



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

2 SEP 1993

Mr. Allan J. Lees
P.O. Box 990
Morphett Vale
S.A. 5162
Australia

Dear Mr. Lees:

Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr. has asked the Department of the Navy to respond to your letter of 30 June 1993, concerning the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVNCM). The following documents are enclosed to answer your specific questions:

- Eligibility requirements for the RVNCM from the Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual (pages 7-9 and 7-10);
- Copy of Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Awards and Decorations Order No. 48 of 24 March 1966;
- Eligibility requirements for the Vietnam Service Medal (pages 4-32 through 4-35 from the Awards Manual);
- Description of "Vietnam Area" (pages 4-30 and 4-31 from the Awards Manual);
- Excerpts from Vietnamese Orders

As indicated in the enclosed documents, eligibility requirements for the RVNCM were to be determined by U.S. authorities for members of U.S. Armed Forces. If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dorothy M. Meletzke".

DOROTHY M. MELETZKE
Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Manpower and Reserve Affairs)
Acting

Enclosures

Copy to:
Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (Ret)
1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 640
Arlington, VA 22209

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|-------|--|---|
| I. | Vietnam Advisory Campaign..... | 15 March 1962 to
7 March 1965. |
| II. | Vietnam Defense Campaign..... | 8 March 1965 to
24 December 1965. |
| III. | Vietnam Counter-offensive Campaign..... | 25 December 1965 to
30 June 1966. |
| IV. | Vietnam Counter-offensive Phase II..... | 1 July 1966 to
31 May 1967. |
| V. | Vietnam Counter-offensive Phase III..... | 1 June 1967 to
29 January 1968. |
| VI. | Tet Counteroffensive..... | 30 January 1968 to
1 April 1968. |
| VII. | Vietnam Counter-offensive Phase IV..... | 2 April 1968 to
30 June 1968. |
| VIII. | Vietnam Counter-offensive Phase V..... | 1 July 1968 to
1 November 1968. |
| IX. | Vietnam Counteroffensive Operation Phase VI..... | 2 November 1968 to
22 February 1969. |
| X. | Tet 69 Counteroffensive..... | 23 February 1969 to
8 June 1969. |
| XI. | Vietnam, Summer-Fall 1969..... | 9 June 1969 to
31 October 1969. |
| XII. | Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970..... | 1 November 1969 to
30 April 1970. |
| XIII. | Sanctuary Counter-offensive..... | 1 May 1970 to |

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30 June 1970.

- XIV. Vietnam Counteroffensive
Phase VII..... 1 July 1970 to
30 June 1971.
- XV. Consolidation I..... 1 July 1971 to
30 November 1971.
- XVI. Consolidation II..... 1 December 1971 to
29 March 1972.
- XVII. Vietnam Ceasefire
Campaign..... 30 March 1972 to
28 January 1973.

14. Southwest Asia Service Medal

a. Eligibility Requirements

(1) Awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who participated in or directly supported military operations in Southwest Asia or in surrounding areas between 2 August 1990 and a date to be determined (Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm).

(2) Individuals authorized this award must have served in one or more of the following areas between 2 August 1990, and a date to be determined: The Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, that portion of the Arabian Sea that lines north of 10° N. latitude and west of 68° E. longitude, as well as the total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and United Arab Emirates.

(3) Individuals serving in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria and Jordan (including the airspace and territorial waters), between 17 January 1991, and a date to be determined shall also be eligible for award of this medal. They must have directly supported combat operations. For instance, Embassy guards would not be eligible.

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b. Specific eligibility criteria for award of the Southwest Asia Service Medal require that a service member must be:

(1) attached to or regularly serving for one or more days with an organization participating in ground/shore (military) operations.

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The four air refueling routes used by Air Force Planes were:

<u>Route</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
1	Coast of England	49° N. 08° W.
2	45° N. 10° W.	37° N. 10° W.
3	36° N. 05° W.	37.2° N. 01° E.
4	38.3° N. 08° E.	36° N. 15.3° E.

The area of operations where U.S. forces were employed is bounded by the following coordinates:

37° N. 11° E. to 37° N. 21° E. to 34° N. 25° E. to
23° N. 25° E. to 23° N. 11° E. to 37° N. 11° E.

