

Southwest Asia Veterans Corps.

History will show that the Southwest Asia Veterans of the Sons of the American Revolution fought in Mesopotamia and parts of Central Asia. Mesopotamia is a strategic focal point which includes a significant part of the Fertile Crescent that is often considered the cradle of civilization and the birthplace of writing and the wheel.



Mesopotamia

Yes, we fought there recently, not once but twice. First it was the Persian Gulf War (2 August 1990 – 30 November 1995). Then it was the Iraq War (20 March 2003 – 18 December 2011). U.S. involvement there and beyond persists as the fight against militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant demands. Why? Geopolitical reasoning makes it so.



Central Asia

“Mesopotamia has been the strategic focal point of the region for millennia. Its resources affect countries far away. The dividing line between the Shiite and the Sunni worlds runs through its center – indeed, through its capital. Iraq's Kurdish provinces rest uneasily between Turkey and Iran and indigenous adversaries within Iraq.

Invasion of Kuwait – on 2 August 1990 at 0200, Iraq launched an invasion of Kuwait with four elite Iraqi Republican Guard divisions, and Iraqi Army special forces units equivalent to a full division. The main thrust was conducted by the commandos deployed by helicopters and boats to attack Kuwait City, while other divisions seized the airport and two airbases.

On the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait – President Bush spoke on Sunday, 5 August 1990, at 3:05 p.m. on the South Lawn of the White House upon returning from a weekend stay at Camp David, Maryland. His remarks contained 1,357 words. He was emphatic about the strategic threat the invasion of Kuwait had on our national interest, the safety of Saudi Arabia and the free flow of Persian Gulf oil. He ended his remarks with a foretelling of things to come. He said, “This will not stand. This will not stand. This aggression against Kuwait will not stand.”

The U. S. response to the Invasion of Kuwait was swift and deadly, for three campaigns occurred from 2 Aug 1990 to 30 Nov 1995.

Dick Cheney in 1998 addressed the region’s geopolitical significance. Namely, vast oil and gas reserves exists in the Caspian basin and are of immense importance in global power play during the next century, for the U.S, Russia, China, and Iran. The U.S. has an interest there:

It cannot be in the American interest to leave the region....” (Henry Kissinger, Op Ed the Washington Post, Wednesday, February 3, 2010.)

A passive and friendly Afghanistan compliments our vision of how fuel should be exported from the region through Afghanistan to the ports of Pakistan.

To transport all the Caspian basin's fossil fuel through Russia or Azerbaijan would greatly enhance Russia's political and economic control over the central Asian republics and diminish America’s long-term influence on the region. To export it via Iran would turn a regime which the US has been relentlessly seeking to isolate into a major regional power.

After the relatively easy to understand WWII Veterans Corps, Korean Service Veterans Corps, and the Vietnam War Veterans Corps, everything gets more complicated.

Proof of Service

Proof of service, in the form of a copy of the member's discharge, DD-214 or other U.S. or Allied Government proof, especially in the case of a member in active service, must be presented to the NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee, State Society Secretary or Chapter secretary (depending on presenting authority) before the medal can be purchased and/or worn. Such proof must show that the Compatriot:

1. served, or is serving, honorably in:
 - a. the armed forces of the United States,
 - b. the military forces of a country allied with the United States, or
 - c. a United Nations Peace Keeping Force; and
2. served against a common enemy in a war or action recognized by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States; and
3. received a campaign medal, combat ribbon or badge as shown on the DD-214 form (or equivalent).

Note: The National Defense Service Medal is not considered a campaign medal for purposes of qualifying for the War Service Medal.

Southwest Asia Service Medal

The Southwest Asia Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was created by order of President George H.W. Bush on March 12, 1991. The award is intended to recognize those military service members who performed duty during the years of the **Persian Gulf War**.



Individuals awarded the Southwest Asia Service Medal must have participated in or supported military operations in Southwest Asia between August 2, 1990, and November 30, 1995. That period of inclusion includes participation in:

Defense of Saudi Arabia (DESERT SHIELD)
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait (DESERT STORM)
Southwest Asia Cease-Fire Campaign
Operation PROVIDE COMFORT

Aug 2, 1990 – Jan 16, 1991
Jan 17, 1991 – Apr 11, 1991
Apr 12, 1991 – Nov 30, 1995
Jun 1, 1992 – Nov 30, 1995

Operation Desert Storm

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
(17 January 1991 – 28 February 1991)



Operation Enduring Freedom

Afghanistan Campaign Medal
Global War on Terrorism **Expeditionary** Medal (GWOT-EM)
(7 October 2001 – 28 December 2014)



Operation Iraqi Freedom

Iraq Campaign Medal
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal-GWOT-EM
(19 March 2003 – 31 August 2010)



Operation Southern Watch

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
(27 August 1992 – 19 March 2003)



Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Whenever we receive a new NSSAR Veterans Multi-Corps Recognition Form that lists on the REDACTED DD214 - Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, we have to stop and ask questions. Why? Because there are so MANY Operations where that Award was presented.

Unfortunately, DD214 does NOT say why an Award was made, only that it was made. Therefore, we need your assistance in telling me what Operation the SAR Veteran was involved with earning him this Award.

To date, we have the following listing of Operations where the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal has been awarded. Unfortunately, our Military every now and then throws us a curve ball, and we learn of a different Operation where this Medal was awarded.

- Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)
- Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)
- Operation Nomad Shadow (ONS)
- Operation New Dawn (OND)
- Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR)
- Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS)
- Operation Odyssey Lightning (OOL)



Your assistance in determining what Operation a Compatriot was involved in to earn the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, will help the Veterans Recognition Committee do the best job possible for our SAR Veteran.

The Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal

The Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal is a United States Department of Defense service award and campaign medal. The medal was established on 30 March and awarded to members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, for service in Iraq, Syria, or contiguous waters or airspace retroactively from 15 June 2014 to a date yet to be determined. Service members who were awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for service that is now covered by the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal may make application to be awarded the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal in lieu of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. No service member will be entitled to the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal for the same action, time period, or service.

To qualify, personnel must have been attached to a unit based in Iraq or Syria, fly missions over those countries, and/or serve in contiguous waters for 30 days consecutive, or non-consecutive. Service members who were killed or were medically evacuated from those countries due to wounds or injuries immediately qualify for the award, as do members who engaged in combat. Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force personnel qualify for the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal only after 30 qualifying days consecutive or non-consecutive.

Eligible personnel will be awarded one medal with campaign star upon meeting the initial criteria for the award. Service in subsequent campaign phases qualifies personnel for additional campaign stars.

Campaigns:

Phase	From	To
Abeyance	15 June 2014	24 November 2015
Intensification	25 November 2015	14 April 2017
Defeat	15 April 2017	1 July 2020
Normalize	2 July 2020	TBD



After reading this, if you believe that you may qualify for the Southwest Asia Veterans Corps, please submit a current *NSSAR Veterans Multi-Corps Recognition Form* and Proof of Service, as shown in military documentation or in the form of a redacted copy of the member's discharge, typically a Form DD-214. If you feel that some other Medal/Award qualifies you for the Southwest Asia Veterans Corps, please send that information in with a current *NSSAR Veterans Multi-Corps Recognition Form* and Proof of Service. The Veterans Recognition Committee will do our best to work with you. To receive a savable, fillable and emailable copy of that form, request the same via email addressed to VetCorps@sar.org.