

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR KOSOVO CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Kosovo veterans have specific recognition of their service in the Balkans. It comes in the form of the Kosovo Campaign Medal (KCM), created on May 3, 2000. It covers both the air campaign waged over Serbia and the subsequent U.S. ground role in the Serbian province of Kosovo.

U.S. troops who have participated in or provided direct support for operations in Kosovo from March 24, 1999 through December 31, 2013 are eligible.

VFW recruiters should understand that eligible duty covers two distinct time frames: the Kosovo Air Campaign (Operation Allied Force) from March 24, 1999 to June 10, 1999; and the Kosovo Defense Campaign from June 11, 1999, to December 31, 2013.

All U.S. troops who directly participated in the air campaign are eligible for the medal. This includes pilots and air crew members who flew into the area of eligibility (AOE), as well as their ground crews based in the AOE.

The AOE for the air campaign encompasses Serbia (including Kosovo), Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy and Slovenia—as well as the water and air space of the Adriatic and Ionian seas north of 39 degrees north latitude.



The Kosovo Defense Campaign began June 11, 1999—the day U.S. ground troops entered Kosovo. For the defense campaign, the AOE comprises Serbia (including Kosovo), Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia. Some sailors and airmen have earned their eligibility because the AOE also included the waters and air space of the Adriatic Sea within 12 nautical miles of the Montenegrin, Albanian and Croatian coastlines south of 42 degrees, 52 minutes north latitude.

To be eligible, veterans must have served in the AOE for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. Time in the AOE is waived if troops were:

- Engaged in combat, or “duty that is equally as hazardous,” with armed opposition.
- Wounded and evacuated from the AOE.
- Members of an air crew that flew into, out of, within or over the AOE in direct support of the campaign.

The Kosovo Campaign Medal is unique in that one Bronze Service Star device is worn for participation in each of the two campaigns.

Campaign	Inclusive Dates
Kosovo Air Campaign	March 24 - June 10, 1999
Kosovo Defense Campaign	June 11, 1999 - Dec. 31, 2013



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