

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR
**ARMED FORCES
 EXPEDITIONARY**
 M E D A L

Veterans of the military actions recognized by the prestigious Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) can take pride. They form a long line of American veterans who have served overseas in times of crisis and actual combat.

Since the medal's inception, 31 distinct military operations have been conducted that rated award of the AFEM. Rooted in "brush fire" operations conducted during the Cold War, the AFEM was created by Executive Order No.10977 on Dec. 4, 1961.

It was made retroactive to July 1, 1958, to include participants in Operation Bluebat during the first U.S. intervention in Lebanon, as well as early



Vietnam veterans. Since then, the Joint Chiefs of Staff has selected all qualifying operations except El Salvador and Bosnia. Congress authorized the AFEM for those missions.

Operations have included keeping world peace, advising and defending allies, demonstrating U.S. military resolve, maintaining freedom of the seas, rescuing hostages, evacuating American citizens, averting full-scale war and thwarting terrorism. Dating back to Lebanon and Vietnam, and ranging through Bosnia and Iraq-related missions in the Persian Gulf, recipients of the AFEM have had a profound impact on the outcome of U.S. foreign policy.

Military Actions Covered by the AFEM

Former Republic of Yugoslavia	Jan. 1, 2014 - Open	Somalia (Restore Hope)	Dec. 5, 1992 - March 31, 1995	Korea**	Oct. 1, 1966 - June 30, 1974
Haiti (Secure Tomorrow)	Feb. 29, 2004 - June 15, 2004	Panama (Just Cause)	Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990	Dominican Republic	April 28, 1965 - Sept. 21, 1966
Kuwait (Desert Spring)	Dec. 31, 1998 - March 18, 2003	Persian Gulf (Earnest Will)	July 24, 1987 - Aug. 2, 1990	Congo	Nov. 23 - 27, 1964
Iraq (Desert Fox)	Dec. 16 - 22, 1998	Libya (El Dorado Canyon)	April 12 - 17, 1986	Cuba	Oct. 24, 1962 - June 1, 1963
Iraq (Desert Thunder)	Nov. 11 - Dec. 22, 1998	Grenada (Urgent Fury)	Oct. 23 - Nov. 21, 1983	Berlin	Aug. 14, 1961 - June 1, 1963
Iraq (Northern Watch)	Jan. 1, 1997 - March 18, 2003	Lebanon	June 1, 1983 - Dec. 1, 1987	Laos	April 19, 1961 - Oct. 7, 1962
Middle East (Vigilant Sentinel)	Dec. 1, 1995 - Feb. 15, 1997	El Salvador	Jan. 1, 1981 - Feb. 1, 1992	Congo	July 14, 1960 - Sept. 1, 1962
Persian Gulf (intercept operations)	Dec. 1, 1995 - Open	Cambodia (Mayaguez rescue)	May 15, 1975	Quemoy & Matsu Islands	Aug. 23, 1958 - June 1, 1963
Iraq (Southern Watch)	Dec. 1, 1995 - March 18, 2003	Vietnam (Frequent Wind)	April 29 - 30, 1975	Taiwan Straits	Aug. 23, 1958 - Jan. 1, 1959
Bosnia (former Yugoslavia)	June 1, 1992 - Open*	Cambodia (Eagle Pull)	April 11 - 13, 1975	Vietnam	July 1, 1958 - July 3, 1965
Haiti (Uphold Democracy)	Sept. 16, 1994 - March 31, 1995	Cambodia (Bombing)	March 29 - Aug. 15, 1973	Lebanon	July 1, 1958 - Nov. 1, 1958

*Mission declared officially accomplished Nov. 24, 2004, but remains open because small numbers of U.S. troops rotate there to assist NATO in tracking down war criminals.

** Korea Defense Service Medal available since 2002.



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