

OBTAIN KOREA DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (KDSM)



The Defense Department announced that the KOREA DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL is authorized for wear. Applications can now be submitted by veterans and retirees to the records facility in St. Louis, MO.

The addresses for the Branches are slightly different. See the table below under Requesting Military Records, Medals and Awards and refer to the green cells for the branch address.

The procedure to apply will be the same as for any other medal request. You must complete Form SF-180 requesting your medal and requesting your records be updated. Include your Form DD-214 and documentation showing Korea service after 27 July 1954.

Navy veterans can apply by filing the Navy Self-certification Document. To print a copy of this document.

PROBLEMS VERIFYING KOREA SERVICE

Members that are not able to prove their Korea service have several options to obtain documents that can help with the verification process. These options are:

- 1) Request a copy of your Department of Army Form DA20 or DA 2-1 from the National Personnel Record Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, MO (<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evtreocs/>). They are a list of all duty assignments with dates of service.
- 2) Contact the NPRC to have a search conducted of your units Morning Reports. This report shows those unit members that are not present for duty for a 24 hour period or longer. Examples might be attendance at a school, participation in activities to earn a badge, 3 day pass/liberty, R&R, patient in hospital, TDY assignment, etc.

Request dates you know would place your name on this report. This search will cost you money because you must either do the physical search yourself or hire someone to search for you. The NPRC has college students available to do your search.

- 3) Request a copy of your unit roster from the NPRC.

4) Request your complete medical records. These should have your Korea service documented. These must be requested from your Veterans Administration Regional Office, and you must have filed a claim with the VA. Ask for your C File.

5) If you know someone that deployed to Korea with you, or returned home with you, that might have a copy of the original orders, get a copy. Your name should also appear on these orders.

6) If you know someone that went on R&R with you that might have a copy of the original orders, get a copy. Your name should also appear on these orders.

7) Use documents showing promotions, badges or commendations received while stationed in Korea.

8) Copies of meal cards, passes, a drivers license, security identification, R&R ID card, etc. showing your name, unit, service number, date and address (post office number) have a good chance of verifying service.

9) Letters sent home by you, or sent to you, showing your name, service number and APO No. might be accepted as a last resort.

Note: Photographs will not be accepted.

Military Awards Branch
Military Awards - AR 600-8-22

Frequently Asked Questions As of 9 November 2004

Question: Are ROTC Cadets eligible for the KDSM?

Answer: Yes, ROTC Cadets who go TDY to Korea on one of the various ROTC programs are entitled to the KDSM provided they meet the basic criteria.

Question: Do I have to take off my Overseas Service Ribbon (OSR) if I am now eligible for the Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM)?

Answer: All Soldiers who received the OSR for service in Korea prior to 3 Feb 04, are not currently required to relinquish previous awards of their OSRs. They should add the KDSM to their ribbon rack and not remove any awards of the OSR. Effective 3 Feb 04, IAW para 5-4, the OSR can no longer be awarded for completion of a normal overseas tour in Korea .

Question: I was stationed in Japan and went to Korea to complete PLDC. Do I qualify for award of the KDSM?

Answer: Negative. The DoD guidance only authorizes the KDSM to be awarded to service members who are assigned, attached, or mobilized to the area. Soldiers can also qualify if they were in Korea for an exercise or operation.

Question: Can I get multiple awards of the KDSM?

Answer: Per para 6 of the KDSM message, only one award of the KDSM is authorized for any individual. Multiple awards are not authorized. No appurtenances will be placed on the KDSM to denote multiple awards.

Question: How do I get my records updated with the KDSM?

Answer: Per para 8 of the KDSM message, USA HRC - Alexandria will complete a one-time TOP LOAD to personnel systems to add the KDSM to active duty Soldier's personnel records who have completed their overseas service tours before 3 Feb 04. Military personnel divisions/personnel service companies (PCS) will update personnel qualification records of qualified Soldiers who complete their tours on or after 4 Feb 04 using this message as authority.

The top load has been completed. If your records have not been updated, please contact your PSC.

