

# AM I A PROTECTED VETERAN?

The Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 (VEVRAA), as amended (38 U.S.C. § 4212), prohibits discrimination against protected veterans.

Under VEVRAA, a veteran may be classified as a "disabled veteran," "recently separated veteran," "active duty wartime or campaign badge veteran," or "Armed Forces service medal veteran."

## DETERMINE YOUR VETERAN STATUS

### 1 Did you serve on active duty\* in the U.S. Military?

\*See 38 USC § 101(21) for a full list of service that may be counted as active duty.

### 2 Were you discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable?

If you answered "yes" to the above questions, continue to the questions below.  
If you answered "no" to any of the questions, you may not be considered a protected veteran.

## DETERMINE IF YOU ARE PROTECTED UNDER VEVRAA

### DISABLED VETERAN

- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Military who is entitled to compensation (or who but for the receipt of military retired pay would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs?
- or
- Were you discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability?

### RECENTLY SEPARATED VETERAN

- Were you discharged or released from active duty within the last three years?

### ACTIVE DUTY WARTIME OR CAMPAIGN BADGE VETERAN

- Did you serve on active duty during one or more of the periods of war outlined in **38 U.S.C. § 101**?
- Did you serve on active duty in any campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized under the laws administered by the **Department of Defense**?

### ARMED FORCES SERVICE MEDAL VETERAN

- Did you serve on active duty in a U.S. military operation for which an Armed Forces Service Medal was awarded pursuant to Executive Order 12985 (61 FR 1209) and were you awarded the Armed Forces Service Medal?
- If you were awarded the Armed Forces Service Medal, is it listed on your **DD Form 214**?

If you answer "yes" to any questions in the above categories, you may be protected under VEVRAA. A veteran may qualify in more than one category. If you do not fall into any of the categories, you may not be a protected veteran.

Please note that this page provides general information. It is not intended to substitute for the actual law and regulations regarding the program described herein.

\*Period of War Dates: Korean Conflict June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955;  
Vietnam Era February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975 for veterans serving in the Republic of Vietnam  
or August 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975 for all other cases; Persian Gulf War August 2, 1990 – current.

If you do not have a DD-214 Form, or have additional questions about your veteran status, please contact the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-827-1000.



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### Armed Forces Service Medal (AFSM) – AUTHORIZED OPERATIONS

The table below lists designated U.S. military operations that have been approved for award of the AFSM. The Military Departments are responsible for determining individual eligibility for approved AFSM operations and approved designated areas of eligibility. Please refer individual eligibility questions to your respective Military Department.

Operation / Task Force – Description	Inclusive Dates
MARITIME MONITOR – NATO maritime surveillance of cargo transported through the Adriatic Sea to the former Yugoslavia.	1 Jun 1992 - 1 Dec 1992
PROVIDE PROMISE – Multinational operation to support humanitarian relief activities in Bosnia-Herzegovina	2 Jun 1992 - 15 Feb 1996
DENY FLIGHT – NATO enforcement of the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina.	12 Apr 1993 - 2 Dec 1995
SHARP GUARD – NATO maritime enforcement of UN embargo against the former Yugoslavia. U.S. participation was amended by the November 94 Nunn-Mitchell Act to exclude U.S. enforcement of the arms embargo against Bosnia. NATO enforcement actions ended in June 1996 and the operation was terminated in September 1996, following the lifting of the UN embargo and associated economic sanctions.	15 Jun 1993 - 20 Sep 1996
Task Force Able Sentry – Support to the UN Preventive Deployment force in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Upon expiration of the UN mandate in February 1999, U.S. forces remained in place and were renamed Task Force Sabre, tasked to protect U.S. facilities and equipment. They were relieved in June 1999 by the U.S. national support element to KFOR-Task Force Falcon (Rear).	12 Jul 1993 - 31 Mar 1999
UPHOLD DECOMCRACY: 1) United Nations Mission Haiti; 2) U.S. Forces Hati; and 3) U.S. Support Group Haiti	1 Apr 1995 - 31 Jan 2000
JOINT ENDEAVOR – NATO Implementation Force operation to implement the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.	20 Nov 1995 - 19 Dec 1996
PROVIDE COMFORT – Combined Task Force to enforce the no-fly zone in northern Iraq above the 36th parallel and to support coalition humanitarian relief operations in northern Iraq.	1 Dec 1995 - 31 Dec 1996
JOINT GUARD – NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR) to deter resumption of hostilities and to stabilize the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accords (preceded by NATO Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR and followed by JOINT FORGE). Operations DELIBERATE GUARD and DETERMINED GUARD were the respective air and naval components	20 Dec 1996 - 20 Jun 1998

