

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR
**NAVY & MARINE
 EXPEDITIONARY
 MEDALS**

Navy Expeditionary Medal



Campaign (post-WWII)

Inclusive Dates

Operation Determined Response (USS Cole) .	Oct. 12, 2000 - Dec. 15, 2002
Eritrea (Operation Safe Departure)	June 6 - 23, 1998
Rwanda (Operation Distant Runner).....	April 7 - 18, 1994
Liberia (Operation Sharp Edge).....	Aug. 5, 1990 - Feb. 21, 1991
Persian Gulf (USS Stark, etc.)	Feb. 1 - July 23, 1987
Libya (Operation Prairie Fire, etc.)	Jan. 20 - June 27, 1986
Lebanon.....	Aug. 20, 1982 - May 31, 1983
Indian Ocean Contingency Operation/ Iran Hostage Crisis	Nov. 21, 1979 - Oct. 21, 1981
Gulf of Aden/Yemen	Dec. 8, 1978 - June 6, 1979
Thailand.....	May 16 - Aug. 10, 1962
Cuba ("Bay of Pigs" and before and after)	Jan. 3, 1961 - Oct. 23, 1962
*Only Marines received a medal.	

Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal



Members of the seafaring services often intervene in distant corners of the world. Those who perform this dangerous duty seldom gain notoriety. The Navy and Marine Corps Expeditionary Medals (N/MCEMs) are the nation's method of recognizing their sacrifices. Created separately—MCEM (1919) and NEM (1936)—the medals were both made retroactive to 1874. Since then, 65 operations in 29 different countries have been recognized. In most cases, both medals were awarded in each operation.

Since World War II, participants of 12 operations are authorized to wear the medals. One battle of WWII is covered, too: Wake Island.

From Dec. 7-22, 1941, the 1st Marine Defense Battalion, Marine Fighter Squadron VMF-211,

69 Navy and six Army Signal Corps personnel, as well as some civilian construction workers, took on the Japanese Fourth Fleet and Special Naval Landing Force on that Pacific island.

Though seriously outnumbered, the Americans managed to repulse—for the first and only time during WWII—a major amphibious landing. The valiant effort earned the sailors and Marines a special device to be worn on their medals—a silver "W" on the ribbon bar and a clasp inscribed "Wake Island" on the suspension ribbon.

In recent years, medal recipients have engaged in operations in West, Central and East Africa to protect U.S. citizens and threatened embassies and to fight the spread of terrorism in those developing areas.



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