

New Eligibility Listings

On October 9, 2005, the National Council of Administration approved an amendment to Section 101 of the VFW Manual of Procedure to include the ***Afghanistan Campaign Medal (ACM)***, the ***Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM)***, the ***Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border (AFESR w/GB)***, the ***Combat Action Badge (CAB)***, and the ***SSBN Nuclear Deterrent Patrol Breast Insignia***.

AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL (ACM)

Criteria:

Awarded to service members who deploy to Afghanistan in direct support of *Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)* on or after 24 October 2001, to a date to be determined or the cessation of OEF. The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the country of Afghanistan and all air spaces above the land.

To be eligible for the award, the service member must be assigned or attached to a unit participating in OEF for 30 consecutive or at least 60 non-consecutive days in Afghanistan.

IRAQ CAMPAIGN MEDAL (ICM)

Criteria:

Authorized to service members who deploy to Iraq in direct support of *Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)* on or after 19 March 2003, to a date to be determined or the cessation of OIF. The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the country of Iraq; the contiguous water area out to 12 nautical miles; and, all air spaces above the land area of Iraq and above the contiguous waters out to 12 nautical miles.

To be eligible for the award, the service member must be assigned or attached to a unit participating in OIF for 30 consecutive or at least 60 non-consecutive days in Iraq.

AIR FORCE EXPEDITIONARY SERVICE RIBBON WITH GOLD BORDER (AFESR w/GB)

Criteria:

The Gold Border, a device authorized in April 2004, to be worn on the *Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon (AFESR)*, represents participation in combat operations by Airmen who were engaged in conducting or support combat operations in a designated combat zone.

COMBAT ACTION BADGE (CAB)

Criteria:

Authorized from 18 September 2001, to a date to be determined. Award for qualifying service in any previous conflict is not authorized.

The requirements for award of the *Combat Action Badge (CAB)* are branch and military occupational specialty immaterial. Assignment to a Combat Arms unit or a unit organized to conduct close or offensive combat operations, or performing offensive combat operations is

not required to qualify for the CAB. However, the CAB is not intended to award all soldiers in a combat zone or imminent danger area.

May be awarded to any soldier.

Soldier must be performing assigned duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay is authorized.

Soldier must be personally present and actively engaged by the enemy and performing satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement.

Soldier must not be assigned/attached to a unit that would qualify the soldier for the award of the *Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB)* or *Combat Medical Badge (CMB)*.

SSBN NUCLEAR DETERRENT PATROL BREAST INSIGNIA

Criteria:

Authorized 21 January 1961. The *SSBN Nuclear Deterrent Patrol Breast Insignia* is authorized for officer and enlisted personnel when the following criteria are met:

- 1) Individuals must be permanently assigned to the unit or military personnel assigned temporary assigned duty.
- 2) The unit must operate under an alert posture during for any period of time during the patrol.
- 3) For units that do not assume an alert posture during a patrol cycle, cognizant type commanders will determine a unit's eligibility for the award based on the operational commitments.

A normal patrol is 60-90 days.

Often, a recognized campaign medal is warranted but not issued or issued only upon request, due to the secrecy of these patrols.

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