

# Army Good Conduct Medal

## History & Service Requirements

*“There is hereby established the Good Conduct Medal... Such medal may be awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity...”*

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Executive Order 8809, 28 June 1941

The Good Conduct Medal was established for the Army & Army Air Forces by Executive Order 8809, 28 June 1941\* - less than six months before the United States entered into World War II. It was to be selectively awarded to enlisted soldiers who distinguished themselves among their fellow soldiers through exemplary conduct, efficiency, and fidelity throughout a specific period of continuous active service - one year during wartime, and three years during peacetime.

Unit commanders were authorized to award the Good Conduct Medal to soldiers who met each of the following criteria for a qualifying period of service:

- Soldier exhibited character above reproach.
- Whose record of service indicated that the soldier had:
  - Willingly complied with the demands of the environment.
  - Been loyal and obedient to his or her superiors.
  - Faithfully supported the goals of his or her organization and of the Army.
  - Conducted him or her self in such an exemplary manner as to be distinguished from fellow soldiers.
- Whose record was not in conflict with exemplary service (minor infractions and non-judicial punishments were not disqualifying, but were reviewed on a case by case basis).
- Who showed efficiency in job performance, meeting all requirements and expectations for his or her grade, specialty, and experience.

A soldier could be awarded the Good Conduct Medal multiple times, for different periods of service. Subsequent awards were denoted with a clasp that could be worn on the service ribbon and suspension ribbon (an example of the third award is shown at right). The second through fifth awards were shown with a bronze clasp with 2-5 loops; the sixth through tenth with a silver clasp with 1- 5 loops; and the eleventh through fifteenth awards with a gold clasp with 1-5 loops.

\*Additional amendments to the Good Conduct Medal were made by Executive Order 9323, 31 March 1943, and Executive Order 10444, 10 April 1953.



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## Sources

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United States, Executive Office of the President [Franklin D. Roosevelt]. Executive order 9323: Amendment of Executive Order 8809. 31 March 1943. *Federal Register*, vol. 8, no. 4225, 3 April 1943.

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