

(10) After 28 March 1973, as a result of military operations while serving outside the territory of the United States, as part of a peacekeeping force.

c. An individual must have been wounded either as a direct or indirect result of enemy action. A "wound" is defined as an injury to any part of the body from an outside force or agent, sustained while in action as described in the eligibility requirements. A physical lesion is not required, provided the concussion or other form of injury received was a result of the action in which engaged.

d. Except in the case of a prisoner of war, the wound for which the award is made must have required treatment by a medical officer at the time of injury. Only one award is authorized for more than one wound or injury received at the same instant, from the same missile, force, explosion, or agent. Prisoners of war, if entitled, will be limited to a single Purple Heart covering the entire period of their captivity.

e. Chapter 8 contains information regarding eligibility determinations for prior service personnel.

#### 10. Meritorious Service Medal

a. Authorization. E.O. 11448 of 16 January 1969, as amended by E.O. 12312 of 2 July 1981.

b. Eligibility Requirements. Awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States, or members of the armed forces of a friendly foreign nation, who distinguish themselves by outstanding meritorious achievement or service to the United States. To justify this decoration, the acts or services rendered by an individual, regardless of grade or rate, must have be comparable to that required for the Legion of Merit, but in a duty of lesser responsibility. The Meritorious Service Medal is the counterpart of the Bronze Star Medal for the recognition of meritorious non-combat service. When the degree of meritorious achievement or service rendered is not sufficient to warrant the award of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, when appropriate, should be considered.

#### 11. Air Medal

a. Authorization. E.O. 9158 of 11 May 1942, as amended by E.O. 9242-A of 11 September 1942.