

VFW ELIGIBILITY GUIDE

The following is to be used as a guide in determining eligibility for membership, and is furnished as a matter of information concerning the periods during which eligible service occurred.

Eligibility for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is based on honorable service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard performed by Officers or enlisted personnel who have served in any foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, which service is recognized by the award of a campaign or service medal of the United States, or who served in Korea as outlined in the following guide, or who earned Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay. Persons still serving in the active armed forces may be accepted for membership provided that they meet eligibility requirements.

Proof of service to establish eligibility for membership rests with the applicant.

The following is a guide in determining eligibility and may be updated by the VFW.

Campaign Medal	Military Service	Qualifying Dates
<u>Expeditionary</u>	Navy/Marine Corps	Feb 12, 1874 – Open
<u>Spanish Campaign</u>	Army Navy	May 11, 1898 – Aug. 16, 1898 Apr. 20, 1898 – Dec. 10, 1898
<u>Army of Cuba Occupation</u>	Army	Jul. 18, 1898 – May 20, 1902
<u>Army of Puerto Rico Occupation</u>	Army	Aug. 14, 1898 – Dec. 10, 1898
<u>Philippine Campaign</u>	Army Navy	Feb. 4, 1899 – Dec. 31, 1913 Feb. 4, 1899 – Sept. 15, 1906
<u>China Relief Expedition</u>	Army Navy	Jun. 20, 1900 – May 27, 1901 Apr. 5, 1900 – May 27, 1901
<u>Cuban Pacification</u>	Army Navy	Oct. 6, 1906 – Apr. 1, 1909 Sept. 12, 1906 – Apr. 1, 1909
<u>Mexican Service</u>	Army Navy	Apr. 12, 1911 – Jun. 16, 1919 Apr. 12, 1914 – Feb. 7, 1917

<u>First Nicaraguan Campaign</u>	Navy	Jul. 29, 1912 – Nov. 14, 1912
<u>Haitian Campaign</u>	Navy	Jul. 9, 1915 – Dec. 6, 1915 Apr. 1, 1919 – Jun. 15, 1920
<u>Dominican Campaign</u>	Navy	May 4, 1916 – Dec. 5, 1916
<u>World War I Victory</u> <i>(With battle or service clasp incl. Siberia and European Russia)</i>	Army Navy	Apr. 6, 1917 – Apr. 1, 1920 Apr. 6, 1917 – Mar. 30, 1920
<u>Army Occupation of Germany</u>	Army	Nov. 12, 1918 – Jul. 11, 1923
<u>Second Nicaraguan Campaign</u>	Navy	Aug. 27, 1926 – Jan. 2, 1933
<u>Yangtze Service</u>	Navy	Sept. 3, 1926 – Oct. 21, 1927 Mar. 1, 1930 – Dec. 31, 1932
<u>China Service</u>	Navy	Jul. 7, 1937 – Sept. 7, 1939 Sept. 2, 1945 – Apr. 1, 1957
<u>American Defense Service</u> <i>(with Foreign Service clasp)</i>	Army–Navy	Sept. 8, 1939 – Dec. 7, 1941
<u>European–African– Middle Eastern Campaign</u>	Army–Navy	Dec. 7, 1941 – Nov. 8, 1945
<u>American Campaign</u> <i>(30 consecutive or 60 non– consecutive days of duty outside continental limits of the U.S.)</i>	Army–Navy	Dec. 7, 1941 – Mar. 2, 1946
<u>Asiatic–Pacific Campaign</u>	Army–Navy	Dec. 7, 1941 – Mar. 2, 1946
<u>Army of Occupation</u> <i>(30 consecutive days of duty)</i>		
Italy		May 9, 1945 – Sept. 15, 1947
Germany <i>(except West Berlin)</i>		May 9, 1945 – May 5, 1955
Korea		Sept. 3, 1945 – Jun. 29, 1949
Japan		Sept. 3, 1945 – Apr. 27, 1952
Austria		May 9, 1945 – Jul. 27, 1955
Germany <i>(West Berlin)</i>		May 9, 1945 – Oct. 2, 1990

