

## Military Service Veterans Corps.



The Military Service Medal, authorized in 2006, may be presented to a Compatriot in recognition of military service which does not otherwise qualify for the War Service Medal.

Compatriots of Military Service Veterans Corps are unique. Although they are not eligible for one of the war SAR Veterans Corps, they answered the call – drafted or volunteered, when it was popular and when it was not. Clearly when America needed its guardians of freedom, members of the SAR Military Service Veterans Corps were there. Since the end of World War II, their members have served around the globe for more than 70 years. They complemented our Armed Forces, ensuring that the Constitution and freedoms established by our founding fathers would not die. They served at home and at times in locations most of us haven't heard of. They did it in the air, on land and at sea. They served with our active duty forces and our reserve forces. They have served with conviction, honor and pride.

***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 provided 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 served, or is serving, honorably in: (1) the armed forces of the United States, (2) the military forces of a country allied with the United States, or (3) a United Nations Peace Keeping Force.

**The following two Medals “might” be found on a Compatriot’s DD214, but there are probably more SAR Veterans that do NOT have these medals that qualify for the Military Service Veterans Corps.**

### National Defense Service Medal



The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is awarded to anyone who serves on active duty in the United States Armed Forces during the below time periods. Reserve Component service during the Korean and Vietnam periods, other than those Reserve Component personnel in a full-time status or on active duty greater than 89 days, did not qualify for award of the NDSM.

The National Defense Service Medal is authorized for the following wars and time periods:

<b>War</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Korean War	June 27, 1950	July 27, 1954
Vietnam Conflict	January 1, 1961	August 14, 1974
Gulf War	August 2, 1990	November 30, 1995
War on Terrorism	September 11, 2001	Present

### **Global War on Terrorism Service Medal-GWOT-SM**



The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (GWOT-SM) recognizes those military service members who have supported operations to counter terrorism in the War on Terror from 11 September 2001, to a date yet to be determined.

To receive the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a military service member must have served on active duty during a designated anti-terrorism operation for a minimum 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. For those who were engaged in combat, killed, or wounded in the line of duty the time requirement is waived.

In 2004, Defense Department and military service branches began publishing directives, messages, and orders, specifying that the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal would be awarded not only for direct participation in specific operations, but also to any personnel who performed support duty of an anti-terrorism operation but did not directly participate. The phrase "support" was further defined as any administrative, logistics, planning, operational, technical, or readiness activity, which provides support to an operation of the Global War on Terrorism. As a result of this blanket term, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal became an eligible award for most personnel of the United States Armed Forces who performed service after 11 September 2001 through March 2004.

With the orders granting the GWOT-SM for "support duty", the medal has essentially become almost the same type of award as the [National Defense Service Medal](#) and graduates of training schools, [ROTC](#), and [service academies](#) are typically presented both awards at the same time. The primary difference between the NDSM and the GWOT-SM is that the NDSM is automatic as soon as a person joins the military whereas the GWOTSM may only be presented after thirty days of active duty in a unit (or three months in the case of the Reserve Component). The regulations for Reservists are also not as well defined for the GWOT-SM as they are for the NDSM, since the presentation of the NDSM to reservists was codified and clarified as far back as the Persian Gulf War.

## **Operations**

The following are the seven established operations for the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal recognized by the Department of Defense:

<b>Operation</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Airport Security Operations (ASO)	27 September 2001	31 May 2002
Operation Noble Eagle (ONE)	11 September 2001	Present
Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)	11 September 2001	Present
Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)	19 March 2003	31 August 2010
Operation New Dawn (OND)	1 September 2010	31 December 2011
Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR)	15 June 2014	Present
Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS)	1 January 2015	Present

The Coast Guard awards the medal for different operations.

**Please note that the *SAR War Service Medal* and the *SAR Military Service Medal* are BOTH ranked number 4 by NSSAR.**

## Why BOTH Medals are ranked the same.

As the current Vice Chairman of the Veterans Recognition Committee, I will use myself as the example. I joined the Navy Reserve in High School. While in High School, I went to boot camp for two weeks one summer. Did I have a choice of where I went to boot camp? **NO**. When I decided to put in my two years of Active Duty, I again had to go to boot camp. Did I have a choice of where I went to boot camp? **NO**. The first time I went to RTC Great Lakes, Illinois. The second time I went to RTC San Diego, California.

After boot camp, if you were lucky, you might have had a choice or two of going someplace for additional training. This was the first and **ONLY** time the Navy ever gave me a choice, and that was based on aptitude tests, education, and my boot camp experience.

After some additional training, I was NOT given a choice on where I was going. I served during the Vietnam War Era, but was never sent to a place that was considered a war zone and therefore my DD-214 does not reflect that I received any medals or awards for being placed in a location where I was going to get shot at.

Once you joined the U.S. Military, you belonged to them. Only the U.S. Military gets to choose where they were going to send you. You, your parents, wife or girlfriend had NO choice in the matter.

If the U.S. Military sends you to a place where you are being shot at, then you will probably receive a campaign medal for being placed in harm's way. Depending on your DD-214 and the campaign medal received, that **might** make you eligible for the SAR War Service Medal.

If you were like me, the U.S. Military did NOT send me to be in harm's way, but again it was **NOT** my choice, it was just what happened. It does not take away from the fact that I am a Veteran that served his country. This made me eligible for the SAR Military Service Medal.

Now do you understand why both the War Service Medal and the Military Service Medal are BOTH ranked number 4? It is because you had no choice as to where the U.S. Military sent you. Many of you might have been lucky enough to choose a specialty that kept you away from being shot at, BUT if the U.S. Military wanted to, you could have been placed on the front lines in harm's way.