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'I commend the Directorate of Honours and Awards on this concise and useful source of information... I look forward to reading more in the future!'

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Editorial Office

The Defence Honours & Awards Newsletter is produced by the Directorate of Honours and Awards.

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Welcome to the First Honours and Awards Newsletter

I accept with great enthusiasm the invitation to introduce the first Defence Honours & Awards Newsletter.

This periodical newsletter is designed to advise honours and awards policy and news to a wide range of people, including current and former members of the Australian Defence Force.

I am sure you would agree that, in this time of high operational tempo around the world and the increasing recognition of past service, that it is timely that we send vital information surrounding entitlements and awards to a wide audience, including our ADF members, wherever they may be.

Accordingly, I invite current and former serving members of the ADF community and members of the public to read and enjoy this newsletter. It is intended to provide interesting and useful information dating from the Imperial System to the modern day awards under the Australian Honours and Awards System, introduced on 14 February 1975.

I expect that most questions that you may have will be answered in this informative publication throughout the following editions, and hope that you will see value in the content, as much as I do.

I commend the Directorate of Honours and Awards on this concise and useful source of information and I look forward to reading more in the future!

Martin Bowles
Deputy Secretary
Department of Defence

The Directorate of Honours & Awards

- The Directorate of Honours and Awards (DH&A) is based in Tuggeranong, ACT and is part of the newly-formed Defence Support Group within the Department of Defence.
- DH&A comprises a team of 75 people, 17 of whom are former ADF members with a collective 398 years of military experience amongst them!
- Since 1996, DH&A have issued over 500 000 medals from the 1914-15 Star in WWI to the modern day, Australian Defence Medal (ADM) announced on 30 Mar 06.
- This year alone, DH&A has received over 86 000 general applications and issued over 130 000 medals.
- The Customer Response Team (CRT), as the first point of contact for the general public, receives on average, 340 phone calls per day, with the record so far at 700 calls, following the introduction of the ADM.
- During August and September this year, the CRT in addition to other areas within DH&A, received approximately 2 000 e-mails with 400 of those received in one three day period, alone.
- With the high operational tempo, DH&A is working to assess and dispatch all medals equally, to both current and former members, in a timely manner.



Brigadier Paul Symon and the Hon Gary Nairn MP with recipients of the Australian Defence Medal.

Veterans Receive Their Nation's Thanks

Residents of the Eden-Monaro electorate in Queanbeyan were on hand to witness the first official presentation of the Australian Defence Medal (ADM) to former members of the Australian Defence Force hosted by their local member. Around 2 000 people have requested to receive their award in similar ceremonies to be held bi-annually around Australia, in over 150 electorates.

The first of these ceremonies, was held in the electorate of the Hon Gary Nairn MP, Federal Member for Eden-Monaro on Thursday 5 October. Surrounded by family members, 12 veterans from across the three services, including next of kin, rose to accept their awards from Brigadier Paul Symon, acting Chief of Army, representing the Chief of the Defence Force.

Brigadier Symon spoke of those who bravely signed up and served in the wake of World War II and of the need to simply thank them for their service.

"This medal allows ex-Service members to reflect on their service", he said. "It allows those who have never been formally recognised previously, to accept the thanks of the Nation."

He also spoke of the great opportunity all Australians now have, through these ceremonies, to say thank you to those who served on land, sea and in the air.

The Hon Gary Nairn also took the opportunity to thank those members of his electorate for their commitment and service to Australia.

"This now places a group of 12 Australians in a very special category. More importantly, we thank you for your service; Australia appreciates this."

It is estimated that 1.2 million people will be eligible to receive the ADM.

The first ADM was issued in Apr 06. From a total of 90 000 applications received to date, 75 000 medals have been dispatched (around 48 000 to former serving members and 27 000 to current serving).

This now places a group of 12 Australians in a very special category ...we thank you for your service

The Australian Defence Medal and the Serving Member

Since the issue of the first ADM in Apr 06, the Directorate of Honours & Awards (DH&A) has dispatched approximately 27 700 medals to current serving members. DH&A acknowledges that there are still current serving members (Permanent and Reserve) waiting to receive their medal.

Current serving ADF members are being assessed automatically through PMKeyS. However, due to past lost and fragmented paper records, and the fact that all Reserve information is not available on PMKeyS, current and ex-serving Reserve members will need to apply using the application form AD497 which can be found on the Directorate of Honours and Awards website at www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards/ or by telephoning the Customer Response Team on 1800 111 321.

Update on the Afghanistan and Iraq Medals

To date, the Directorate of Honours and Awards (DH&A) has dispatched over 2 900 Afghanistan Campaign Medals, and over 6 139 Iraq Campaign medals.

There are a further 4 861 Iraq Campaign medals and around 1 000 Afghanistan Campaign Medals still to be dispatched.