13. Operation Just Cause (Panama).....20 Dec 89 -
31 Jan 90

The total land area of Panama, including internal waters, territorial seas, and airspace thereover.

(b) U.S. Operations in Direct Support of the United Nations.

1. Congo.....14 Jul 60 to 1 Sep 62.
2. Congo.....23-27 Nov 64.

NOTE. These are separate operations and a bronze star is authorized for individuals who participated in both Congo operations. Water area from 3° S. to 9° S. between 9° E. and the mainland of Africa.

(c) U.S. Operations Assisting Friendly Foreign Nations.

1. Laos.....19 Apr 61 to 7 Oct 62.
2. Vietnam.....1 Jul 58 to 3 Jul 65.

Water areas from a point on the east coast of Vietnam at the juncture of Vietnam with China southeastward to 21° N. latitude, 108° 15'E. longitude; thence southward to 18° N. latitude, 108° 15'E. longitude; thence southeastward to 17° 30'N. latitude, 111° E. longitude; thence southward to 11° N. latitude, 111° E. longitude; thence southwestward to 7° N. latitude, 105° E. longitude; thence westward to 7° N. latitude, 103° E. longitude; thence northward to 9° 30'N. latitude, 103° E. longitude; thence

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northeastward to 10° 15'N. latitude, 104° 27'E. longitude; thence northward to a point on the west coast of Vietnam at the juncture of Vietnam with Cambodia. In addition, the area has been extended to include the land mass encompassing Thailand.

3. Cambodia.....29 Mar 73 to 15 Aug 73.
4. Thailand.....29 Mar 73 to 15 Aug 73.
(Only those in direct support of Cambodia operations.)
5. Lebanon.....1 Jun 83 to 1 Dec 1987.

*(land mass only)
per DoD + JCS
Sgt
JK*

NOTE. Although terminal date of Lebanon operations was established by Joint Chief of Staff as 1 Dec 1987 no Navy ships/units are considered to be eligible after 1 Aug 1984. Marine Security Guard personnel or other personnel serving "in country" Lebanon may be awarded medal for the entire period.

6. Persian Gulf....24 Jul 87 - 1 Aug 90
(Operation Ernest Will)

The area of operation is from 20 degrees North latitude northward to 30 degrees, 30 minutes, North latitude and from 46 degrees, 36 minutes, East longitude eastward to 63 degrees east longitude.

(6) Eligible Ships and Units. Ships and units which are present in an area merely for training purposes are not eligible for the award. Squadrons or units embarked in a ship during the period for which that ship is listed as eligible are automatically eligible for the medal.

(7) Limitation of Medal. The medal shall be awarded only for operations for which no other U.S. campaign medal is approved, and shall not be issued for service in Vietnam after 3 July 1965. (See art. 431.16b(8) concerning election of Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal/Vietnam Service Medal for service in Vietnam prior to 3 July 1965.) For operations in which personnel of only one military department participate, the medal shall be awarded only if there is no other suitable award available to that department.

(8) Election of Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal/Vietnam Service Medal. Personnel who have earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Vietnam during the period 1 July 1958, to 3 July 1965, inclusive, may elect to receive the Vietnam Service Medal in lieu of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. No individual may be issued both medals for service in Vietnam during the period 1 July 1958 to 28 March 1973.

EXCERPTS FROM REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMED FORCES ORDER NUMBER 43,
DIRECTIVE HT 655-430, AND MEMORANDUMS NO. 2655 and 149

- A. Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Order Number 43: "ARTICLE 1: The 'Vietnam Campaign Medal' with device [1960-] is awarded to all US military personnel eligible as prescribed in Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Directive Nr. HT-655-430 dated 1 September 1965, as changed by amendment dated 22 March 1966, and Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Memorandum Nr. 2655/TM/VP/PCP/3 dated 8 October 1965, Joint General Staff, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces."

"ARTICLE 2: Eligibility of individuals for the award will be determined by US authorities and will be recorded in the personnel record of eligible personnel in accordance with procedures currently being applied by US Forces. No action is required by RVNAF authorities other than that outlined in Article 4 of this order."

"ARTICLE 3: The precedence and manner of wearing the 'Vietnam Campaign Medal' by US military personnel will be determined by US authorities."

