

Recognizing and Honoring our SAR Veterans

For

Service in the United States Armed Forces

The SAR has two medals that may be given in conjunction with military service: the **War Service Medal** and the **Military Service Medal**. There are two ways to obtain one of these medals and an accompanying certificate: through a Chapter or State Society or through the NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee (VRC).

What is the difference between the two medals?

The certificate accompanying the War Service Medal states that the member has been awarded the War Service Medal *in grateful recognition for service in the Armed Forces during an armed conflict*. The certificate accompanying the Military Service Medal states that the member has been awarded the Military Service Medal *in grateful recognition for service in the United States Armed Forces*.

The medals and criteria for award are stated in the SAR Handbook, Volume V. Both medals are listed as #4 in precedence. They are rated the same precedence because as a veteran, one mostly had no choice as to where he would be assigned. Many could potentially have been placed in harm's way but were not. Those who were probably received a campaign medal. Depending on your documentation and the campaign medal received, that might make the SAR member eligible for the SAR War Service Medal.

How does an SAR member who is a Veteran get one of the Medals through their State Society or Chapter?

To obtain a medal, "**Proof of Service**," as shown in military documentation or in the form of a redacted copy of the member's discharge, typically a Form DD-214, must be presented to the Chapter or State Society, depending on presenting authority required by the State Society, before one of the two medals can be purchased. Such proof must show that the Compatriot served, or is serving, honorably in: (1) the armed forces of the United States, (2) the military forces of a country allied with the United States, or (3) a United Nations Peace Keeping Force.

If the State Society or the Chapter determines that the Veteran has provided sufficient "proof," the Chapter or State is then authorized to purchase the medal, with accompanying certificate, for which the Veteran qualifies. The Chapter or State may also then authorize the SAR member to purchase the appropriate medal, as, in some cases, the cost of the medal/certificate cannot be afforded by the Chapter or State. Chapters and States are responsible for preparation and printing of certificates accompanying both medals.

The medal can be engraved for an additional \$10. A certificate presentation folder can be added for an additional \$1.50. The certificates for both medals have a place where the President of the Chapter or State to sign. Certificates cost \$4.00 each and the certificate can be calligraphed for an additional \$4.00. Shipping is an extra cost. These options are available when purchasing through SAR Merchandise. Pricing shown is as of 12/01/2018.

Please see the Companion VRC Document Comparing both SAR Medals for additional information.

Please Note: These Two Certificates are **NOT** used by the NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee.

How does one obtaining a certificate and authorization to purchase a medal through the SAR Veterans Recognition Committee?

The goal of the SAR VRC is to provide recognition to SAR veterans by awarding **Certificates of Patriotism**. Please note that these are **NOT** the certificates that accompany the two medals mentioned above. Requests for Certificates of Patriotism, when approved, allow enrollment in various **SAR Veterans Corps** approved by President Generals.

The SAR Veterans Recognition Committee is funded by the George Washington Endowment Fund. This allows us to print Certificates for our SAR Veterans at no cost to the Member, Chapter, or State Society.

There are six different **SAR Veterans Corps**: World War II; Korean Service; Vietnam War; Southwest Asia; Special Operations; and the Military Service. Within all but the World War II Veterans Corps there are a varying number of Certificates of Patriotism depending on the Operation or Expedition in which the Veteran participated. The listing of the number of Certificates is expanded if there is also a Purple Heart or the second certificate issued, in which case an Oakleaf Cluster designation is used. The Certificates are signed by the current President General and show the Veterans Corps and the Certificate Number within that Corps. The VRC also attempts to include a picture of the Military Award that proved the eligibility of the Certificate and the Veterans Corps.

