



National Defense Service Medal

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is awarded to anyone who has served on active duty, or as an active reservist, in the United States Armed Forces during any of four specified time periods

Era	From	To
Korean War	June 27, 1950	July 27, 1954
Vietnam War	January 1, 1961	August 14, 1974
Gulf War	August 2, 1990	November 30, 1995
Global War on Terrorism	September 11, 2001	Present

If a veteran served on active duty during wartime or if he/she earned a campaign badge, that individual is considered a protected veteran.

The protected veteran must have served in ground, naval or air service during a war or expedition for which a campaign badge was authorized by the Department of Defense.

If a veteran's DD-214 or other military documentation confirms they have been awarded one of these campaign medals and they have served honorably, then they are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.