



A Canadian Forces Veterans Association
“*Serving All Veterans*”

National Headquarters

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Document to Support the Creation of a
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Bar
Canadian Forces Active Service

BACKGROUND

The Government of Canada, in a grateful gesture, has recognized citizens who volunteered to serve in the Canadian Forces on *active service* on two occasions, World War Two and Korea.

Active service is designated by Order in Council under authority of the:

- a. War Measures Act for World War Two (in Canada and Overseas);
- b. National Defence Act for Korea (Overseas); and
- c. National Defence Act for Canadian Forces (in Canada and Overseas).

Since 1950, citizens who volunteered to serve in the Canadian Forces on *active service* in Canada and Overseas have yet to be recognized with a Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Bar.

As established by precedent for *active service* during World War Two and for subsequently for *active service* during the Korean war, the establishment of a Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Canadian Forces to recognize *active service* within Canada since 20 November 1973 (P.C. 1973-3641 (20 November 1973) – NATO) and a “Bar” to recognize “overseas” *active service* authorized through Orders in Council since 1950 is appropriate, historically and legislatively correct.

The Canadian Volunteer Service Medal Order stands as a model.

The Following is a summary of Canadian Forces on Active Service including recognition thereof

WORLD WAR TWO

Sample Orders in Council Designating Canadian Forces on Active Service

P.C. 2396 (26 August 1939) Regulation to “call out” the Militia for military purposes

P.C. 2846 (25 September 1939) Active service pursuant to the Militia Act

Canadian Volunteer Service Medal Order

Order in Council, P.C. 8160 of October 22, 1943, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal subsequently replaced by Order in Council P.C. 1994-701 28 April 1994, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal Order states:

Interpretation

2. In this Order

“*active service*” means active service during World War II;

Eligibility

5. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Medal may be awarded

- (a) to a person of any rank in the armed forces of Canada, who voluntarily served on *active service*

Bars

10 (1) A bar for overseas service with a silver maple leaf centred on it shall be awarded in respect of a period of not less than sixty days voluntary service outside Canada, which need not be continuous.

KOREA

Sample Orders in Council Designating Canadian Forces on Active Service

P.C. 3860 (7 August 1950) Creation of the Canadian Army Special Forces (Korea)

P.C. 4365 (9 September 1950) - UN – Korea – Canadian Forces

Regulations Concerning the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations,

“qualifying area” means Korea and the adjacent areas, which includes Japan, Okinawa and Korean waters.

Eligibility

5. (1) A former member of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army or the Royal Canadian Air Force is eligible to be awarded the Medal where the member

- (a) was in the Canadian armed forces during all or part of the period beginning on June 27, 1950 and ending July 27, 1954;
- (b) was in the qualifying area;
- (c) during the period referred to in paragraph (a),
 - (i) was on strength of an army unit or formation in Korea for at least one day,
 - (ii) was on *active service* for at least 28 days on board a ship or craft engaged in operations in the qualifying area,
 - (iii) flew one sortie over Korea or Korean waters in the Yellow Sea or Sea of Japan, or
 - (iv) accumulated at least 28 days’ service in the qualifying area.

NOTE: The Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea was awarded without a Bar to recognize overseas *active service* outside of precedent potentially as a result of having to serve overseas *active service* to qualify for the medal. This may require further investigation.

CANADIAN FORCES

Sample Orders in Council Designating Canadian Forces on Active Service

P.C. 4365 (9 September 1950) - UN – Korea – Canadian Forces
P.C. 1951-5598 (10 October 1951) - NATO - Integrated Force – UK
P.C. 1956-1712 (20 October 1956) – UN EF – Middle East
P.C. 1960-1080 (5 August 1960) – UN – The Congo
P.C. 1961-1276 (7 September 1961) – NATO Integrated Force
P.C. 1964-389 (14 March 1964) – UN – Cyprus
P.C. 1973-3641 (20 November 1973) – NATO
P.C. 1973-3642 (20 November 1973) – UN EF – Middle East
P.C. 1988-1692 (18 August 1988) – UNIIMOG – Iran/Iraq
P.C. 1989-583 (6 April 1989) – NATO
P.C. 1989-584 (6 April 1989) – UNTAG – Namibia
P.C. 1990-192 (1 February 1990) – ONUCA – Central America
P.C. 1990-1995 (15 September 1990) – UN – Arabian Peninsula
P.C. 1991-2115 (31 October 1991) – UN – Western Sahara
P.C. 1992-354 (27 February 1992) – UN PROFOR – Yugoslavia
P.C. 1992-355 (27 February 1992) – UN – Cambodia
P.C. 1992-2006 (8 September 1992) – UN – Somalia
P.C. 1992-2519 (7 December 1992) – UN – Somalia

Unfortunately, despite qualifying for a Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, the men and women of the post 1950 Canadian Forces have yet to be recognized for their service as has been the case during WWII and Korea.

The above information was provided to support the establishment of a Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Bar for Canadian Forces, to recognize in Canada and overseas *active service* pursuant to precedent and legislative instrument governing the terms of reference for the Canadian Forces since 1950.

Contact the Headquarters of the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association for further information