"ARTICLE 4: The Joint General Staff, RVNAF, is responsible for providing the ribbons of the Vietnam Campaign Medal for US personnel who are awarded this medal. A bulk allocation of ribbons will be furnished the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, on a quarterly basis for this purpose. US authorities will determine quarterly requirements and advise the Joint General Staff, RVNAF, of their needs."

- B. Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Directive HT 655-430 (amended): "Article 2: Military personnel who do not have the length of service required in Article 1 of this Directive but fall in one of the following conditions are also eligible for a Campaign Medal award:

"- Wounded by the enemy (military actions connected wound)

"- Captured by the enemy during actions or in line of duty, but later rescued or released.

"- Killed in action or in line of duty.

"The conditions specified in this Article must have come to pass in war time."

"Article 3 (new): Foreign military personnel serving in South Vietnam for 6 months during wartime and those serving outside the geographic limits of South Vietnam and contributing direct combat support to the RVNAF for 6 months in their struggle against an armed enemy, will also be eligible for the award of the Campaign Medal. Foreign authorities will determine eligibility of their personnel for this

award. Foreign military personnel are also entitled to the award under the special conditions provided for in Article 2 of this Directive."

"Article 20: The award receiver will be issued a bar of the Campaign Medal. The complete medal will be procured by the receiver from the market."

C. Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Memorandum Number 2655:

"IV. WAR TIME:

"Wartime is not absolutely considered and based from the date since the war situation has been announced throughout the country. But the period of war can be counted from the date that military action has taken place to fight armed enemies over the country.

"From the formation of the Armed Forces to the present, the struggle against Communism is divided into two periods which are temporarily considered as Period 1 and Period 2.

- "- Period 1: 8 Mar 49 - 20 Jul 54
- "- Period 2: 1 Jan 60 - the end of war.

"Because of the reasons mentioned above, personnel who are awarded the Campaign Medal for the 1st Period, will have a device as 1949-54 pinned on the ribbon of the medal. Those who are eligible for the 2d Period will have a device as 1960- pinned on the suspension ribbon of the medal or 50- pinned on the ribbon bar of the medal (the last year of period 2 will be determined when the war is over).

"Those who are credited for both periods 1 and 2 will have both devices pinned on the ribbon or suspension ribbon the medal."

"Annex I

"Description

"The Campaign Medal consists of:

"I. The Medal: Gold Plated, 1½ m/m thick, v/2 stars, one overlaid on the other; each star is composed of 6 points. The star above has a diameter of 42 m/m, the points are white-enamelled in relief, 14 m/m long w/gold border which is 1 m/m wide. The star underneath has a diameter of 37 m/m; the points are carved in relief, gold plated, 7 m/m long with many small brass angles directed toward the center of the medal. In the center of the medal a round frame is shown with a diameter of 18 m/m with a gold border which is 2 m/m wide. The inside of this frame is green with the outline of the Vietnamese country of gold plated and a red flame w/3 rays upright in the center.

"On the reverse of the medal, 2 words VIET-NAM and 2 words CAMPAIGN MEDAL have been carved in.

"The medal is connected with the suspension by 2 trapezoidal rings and a small cylindrical ring."

"II. The Suspension: 37 m/m large, 50 m/m long with 7 stripes; the two stripes near the borders (each side) of this suspension are green with 2 m/m of width, then two white stripes (one at each side) of $5\frac{1}{2}$ m/m wide, closed to these white stripes are 2 green stripes of 8 m/m of width and a white stripe of 6 m/m wide in the center.

"III. The Device:

"a. On the Suspension: Metal, silver plated, $1/2$ m/m thick, rectangular, 20 m/m long, 5 m/m wide and at the two extremities of this device are the outline of the two small arrow's bottoms. The border of this device is carved in relief denoting the period of war. For example: '1949-54'.

"b. On the Ribbon: Similar to that of pinned on the suspension but smaller, 10 m/m of length, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m/m of width. The device just denotes 4 digits: '49-54,' or '60- '."

