

MAC Fact 04 The POW Medal Issued 8 November 1985 (September 11, 2001)



Prisoner of War Medal

Instituted: 1985

Dates: All



Devices: (Silver Star)

(Gold Star)



(Silver Oak Leaf)

(Bronze Oak Leaf)

Notes: Gold and Silver Star attachments apply only to USN, USMC and USCG. Bronze and Silver Oak Leaf attachments apply only to Army and USAF.

Eligibility: The POW Medal is authorized by Public Law 99-145, section 1128, title 10, United States Code (10 USC 1128), 8 November 1985, and is authorized for any person who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Armed Forces, was taken prisoner and held captive after 5 April 1917. The POW Medal is to be issued only to those U.S. military personnel and other personnel granted credible U.S. military service who were taken prisoner and held captive:

- (1) While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.
- (2) While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force.
- (3) While serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The following text is from the original army directive. Please verify current edition with your respective military service: [Paragraph 2-9, Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) 25 February 1995]

- a. The POW Medal is authorized by Public Law 99-145, section 1128, title 10, United States Code (10 USC 1128), 8 November 1985, and is authorized for any person who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Armed Forces, was taken prisoner and held captive after 5 April 1917.

- b. The POW Medal is to be issued only to those U.S. military personnel and other personnel granted creditable U.S. military service who were taken prisoner and held captive.
 - (1) While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.
 - (2) While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force.
 - (3) While serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.
- c. U.S. and foreign civilians who have been credited with U.S. military service, which encompasses the period of captivity, are also eligible for the medal. The Secretary of Defense authorized on January 27, 1990, the POW Medal for the Philippine Commonwealth Army and Recognized Guerrilla Unit Veterans who were held captive between December 7, 1941, and September 26, 1945. DD Form 2510-1 (Prisoner of War Medal Application/Information-Philippine commonwealth Army and Recognized Guerrilla Veterans) was developed as the application for Filipino Veterans who fit this category.
- d. For purposes of this medal, past armed conflicts are defined as World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam Conflict, and Persian Gulf War. Hostages of terrorists and persons detained by governments with which the United States is not engaged actively in armed conflict are not eligible for the medal.
- e. Any person convicted of misconduct or a criminal charge by a U.S. military tribunal, or who receives a less than honorable discharge based upon actions while a prisoner of war, or whose conduct was not in accord with the Code of Conduct, and whose actions are documented by U.S. military records is ineligible for the medal. The Secretary of the Army is the authority for deciding eligibility in such cases.
- f. No more than one POW Medal will be awarded. For subsequent award of the medal, service stars will be awarded and worn on the suspension and service ribbon of the medal. A period of captivity terminates on return to U.S. military control. Escapees who do not return to U.S. military control and are recaptured by an enemy do not begin a new period of captivity for subsequent award of the POW Medal. (Service stars are described in chap 6.)

- g. The POW Medal may be awarded posthumously.
- h. The primary next of kin of eligible prisoners of war who die in captivity may be issued the POW Medal regardless of the length of stay in captivity.
- i. Personnel officially classified as MIA are not eligible for award of the POW Medal. The POW Medal will only be awarded when the individual's prisoner of war status has been officially confirmed and recognized as such by the Department of the Army. Likewise, the return of remains, in and of itself, does not constitute evidence of confirmed prisoner of war status.
- j. All requests for the POW Medal will be initiated by eligible former POWs, or their next of kin, using a personal letter or DD form 2510 (prisoner of War Medal Application/Information). Applications should be forwarded to the Commander, ARPERCEN, ATTN: DARP-VSE-A, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200.

Date: Wed, 09 Feb 2000 14:24:47 -0800

Subject: RAO Bulletin Update: Medals

Medals: Medals awarded while in active service are issued by the appropriate service if requested by veterans, or if deceased, their next of kin. Requests for medal form the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard should be sent to the U.S. Navy Liaison Office, National Personnel Records Center, Rm. 3475, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis MO 63132-5100. Requests for medals from the Army should be sent to the U.S. my reserve personnel center, ATTN: ARPC-VSE, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis MO 63132-5100. Requests for medals from the Air Force should be sent to National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records), 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis MO 6313205100.

The veteran's full name should be printed or typed, so that it can be read clearly. The request must contain the signature of the veteran or, the next of kin if the veteran is deceased. Include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security number and exact or approximate dates of service. If available, include a copy of the discharge or separation document, WDAGO Form 53-55 or DD-214. If possible send the request on Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining To Military Records." These forms can be obtained at your RAO or local VA Office. [Source: Federal Benefits for Veterans & Dependents VA Pamphlet 80-99-1]

Chinese War Memorial Medal: Military personnel who served in the armed forces from 7 December 1941 until 29 September 1945 are eligible for a Chinese War Memorial medal issued by the Republic of China. To obtain send a letter and a copy of your DD-214, CSC, or other proof of service to Llang, Pingsheng, Director, Major General of Coordination council for North American Affairs, 4201 Wisconsin Ave., Washington, D.C. 20016. [Source: Naval Affairs Vol 78 Number 12 DEC 99]

Republic of Korea War Service Medal: American service members were formerly prohibited from accepting any foreign decoration unless Congress approved. In 1954 Congress approved the receipt and wearing of foreign medals, but not the Korean War Service Medal. This has now been approved, but it will take some time to work out the details on documentation necessary to process applications and distribute this award. It will probably be a DD Form 214 or WDAGO Form 20 to prove service in Korea during the specific period designated. [Source: Max's Facts 42-99 10 DEC 99]

NORMANDY Service Medal: A special medal, the Jubilee of Liberty commemorating the 50th anniversary of D-Day, has been created by the Regional Council of lower Normandy. Designed and mounted in Paris, this golf medal features an engraving of the torch from the Statue of Liberty on one side and a map of Normandy with the D-Day invasion beaches and flags of the allied nations on the other side. To qualify for the medal, you must have served in Normandy between 6 JUN and mid-SEP 1944. To request one, send a copy of your military records verifying such service to: Association Debarquement et Bataille de Normandie 1944, Abbaye aux Dames, Place Reine Mathilde, B.P. 311, 14015 Caen Cedix.

WWI FRENCH Vets Medal: France wants to bestow the National Order of the Legion of Honor on surviving U.S. veterans who fought on French soil during World War I. It is that country's highest honor. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is assisting the French government in identifying and locating an estimated 900 World War I veterans who served in France and currently receive VA benefits. The medal will not be posthumously awarded to U.S. veterans. Applications must be sent by veterans or their representatives directly to the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. While the VA will assist the French Embassy in verifying and authenticating veterans' records of service, the French government will make final determination on the awarding of the Legion of Honor [Source: FRA News-Bytes 24 SEP 98]

PHILIPPINE Liberation Medal: You may be eligible for a Philippine liberation Medal if you served in the Philippines between 17 OCT 1944 and 3 SEP 1945 for at least 30 days. It is being issued by the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. To apply, send a letter request and a

“MAC FACTS” BY CAPTAIN JOHN M. MCGRATH USN (RETIRED)

copy of your DD Form 214 to the Defense Armed Forces Affairs Office, Embassy of the Philippines, 1600 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington D.C. 20036.

[Source: RSO Watervliet Arsenal Newsletter]