

UK Armed Forces Veterans Lapel Badge



For generations our Armed Forces have served their country across the world in many roles from war fighting, peacekeeping and reconstruction to home defence. In so doing, they have defended our country, our way of life and our cherished values. A large number of our veterans are young and active and now use the skills, the discipline and the leadership qualities they learned in the Armed Forces to benefit their civilian employers and the wider community. The Ministry of Defence Strategy for Veterans highlights that because of all this it is important to focus on supporting veterans of all ages, by celebrating, and raising public awareness of, their achievements and their contribution to society. To promote recognition of veterans by the wider British public the unique and unifying symbol of the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge was introduced.

The UK Armed Forces Veterans' Lapel Badge was launched in May 2004 by the Minister of Veterans, to raise the profile of veterans by assisting the wider public to recognise them. The first veterans badge was issued to Lord Healy, a veteran of the Battle for Monte Cassino, on 10 May 2004, which initiated the roll out of the badge to the Second World War veteran generation. Since then eligibility to apply for the badge has been extended in sequential phases to all veterans. This has now closed the gap between those who apply for their badge and those who receive it automatically on leaving the Services.

The badge is an enamelled, engraved, and pinned, lapel badge featuring the words "HM Armed Forces – Veteran", which encompass the Tri-Service, Anchor, Crossed Swords and Eagle motif. Its symbolism is intended to unite all veterans in recognising the commonality of their service, to encourage a sense of unity and community between surviving veterans and to ignite public recognition of current veterans and their continuing contribution to society

Eligibility Criteria

All those who have served in HM Armed Forces.

Exceptions

Veterans who served in Armed Forces of other Countries and those who served alongside HM Armed Forces are not eligible (e. g. Canadian Navy or Royal Australian Air Force).

Posthumous requests

The badge is a survivors badge and therefore is not issued posthumously. The only exceptions are War Widows and Widowers who are in receipt of a War Widows/Widowers Pension paid by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency. This is in recognition of the fact that their death was due to their military service.



How to apply

The website at http://www.veterans-uk.info/vets_badge/vets_badge.htm offers links to various types of application forms

You may post or fax your completed form to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency. Another option is to download the form, complete it electronically, save the form and return to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency by email.

If you wish, you may call the Freephone number to apply. Please ensure you have to hand all the details asked for on the application form.

Postal address:

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency,
Norcross, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 3WP
Fax: 0044 1253 330561
Email: veterans.help@spva.gsi.gov.uk
Freephone Helpline
Free: 0800 169 2277 (UK only)
Free: 0800 169 3458 (Minicom UK only)
+44 1253 866043 (Overseas)

Information is also given on the website about the **UK Merchant Seafarers Veteran's Badge**.

The Merchant Seafarers' bravery and sacrifice in assisting HM Armed Forces in military operations has been formally commemorated with the launch of the new UK Merchant Seafarers Veteran's Badge.

The badge is available to all Merchant Navy seafarers and fishermen who served in a vessel at a time when it was operated to facilitate military operations by UK Armed Forces at any time prior to 31 December 1994.

The badge cannot be issued posthumously as it is a survivors' badge, which is to be worn on civilian clothing. The only exception to this is for Widow(er)s in receipt of a War Widow(er)'s Pension paid by Service Personnel and Veterans Agency. The deceased must have Served prior to and including 31 December 1994 (National Insurance Number must now be provided).

The introduction of this dedicated badge for Merchant Navy seafarers and fishermen means that applications by these individuals for the HM Armed Forces Veteran's Badge will no longer be accepted with effect from 27 June 2006. If an individual already holds an HM Armed Forces Veteran's Badge they may still apply for the UK Merchant Seafarers Veteran's Badge.