The VRC tailors the Certificates of Patriotism to the SAR Veteran being recognized and the wording on each Certificate is designed around the SAR Veterans Corps of which the Veteran will be a member. As an example; an SAR member who will be part of the Southwest Asia Veterans Corps might have a Certificate that states – “and is honored with this Certificate of Patriotism for standing ready to defend the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic. As a Veteran, he is authorized by the SAR to wear the War Service Medal with Iraq Bar in grateful recognition for his service to country during Operation Iraqi Freedom.” On the Certificate is a picture of his Iraq Campaign Medal and the SAR War Service Medal. Another example is that of an SAR member who will be part of the Vietnam War Veterans Corps. The Certificate may state – “and is honored with this Certificate of Patriotism for standing ready to defend the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic. As a Veteran, he is authorized by the SAR to wear the War Service Medal with Vietnam Bar in grateful recognition for his service to country during the Vietnam War.” On the Certificate are pictures of the Vietnam Service Medal and the SAR War Service Medal.

How does a Veteran start the process to get a Certificate of Patriotism through the Veterans Recognition Committee?

The SAR Veteran, with the assistance of their Chapter President, State Society President, or their respective Designee must complete and submit the “NSSAR Veterans Multi-Corps Recognition Form (VRC Recognition Form),” found on the SAR website.

1. The SAR Member has to Log in to <https://www.sar.org/>
2. If you have a problem logging in, please contact Mick Pitzer, Chief Technology Director at mpitzer@sar.org or call him at (502) 588-6124. I would email first. Just make sure you include your phone number and email address.
3. Place your mouse on the “Members” tab at the top of the “Home” page.
4. This opens a pull down menu where you can click on “SAR Committees”.
5. With the SAR Committees page open, please scroll down to close to the bottom of the page where you will find: **Veterans Recognition Committee**. Click on that.
6. That will open the Veterans Recognition Committee page.
7. On this page, the SAR Member can obtain the latest **The Veterans Multi-Corps Recognition Form**.
8. Please note that Windows 10 software uses the default browser of Microsoft Edge and NOT Microsoft Internet Explorer. The Edge and Explorer icons look alike but on close examination it is not so. The Microsoft Edge Browser does not work with PDF fillable forms. The cure is to download Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome or reinstall Explorer. Windows 10 does not tell you that Explorer is in the Windows 10 bundle, but it is there. Many feel that it is simpler to download Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome than to uncover where Explorer is hidden.
9. The most frequent problem centers on Adobe Reader. Using an outdated copy of this FREE software will not work. Without using the latest version of Adobe Reader you will NOT have the ability to fill-in forms successfully and save the completed form. Such a problem usually occurs because (1) Instructions are not followed. (2) The computer you are using does not have an authentic copy of the latest FREE Adobe Reader installed on it. (3) The computer you are using has not been programmed to associate PDF files with your authentic Adobe Reader software.

The SAR Veteran must complete and submit the “NSSAR Veterans Multi-Corps Recognition Form”, aka “VRC Recognition Form”.

If you have any problems obtaining the form, saving the form to your computer, or filling in the form, please email VetCorps@sar.org.

Completing the Veterans Recognition Form.

1. Please read the first two pages of instruction before starting the form.
2. Please understand that this form was NOT designed to be printed.
3. Every field / box for data entry has instructions. When you place your mouse over most of the “text” data entry fields, a feature called a “tooltip” will display as a window/popup to give you additional instructions concerning what should be entered in that field.
4. This PDF fillable form requires that you have the latest version of Adobe Reader. These are free downloads from <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>. Use caution in choosing the correct operating system for your computer.
5. When the form has been completed, please email the form as an attachment to your Chapter President or the Chair of the Chapter Veterans Recognition Committee. The endorsement of the Chapter President, State Society President, or their respective Designee is required. This endorsement is to certify that the Compatriot is a member in good standing, and that the Chapter or State Society will present the Certificate when it is received from NSSAR.

Instructions for Chapter President or his designee.