Delays have occurred due to unforeseeable circumstances, but these have now been largely overcome and the backlog is being quickly reduced.

Members are advised that DH&A must first receive verified details from the mounting authority before processing and dispatching medals can commence.

FAQ's can be found on the Directorate of Honours and Awards website at <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/dsg/sites/HonoursandAwards/docs/FAQCOPS.pdf>

ASM EAST TIMOR and ASM TIMOR LESTE OP ASTUTE

Determination S181 was signed on 16 September 2006 and copies are now available from the Attorney-General's website at:

[http://www.ag.gov.au/portal/govgazonline.nsf/0/50A22D06C581A67BCA2571F800244391/\\$file/S181.pdf](http://www.ag.gov.au/portal/govgazonline.nsf/0/50A22D06C581A67BCA2571F800244391/$file/S181.pdf)



The Afghanistan and Iraq Medals

Which number to inscribe?

During 2000, with the expected roll out of PMKeyS, ADF senior management agreed to the use of PMKeyS numbers when inscribing members' Service details on medals. However, it was not until 22 Feb 02 that all three Services were fully online for medals' recognition purposes.

As a result, if a member qualifies for a medal up to and including 21 Feb 02, their Service number will be inscribed on the award; if the qualifying period accrues on 22 Feb 02 and after, the member's PMKeyS Number will be inscribed on the award.

Posthumous Entitlement Policy Clarified

In an attempt to remove the current misunderstanding with regard to posthumous application and entitlement, the Directorate of Honours and Awards (DH&A) offers the following clarification.

- If a previous award has been made to a widow, widower, mother or father (including foster parent) and this is evident on DH&A records, the medal may be issued to the recorded applicant.
- If there isn't any record of a previous posthumous issue to the applicant, they will need to demonstrate that they are the 'holders' of any previous awards. To facilitate this, application forms, including the Statutory Declaration are being amended to allow the person signing the declaration to record that he/she has sighted an engraved original medal or medals' group, and sign the declaration accordingly, that is, a line stating "I, as the witness to this statutory declaration, have sighted an original engraved medal issued by the Government to the deceased person and in the legal possession of the applicant."
- If neither of the above criteria can be satisfied, the applicant must prove that they are the beneficiary under will of the estate of the deceased person or a sole surviving member of a family who can be reasonably issued the entitlement. The applicant should provide a certified true copy of an extract from a Will, solicitor's letter or letter from a Public Trustee demonstrating them as the beneficiary. Proof (extracts) from the State Birth Deaths and Marriages office that state they are a sole surviving family descendant, or letters from all other family members stating that the applicant is authorised to receive the entitlement is also acceptable. If such evidence cannot be provided, the entitlement might either lapse or remain in abeyance.

A revised application form will be posted on the Directorate of Honours and Awards website in due course. In the meantime, applicants are requested to utilise the form currently provided on the website.

Order of St John

The Service Medal of the Order of St John is recognised within the Australian Honours and Awards System as an official long service award and may be worn on an ADF uniform, without restriction.

The medal is worn **before** the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal (ANSM) and **after** all Imperial long service awards.

A DI(G) is expected to be promulgated on the Order of St John soon.

The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal

On 13 Apr 05 the Prime Minister announced that formal recognition would be given to those Australians who provided emergency humanitarian assistance following the Boxing Day tsunami and the Nias earthquake. It is estimated that there are approximately 1 100 ADF members eligible to receive this award.



The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal

Processing of the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM) had been delayed due to difficulties in finalising the eligibility list, which resulted in a lengthy audit process.

This process is now complete and awards of the HOSM to eligible ADF members are expected to recommence shortly.

The Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet is responsible for the administration of the medal. A copy of the Gazette and the full eligibility criteria for the award of the HOSM can be found on the DPM&C website at www.itsanhonour.gov.au.

Pingat Jasa Malaysia

In 2004, the Malaysian government offered Australia the *Pingat Jasa Malaysia* (PJM) medal in recognition of those who served to uphold the sovereignty of Malaysia during the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation between 31 August 1957 and 31 December 1966.

It is estimated that approximately 12 000 former ADF members are eligible to receive the PJM, with entitlement confirmed for nearly 7 800 individuals.

To date, the Malaysian Government has provided 4 000 medals for issue to Australian personnel, which have all been issued by the Directorate of Honours and Awards.

The distribution to the remaining eligible recipients will recommence once further shipment of the medals is received.

In addition to former ADF members, the PJM will also be awarded to around 40 former members of the Australian Army who were recruited by the Government of the Federation of Malaya to serve as Lieutenants in the Malayan Police Force.

Distribution will recommence once further shipment of the medal is received

Contact the Directorate

Website

Former ADF members and general public
www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/honours_awards

Website

Current serving ADF members
<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/dsg/sites/dhanda/>

Telephone

1800 111 321 (toll-free)
(0900 – 1700 Mon – Fri)