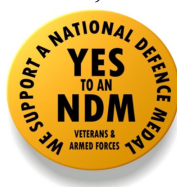


## World Wide Call for a Cold War Medal

It has long been the opinion of successive British Governments that the Cold War was nothing more than mere 'political posturing' and for that reason it did not warrant recognition or the award of a medal. This is despite the fact that recently released 'Top Secret' documents confirmed that the scale of the threat was so real and so great and Britain's' defensive capabilities so poor that one Prime Minister during the time was furious and wrote 'Heaven Help Us!'

With Cold War Veterans throughout the world, including politicians and US President now calling for the institution of a Cold War Medal, we are happy to give our support to the 'Veterans Campaign for a National Defence Medal' which includes all those men and women of HM Armed Forces who served during the Cold War.



<http://nationaldefencemedal.webs.com>

Register your support today!



## Commemorative Medal

In 1995 on the fifth anniversary of the end of the Cold War, the 'Federation des Allies en Europe' decided that a medal should be struck to commemorate the most turbulent period of the 20th Century. The award of the Cold War Victory Medal is given under the auspices of the late 'Central European Council', which comprised of legitimate governments in exile, and is available to eligible recipients until the end of 2015 when the nominal roll will be closed and the list of recipients given to the Imperial War Museum.

This medal may be purchased from 'Service Commemoratives'; P.O. Box 4, Hinckley, Leicestershire. LE10 3ZT.

Tel: 01455 239262

E-Mail:

[info@servicecomm.co.uk](mailto:info@servicecomm.co.uk)



British Cold War Veteran members who provide a copy of their valid membership card can request an additional

length of FREE medal ribbon.

[www.servicecomm.co.uk](http://www.servicecomm.co.uk)

## British Cold War Veterans

a community for cold war veterans



## NOS SUSCIPIO PACIS

**"We kept the peace"**

### MEMBERSHIP SERVICES:

**35 Kenmoor Close,**

**Warmley,**

**Bristol. BS30 8BD**

**South Gloucestershire.**

**E-MAIL:**

[enquiries@britishcoldwarveterans.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@britishcoldwarveterans.co.uk)

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# British Cold War Veterans introduction

British Cold War Veterans are those people who served in HM armed forces (Regular and Reserve) during the Cold War (1945 – 1991), a period which has been described as the ‘most dangerous time ever in world history’ when the powers of both East and West squared up militarily taking everyone to the brink of global annihilation.

It was a ‘war’, often fought covertly and in secret, but one in which the men and women of Great Britain’s armed forces, who served during this period, were in a constant state of readiness for what was seen as being mankind’s final conflict.

The freedom which this country and the Western world enjoyed throughout this time owes much to the men and women of Britain’s armed forces who stepped forward ready to defend with their lives if necessary, its values and democracy.

They served at home, in Europe, with NATO, and many other parts of the world, but they served with pride.

## The Cold War Threat



During this period NATO's (including the UK) forces were directly oriented against the particular enemy identified as the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact Countries for a specific scenario of global war. Their role was clearly defined by policies and strategies of the period. Likewise the Warsaw Pact alliance had identified and targeted the UK, as a part of NATO, with its weapons and Military powers.

There were definitely heightened risks associated with this period particularly that of a major threat on the European landmass, stemming from well armed nations with nuclear weapons and it is against these heightened risks that policies and strategies were developed and employed.

There has been much speculation about the deterrent of nuclear weapons between leaders who seem irrational by normal standards.

The effectiveness of NATO's and the UK's conventional and nuclear forces was and remains wholly dependent on the qualification and training of the people responsible for operating and comprising them, and their willingness and preparedness to expedite war at a moment's given notice.

Service during the Cold War brought with it substantial risk other than that associated with the ‘usual’ expectations of Service Life. Using the year 1982 as just a single example, figures show that during that one year alone, there was a total of 57,859 Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM), Sea Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBM) and bombers primed and targeted between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. 33,952 of these belonged to the Soviet Union.

The men and women of HM Armed Forces who stepped forward ready to engage in that war and defend this country during this period, were educated to the reality of the threat through the rigorous Military training which they all endured. No-one was under any illusions and the regular deployments and Military exercises underpinned the very real threat and heightened risks that they all faced.