1. Please understand that this form was NOT designed to be printed.
2. Every field / box for data entry has instructions. When you place your mouse over most of the “text” data entry fields, a feature called a “tooltip” will display as a window/popup to give you additional instructions concerning what should be entered in that field.
3. The Chapter President, State Society President or their designee also has the duty to be the first fact checker of the VRC Form. In other words, is all the information as to eligible Veterans Corps, name, NSSAR #, and personal information entered correctly?
4. Please type in the Chapter Officers Name, Society Officers Name, or designee name, along with the Office held, Chapter or Society Name, your email address, phone number, and today’s date.
5. Once this form is completed and saved on your computer, use “Click to Email” to facilitate the sending of your Recognition Form and a copy of the REDACTED DD-214 and/or other Proof of Service, to the NSSAR Veterans Recognition Chairman. Please email the documents as requested at the bottom of page 3 – the Form Page. Please use the “Click to Email” button or send as an email attachment manually to VetCorps@sar.org.
6. This makes the form much easier to read and makes for a better record for NSSAR in that when the VRC completes a monthly Batch of Certificates, all documents are sent to NSSAR for a permanent record of our SAR Members. With the “Original Form”, the VRC can also do “Copy & Paste” to make sure the Certificate has the correct Compatriots Name as listed on the Recognition Form. The VRC is never more embarrassed as when we print a GREAT Certificate to find out later that our FAT fingers misspelled our Compatriots NAME.

What documentation is required to be sent with the Veterans Multi-Corps Recognition Form?

As with medals obtained through Chapters or State Societies, to obtain a Certificate of Patriotism, “**Proof of Service,**” in the form of military documentation or a redacted copy of the member's discharge (or other U.S. or Allied Government proof in the case of a member in active service), typically a Form DD-214, must be sent to the VRC before a Certificate can be prepared and issued. Such proof must show that the Compatriot served, or is serving, honorably in: (a) the armed forces of the U.S., (b) the military forces of a country allied with the U.S. or (c) a United Nations Peace Keeping Force. A copy of the DD-214 is not required but if submitted, for privacy concerns it is important to redact (cancel or obscure part of the text) certain information before being sent with the Recognition Form. Information that should be redacted includes the Social Security Number, Service Number, and Selective Service Number. After being redacted, the DD-214 (or other redacted documentation) should be scanned into a .PDF or .JPG file.

For use as Proof of Service, in lieu of the DD-214, “military documentation” includes Citation Accompanying an Award, Discharge Letter, Honorable Discharge Certificate, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, Separation Qualification Record, Commission Letter, Special Orders, Officer Record Brief, Memorandums, and Supplemental Evaluation Sheets. After being redacted, the DD-214 (or other redacted documentation) should be scanned into a .PDF or .JPG file. Please save your Proof of Service file(s) using the SAR Members National Number, for example, “001234 Proof.PDF”. Please make sure it is easy for you to read on your monitor BEFORE you attach it to the same email as the VRC Recognition Form. If you can’t read it, the VRC can’t read it.

What the VRC needs in order to prepare an accurate Certificate is Name, Branch of Service (USA, USMC, USN, USAF, USCG), Grade, Rate or Rank, Pay Grade, “Record of Service” that shows the time served when on Active Duty, Character of Service (must state “Honorable”), and Decorations, Medals, and Badges received. Using this information, typically contained on the DD-214, the VRC can verify the proper Veterans Corps and the Certificate or Certificates that can be printed.

If the member is applying for one of the Veterans Corps where he would be eligible for the SAR War Service Medal, then proof is also needed that he received a campaign medal, combat ribbon or badge as shown, for example, on a DD-214 form (or equivalent), or other military documentation. The Member’s redacted copy of his DD-214, although not required, is the easiest form of proof that can be provided. For eligibility and definitions, consult the additional instructions found at <https://www.sar.org/> under the Veterans Recognition Committee. **Note:** The National Defense Service Medal is **not** considered a campaign medal for purposes of qualifying for the War Service Medal. Not sure which Veterans Corps you qualify for? On the VRC’s Committee web page, as described on page 2 above, click on **Descriptions of the Six Veterans Corps**. These PDF files will help guide you. Remember, you might qualify for more than one Veterans Corps.

