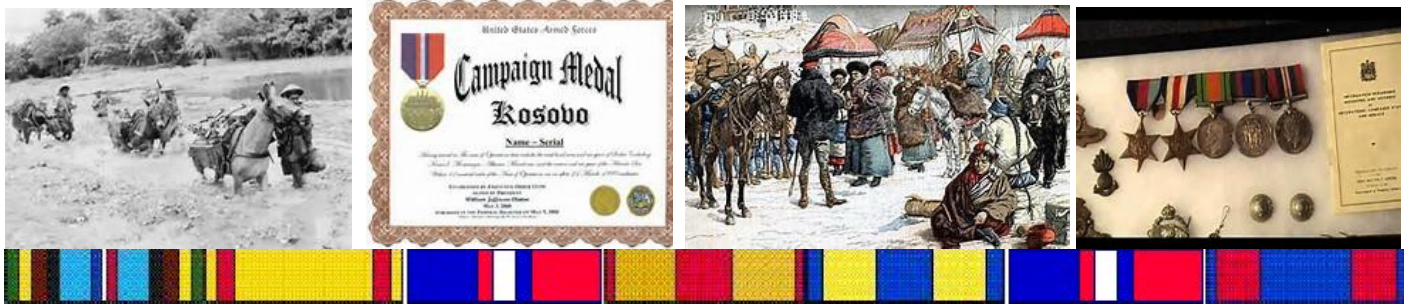


## Special Ops Veterans Corps.



*The Special Ops Veterans Corps accommodates the processing of Certificates of Patriotism for past, current and future operations which are associated with less known campaign, service and/or expeditionary medals. To gain an appreciation of the qualifying awards and the history behind the evolution of campaign, service, and expeditionary ribbons and medals, please see below.*



The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is awarded for participation in any military campaign of the United States for which no other service medal is authorized. This medal has been awarded for at least 45 designated military campaigns, from events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and Korea to retroactive campaigns such as Quemoy and Matsu. Sometimes the AFEM is authorized before a specific campaign medal is authorized; witness the authorization of the AFEM before the effective dates of the Vietnam Service Medal and Southwest Asia Service Medal. In addition there is the Korean Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, issued between - Oct. 1, 1966 and Jun. 30, 1974.

To date, we have the following listing of Operations where the Armed Forces 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.

- Second Taiwan Strait Crisis      Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal      1958-1959
- Cuban Military Operation      Navy Expeditionary Medal      January 3, 1961 – October 23, 1962
- Cuban Missile Crisis      Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal      October 16, 1962 – October 28, 1962
- Iranian Hostage Crisis      Operation Eagle Claw and Operation Evening Light      April 1980
- Grenada      Operation Urgent Fury      Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal  
October 23, 1983 – November 21, 1983
- Beirut, Lebanon crisis      Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal      (1983-1984)  
Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal

- Operation Earnest Will      Navy Expeditionary Medal  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal  
July, 24 1987 – September, 26 1988
- Panama      Operation Just Cause  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal  
20 December 1989 to 31 January 1990
- Somalia      Operation Restore Hope  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal  
1992-1993 United Nations Operation
- Bosnia-Herzegovina      Operation Joint Endeavour    NATO led IFOR  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM)  
Croatia, the Adriatic Sea & airspace.  
20 Nov 1995 - 19 Dec 1996  
Operation Joint Guard      NATO led SFOR  
20 Dec 1996 - 20 June 1998  
Operation Joint Forge      NATO led SFOR  
20 June 1998 – 2 December 2004
- Kosovo      Kosovo Campaign Medal (KCM)    24 March 1999 – 31 December 2013

In addition to the above, there are certainly more Operations that we have not documented or learned about.

Your assistance in determining what Operation a Compatriot was involved in will help the Veterans Recognition Committee do the best job possible for our SAR Veteran.

**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.

After reading this, if you believe that you may qualify for the Special Ops 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 Special Ops 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](mailto:VetCorps@sar.org).