

## **RETROACTIVE COMBAT ACTION RIBBON ELIGIBILITY FOR NAVAL VETERANS FROM 1941 TO 1961.**

Navy and Marine Corps veterans who served in combat in or after WWII are now eligible to receive the Combat Action Ribbon (CAR). Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig has recently authorized this award for those who served in combat, but never received their CAR.

“At a time when we are focusing on the contributions of these great Americans, this seems especially fitting,” said Danzig.

In order to be eligible for the CAR, a veteran must have participated in ground or surface combat after December 6, 1941, but before March 1, 1961, and cannot already have been recognized for the same participation.

Under Public Law 106-65, Danzig can award the CAR to veterans retroactively. The time period required for submission is being waived in all cases. Two Blocks of time have been designated by Danzig for eligibility for the CAR; WWII: December 7, 1941 – April 14, 1946, and Korea: June 27, 1950 – July 27, 1954.

Navy Veterans who served during these periods may write directly to the Navy Awards Branch for settlement:

Chief of Naval Operations (N09B33)  
2000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350-2000

The following information must be provided:

- Standard Form 180 or cover letter with the following information: full name, social security number, service number (if applicable), period of eligibility, unit and date assigned at the time, mailing address.
- Copy of Naval Personnel Form 553 or DD Form 214; DD 215.
- Additional substantiating documentation (optional): copies of combat award; copies of evaluations; muster sheets or orders showing assignment to the unit for the period requested.
- A special section will handle these requests, but no other awards may be requested in conjunction with the CAR. Only CAR requests dated after March 15, 2000, and in accordance with the prescribed guidance will be forwarded to the board for decision. Any prior requests must be resubmitted.
- If a veteran cannot provide the required documentation, a request for personal record information must be submitted. See your Veterans County Service Officer for help.

NOTE: The above article copied from Navy Seabee Veterans of America *Can Do Magazine*, page 20, dated March 2004.