For those of you that feel your DD-214 and/or other documents are an invasion of privacy, the VRC would like to remind you that NSSAR already has on file your street address, your email address, your phone number, copies of you and your families birth certificates, marriage certificates, and death certificates, the date and place where you, your wife and your ancestors were born, the date and place where you, your wife and your ancestors were married, the date and place where you, your wife and your ancestors died, etc. Thus the information already on file at NSSAR greatly exceeds and surpasses any information that might be on ANY DD-214.

If the Compatriot received the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or ANY Armed Forces (including Navy or Marine) Expeditionary Medal, please tell us what Operations you served in. It is important to know that a DD-214 or other Proof of Service files may prove that you are entitled to join more than one of the SAR Veterans Corps.

Permanent Record at NSSAR

All Certificates and scanned copies of any documentation associated with each Certificate are sent monthly to NSSAR for a permanent record. The documentation includes the member’s Recognition Form, DD-214 (if submitted), a copy of the printed Certificate, and any other military documents that were included with the Form or the DD-214. The documentation is sent in one .PDF file per SAR member with the Veteran’s NSSAR National Number as the file name.

Saving military service related documents was started in 1996 by then Historian General Bruce Baird Butler (PG, 2000-2001). The SAR then used a document called the “Compatriot’s Military Service Record Form.” This form is available for Chapter and State use and can be found on the SAR website under Members > Forms and Manuals. (See paragraph above entitled “How does an SAR member who is a Veteran get one of the Medals through their State Society or Chapter? Upon receipt of this form at NSSAR, member records are annotated to reflect “Military Service.” To date, there are over 5,000 records, with both the old and new Forms, of SAR Veterans at NSSAR. Over 95% of these have a copy of the Veteran’s DD-214. It was believed that this information would become an important adjunct to the Society’s record, especially for genealogical research.

In addition to a Veteran’s DD-214, many Compatriots have included additional Military Documents that they want saved at NSSAR concerning their Military Service. To date, the most pages of military records saved for one Compatriot is 19, plus the VRC Recognition Form and copies of the six Certificates printed for the SAR

Member. What may be included and saved to NSSAR are: Additional DD-214's for those that re-enlisted many times, Citation Accompanying an Award, Discharge Letter, Honorable Discharge Certificate, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, Separation Qualification Record, Commission Letter, Special Orders, Officer Record Brief, Memorandums, Supplemental Evaluation Sheets, etc.

Additional Information may be needed BEFORE a Certificate can be printed.

Unfortunately, a DD214 does NOT say why an Award was made, only that it was made. If your DD-214 shows that you received the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the VRC needs your assistance in telling us what Operation the SAR Veteran was involved with that earned him this Award.

The VRC has the following listing of Operations where the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal has been awarded. Unfortunately, our Military every now and then throws us a curve ball, and we learn of a different Operation where this Medal was awarded.

The VRC has to date:

- Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)
- Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)
- Operation Nomad Shadow (ONS)
- Operation New Dawn (OND)
- Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR)
- Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS)
- Operation Odyssey Lightning (OOL).

Your assistance in determining what Operation a Compatriot was involved in to earn the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, will help the VRC do the best job possible for our SAR Veteran.

Another Award where it is never specified as to why it was made is the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, and the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal. If your DD-214 shows that you received one of these Expeditionary Medals, the VRC needs your assistance in telling us what Operation the SAR Veteran was involved with that earned him this Award. These Expeditionary Medals are awarded for participation in any military campaign of the United States for which no other service medal is authorized. This medal has been awarded for at least 45 designated military campaigns, from events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and Korea to retroactive campaigns such as Quemoy and Matsu. Sometimes the AFEM is authorized before a specific campaign medal is authorized; witness the authorization of the AFEM before the effective dates of the Vietnam Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, and the Korean Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

The VRC has the following major listing of Operations where the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, or the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, has been awarded. Unfortunately, our Military every now and then throws us a curve ball, and we learn of a different Operation where this Medal was awarded.