Operation / Task Force – Description	Inclusive Dates
JOINT FORGE – NATO SFOR follow-on force (FOF) providing a continued military presence to deter resumption of hostilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to contribute to a secure environment that will promote the re-establishment of civil authority in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accords. Operations DELIBERATE FORGE and DETERMINED FORGE are the respective air and naval components. The U.S. contribution to SFOR was Task Force Eagle.	21 Jun 1998 - 2 Dec 2004
Hurricane Relief – Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita	27 Aug 2005 - 27 Feb 2006
JUMP START – National Guard forces deployed to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California to assist the Department of Homeland Security with securing the southwest U.S. border.	15 May 2006 - 15 Jul 2008
UNIFIED RESPONSE – Service members deployed to provide relief assistance to the people of Haiti following a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on 12 Jan 2010.	14 Jan 2010 – 1 Jun 2010
UNITED ASSISTANCE (Ebola relief) – Service members deployed to the land area, territorial waters out to 12 nautical miles, and air space of: Benin, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.	16 Sep 2014 – 30 Jun 2015
OAKEN STEEL – Service members deployed to the land area, territorial waters out to 12 nautical miles, and the air space of: South Sudan, Republic of Djibouti, and Uganda.	12 Jul 2016 – 26 Jun 2017

## 2.3 WARTIME OR PEACETIME SERVICE

Military service is classified either as wartime or peacetime service. This distinction is important because there are significant advantages specifically accruing only to veterans with wartime service. For example, only veterans with wartime service are eligible for non-service-connected disability pension benefits.<sup>82</sup>

The following list sets out the periods of wartime designated by Congress for pension purposes.<sup>83</sup> To be considered by the VA to have served during wartime, a veteran need not have served in a combat zone, but simply during one of these designated periods. All other times are considered peacetime. Some veterans served part of their tour of duty during wartime and part during peacetime. Even if a majority of a veteran's service occurred during peacetime, the service member would still meet the wartime service requirement for eligibility for pension benefits if he or she served ninety consecutive days, at least one day of which occurred during a period designated as wartime. All of the listed dates are inclusive.

Indian Wars: January 1, 1817, through December 31, 1898. The veteran must have served thirty days or more, or for the duration of such Indian War. Service must have been with the U.S. forces against Indian tribes or nations.<sup>84</sup>

Spanish-American War: April 21, 1898, through July 4, 1902, including the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion. Also included are those individuals engaged in the Moro Province hostilities through July 15, 1903.<sup>85</sup>

Mexican Border War: May 9, 1916, through April 5, 1917. The veteran must have served for one day or more in Mexico, on the borders thereof, or in the waters adjacent thereto.<sup>86</sup>

World War I: April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, extended to April 1, 1920, for those who served in the Soviet Union. Service after November 11, 1918, through July 2, 1921, qualifies for benefits purposes if active duty was performed for any period during the basic World War I period.<sup>87</sup>

World War II: December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946, extended to July 25, 1947, where continuous with active duty on or before December 31, 1946.<sup>88</sup>

Korean Conflict: June 27, 1950, through January 31, 1955.<sup>89</sup>

Vietnam Era: August 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975.<sup>90</sup> However, February 28, 1961, through May 7, 1975, for a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period.

Persian Gulf War: August 2, 1990, through a date to be prescribed by Presidential proclamation or law.<sup>91</sup>

Congress has not enacted legislation that would make the periods covering the 1983-1984 Lebanon crisis or the invasions of Grenada and Panama wartime service.<sup>92</sup>

### Footnotes

82. 38 U.S.C.S. § 1521(j). See Chapter 6 of this Manual for a full discussion of the VA needs-based disability pension program and its eligibility criteria.

83. 38 U.S.C.S. § 101(6)-(11); 38 C.F.R. § 3.2 (2005).

84. 38 C.F.R. § 3.2(a) (2005). Under the VA's proposed revisions to the Compensation and Pension regulations, the VA has proposed to delete the provisions related to this war. 69 Fed. Reg. 4820, 4821 (Jan. 30, 2004). As of the date of publication of the 2005 edition of this Manual, this proposed regulation has not been finalized. *See* 69 Fed. Reg. 73739, 73757 (United Agenda of Federal and Deregulatory Actions) (Dec. 13, 2004).

85. 38 U.S.C.S. § 101(6); 38 C.F.R. § 3.2(b) (2005).

86. 38 U.S.C.S. § 101(30); 38 C.F.R. § 3.2(h) (2005).

87. 38 U.S.C.S. § 101(7); 38 C.F.R. § 3.2(c) (2005).