Navy Occupation Service Medal

Italy	May 8, 1945 – Dec. 15, 1947
Trieste	May 8, 1945 – Oct. 26, 1954
Germany (<i>except West Berlin</i>)	May 8, 1945 – May 5, 1955
Austria	May 8, 1945 – Oct. 25, 1955
Asiatic Pacific	Sept. 2, 1945 – Apr. 27, 1952

Korean Service Medal

Jun. 27, 1950 – Jul. 27, 1954

Navy and Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal

Cuban Military Operation	Jan. 3, 1961 – Oct. 23, 1962
Thailand Military Operation	May 16, 1962 – Aug. 10, 1962
Iranian, Yemen and Indian Ocean Operation	Dec. 8, 1978 – Jun. 6, 1979 Nov. 21, 1979 – Oct. 20, 1981
Lebanon	Aug. 20, 1982 – May 31, 1983
Libyan Expedition	Jan. 20, 1986 – Jun. 27, 1986
Persian Gulf	Feb. 1, 1987 – Jul. 23, 1987
Panama (pre and post invasion)	Apr. 1, 1988 – Dec. 19, 1989 Feb. 1, 1990 – Jun. 13, 1990
Operation Sharp Edge – Liberia	Aug. 5, 1990 – Feb. 21, 1991
Operation Distant Runner – Rwanda (<i>11th Marine Expeditionary Unit USS Peleliu</i>)	Apr. 7 – 18, 1994

Vietnam Service Medal

Jul. 4, 1965 – Mar. 28, 1973
Apr. 29 – 30, 1975

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

(*30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days of duty*)

Lebanon	Jul. 1, 1958 – Nov. 1, 1958
Taiwan Straits	Aug. 23, 1958 – Jan. 1, 1959
Quemoy and Matsu Islands	Aug. 23, 1958 – Jun. 1, 1963
Vietnam	Jul. 1, 1958 – Jul. 3, 1965

Congo	Jul. 14, 1960 – Sept. 1, 1962
Laos	Apr. 19, 1961 – Oct. 7, 1962
Berlin	Aug. 14, 1961 – Jun. 1, 1963
Cuba	Oct. 24, 1962 – Jun. 1, 1963
Congo	Nov. 23 – 27, 1964
Dominican Republic	Apr. 23, 1965 – Sept. 21, 1966
Korea	Oct. 1, 1966 – Jun. 30, 1974
Cambodia	Mar. 29, 1973 – Aug. 15, 1973
Thailand <i>(only those in direct support of Cambodia)</i>	Mar. 29, 1973 – Aug. 15, 1973
Operation Eagle Pull – Cambodia <i>(includes evacuation)</i>	Apr. 11 – 13, 1975
Operation Frequent Wind–Vietnam <i>(includes evacuation)</i>	Apr. 29 – 30, 1975
Mayaguez Operation	May 15, 1975
El Salvador	Jan. 1, 1981 – Feb. 1, 1992
Lebanon	Jun. 1, 1983 – Dec. 1, 1987
Operation Urgent Fury – Grenada	Oct. 23, 1983 – Nov. 21, 1983
Eldorado Canyon – Libya	Apr. 12 – 17, 1986
Operation Earnest Will – Persian Gulf <i>(only those participating in, or in direct support)</i>	Jul. 24, 1987 – Aug. 1, 1990
Operation Just Cause – Panama <i>(USS Vreeland & other SVS–designated aircrew mbrs. outside the Conus in direct support)</i>	Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990
United Shield – Somalia	Dec. 5, 1992 – Mar. 31, 1995
Operation Restore Hope – Somalia	Dec. 5, 1992 – Mar. 31, 1995
Operation Uphold Democracy – Haiti	Sept. 16, 1994 – Mar. 31, 1995
Operation Joint Endeavor – Bosnia, <i>Croatia, the Adriatic Sea & airspace.</i>	Nov. 20, 1995 – Dec. 19, 1996