Korea;
SW Asia Veterans Corp.;

- Operation Desert Storm
- Operation Southern Watch
- Operation Iraqi Freedom

Special Ops Veterans Corp.;

- Operation Earnest Will
- Operation Urgent Fury
- Operation Joint Endeavour
- Operation Joint Guard
- Operation Just Cause
- Operation Restore Hope
- Cuban Missile Crisis
- Beirut, Lebanon crisis (1982-1984)
- Taiwan Strait Crisis of 1958-1959.

In addition to the above, there are many more Operations that are not listed.

The VRC strives for accuracy

The VRC strives for accuracy in assigning SAR members to the proper Veterans Corps and in recognizing all of the Certificates of Patriotism the member is eligible to receive. Of 52 new Certificates in a recent month, 19 or 36.54% were not printed as submitted on the Recognition Form -- four Compatriots applied for the wrong War Service Veterans Corps, seven Certificates were printed for Service that the Compatriot failed to apply for, two Compatriots applied for Korean War Veterans Corps but never served in Korea, and six Compatriots applied for the Vietnam War Veterans Corps but never served in Vietnam. All of the above was based on the Compatriots DD-214. That is **over one third** of all requests that were NOT correct. All Compatriots, State Society Officers and Chapter Officers are urged to be diligent in completing and verifying the VRC Recognition Form to avoid the embarrassment of improper military or war service claims.

Veterans Recognition Committee Procedures upon receiving the Veterans Recognition Form.

1. The VRC must verify that all of the necessary information has been received.
2. Determine, based on the information provided, which Vet Corps Certificate(s) should be printed. The majority of the time, only one Certificate is printed, but there have been cases where the Compatriot qualifies for two, three or even more Certificates and is a member of more than one SAR Veterans Corps.
3. Once the Certificate(s) have been printed, it is the intent of the VRC to notify the Chapter President or his Designee that the Certificate(s) have been printed.
4. Toward the end of each month, all Certificates printed that month will be mailed to NSSAR in Louisville, KY attn. Mike Scroggins. Historically, from the mailing date, it has taken three business days for NSSAR to receive this month's batch of Certificates.
5. Please remember that the SAR Veterans Recognition Committee is funded by the George Washington Endowment Fund. The VRC is restricted to having only one mailing per month to NSSAR. The only way this can be changed is if the Chapter is willing to pay in advance for a special mailing.
6. NSSAR will send the SAR Veterans Recognition Certificates of Patriotism to the State Society Officer that normally receives New Member Certificates. In most cases this is the State Society Secretary.
7. It is the responsibility of the State Society Officer receiving the Veterans Recognition Certificates to make sure that the Certificates are sent on to the Chapter for presentation to the SAR Member.

Listing of SAR Veterans Corps Members by Corps Membership

1. The VRC Committee has a goal of updating, on at least a quarterly basis, the listing of SAR Members that belong to the various Corps.
2. To view this listing, the SAR Member has to Log in to <https://www.sar.org/>
3. Place your mouse on the "Members" tab at the top of the "Home" page.
4. This opens a pull down menu where you can click on "SAR Committees".
5. With the SAR Committees page open, please scroll down to close to the bottom of the page where you will find: **Veterans Recognition Committee**. Click on that.
6. That will open the Veterans Recognition Committee page.
Toward the bottom of that page, please click on the **Veterans Corps Compatriots**. That will open a PDF file listing the Veterans Corps members in State Society Order, then Chapter, then Last Name. To find your name or Chapter Member Names, scroll down to find you State Abbreviation and then find your Chapter, and then your name or the names of your Chapter Members. Our goal is to update this listing every three months. At the bottom, you will see a report by Society. **SAR Veterans that have NOT received a Certificate from the Veterans Recognition Committee are not listed.**

Please feel free to email the NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee at VetCorps@sar.org if you have any questions.