

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET

There are two primary qualifiers for membership in the VFW, as set out in our Bylaws. An individual must meet both in order to become a member. They are as follows:

1: Honorable Service – must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and either received a discharge of Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) or be currently serving.

2: Service in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. This can be proven by any of the following:

- An authorized campaign medal (see other side for a list of qualifying medals and badges)
- Receipt of Hostile Fire Pay or Imminent Danger Pay (verified by a military pay statement)
- Service in Korea for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days

This information is usually available through a veteran's DD-214. If other information is needed or if a veteran's DD-214 is not complete, they can contact the National Personnel Records Center at 314-801-0800 or online at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/> to request more information.

It is imperative that we verify the eligibility of every member that signs up for the VFW, not only to comply with our Bylaws but also to maintain the integrity of the organization. If you have questions concerning membership eligibility, please contact the National Headquarters at 1-888-JOIN-VFW or via email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

For further information on VFW eligibility, please consult Section 101 of the VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.



For a full list of campaign medals that qualify an individual for VFW membership, please consult Section 101 of the VFW Manual of Procedure.

If a veteran's DD-214 or other military documentation confirms they have been awarded one of these campaign medals and they have served honorably, then they are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

- China Service Medal
- American Defense Service Medal
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal
- American Campaign Medal
- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
- Army of Occupation Medal
- Navy Occupation Service Medal
- Korean Service Medal
- Navy Expeditionary Medal
- Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Southwest Asia Service Medal
- Kosovo Campaign Medal
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Combat Medical Badge
- Combat Action Ribbon
- Air Force Combat Action Medal
- Combat Action Badge
- SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia
- Korea Defense Service Medal
- Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- Iraq Campaign Medal
- Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal
- Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon WITH GOLD BORDER
- Korea Duty (Service in Korea for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days)
- Hostile Fire Pay or Imminent Danger Pay

For any questions regarding VFW eligibility, please contact the Membership Department at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or by calling 1-888-JOIN-VFW (564-6839) for assistance.

# MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

## ARTICLE I - MEMBERS

### Sec. 101 - Eligibility.

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 campaign and/or service medals were authorized:

**Hostilities** - Persons in the Armed Forces of the United States shall become eligible for membership immediately upon arrival on hostile soil, in hostile waters or the airspace above in the performance of service qualifying such persons for membership.

**Subsequent Service** - An applicant for membership who had honorable campaign service, terminated by a discharge under honorable conditions, but who later reenlisted or returned to active duty and had subsequent service terminated by a discharge other than honorable shall not be considered eligible for membership. A member of the organization who receives a discharge other than honorable for service subsequent to becoming a member shall, upon issuance of a special order, cease to be a member by reason of ineligibility; provided, however, that such member may request in writing that the Commander-in-Chief determine their eligibility and appeal therefrom in accordance with the provisions of Section 108. In the event that such discharge is subsequently changed by appropriate governmental authorities, such former member may apply for membership in accordance with the provisions of this Article. Veterans who were originally given a discharge other than honorable for refusal of repatriation shall forever be denied the privilege of membership in this organization, notwithstanding any later change in their status. Any person whose membership has been terminated under the provisions of Article IX of these Bylaws shall not be eligible for membership.

### 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 campaign and/or service medals were authorized.

Eligibility for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is based on honorable service in the *Armed Forces of the United States* 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 they meet eligibility requirements.

Proof of service to establish eligibility for membership rests with the applicant. The Post is responsible for assuring the eligibility of every member accepted to membership. The Department Headquarters and the National Headquarters are accountable for the eligibility of their respective Members-at-Large.