88. 38 U.S.C.S. § 101(8); 38 C.F.R. § 3.2(d) (2005).

89. 38 U.S.C.S. § 101(9); 38 C.F.R. § 3.2(e) (2005).

90. 38 U.S.C.S. § 101(29); 38 C.F.R. § 3.2(f) (2005).

91. *See* 38 U.S.C.S. §§ 101(33), 1501(4), 1541, 1702; 38 C.F.R. §§ 3.2(i), 3.3(a)(3), 3.17, 3.54(a)(3)(viii) (2005).

92. *See* 38 U.S.C.S. § 101(11); 38 C.F.R. § 3.2(g) (2005) (providing for future periods of "wartime" as determined by Congress and the President).

### Campaigns and Expeditions of the Armed Forces Which Qualify for Veterans' Preference

Military personnel receive many awards and decorations. To help make decisions concerning entitlement to veterans' preference, the following list identifies those awards that are campaign and expeditionary medals. **Any** Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, whether listed here or not, is qualifying for veterans' preference. **The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal** is qualifying for veterans' preference, provided the individual is otherwise eligible. The Department of Defense, not the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, determines who is entitled to receive a medal, and under what circumstances. The list below is derived from DoD 1348.33-M, Manual of Military Decorations and Awards.

DD Form 214, Certificate of Discharge or Separation from Active Duty, or other official documents (to include military discharge papers, or equivalent certification from the VA listing military status, dates of service, and discharge type) issued by the branch of service are required as verification of eligibility for veterans' preference.

#### U.S. Combat Campaigns and Expeditions Which Qualify for Preference

<i>Campaign or Expedition</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates</i>
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM). A veteran's DD Form 214 showing the award of any AFEM is acceptable proof. <b>The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWTEM) is included for Veteran's Preference.</b> The DD Form 214 does not have to show the name of the theater or country of service for which that medal was awarded.	
Afghanistan (Operations Enduring Freedom [OEF] and Iraqi Freedom [OIF])	OEF September 11, 2001 to present; OIF March 19, 2003 to present
Berlin	August 14, 1961 to June 1, 1963
Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operations Joint Endeavor, Joint Guard, and Joint Forge)	November 20, 1995 to December 20, 1996; December 20, 1996 to present; June 21, 1998 to present.
Cambodia	March 29, 1973 to August 15, 1973
Cambodia Evacuation (Operation Eagle Pull)	April 11 – 13, 1975
Congo	July 14, 1960 to September 1, 1962; and November 23, 1964 to November 27, 1964
Cuba	October 24, 1962 to June 1, 1963
Dominican Republic	April 28, 1965 to September 21, 1966
El Salvador	January 1, 1981 to February 1, 1992
Global War on Terrorism	September 11, 2001 to present
Grenada (Operation Urgent Fury)	October 23, 1983 to November 21, 1983
Haiti (Operation Uphold Democracy)	September 16, 1994 to March 31, 1995
Iraq (Operations Northern Watch, Desert Spring, Enduring Freedom (OEF), and Iraqi Freedom (OIF))	January 1, 1997 to present; December 31, 1998 to December 31, 2002 (projected); OEF September 11, 2001 to present; OIF March 19, 2003 to present
Korea	October 1, 1966 to June 30, 1974

Kosovo	March 24, 1999 to present
Laos	April 19, 1961 to October 7, 1962
Lebanon	July 1, 1958 to November 1, 1958; and June 1, 1983 to December 1, 1987
Mayaguez Operation	May 15, 1975
Operations in the Libyan Area (Operation Eldorado Canyon)	April 12 – 17, 1986
Panama (Operation Just Cause)	December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990
Persian Gulf Operation (Operation Earnest Will)	July 24, 1987 to August 1, 1990
Persian Gulf Operation (Operation Southern Watch)	December 1, 1995 to present
Persian Gulf Operation (Operation Vigilant Sentinel)	December 1, 1995 to February 1, 1997
Persian Gulf Operation (Operation Desert Thunder)	November 11, 1998 to December 22, 1998
Persian Gulf Operation (Operation Desert Fox)	December 16, 1998 to December 22, 1998
Persian Gulf Intercept Operation	December 1, 1995 to present
Quemoy and Matsu Islands	August 23, 1958 to June 1, 1963
Somalia (Operations Restore Hope and United Shield)	December 5, 1992 to March 31, 1995
Taiwan Straits	August 23, 1958 to January 1, 1959
Thailand	May 16, 1962 to August 10, 1962
Vietnam Evacuation (Operation Frequent Wind)	April 29 – 30, 1975
Vietnam (including Thailand)	July 1, 1958 to July 3, 1965