



9995

2026 Form M99 Instructions

You may be eligible to receive a tax credit for military time served in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area during 2026.

Am I eligible?

You are eligible to receive a credit if all of these are true:

- You served in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area during 2026
- The pay you received qualifies to be excluded as combat pay from federal gross income under Internal Revenue Code, section 112
- Your domicile was in Minnesota during your months of service

The credit is equal to \$120 for each month of service. Partial months are counted as full months. For example, if you served one day in November, it would count as one full month.

To Receive a Credit for Prior Years

The 2026 Form M99 applies only to time served in a combat zone during 2026. However, you can still receive credit for service in years prior to 2026. To receive credit for months of service:

- in 2023, file 2023 Form M99 before October 15, 2027
- in 2024, file 2024 Form M99 before October 15, 2028
- in 2025, file 2025 Form M99 before October 15, 2029

You can file Form M99 electronically or download it on our website at www.revenue.state.mn.us.

Credits for:

- 2020 expired October 15, 2024
- 2021 expired October 15, 2025
- 2022 expires October 15, 2026

Individual circumstances may exist that extend the time allowed to file for these credits. If you spent additional days in a combat zone after the filing due date of the return, you can add the number of additional days plus 180 days to the initial 3½ year statute of limitations to claim the credit on Form M99.

Example: If you served in a combat zone in 2021, you had to file your 2021 Form M99 by October 15, 2025, to meet the 3½ year statute of limitations. Starting on June 1, 2022, you spent 60 days in a combat zone. You would have an additional 240 days to claim the credit (60 days plus 180 days). You would have until June 10, 2026 (240 days after October 15, 2025) to file 2021 Form M99.

What geographic areas qualify?

Service in a designated Combat Zone, Hazardous Duty Area, or a location in direct support of military operations qualifies you to receive this credit. The President has the authority to designate Combat Zones by an Executive Order as areas in which the U.S. Armed Forces are engaging or have engaged in combat. Congress may designate Hazardous Duty Areas by Public Law to receive treatment as Combat Zones. The Department of Defense may certify service in locations in direct support of military operations for Combat Zone benefits.

Service in one of the locations listed below qualifies you to receive this credit.

- **Afghanistan area.** Afghanistan was designated as a Combat Zone beginning September 19, 2001. The Department of Defense also recognizes service in the following countries for Combat Zone benefits:
 - Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan beginning September 19, 2001
 - Djibouti as of July 1, 2002
 - Yemen as of April 10, 2002
 - Somalia and Syria as of January 1, 2004
- **Kosovo area.** This area was designated as a Combat Zone beginning March 24, 1999, and includes:
 - The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro)
 - Albania
 - Kosovo
 - The Adriatic Sea
 - The Ionian Sea north of the 39th parallel
- **Arabian Peninsula areas.** This area was designated as a Combat Zone beginning January 17, 1991, and includes:
 - The Persian Gulf
 - The Red Sea
 - The Gulf of Oman

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- The Gulf of Aden
- The Arabian Sea north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees east longitude
- Bahrain
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- The United Arab Emirates

The Department of Defense also recognizes service in the following countries for Combat Zone benefits:

- Jordan as of March 19, 2003
- Lebanon as of February 12, 2015
- Turkey east of 33.51 degrees east longitude as of September 19, 2016
- **Sinai Peninsula.** Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) enacted in December 2017, members of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Coast Guard who performed services in the Sinai Peninsula can now claim combat zone tax benefits.

How to Claim the Credit

To claim this credit, file Form M99 electronically on our website or mail it to us with the required documentation attached.

Using a paid tax preparer (paper Forms M99 only): If you pay someone to prepare your Form M99, that person must also sign the form. If you want your paid preparer to have the authority to discuss the form with the Minnesota Department of Revenue, check the box at the bottom of the form. Checking the box does not give your preparer the authority to sign any tax documents on your behalf or to represent you at audits or appeals conferences. For those types of authorities, you must file a power of attorney form.