D. Republic of Vietnam Memorandum Number 149:

- "1. To stimulate and enhance the morale of Free World Military Assistance Forces personnel who have served in Vietnam during the last phase (end) of the war, the JGS/RVNAF decides to grant a special waiver for the minimum time in service required for recommending and considering RVNAF awards which are granted to Allied personnel for meritorious service.
- "2. The meritorious service is regarded as the contribution made by the FWMAF personnel to implementing constructive program beneficial to the RVNAF. The following medals are subject to this waiver:

". . .

" - Campaign Medal
- "3. Criteria for waiving the time required for RVNAF awards for FWMAF personnel are prescribed by Annex attached."

"7. This Memorandum is effective as of 28 Jan 73 until further notice."

"Annex to RVN Memorandum #149

"TIME IN SERVICE IN VN REQUIRED FOR RVNAF MEDALS
AWARDED FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE (FOR FWMAF
PERSONNEL)

<u>"Medals awarded for Meritorious Service</u>	<u>Minimum Time Required</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
"12. Campaign Medal	2 months	- Other requirements prescribed for recommending RVNAF awards for FWMAF personnel for meritorious service are not changed. - The waiver prescribed by this Annex is not applied in a permanent manner. It is only used <u>in the last phase (end) of the war in Vietnam.</u> "

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d. Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) Medal

(1) Authorized by Inter-American Defense Board.

(2) Eligibility Requirements. Awarded to Chairman of the Board, Delegates, Advisors, Officers of the Staff, Officers of the Secretariat and Officers of the IAD Committee who constitute the Directorate, the Department of Studies and the Department of Administration.

(3) Subsequent Awards. For each 5 years of service to the IADB a gold star will be awarded. (Star is to be worn 2 points down.)

4. Foreign Service Awards. The only foreign service award authorized is the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. As a general policy, DON does not permit naval personnel to accept service medals from foreign governments.

a. Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Established by Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Armed Forces Order No. 48 of 24 March 1966. The provisions of Public Law 89-257 permit acceptance of this medal to recognize service performed in Vietnam during the period 1 March 1961 to 28 March 1973, inclusive. Eligibility for the award for service prior to 1 March 1961 or subsequent to 28 March 1973 is governed by article 731.

(1) Eligibility Requirements. U.S. Armed Forces personnel qualify for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal under one or more of the following conditions:

(a) Wounded or injured in hostile action.

(b) Captured by the opposing force during actions or in the line of duty, but later rescued or released.

(c) Killed in action or in line of duty.

(d) Served 6 months in South Vietnam or 6 months outside the geographical limits of South Vietnam, but contributing direct combat support to the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces during such period. The 6 months required need not be consecutive. For personnel serving outside the geographical limits of South Vietnam, the 6 months requirement will be considered fulfilled if such personnel earn the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal/Vietnam Service Medal, and served in the eligibility area for these two awards during each of the 6 months.

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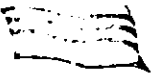
(e) Assigned in Vietnam on 28 January 1973, and either served a minimum of 60 days in Vietnam as of that date, or completed a minimum of 60 days service in Vietnam during the period from 29 January 1973 to 28 March 1973, inclusive.

(2) Determination of Eligibility and Record Entries. If eligibility cannot be determined from available records, commanding officers are authorized to accept the individual's affidavit, similar to the following:

Affidavit

I certify that I served on board the (name of ship or unit) from (date) to (date). This affidavit is made to confirm my eligibility for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal for service in the Vietnam area.

After determination of eligibility, the commanding officer shall make appropriate entries in enlisted service records and address official letters to officers, certifying eligibility for the award, authorizing the wearing of the ribbon bar with device, and indicating the date of issuance. Copies of the letters to officers shall be forwarded to BUPERS (PERS-313) or CMC (MMRB), as appropriate, for filing in the officers' records.



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

JOINT GENERAL STAFF
RVNAF

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS DIVISION

CHIEF OF JOINT GENERAL STAFF
Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces

1

Nr : 48 / TTM/C/CDST

REFERENCES :

- Decree Nr.149-SL/CT dated 12 May 1964 establishing the "Vietnam Campaign Medal",
- Directive Nr.HT-655-430 dated 1 September 1965 outlining criteria and procedures for the award of the "Vietnam Campaign Medal",
- Memorandum Nr.2655/TTM/VP/PCP/3 dated 8 October 1965 prescribing the limitation of authority for the award of the "Vietnam Campaign Medal",

ORDERS :

ARTICLE 1 : The "Vietnam Campaign Medal" with device 1960 - is awarded to all US military personnel eligible as prescribed in Directive Nr.HT-655-430 dated 1 September 1965 as changed by amendment dated 22 March 1966, and Memorandum Nr.2655/TTM/VP/PCP/3 dated 8 October 1965, Joint General Staff, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces.

