

Cold War Recognition Certificate Program Overview

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Cold War Recognition Certificate Program:

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding the Cold War Recognition Certificate (CWRC) to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States anytime during the Cold War era, which is defined as Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991, are eligible.

This is the only official site on which to request the CWRC. This site is operated by the United States Army, the executive agency for the CWRC Program. The CWRC is available to qualified individuals at no cost. Any other site offering these certificates or replicas for sale or purchase are not official sites and are not approved or endorsed by the US Army.

Due to the remarkable success of this program, turn-around time for mailing certificates will be a **minimum of two months**. The CWRC Operations Team is working as fast as possible to clear the backlog. Please do not request feedback prior to 2 months from the request date. Thank you for your patience and interest in the CWRC program.

All members of the armed forces and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991, are eligible. Individuals requesting a certificate will certify that their character of service was honorable. **Acceptable supporting documentation** (<https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/905>) for proof of service is any official government or military document with recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and date of service. **Please only send copies of supporting documents.**

Certificate Application

To apply for a certificate, you must have been a U.S. government employee during the period of the Cold War. See the **FAQ** (<https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/905>) for full details. Follow these instructions to submit your application.

1. Fill out the application ([NEW APPLICATION LINK \(/wcmt-api/sites/default/wcmtfiles/files/13546_0.pdf\)](#)) depending upon your current mailing address. Complete all fields that are applicable.
2. Print the application. You must certify your honorable service by signing and dating the

application or your application will be rejected. If you are unable to print the application, you may submit a signed and dated letter containing the same information as the application. You must include the phrase "I confirm my faithful and honorable service to the nation during the Cold War Era."

3. Mail or fax the application to the Cold War Office along with your supporting document to:

Commander, USAHRC
Cold War Recognition Program
ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept 480
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

You may email your application to the usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-awards@army.mil
(mailto:usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-awards@army.mil).

An acceptable supporting document includes any official government or military document that contains the recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and a date showing at least one day of service during the Cold War era (2 September 1945 to 26 December 1991).

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q1: Why are online applications no longer available?

A1: The recent increase in DoD-wide computer system security no longer allows for online application for the Cold War Recognition Certificate. A new printable application form replaces the online application. You can download the application form [here \(/wcmt-api/sites/default/wcmtfiles/files/13546_0.pdf\)](/wcmt-api/sites/default/wcmtfiles/files/13546_0.pdf).

Q2: Is this for real?

A2: Yes. In the 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States any time during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945, through Dec. 26, 1991. Applicants must certify that their service was "faithful and honorable", and they must supply a copy of a supporting document which proves that they served during the Cold War era. The certificate may be awarded posthumously to those whose relatives apply on their behalf. There is no charge for a Cold War Recognition Certificate. [Preview Certificate \(/wcmt-api/sites/default/wcmtfiles/files/17241_0.pdf\)](/wcmt-api/sites/default/wcmtfiles/files/17241_0.pdf)

Note that no medal has been authorized or issued for Cold War Recognition. The program is scheduled to run until the supply of certificates is exhausted. This award is only issued one time. No replacement certificate will be issued.

Q3: Who is eligible for a certificate?

A3: Anyone who worked for the U.S. Government at any time during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945, through Dec. 26, 1991, is eligible, provided their service to the country was faithful and honorable. National Guard and Reserve Soldiers are eligible. Contractors and volunteers are **not** eligible. Those who are currently active-duty military or civilian employees of the U.S. government are also eligible if they had at least one day of honorable service during the Cold War era.

Q4: How do I request a certificate?

A4: Fill out the new [printable application \(/wcmt-api/sites/default/wcmtfiles/files/13546_0.pdf\)](/wcmt-api/sites/default/wcmtfiles/files/13546_0.pdf) and mail to the Cold War Office with your proof of service. An acceptable supporting document includes any official government or military document that contains the recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and a date showing at least one day of service during the Cold War era (2 September 1945 to 26 December 1991). If you are unable to print the application you may submit a signed and dated letter containing the same information as the application (full name, address, identification including type (SSN, MSN, or FSN), applicant name if different from recipient, and email address (if available)). You must include the phrase "I confirm my faithful and honorable service to the nation during the Cold War Era."

Q5: How do I print the application?

A5: The new application form permits on-screen entry of your request information but must be printed. Online submission of the application is no longer possible. To print the application, you must use the print command in your web browser which is usually found under the File menu. If you click on the File menu you should see the option "Print" appear. Select "Print", then click "OK". Due to differences in the different type of web browsers (Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator, etc.), you may need to use different menu options to print. Consult your browser's help section for details.

Q6: What kind of supporting document is acceptable?

A6: Any document which shows that the intended recipient was a U.S. government employee during the Cold War era will be accepted as proof. The document must contain the name of the recipient, the Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number which was included in the request for the certificate, and a date showing at least one day of service within the range of 2 September 1945 and 26 December 1991. Examples of acceptable documents include a Leave and Earnings statement, DD214 or other Discharge Paper, or SF50 (Civilian Personnel Action Form.) Please send a copy of your supporting document, **DO NOT SEND** the original document. Original documents cannot be returned.