Question: Do I get a certificate and orders for the KDSM?

Answer: Negative. The KDSM is categorized as a service award, as such permanent orders are not required. Certificates also do not accompany award of the KDSM.

Question: Do veterans use a Standard Form 180 to request the KDSM?

Answer: Please refer all veteran requests to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) at http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records/awards_and_decoration_s.html.

REQUESTING MILITARY RECORDS, MEDALS AND AWARDS

Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army personnel, the National Personnel Records Center will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request with the verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals.

If you are requesting an update or replacement of your DD-214 you must also complete Form SF 180. Due to a fire at the National Personnel Records Center in July 1973, millions of records were destroyed or damaged. Records suffering the most damage are:

Army veterans discharged or deceased between 1 Nov 1912 and 31 Dec 1959.
Air Force veterans discharged, deceased, or retired before 1 Jan 1964, whose names come alphabetically after Hubbard ((James E.).

If you are in this category you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire about your military service. Without answering this questionnaire (NA Form 13075) and providing some form of supporting documents showing proof of service, schooling, foreign service dates and awards you will only be able to obtain a Certificate of Service.

The **Standard Form (SF 180), Request Pertaining to Military Records**, is recommended for requesting medals and awards. It is very import that you provide as much information as possible. Many service records were lost in a fire at the NPRC on July 12, 1973 making some verification not possible. You should include a copy of the DD-214 and any other supporting documentation available. Send the form to the appropriate address from the following table:

| By Service Branch | | |
|--|--|---|
| Where to write for medals | Where medals are mailed from | Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal |
| Army | | |
| National Personnel Records Center Medals Section (NRPMA-M) 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis , MO 63132-5100 | U.S. Army Soldier & Biological Chemical Command, IMMC Soldier Systems Directorate 700 Robbins Avenue P.O. Box 57997 Philadelphia , PA 19111-7997 | Commander PERSCOM Attn: TAPC-PDO-PA 200 Stovall Street Alexandria , VA 22332-0471 |
| Air Force (including Army Air Corps & Army Air Forces) | | |
| National Personnel Records Center Air Force Reference Branch (NRPMF) 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis , MO 63132-5100 | Headquarters Air Force Personnel Ctr AFPC/DPPPR 550 C Street West, Suite 12 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714 | Headquarters Air Force Personnel Ctr AFPC/DPPPR 550 C Street West, Suite 12 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714 |
| Navy | | |
| Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis , MO 63132-5100 | Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis , MO 63132-5100 | Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV 09B33) Awards & Special Projects Washington , DC 20350-2000 |

| Marine Corps | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis , MO 63132-5100 | Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis , MO 63132-5100 | Commandant Headquarters United States Marine Corps Awards Branch (MHM) Washington , DC 20380-0001 |
| Coast Guard | | |
| Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis , MO 63132-5100 | Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis , MO 63132-5100 | Commandant U.S. Coast Guard Medals and Awards Branch (PMP-4) Washington , DC 20593-0001 |

To obtain military records, send request to:

**NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER
(Military Personnel Records)
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100**

MILITARY AWARDS by BRANCH LOCATIONS

| ARMY |
|---|
| Army Awards and Decorations Office U.S. Total Army Personnel Command ATTN: TAPC-PDA 200 Stoval Street Alexandria, VA 22332-0400 Web Site: https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/awards/index.htm Phone: 703-325-8700 |
| NAVY |
| Navy Awards and Special Projects Office the Chief of Naval Operations Pentagon, Room 4D453 Washington, DC 20350 Web Site: https://awards.navy.mil/ Phone: 202-685-1763 |
| AIR FORCE |
| Air Force Awards and Decorations Office Hq. Air Force Personnel Center ATTN: DPPRA 500 C Street, West Suite 12 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714 Web Site: http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/ Phone: 210-652-5880 |

MARINES

Marine Corps Awards and Decorations Office

Commandant

Marine Corps Medal

Claredon Square Building, CODE MHM-1

Arlington, VA 22214

<https://kuwait.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mm/mmma/awards.nsf>

Phone: 703-784-9340