ARTICLE 2 : Eligibility of individuals for the award will be determined by US authorities and will be recorded in the personnel record of eligible personnel in accordance with procedures currently being applied by US Forces. No action is required by RVNAF authorities other than that outlined in Article 4 of this order.

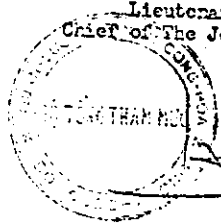
ARTICLE 3 : The precedence and manner of wearing the "Vietnam Campaign Medal" by US military personnel will be determined by US authorities.

ARTICLE 4 : The Joint General Staff, RVNAF, is responsible for providing the ribbons of the Vietnam Campaign Medal for US personnel who are awarded this medal. A bulk allocation of ribbons will be furnished the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, on a quarterly basis for this purpose. US authorities will determine quarterly requirements and advise the Joint General Staff, RVNAF, of their needs.

SAIGON, 24 March 1966

Lieutenant General CAO-VAN-VIEN
Chief of The Joint General Staff, RVNAF.

Distribution : MACV HQS



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(9) Election of Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal/Navy or Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal. Members of the Naval service may elect one expeditionary medal for the following operations:

Lebanon
Libya
Persian Gulf

c. Approval of Operations. The Joint Chiefs of Staff shall designate operations which qualify for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM). Recommendations for Military Operations to be designated shall be submitted through joint channels to the JCS.

13. Vietnam Service Medal

a. Authorization. E.O. 11231, 8 July 1965.

b. Eligibility Requirements

(1) General

(a) Awarded to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving at anytime between 4 July 1965 and 28 March 1973 in the area defined under the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Vietnam.

(b) Awarded to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States in Thailand, Laos or Cambodia or the air space thereover, between 4 July 1965 and 28 March 1973 and serving in direct support of operations in Vietnam.

(c) Members qualified for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal by reason of service between 1 July 1958 and 3 July 1965 (inclusive) in an area for which the Vietnam Service Medal was subsequently authorized shall remain qualified for that medal. Upon application, any such member may be awarded the Vietnam Service Medal in lieu of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for such service. However, no person shall be entitled to both awards for service in an area for which the Vietnam Service Medal has been authorized.

(2) Specific

(a) Personnel Eligible

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ing
 1. Shore Duty. Attached to or regularly serving for one (1) or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations.) fi

2. Sea Duty. Attached to or regularly serving for one (1) or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations.

3. Air Duty. Actual participation as a crew member in one (1) or more aerial flights directly supporting military operations.

4. Temporary Duty. Service for thirty consecutive or sixty non-consecutive days, except that the time limit may be waived for personnel participating in actual combat operations.

NOTE. Only personnel who were attached to ships/units and who actually participated in the given operation, are eligible for the Vietnam Service Medal. This includes personnel attached to a squadron or unit embarked in a ship during the period for which that ship is listed as eligible. Members of rear echelons, transients, observers, and personnel assigned for short periods or TAD and training duty are normally not eligible for the award. However, consideration will be given in those instances where the local commander certifies a particular and significant contribution by an individual. Such certification should be submitted to CNO/CMC via the fleet commander who exercised operational control in the area involved.

(b) Eligible Ships and Units. Ships and units present in the area merely for training purposes are not eligible for the award. Squadrons or units embarked in a ship during the period for which that ship is listed as eligible are automatically eligible for the medal.

(c) Limitation of Medals. The medal shall be awarded only for operations for which no other U.S. campaign medal is approved. No person may be issued both the Vietnam Service Medal and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Vietnam (see Art. 431.16b(8) concerning election), and no person shall be entitled to more than one award of the Vietnam Service Medal.

(d) Stars. A bronze star 3/16-inch in diameter is authorized to be worn on the suspension ribbon and ribbon bar of the Vietnam Service Medal for each of the following campaigns: