

# RIBBONS AND MEDALS AWARDED TO USS HENRY W. TUCKER

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## The Ribbon Rack

This display represents the correct order of precedence of ribbons to be worn today on the Navy uniform. (Left to Right, Top to Bottom) No one individual could have earned all of these ribbons while aboard **TUCKER**. But, as a **TUCKER** sailor, one could earn several of these during their time aboard, depending on the era they served.

**TUCKER** received 18 different ribbons/medals during her 28 years of US Naval service. Some of them are for multiple participations in a specific medal's criteria.



More information on these medals ( In order of precedence) follows –



### COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

The Combat Action Ribbon is a personal decoration awarded to members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard (when operating under the control of the Navy) in the grade of captain (or colonel in the Marine Corps) and below who have actively participated in ground or surface combat.

The principal criterion is that the recipient must have participated in a bona fide ground or surface combat firefight or in an action during which he was under enemy fire and his performance while under fire was satisfactory.

**TUCKER** was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon for an engagement in which **USS Henderson (DD 785)** was taking fire in an adjacent NGFS station from a shore battery. As **HENDERSON** took evasive action, **TUCKER** provided protective cover, resulting in the silencing of the hostile battery. This incident occurred on 24 December 1972.

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## NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION

Established by order of the Secretary of the Navy on 18 December 1944, it is awarded by the Secretary to any ship, aircraft, detachment, or other unit of the naval service of the United States Navy which has, subsequent to 6 December 1941, distinguished itself by outstanding heroism in action against the enemy. Tucker was awarded this ribbon three times.

1. For 1965-66 Vietnam service. 2. For the 1967 Vietnam service, 3. All of DESRON 3 received this for the July 1968-June 1970 deployment.



## MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

Established by order of the Secretary of the Navy, 17 July 1967, it is awarded by the Secretary to any unit of the Navy or Marine Corps which has distinguished itself under combat or noncombatant conditions, by either valorous or meritorious achievement compared to other units performing similar service, but not sufficient to justify the award of the Navy Unit Commendation. **TUCKER** received 3 Meritorious Unit Commendations.



## CHINA SERVICE MEDAL

This medal is authorized for the crew members of Navy vessels that operated in support of China (Taiwan) between 2 September 1945 and 1 April 1957.

**TUCKER** operated in the Taiwan straits on 5 different occasions during that time period. (1949, 1951, 1953, 1954, and 1955)

**TUCKER** was eligible for this medal on those five different occasions.



## AMERICAN THEATER CAMPAIGN MEDAL

The American Theater Campaign Medal was awarded to **TUCKER** crew members for anti-submarine service in the north Atlantic during the months of June, July, and August 1945.

Even though the war in Europe ended in April, German U-boats were still prowling the Atlantic Ocean for a while after. Those crew members who served at least 30 days onboard **TUCKER** during this period were eligible to wear the medal.

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## ASIA PACIFIC MEDAL

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal was awarded to personnel for service within the Asiatic-Pacific Theater between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946

The Asia Pacific Medal was awarded to **TUCKER** crew members for the Japanese occupation on January, February, and March 1946. This duty was for the four main islands of Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, the surrounding smaller islands of the Japanese homeland, and the Ryukyu Islands.



## WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL

The WW II Victory Medal was awarded to all Navy personnel for active service between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946.



## NAVY OCCUPATION MEDAL

The Navy Occupation Medal was awarded for the Japanese occupation between 3 September 1945 and 27 April 1952 in the four main islands of Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu; the surrounding smaller islands of the Japanese homeland; the Ryukyu Islands; and the Bonin-Volcano Islands.

Service between 3 September 1945 and 2 March 1946 will be counted only if the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal was awarded for service prior to 3 September 1945 and for Korea between 3 September 1945 and 29 June 1949. Service between 3 September 1945 and 2 March 1946 will be counted only if the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal was awarded for service prior to 3 September 1945.

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## NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

President Eisenhower per Executive Order 10448, dated 22 April 1953, established the National Defense Service Medal. It was awarded for honorable active service for any period between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954 Also, it was awarded for honorable active service between 1 January 1961 and 14 August 1974.



## KOREA SERVICE MEDAL

President Truman per Executive Order 10179, dated 8 November 1950, established the Korean Service Medal.

**TUCKER** was awarded seven battle stars for her participation in the following Korean campaigns:

CCF Intervention 3 Nov 1950 . 24 Jan 1951	1
First UN Counteroffensive 25 Jan 1951 . 21 Apr 1951	1
CCF Spring Offensive 22 Apr . 8 Jul 1951	2
UN Summer-Fall Offensive 9 Jul . 27 Nov 1951	1
Second Korean Winter 28 Nov 1951 . 30 Apr 1952	1
Korean Summer-Fall 1 May . 30 Nov 1952	1

**TUCKER's** 7 battle stars can be worn as one Silver Star and two Bronze Stars



## ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

During the late 1950s, it became apparent that a medal was needed to recognize the services of the armed forces that participated in the increasing involvement of the American military in peacekeeping activities.

**TUCKER** became eligible for the Expeditionary Medal for service in the Taiwan straits in 1959, the Crisis in Laos in 1962, and for duties off the coast of Vietnam in 1964 and the first half of 1965, and for participating in Task Force 71 formed after the EC-121 shoot down incident in 1969.

**TUCKER** is eligible for 4 service stars associated with these duties.

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## VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

This medal was awarded to all members of the armed forces of the U.S. who served in Vietnam and contiguous waters or air space after 3 July 1965 through 28 March 1973.

**TUCKER** is eligible for her deployments off the coast of Vietnam every year from 1965 to 1972. (8 years) This rates 8 service stars.

Those **TUCKER** crew members eligible for or who received the Expeditionary Medal prior to 1965 and meet these requirements also, can apply for and receive this medal. However the Expeditionary medal will be expunged from their service record.



## KOREAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

The Korea Defense Service Medal (KDSM) is authorized to members of the Armed Forces who have served on active duty in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea from 28 July 1954 to a date to be determined. The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the Republic of Korea, and the contiguous water out to 12 nautical miles, and all air spaces above the land and water areas. This medal was signed into law in December 2002.

**TUCKER** crewmembers are eligible due to their participation in the 1969 EC-121 shoot down incident recovery, and subsequent Task force 71 patrol of North Korean waters.



## REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

The Korean government awarded the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation to both Korean military and foreign units for deployment to Korea between 1950 and 1954.





## VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS UNIT CITATION

The Vietnamese Government issued the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Gallantry Cross to U.S. Military units who were individually cited during the period 8 February 1962 and 28 March 1973.

This permits all Navy personnel who served in Vietnam waters to wear the RVN Gallantry Cross unit citation.

Reference SECNAVINST 1650.33 of 18 NOV 1970.



## UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

Although the same medal is used for all the United Nations Medals, a different ribbon is authorized for each operation, the DoD has authorized only the Korea Medal for acceptance.

The Korea version here was awarded by the United Nations to all Naval Military service personnel by any country participating in the defense of Korea.



## REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

The Secretary of Defense approved a request for foreign awards to U.S. Military personnel on 7 February 1966. As a result of this approval, the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, on 24 March 1966, awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with device bar 1960 . +to U.S. armed forces personnel.

The requirements for this medal are the same as the U.S. Vietnam Service Medal.

The ending date was never set, because the Republic of Vietnam government ceased to exist. This is not a DoD medal; therefore it must be purchased from commercial sources.



## KOREA SERVICE MEDAL (KOREA)

In 1951, the Korean President Syngman Rhee ordered that their Korean Service Medal be authorized for any United Nations troops who were defending against North Korean invasion. The U.S. declined the offer due to uniform regulations at the time.

Finally, on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war, in the year 2000, the retroactive service medal was authorized for all eligible U.S Military personnel. The eligibility is the same as for the U.S. Korea Defense Service Medal.