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Cold War Certificate Program

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 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 anytime during the Cold War era, which is defined as Sept. 2, 1945 to Dec. 26, 1991.

This is the only official site on which to request Cold War Recognition Certificates. This site is operated by the United States Army, the executive agency for the Cold War Recognition Program. Cold War Recognition Certificates are 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 months**. The CWRS Operations Team is working as fast as possible to clear the backlog. Please do not request feedback prior to 6 months from the request date. Thank you for your patience and interest in the Cold War Recognition program.

Who is eligible?

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. Individuals requesting a certificate will certify that their character of service was honorable. [Acceptable supporting document](#) 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.

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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](#) for full details. Follow these instructions to submit your application.

- 1) Fill out either the [U.S. Resident](#) or [International Resident](#) application depending upon your current mail address. Required fields are marked with an asterisk.
- 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:

CDR, AHRC
Cold War Recognition, Hoffman II
Attn: AHRC-CWRS, 3N45
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0473

Fax 1-800-723-9262

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).

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Frequently Asked Questions

The answer to your question may be listed below. Please read through the following FAQs before contacting us.

Why are online applications no longer available?

- The recent increase in DoD-wide computer system security has reduced access to the CWRS Web Site online applications. A new printable application form replaces the online application.

Is this for real?

- 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. Note that no medal has been authorized or issued for Cold War Recognition.
- The program is scheduled to run for 10 years, so there is plenty of time to send in your request and supporting document.

Who is eligible for a certificate?

- 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 Reservists 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 service during the Cold War era.

How do I request a certificate?

- Fill out the new printable application and mail or fax 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 (September 2, 1945 to December 26, 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."

How do I print the application?

- 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 items to print. Consult your browser's help section for details.
- 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."

What kind of supporting document is acceptable?

- 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 Sept. 2, 1945 and Dec. 26, 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.

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

- 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.

Can I request certificates for my entire unit at once?

- 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.

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PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 3013, Secretary of the Army; Public Law 105-85, Fiscal Year 98, National Defense Authorization Act; and Executive Order 9397.

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: To secure sufficient information from the individual so to determine eligibility and to process the individuals' requests for the Cold War Recognition Certificate.

ROUTINE USES: Information is used for official purposes within the Department of Defense; specifically, to process requests Cold War Certificates. This information may be used in accordance with established Routine Uses for all Department of Defense and Department of the Army system notices.

DISCLOSURE: Disclosure of the Social Security Number and other personal information is voluntary. However, failure to provide complete information may hinder proper identification of the requester, and may prevent the agency from determining eligibility of the requester for the certificate.

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Personnel Service Support Division

Military Awards Branch

Application for Cold War Recognition Certificate U.S. Residents

Instructions: Fill out this application and mail or fax 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 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). Examples include DD Form 214, a Leave and Earnings Statement, and the Standard Form 50.

You must certify your honorable service by signing and dating the application and returning with supporting document to:

CDR, AHRC
Cold War Recognition, Hoffman II
Attn: AHRC-CWRS, 3N45
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0473

- OR - Fax 1-800-723-9262

*Recipient Name (First, MI, Last):

*Required Field

*ID Type: (SSN, MSN, or FSN)

*ID Number:

Examples:
SSN 123-45-6789
MSN RA12-345-678

*Street Address:

*City:

*State:

*Zip:

Applicant Name: (Enter only if different from recipient name):

Applicant or Recipient
Email Address:

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Print the application, sign, **attach supporting document**, and mail or fax to the address listed above.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 3013, Secretary of the Army; Public Law 105-85, Fiscal Year 98, National Defense Authorization Act; and Executive Order 9397.

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: To secure sufficient information from the individual so to determine eligibility and to process the individuals' requests for the Cold War Recognition Certificate.

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Cold War Certificate Preview



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