The following campaign medals have been recognized as meeting campaign medal requirements of membership:

<b>Campaign Medal</b>	<b>Military Service</b>	<b>Qualifying Dates</b>
<b><u>Expeditionary</u></b>	Navy/Marine Corps	Feb. 12, 1874 – Open
<b><u>Spanish Campaign</u></b>	Army Navy	May 11, 1898 - Aug. 16, 1898 Apr. 20, 1898 - Dec. 10, 1898
<b><u>Army of Cuba Occupation</u></b>	Army	Jul. 18, 1898 - May 20, 1902
<b><u>Army of Puerto Rico Occupation</u></b>	Army	Aug. 14, 1898 - Dec. 10, 1898
<b><u>Philippine Campaign</u></b>	Army Navy	Feb. 4, 1899 - Dec. 31, 1913 Feb. 4, 1899 - Sep. 15, 1906
<b><u>China Relief Expedition</u></b>	Army Navy	Jun. 20, 1900 - May 27, 1901 Apr. 5, 1900 - May 27, 1901
<b><u>Cuban Pacification</u></b>	Army Navy	Oct. 6, 1906 - Apr. 1, 1909 Sep. 12, 1906 - Apr. 1, 1909
<b><u>Mexican Service</u></b>	Army Navy	Apr. 12, 1911 - Jun. 16, 1919 Apr. 12, 1914 - Feb. 7, 1917
<b><u>First Nicaraguan Campaign</u></b>	Navy	Jul. 29, 1912 - Nov. 14, 1912
<b><u>Haitian Campaign</u></b>	Navy	Jul. 9, 1915 - Dec. 6, 1915 Apr. 1, 1919 - Jun. 15, 1920
<b><u>Dominican Campaign</u></b>	Navy	May 4, 1916 - Dec. 5, 1916
<b><u>World War I Victory</u></b> (with battle or service clasp including Siberia and European Russia)	Army Navy	Apr. 6, 1917 - Apr. 1, 1920 Apr. 6, 1917 - Mar. 30, 1920
<b><u>Army Occupation of Germany</u></b>	Army	Nov. 12, 1918 - Jul. 11, 1923
<b><u>Second Nicaraguan Campaign</u></b>	Navy	Aug. 27, 1926 - Jan. 2, 1933
<b><u>Yangtze Service</u></b>	Navy	Sep. 3, 1926 - Oct. 21, 1927 Mar. 1, 1930 - Dec. 31, 1932
<b><u>China Service</u></b>	Navy	Jul. 7, 1937 - Sep. 7, 1939 Sep. 2, 1945 - Apr. 1, 1957
<b><u>American Defense Service</u></b> (with foreign service clasp)	Army-Navy	Sep. 8, 1939 - Dec. 7, 1941
<b><u>European-African- Middle Eastern Campaign</u></b>	Army-Navy	Dec. 7, 1941 - Nov. 8, 1945
<b><u>American Campaign</u></b> (30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty outside continental limits of the U.S.)	Army-Navy	Dec. 7, 1941 - Mar. 2, 1946
<b><u>Asiatic-Pacific Campaign</u></b>	Army-Navy	Dec. 7, 1941 - Mar. 2, 1946

**Army of Occupation** (30 consecutive days of duty)

Italy	May 9, 1945 - Sep.15, 1947
Germany (except West Berlin)	May 9, 1945 - May 5, 1955
Korea	Sep. 3, 1945 - Jun. 29, 1949
Japan	Sep. 3, 1945 - Apr. 27, 1952
Austria	May 9, 1945 - Jul. 27, 1955
Germany (West Berlin)	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 (except West Berlin)	May 8, 1945 - May 5, 1955
Austria	May 8, 1945 - Oct. 25, 1955
Asiatic Pacific	Sep. 2, 1945 - Apr. 27, 1952
	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 (11th Marine Expeditionary Unit USS Peleliu)	Apr. 7-18, 1994
<b><u>Vietnam Service Medal</u></b>	Jul. 1, 1958 - Mar. 28, 1973 Apr. 29 - 30, 1975

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal**

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 - Sep.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 - Sep. 21, 1966
Korea	Oct. 1, 1966 - Jun. 30, 1974
Cambodia	Mar. 29, 1973 - Aug. 15, 1973
Thailand - (only those in direct support of Cambodia)	Mar. 29, 1973 - Aug. 15, 1973
Operation Eagle Pull - Cambodia (includes evacuation)	Apr. 11-13, 1975
Operation Frequent Wind - Vietnam (includes evacuation)	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 (only those participating in, or in direct support)	Jul. 24, 1987 - Aug. 1, 1990
Operation Just Cause – Panama (USS Vreeland & other SVS-designated aircrew members outside the Conus in direct support)	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	Sep. 16, 1994 - Mar. 31, 1995
Operation Joint Endeavor - Bosnia, Croatia, the Adriatic Sea & airspace.	Nov. 20, 1995 - Dec. 19, 1996

