

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR  
**GLOBAL WAR  
ON TERRORISM**  
EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

Veterans of America's war on terrorism should be proud of their service. To recognize it, President George W. Bush signed Presidential Executive Order 13289 on March 12, 2003, establishing the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM).

Originally created to recognize service in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, it now covers a multitude of other overseas stations (see box.) To be eligible, veterans must have been deployed overseas on or after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

It is truly a worldwide award. The areas of eligibility encompass the U.S. Central Command (less the lower Horn of Africa); Middle East; eastern Turkey; Philippines; Diego Garcia and all air spaces above the land and adjacent water areas. Veterans must have served in the area for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. Those time limits may be waived if veterans were engaged in combat or were killed, wounded or required medical evacuation for an injury.

Regularly assigned members of air crews that flew sorties into, out of, within or over the areas of eligibility earn one day of credit toward the 30- or 60-day requirement for each day they fly sorties in the area of eligibility.



Recipients of the GWOTEM are authorized to wear a Bronze Service Star device for each additional campaign beyond the first for which they were awarded the medal. Authorized campaigns include Enduring Freedom (OEF), Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Nomad Shadow, New Dawn, Inherent Resolve and Freedom's Sentinel. Veterans who have earned the GWOTEM can be rightfully proud of the award because it recognizes arduous duty. Those veterans display the highest ideals of the VFW and the organization is proud to have them as members.

**Areas Covered by GWOTEM since September 11, 2001**

Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, Crete, Cyprus, Diego Garcia, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

Off shore: Arabian Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Aqaba, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Suez, Mediterranean Sea, Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Strait of Hormuz and Suez Canal.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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