

Department of Defense Authorizes Service Stars on the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

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The Department of Defense announced today that effective immediately, service members are authorized to wear Service Stars on their Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medals (GWOT-EM) to represent deployments in support of approved GWOT operations.

Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Jessica Wright signed a memorandum authorizing the new policy change retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001.

Only one GWOT-EM is awarded for each approved operation. For example, a service member who was awarded the medal for an Operation Enduring Freedom deployment, and is subsequently authorized a second award for an Operation Inherent Resolve deployment would wear a single Service Star on the GWOT-EM to denote both awards.

The five GWOT-EM approved operations are:

Operation	Inclusive Dates
ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF)	Sep 11, 2001 TBD
IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF)	Mar 19, 2003 Aug 31, 2010
NOMAD SHADOW (ONS)	Nov 5, 2007 TBD
NEW DAWN (OND)	Sep 1, 2010 Dec 31, 2011
INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR)	June 15, 2014 TBD

The list of associated areas of eligibility for each approved GWOT-EM operation is available at:
<http://prhome.defense.gov/RFM/MPP/OEPM/Functions>.

This policy change does not adjust criteria for award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal or the Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM). Full eligibility criteria for the GWOT-EM are contained in Department of Defense Manual 1348.33, Volume 2, Manual of Military Decorations and Awards: DoD Service Awards Campaign, Expeditionary, and Service Medals. Additionally, each military department will prescribe procedures for service members' requests for award of GWOT-EM Service Stars.

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is positioned above the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal in precedence, and directly follows the Kosovo Campaign Medal.

To learn more, please view the department's memorandum.

U.S. Department of Defense
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