

Relaxed Evidentiary Standards for PTSD Claims

Awarding of any of the medals/ribbons below or participation in any war/conflict/campaign/operation indicated below constitutes service in a hostile environment per Training Letter (TL10-05) and consideration of relaxation of evidentiary standards for establishing in-service stressors for PTSD under 38 CFR 3.304(f)(3).

Medal / Ribbon	Medal / Ribbon
Philippine Defense (WWII)	RVN Gallantry Cross Unit Citation Ribbon
Philippine Liberation Medal (WWII)	RVN Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (WWII)	RVN Civil Actions Unit Citation Ribbon
Europe-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (WWII)	Southwest Asia Service Medal (Persian Gulf War to include Desert Storm/Desert Shield)
Korean Service Medal	Kuwait Liberation Medal
Republic of Korea War Service Medal	Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
United Nations Korean Service Medal	Iraq Campaign Medal
Vietnam Service Medal	Afghanistan Campaign Medal
Vietnam Campaign Medal	Kosovo Campaign Medal
RVN Civil Action Honor Medal	NATO Kosovo Medal

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) – Awarded for participation in U.S. military operations; operations in support of the United Nations; and operations for assistance to friendly foreign nations. Was awarded for service in Vietnam prior to creation of the Vietnam Service Medal. Additionally awarded for participation in operations for which another campaign/service medal wasn't awarded. The AFEM by itself isn't sufficient for relaxed standards. There needs to be a statement from the veteran and evidence of service in one of the below operations.

War / Conflict / Campaign / Operation	Dates	Notes
World War Two (WWII)	12/7/1941 – 12/31/1946	Evidence of service for relaxed standards would be receipt of one of the WWII-related medals or duty assignment in an area where the Axis Powers were present. Note: If the veteran's separation/discharge document (specifically Army) has a "Battle and Campaign" block, and there are any entries, most likely this will be confirmation of the veteran's exposure to combat/stressor confirmation
Greek Civil War Provided support to the Greece government against communism.	3/30/1946 10/16/1949	Evidence must show that the veteran was in Greece during the applicable dates. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).
Chinese Civil War U.S. transported Chinese government armies and was involved in negotiations between Nationalists and Communists.	3/31/1946 – 5/1/1950	Evidence must show that the veteran was in China during the applicable dates. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).
Korean Conflict / War and subsequent service along the Korean DMZ (Stressors claimed during service on the Korean DMZ period must be researched and verified)	6/25/1950 – 7/27/1953 for War and to present for DMZ	Evidence must show that the veteran was in Korea during the applicable dates. DD-214 will typically show receipt of the Korean Service Medal (KSM). Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).

<p>Lebanon Crisis</p> <p>U.S. – Lebanese occupation of the port and airport of Beirut during a political crisis.</p>	<p>7/15/1958 – 10/25/1958</p>	<p>Evidence must show veteran was involved in the operation during applicable dates. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).</p>
<p>Bay of Pigs</p> <p>Failed military invasion of Cuba.</p>	<p>4/14/1961 – 4/19/1961</p>	<p>Evidence must show veteran was involved (typically aboard ship) in the invasion during applicable dates. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).</p>
<p>Cuban Missile Crisis</p> <p>Naval blockade of Cuba to prevent delivery of Soviet nuclear missiles.</p>	<p>10/16/1962 - 10/28/1962</p>	<p>Evidence must show veteran was aboard ship; at Guantanamo Bay; or involved with other operations during the applicable dates. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).</p>
<p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>U.S. Occupation during a coup.</p>	<p>4/24/1965 – 9/3/1965</p>	<p>Evidence must show veteran was involved in the operation during applicable dates. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).</p>
<p>Vietnam War</p> <p>Theater of Operations.</p>	<p>11/01/1955 – 5/7/1975</p>	<p>Evidence must show that the veteran served in Vietnam or the Vietnam Theater of Operations. Records must show service or be in receipt of one of the Vietnam-related service or campaign medals. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).</p>
<p>El Salvador Civil War</p> <p>U.S. provided military aid and training to the El Salvador government.</p>	<p>10/15/1979 – 1/16/1992</p>	<p>Evidence must show veteran was involved in the operation during applicable dates. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).</p>
<p>Beirut Deployment</p> <p>Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Beirut, Lebanon.</p>	<p>9/1/1982 - 3/31/1984</p>	<p>Evidence must show veteran participated in peacekeeping operations while deployed to Beirut.</p> <p>Note: If veteran’s stressor is the U.S. Embassy bombing on 4/18/1983 or the Marine Barracks bombing on 10/23/1983 and evidence shows the veteran was on the ground in Beirut when either occurred – stressor is conceded.</p>
<p>Invasion of Grenada (Operation Urgent Fury)</p> <p>U.S. led invasion to remove the revolutionary government.</p>	<p>10/25/1983 – 12/15/1983</p>	<p>Evidence must show veteran was involved in the operation during applicable dates. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).</p>
<p>Libya bombing (Operation El Dorado Canyon)</p> <p>U.S. airstrike against Libya.</p>	<p>4/15/1986</p>	<p>Evidence must show veteran was involved in the operation during applicable date. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).</p>
<p>Invasion of Panama (Operation Just Cause)</p> <p>U.S. Invasion to oust dictator Manuel Noriega.</p>	<p>12/20/1989 – 1/31/1990</p>	<p>Evidence must show veteran was involved in the operation during applicable dates. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).</p>
<p>Persian Gulf Escorts (Operation Earnest Will)</p>	<p>7/24/1987 – 9/26/1988</p>	<p>Evidence must show veteran was involved in the operation during applicable dates. Any diagnosis</p>

U.S. escorting of Kuwaiti tankers during the Iran-Iraq War.		other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).
<p>Persian Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm & Desert Shield)</p> <p>Locations include Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Iraq War (Operation Iraqi Freedom/OIF)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Afghanistan War (Operation Enduring Freedom/OEF)</p>	<p>Gulf War (Inclusive)</p> <p>8/2/1990 – present</p>	<p>Evidence must show veteran served in one of the locations credited as being included in the Persian Gulf theater of operations. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).</p> <p>Note: Afghanistan not part of Persian Gulf War and not eligible for the Southwest Asia Service Medal.</p>
<p>Somalia (Operation Restore Hope)</p> <p>U.S. led, UN sanctioned multinational force to create a protected environment for conducting humanitarian operations.</p>	12/5/1992 – 5/4/1993	Evidence must show veteran was involved in the operation during applicable dates. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).
<p>Haiti (Operation Uphold Democracy)</p> <p>U.S. led, UN sanctioned intervention designed to remove the current military regime.</p>	9/19/1994 – 3/31/1995	Evidence must show veteran was involved in the operation during applicable dates. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).
<p>Bosnian War</p> <p>Part of the Yugoslavian Wars, and international conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina between Muslim Bosniaks, Orthodox Serbs, and Catholic Croats.</p>	4/6/1992 – 12/14/1995	Evidence must show veteran had service in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the applicable dates. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).
<p>Kosovo War</p> <p>Part of the Yugoslavian Wars, an armed conflict in Kosovo between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Kosovo Liberation Army.</p>	2/28/1998 – 6/11/1999	Evidence must show veteran had service in Kosovo during the applicable dates or awarding of any of the Kosovo-related medals. Any diagnosis other than PTSD will require confirmation of a specific traumatic event (stressor).

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