Required Documentation

You must attach the following to Form M99 for each period of duty in a combat zone or qualifying hazardous duty area:

- **National Guard, Reservists, and retired or discharged active-duty members:** Attach DD-214 reflecting period of qualifying service.
- **Active-duty members:** Attach a copy of your Leave and Earnings Statement for each month in qualifying status.

If You Do Not Have Copies of the Required Documentation

National Guard and Reserve members may request copies of their DD-214s from the Official Personnel File (OPF) maintained in their unit.

Inactive Reserve, retired, and discharged military members may order copies of their DD-214s through The National Archives website at www.archives.gov.

You may also mail a copy of Standard Form SF-180, *Request Pertaining to Military Records*, to the appropriate record center identified in the instructions for that form.

Active-duty military members (who did not receive a DD-214 for their duty in combat status) must submit a copy of their Leave and Earnings Statement for each month in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area. Copies of previous Leave and Earnings Statements can be obtained through the MyPay website at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

If you cannot secure the required Leave and Earnings Statements on MyPay, contact the appropriate Military Pay Customer Service staff at the following toll-free numbers:

Army (active duty)	1-888-332-7411
Army (reserve)	1-877-462-7782
Army (National Guard)	1-877-276-4729
Navy (active duty/reserve)	1-888-332-7411
Air Force (active duty/reserve/National Guard)	1-888-332-7411
Marine Corps (active duty & reserve)	1-888-332-7411

You should request the required documentation as soon as possible to avoid delays when filing for your credit.

Choosing Direct Deposit

You may get your refund faster by having it direct deposited in your bank account. Enter your banking information on the front of Form M99.

Note: Once you request a direct deposit of your refund, there is no way to cancel the direct deposit or change the account or routing information.

Use of Information

All information you provide on Form M99 is private by state law and cannot be given to others, including your spouse, without your consent, except to the IRS, to other states that guarantee its privacy by law, to Minnesota courts, and to other Minnesota state, county and local government agencies. Your Social Security Number is required under Minnesota Statute 270C.306.

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If Taxes or Debts are Owed

If you owe any Minnesota taxes, criminal fines, or a debt to a state agency, district court, qualifying hospital, or public library, state law may require us to apply the military credit to the amount owed (including penalty and interest on the taxes). Your Social Security Number will be used to identify you as the correct debtor. If the debt is less than the credit, you will receive the difference.

Filing for a Deceased Person

If the person eligible for this credit has died, the credit may be claimed by certain family members or personal representatives.

These individuals can claim the credit (listed in order of eligibility):

1. A surviving spouse who has filed a 2025 joint federal income tax return with the decedent.
2. A personal representative appointed by the court to represent the estate. To be eligible, a surviving spouse cannot be filing a 2026 joint federal income tax return with the decedent. The personal representative must enclose a copy of the court document showing appointment as personal representative.
3. The first living person from the list below. To be eligible, (a) a surviving spouse cannot be filing a 2026 joint federal income tax return with the decedent, (b) a court cannot have appointed a personal representative to represent the estate, and (c) the value of the estate must be less than \$75,000.

The eligible persons, in order, are:

- A surviving spouse who did not file a 2025 joint federal income tax return with the decedent
- The decedent's children
- The decedent's grandchildren
- The decedent's father and mother
- The decedent's brothers and sisters
- The children of the decedent's brothers and sisters

To claim the credit, complete Form M23, *Claim for a Refund for a Deceased Taxpayer*. Include Form M23, along with a copy of the decedent's death certificate, when you file Form M99. Mail Form M99, Form M23, and the death certificate to the address shown on the front of this form.

Questions?

Forms and information are available on our website at www.revenue.state.mn.us.

If you have questions:

- Visit our website at www.revenue.state.mn.us
- Send us an email at individual.incometax@state.mn.us
- Call us at 651-296-3781 or 1-800-652-9094