Q7: Where do I send the application?

A7: Please submit the completed and signed application along with copies of supporting documents to:

USAHRC
Cold War Recognition Program
ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept 480
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

Q8: What is a Military Service Number or a Foreign Service Number?

A8: Military Service Numbers (MSN) were issued to members of the armed forces before Social Security Numbers (SSN) were used to identify personnel. The changeover to Social Security Numbers occurred in the late 1960's, so many retirees who are eligible for the certificate may have only a Military Service number on their supporting document. The Foreign Service Number (FSN) is used to maintain records for foreign nationals employed by the US government and who do not have Social Security Numbers.

NOTE: The number supplied in your initial request, be it SSN, MSN, or FSN, must match the number supplied on your supporting document.

Q9: May I request certificates for my entire unit at once?

A9: Yes. You must supply a POC with email address and DSN phone number, the name and identification number (SSN) for each of the applicants and the request must be signed by an O-4 /GS-13 or higher. The request must also include certification that all applicants served honorably during the Cold War era. Upon receipt of large group requests the Cold War Office may contact your POC to provide detailed instructions for an electronic submission. The certificates will be mailed to the address provided.

Q10: Who are considered the primary next of kin?

A10: If the veteran is deceased, his/her primary next-of-kin (PNOK) may apply for the certificate. If the veteran or federal employee was married, the primary next-of-kin is the spouse, children, or siblings, in that order of precedence. If the spouse is living, he/she must apply before the veteran's eldest son or daughter. If the veteran's eldest son or daughter applies, the request must explain that the spouse is deceased. If the veteran was not married, the PNOK is the veteran's father/mother, or brothers/sisters, in that order of precedence. If the veteran's parents are living, they must apply before the veteran's eldest brother or sister applies. If the veteran's eldest brother or sister applies, the request must explain that the parents are deceased.

U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND
AWARDS AND DECORATIONS BRANCH

Application for Cold War Recognition Certificate

PRINT THE APPLICATION, SIGN, ATTACH A COPY OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW

Instructions: Fill out this application and mail with supporting documentation to the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Awards and Decorations Branch with your proof of service.

Acceptable Documents: To receive a certificate, you must submit supporting documentation that demonstrates Honorable service. An acceptable supporting document includes any official government or military document that contains the recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and a date showing at least one day of service during the Cold War era (September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991). Example: DD Form 214 (Report of Separation).

DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

You must certify your honorable service by signing and dating the application and returning it with a copy of supporting documents to:

USAHRC
Cold War Recognition Program
Attn: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept 480
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

Awardee Name (First, MI, Last): _____

Or

Requestor's Name (If it is not the Awardee): _____

Military Service Number or SSN: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province/Region: _____

Postal/Zip Code: _____ Country: _____

Awardee or Requestor Email Address: _____

Awardee or Requestor Phone Number: _____

I confirm my (or the recipient's) faithful and honorable service to the nation during the Cold War Era.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

U.S. Army Awards and Decorations Branch Privacy Release Statement

Deceased Service Member's Name: _____

SS#: _____ DOB: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Military ID #: _____

Unit Designation: _____ Dates of Service: _____

The regulatory policy governing the military awards program is very explicit with regard to designating next-of-kin eligibility for issuance of awards and decorations. Posthumous awards can only be issued to the service member's **Primary Next-of-kin** starting sequentially with the surviving (but not remarried) spouse, eldest child, father or mother, eldest brother or sister, or eldest grandchild.

I certify that I am the Primary Next-of-kin of the above-named service member and that I am his/her:

(please select one) spouse, eldest child, parent, eldest sibling, eldest grandchild

Furthermore, in accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, which prohibits the use and dissemination of personal information by federal executive branch agencies without written consent, I authorize the U.S. Army Awards and Decorations Branch to send personal information regarding the above-named service member, to the following individual: _____.

Additionally, I *(please select one)* **[do]** // **[do not]** authorize the Awards and Decorations Branch to issue the above-named individual any requested awards or decorations earned by the deceased service member. I understand that the Department of the Army will only issue one (1) gratuitous replacement set of medals and awards earned by a service member, and that all further replacements or duplicates must be purchased from private vendors.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Primary Next-of-kin's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State _____, ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Individual Privacy Release Statement

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, which prohibits the use and dissemination of personal information by federal executive branch agencies without written consent, I authorize

(Name of Individual)

to collect and review my records and any other documentation that is covered by this Act, and if necessary, forward it to the U. S. Army Human Resources Command-Fort Knox, for further review concerning possible authorization of an individual award or decoration.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

SS#: _____

DOB: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Military ID #: _____

(Optional: For use if another individual or office is making a request on your behalf)

I further authorize the above-named individual, as well as the U. S. Army Human Resources Command-Fort Knox to provide their response, including any documentation, awards, or other materials, to the following third party:

Name: _____

Address: _____



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Commemorative Medals by USAMM, LLC.

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1 Review

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