

## Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for NATO Mission

### The VFW's Concerns:

When Russia invaded Ukraine last February, the United States quickly mobilized its military, sending our service members to nine countries in defense of NATO. However, the VFW worries that many Americans do not fully understand what we are asking of our service members today, which makes it hard for commanders on the ground to inspire those they lead. VFW Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland recently saw this first-hand while visiting service members overseas, including soldiers serving with Victory Corps in Poland.

### The VFW urges Congress to:

Work with Department of Defense to recognize the immense contributions of American service members who served and continue to serve on the eastern flank of NATO by awarding them the **Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal** for deterring Russian aggression, effective February 24, 2022 to a date yet to be determined.

### Background on the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal:

- Authorized for “U.S. operations of assistance for friendly nations...where a foreign armed opposition or **imminent threat of hostile action** was encountered.”
- Historically awarded for expeditionary campaigns for assurance, deterrence, and reinforcement in support of allies, including ongoing operations in former Yugoslavia.
- **Victory Corps – Forward** and the American military units supporting its mission on the eastern flank of NATO should be awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for deterring Russian aggression following the invasion of Ukraine.
- The **Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal** should be additionally awarded for service in the following countries after February 24, 2022:
  - Estonia
  - Latvia
  - Lithuania
  - Poland
  - Slovakia
  - Hungary
  - Romania
  - Bulgaria
  - Georgia