OPM considers to be "wars" only those armed conflicts for which a declaration of war was issued by Congress. The title 38, U.S.C., definition of "period of war," which is used in determining benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, includes the Vietnam Era and other armed conflicts. That title 38 definition is NOT applicable for civil service purposes.

Thus the last "war" for which active duty is qualifying for veterans' preference is World War II. The inclusive dates for World War II service are December 7, 1941, through April 28, 1952.

Non-combat operations that are not qualifying for veterans' preference. Many medals are awarded for non-combat operations. These medals are not a basis for preference and include the following:

The Medal of Merit for meritorious service in World War II.

The Medal of Freedom for meritorious achievements or meritorious service to the United States on or after December 7, 1941, in the war against an enemy outside the continental limits of the United States.

The Antarctica Service Medal for participating in a scientific, direct support, or exploratory operation on the Antarctic Continent.

The National Defense Service Medal for honorable service between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 or January 1, 1961 and August 14, 1974; or for the period between August 2, 1990, and November 30, 1995.

The Armed Forces Service Medal for participation in a United States military operation

deemed to be a significant activity for which there was no threat of encounter of foreign armed opposition or imminent threat of hostile action.

The Armed Forces Reserve Medal for 10 years of honorable service in a Reserve component; or active duty service in a Reserve component on or after August 1, 1990; or volunteer service for active duty on or after August 1, 1990.

Military Operations Since 1937 for Which a Campaign or Expeditionary Medal Has Been Awarded, Except for Operations Occurring During a Declared War

Military personnel receive many awards and decorations. To help agencies make decisions concerning entitlement to veterans' preference and other benefits, the following list identifies those awards that are campaign and expeditionary medals. **Any Armed Forces expeditionary Medal, whether listed here or not, is qualifying for veterans' preference.** The Department of Defense, not OPM, determines who is entitled to receive a medal, and under what circumstances. The list below is derived from DoD 1348.33-M, Manual of Military Decorations and Awards.

DD 214, Certificate of Discharge or Separation from Active Duty, or other official documents issued by the branch of service are required as verification of eligibility for veterans' preference.

<i>Campaign or Expedition</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates</i>
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) A veteran's DD Form 214 showing the award of any Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is acceptable proof. The DD Form 214 does not have to show the name of the theater or country of service for which that medal was awarded.	
Berlin .	August 14, 1961 to June 1, 1963
Cambodia	March 29, 1973 to August 15, 1973
Bosnia (Operations Joint Endeavor, Joint Guard, and Joint Forge)	November 20, 1995 to December 21, 1996; December 20, 1996 to present; June 21, 1998 to present
Cambodia Evacuation . (Operation Eagle Pull)	April .-13, 1975
Congo . . . . .	. . July 14, 1960 to September 1, 1962 and November 23-27, 1964
Cuba	October 24, 1962 to June 1, 1963

Dominican Republic	..... April 28, 1965 to September 21, 1966
El Salvador	January 1, 1981 to February 1, 1992
Grenada .....	.... October 23, 1983 to November 21, 1983
(Operation Urgent Fury)	
Haiti .....	..... September 16, 1994 to March 31, 1995
(Operation Uphold Democracy)	
Iraq .....	..... January 1, 1997 to present
(Operation Northern Watch)	
Korea	October 1, 1966 to June 30, 1974
Laos .....	..... April 19, 1961 to October 7, 1962
Lebanon	July 1, 1958 to November 1, 1958 and June 1, 1983 to December 1, 1987
Mayaguez Operation	May 15, 1975 to present
Operations in the Libya Area	April 12-17, 1986
Panama .....	..... December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990
(Operation Just Cause)	
Persian Gulf Operation	... July 24, 1987 to August 1, 1990
(Operation Earnest Will)	
Persian Gulf Operation	December 1, 1995 to present
(Operation Southern Watch)	
Persian Gulf Operation	December 1, 1995 to February 1, 1997
(Operation Vigilant Sentinel)	
Persian Gulf Operation .....	..... November 11, 1998 to December 22, 1998
(Operation Desert Thunder)	
Persian Gulf Operation .....	.... December 16, 1998 to December 22, 1998
(Operation Desert Fox)	
Persian Gulf Intercept Operation	..... December 1, 1995 to present

Quemoy and Matsu Islands	.. August 23, 1957 to June 1, 1963
Somalia (Operation Restore Hope)	December 5, 1992 to March 31, 1995
Taiwan Straits	August 23, 1958 to January 1, 1959
Thailand	May 16, 1962 to August 10, 1962
Vietnam Evacuation (Operation Frequent Wind)	. April 29, 1975 to April 30, 1975
Vietnam (including Thailand) ..	July 1, 1958 to July 3, 1965
Navy Expeditionary Medal and Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal for these Operations:	
Cuba	January 3, 1961 to October 23, 1962
Indian Ocean/Iran	..... November 21, 1979 to October 20, 1981
Iranian/Yemen/Indian Ocean .....	..... December 8, 1978 to June 6, 1979
Lebanon	..... August 20, 1982 to May 31, 1983
Liberia (Operation Sharp Edge)	..... August 5, 1990 to February 21, 1991
Libyan Area .	January 20, 1986 to June 27, 1986
Panama	April 1, 1980 to December 19, 1986 and February 1, 1990 to June 13, 1990
Persian Gulf	February 1, 1987 to July 23, 1987
Rwanda (Operation Distant Runner)	..... April 7 - 18, 1994
Thailand	May 16 - August 10, 1962

Other Campaign and Service Medals Qualifying for Preference:

Army Occupation of Austria	May 9, 1945 to July 27, 1955
Army Occupation of Berlin	.. May 9, 1945 to October 2, 1990
Army Occupation of Germany (exclusive of Berlin)	May 9, 1945 to May 5, 1955
Army Occupation of Japan	September 3, 1945 to April 27, 1952
China Service Medal (Extended)	... September 2, 1945 to April 1, 1957
Korean Service	June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1954
Navy Occupation of Austria	..... May 8, 1945 to October 25, 1955
Navy Occupation of Trieste ..	.... May 8, 1945 to October 25, 1954
Southwest Asia Service Medal (SWASM) (Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm)	August 2, 1990 to November 30, 1995
Units of the Sixth Fleet (Navy) .	May 9, 1945 to October 25, 1955
Vietnam Service Medal (VSM)	July 4, 1965 to March 28, 1973