Operation Vigilant Sentinel – Iraq, <i>Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, & Persian Gulf.</i>	Dec. 1, 1995 – Feb.15, 1997
Operation Southern Watch –Iraq, <i>Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Persian Gulf, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Gulf of Oman W of 62°E Long., Yemen, Egypt, & Jordan.</i>	Dec. 1, 1995 – Mar. 18, 2003
Operation Maritime Intercept – Iraq, <i>Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Red Sea, Persian Gulf Gulf of Oman W of 62°E Long., Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, & Jordan.</i>	Dec. 1, 1995 – Mar. 18, 2003
Operation Joint Guard – Bosnia, <i>Croatia, Adriatic Sea & airspace.</i>	Dec. 20, 1996 – Jun. 20, 1998
Operation Northern Watch – Iraq, <i>Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Persian Gulf W of 56° E Long., and Incirlik AB, Turkey (only pers. TDY to ONW)</i>	Jan. 1, 1997 – Mar. 18, 2003
Operation Joint Forge <i>Bosnia – Herzegovina, Croatia, Adriatic Sea at airspace.</i>	Jun. 21, 1998 – Mar. 23, 1999
Operation Desert Thunder – Iraq, <i>Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea support.</i>	Nov. 11, 1998 – Dec. 22, 1998
Operation Desert Fox – Iraq, <i>Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, USN Red Sea support.</i>	Dec. 16, 1998 – Dec 22, 1998
<u>Southwest Asia Service Medal</u>	
Operation Desert Shield/ Operation Desert Storm <i>(combat areas of operation only)</i>	Aug. 2, 1990 – Nov. 30, 1995
Personnel assigned to support units serving in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Jordan	Jan. 17, 1991 – Apr. 11, 1991
<u>Kosovo Campaign Medal</u>	
Operation Allied Force – <i>Kosovo Air Campaign</i>	Mar. 24, 1999 – Jun. 10, 1999

Kosovo Defense Campaign – <i>Ground Action</i>		Jun. 11, 1999 – Open
<u>Combat Infantry Badge & Combat Medical Badge</u>	Army	Dec. 6, 1941 – Open
<u>Air Force Combat Action Medal</u>		Sept. 11, 2001-Open
<u>Combat Action Ribbon</u>	Navy- Marine Coast Guard	Dec. 6, 1941 – Open Dec. 6, 1941-April 30, 1975
<u>Coast Guard Combat Action Ribbon</u>	Coast Guard	May 1, 1975-Open
<u>Combat Action Badge</u>	Army	Sept.18, 2001 – Open
<u>SSBN Nuclear Deterrent Patrol Insignia</u>	Navy	Jan. 21, 1961 – Open
Unit must operate under an alert posture during for any period of time during the patrol. A normal patrol is 60-90 days.		
<u>Korea Duty</u>		Jun. 30, 1949 – Open
Service on the Korean Peninsula, its airspace and territorial waters for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty		
<u>Korean Defense Service Medal</u>		Jul. 28, 1954 – Open
<u>Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal</u>		Sept. 11, 2001 – Open
<u>Afghanistan Campaign Medal (ACM)</u>		Sept. 11, 2001 – Open
Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)		
<u>Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM)</u>		Mar. 19, 2003 – Dec. 31, 2011
Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)		
<u>Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border</u>		Apr. 2004 – Open
AFESR w/GB		
<u>Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay</u>		

This information is to be used for guideline purposes only. **If proof of eligibility furnished is a** separation document or DD 214 **MUST** reflect campaign medal service to establish eligibility. Service in Korea without the issuance of a campaign medal can be established with additional, support documentation. **Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay can be established with pay records. Other documents acceptable by VFW are also acceptable for Ladies Auxiliary eligibility.**