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal**

Operation Vigilant Sentinel - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, & Persian Gulf.	Dec. 1, 1995 - Feb. 15, 1997
Operation Southern Watch - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Persian Gulf, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Gulf of Oman W of 62o E Long., Yemen, Egypt, & Jordan.	Dec. 1, 1995 - Mar. 18, 2003
Operation Maritime Intercept - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman W of 62o E Long., Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, & Jordan.	Dec. 1, 1995 - Mar. 18, 2003
Operation Joint Guard - Bosnia, Croatia, Adriatic Sea & airspace.	Dec. 20, 1996 - Jun. 20, 1998
Operation Northern Watch - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Persian Gulf W of 56o E Long., and Incirlik AB, Turkey (only pers. TDY to ONW)	Jan. 1, 1997 - Mar. 18, 2003
Operation Joint Forge - Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Adriatic Sea & airspace.	Jun. 20, 1998 - Mar. 23, 1999
Operation Desert Thunder - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea support.	Nov. 11, 1998 - Dec. 22, 1998
Operation Desert Fox - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, USN Red Sea support.	Dec. 16, 1998 - Dec. 22, 1998
Former Republic of Yugoslavia	Jan. 1, 2014 - Open

### **Southwest Asia Service Medal**

Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm (combat areas of operation only)	Aug. 2, 1990 - Nov. 30, 1995
Personnel assigned to support units serving in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Jordan.	Jan. 17, 1991 - Apr. 11, 1991

### **Kosovo Campaign Medal**

Operation Allied Force - Kosovo Air Campaign	Mar. 24, 1999 - Jun. 10, 1999
Kosovo Defense Campaign - Ground Action	Jun. 11, 1999 - Dec. 31, 2013

**Combat Infantry Badge & Combat Medical Badge**      Army      Dec. 6, 1941 - Open

**Combat Action Ribbon**      Navy, Marine, Coast Guard      Dec. 6, 1941 - Open

**Air Force Combat Action Medal**      Sep. 11, 2001 - Open

**Combat Action Badge**      Army      Sep. 18, 2001 - Open

<b><u>SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia</u></b>	Navy	Jan. 21, 1961 - Open
<b><u>Korea Duty</u></b>		Jun. 30, 1949 - Open
Service on the Korean Peninsula, its airspace and territorial waters for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty		
<b><u>Korea Defense Service Medal</u></b>		Jul. 28, 1954 - Open
<b><u>Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal</u></b>		Sep. 11, 2001 - Open
<b><u>Afghanistan Campaign Medal</u></b>		Sep. 11, 2001 - Open
<b><u>Iraq Campaign Medal</u></b>		Mar. 19, 2003 - Dec. 31, 2011
<b><u>Air Force Expeditionary Service with GOLD BORDER</u></b>		Apr. 2004 - Open
<b><u>Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal</u></b>		Jun. 15, 2014 - Open
<b><u>Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay</u></b>		

## **Sec. 102 - Applications - Affiliation of New Members.**

Every application for membership must be submitted on an approved, signed application outlining the applicant's honorable service, eligibility and other pertinent information. Proof of service to establish eligibility for membership rests with the applicant. The Post is responsible for assuring the eligibility of every member accepted to membership.

With respect to active duty military personnel currently performing service qualifying for membership, applications may be submitted on their behalf by a member who shall certify the requisite qualifications for membership based on personal knowledge concerning the applicant and shall be acted upon in accordance with the provisions of Section 103. Active duty military personnel admitted to membership under such procedure shall, within a reasonable time, sign the application, personally certifying eligibility and subscribing to the obligation of membership.

The application shall bear the name and the ID number of the member recommending the applicant and the recommendation of the Post Reviewing Committee.