

Defence Honours & Awards



ISSUE # 2, April 2007

I welcome the opportunity to contribute to this, the second edition of the *Defence Honours & Awards Newsletter*. The first edition provided a wealth of information on the diverse area of 'medals' and I am sure that this, and following, editions will do likewise.

Since being entrusted with portfolio responsibilities as Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence in January 2006, I have pursued the resolution of medal issues with diligence and vigour.

I fully understand the depth of feeling associated with all medal decisions, and one of my key aims is to avoid politicising such decisions. My objective is always to make considered and principled decisions in relation to honours and awards that will stand the tests of time and ensure that the integrity of our Australian Honours and Awards System is not undermined.

It does concern me that some people seem to equate recognition and appreciation with medals. This is not so. This country appreciates all its servicemen and women, acknowledges those who served overseas, but also understands the supporting role of those who may not have deployed overseas, but whose contribution was nonetheless critical. Medallic recognition is an important part of the appreciation conveyed by a grateful nation.

It gave me great pleasure to announce the creation of the new Australian Defence Medal on 30 March 2006. This award was designed to recognise service – to thank those men and women, Regular and Reserve, voluntary and national servicemen, who enlisted after the end of World War II (3 September 1945) and to the ADF members who serve our country today.

In particular, I encourage former Defence Force members who have completed an initial enlistment period or served for four years, whichever is the lesser, to contact the Directorate of Honours & Awards and apply for their medal. As the medal can be awarded posthumously, family members are also welcome to apply.

Further, the proactive action to tackle the backlog of Iraq and Afghanistan campaign medals has been most successful.

In closing, I applaud the Directorate of Honours & Awards on this informative newsletter and I look forward to reading future editions.

Yours sincerely



BRUCE BILLSON

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

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A copy of this newsletter can be found on our website at www.defence.gov.au/medals/

Retrospective Awards of the United Nations Medal and Ribbon Numerals

The Directorate of Honours & Awards receives regular requests for recognition of UN service often years after the actual service was rendered. Queries are also received by the United Nations in New York.

On 19 November 2004 the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) made the following clarification of the policy on the retrospective issue and replacement of UN medals:

- Initial retrospective issue and replacement of UN medals must be supported by an 'Application for UN Medal' or an 'Application for Replacement UN Medal'.
- Applications must be certified by the relevant national authority, and must be submitted through the national authority's Permanent Mission to the UN to the Military Adviser DPKO. (In the case of the ADF, the national authority is the Directorate of Honours & Awards.)
- Initial retrospective issue of UN medals must be requested within one year of departure from the mission area.
- Medal replacement is limited to five years after a peacekeeping mission has closed and all replacements are at the cost of the individual applicant.

DPKO noted that many of the applications received for both initial issue and replacement did not meet these requirements.

DPKO advised that as of 1 December 2004 any application for initial retrospective issue or replacement of UN medals that did not comply with the UN medal policy stated above would be rejected.

The UN has also recently clarified the policy regarding the use of numerals to be attached to the ribbon of the UN Medal.

There is a misconception that the numerals are added to the ribbon of the UN Medal to recognise 'additional tours' with a specific mission.

In fact, the numerals are issued to recognise actual consecutive number of days served rather than multiple 'tours'.

The initial qualifying period for the UN Medal is normally 90 days of consecutive service.

The numeral '2' is awarded after an

additional 180 days consecutive service following the initial qualification for the medal; the numeral '3' is awarded after an additional 180 days of consecutive service after the qualification for the numeral '2', and so on in blocks of 180 days.

For more information, please visit our website: www.defence.gov.au/medals

The Australian Defence Medal – Where is Your Medal?

Contrary to a commonly held misconception, there are very few delays in the issuing of the Australian Defence Medal (ADM) to those who supply **all** the requested information with their application. You can expect to receive your ADM within a matter of weeks.

The Directorate of Honours & Awards encourages all who feel they are eligible for the Australian Defence Medal to continue to send in applications.

The Directorate has, to date, issued in excess of 130 000 medals to both former and current serving members of the ADF.

Delays are likely to be experienced by those applicants who **do not** supply adequate supporting documentation with their application.

In this instance the Directorate must then request detailed advice from a range of agencies, including service records areas and the National Archives, before eligibility can be determined.

Applicants are reminded that supporting documents **must** be certified true copies because there have been cases in the past where falsified documents have been supplied.



Mrs Robyn Malby receiving her Australian Defence Medal from the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence Bruce Billson at Darwin RSL on 19 February 2007, with David Tollner MP and Commander Stu Wheeler looking on.

'You can expect to receive your ADM within a matter of weeks'

Cessation of Imperial Long Service Awards

Prior to 1975 Australia subscribed to the British (or imperial) system of honours and awards, including long service awards. Under the imperial system each service had its own unique suite of awards, designed to recognise various types of service, but the system did not provide for recognition of long service by officers of the Permanent Force.

There are over 13 long service awards under the imperial system and they include the RAN Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, the Efficiency Decoration (for officers of the Citizen Military Forces and Army Reserve) and the Air Efficiency Award (for both officers and airmen of the Citizen Air Force).

All of these awards were superseded by the introduction of the Defence Force Long Service Awards under the Australian honours and awards system on 14 February 1975.

Many current and former ADF members were awarded imperial long service awards. New issues of these awards can no longer be approved as the Directorate of Honours & Awards is no longer mandated to process them.

Service after 14 February 1975 is not considered eligible service for imperial long service awards. Therefore, any past service which was not recognised at the time and in accordance with the relevant regulations cannot now be considered.

Foreign Awards Policy Clarified

The Australian system of honours and awards is the pre-eminent system of recognising service by Australians.

While it is understood that ADF members may be awarded foreign awards, particularly during coalition activities, Australian Government policy is that when assessing a foreign award for official acceptance

and wearing there must be an equivalent Australian award. Foreign awards are not automatically approved for acceptance and should not be worn on an unrestricted basis.

Despite claims to the contrary, United States commendation and achievement medals **do not** have equivalents in the Australian system of honours and awards. Badges are the uniform embellishments which reflect ADF service commendations.

Because ADF commendations are awarded for operational service below the Commendation for Gallantry or the Commendation for Distinguished Service level, and a badge is issued as a form of recognition, the perception that the US commendation and achievement medals have a medal equivalent is incorrect.

Australian Government policy is that the wearing of foreign honours and awards by Australians will be carefully monitored and subject to the overriding principles of equivalency and national interest.

This policy exists to prevent the proliferation of foreign awards being worn on uniform, and to retain Australian medals as the primary means of recognition for ADF service.

However, while some foreign awards made to ADF personnel may not be worn on uniforms, they may be worn with civilian attire in an unofficial capacity on the right breast.

A detailed Defence Instruction is currently being drafted to reflect the Government's policy on foreign awards to Australians. This will be widely circulated when it is finalised.



The Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) to be issued for OP TAMAR

The HOSM

Processing of the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM) (clasp INDIAN OCEAN) has recommenced with more than 500 medals dispatched by the Directorate of Honours & Awards (DH&A) to date.

Awards to the remaining 600 ADF members considered to be eligible will be able to be processed for dispatch following their approval by the Governor-General.

If a serving member can view the HOSM recorded in their Honours & Awards screen within PMKeyS PSS, it has been approved by the Governor General. They can then expect to receive the award shortly thereafter.

Pingat Jasa Malaysia

In December 2006 the Directorate of Honours & Awards received a second shipment of 4 000 Pingat Jasa Malaysia medals from the Malaysian Government.

All of these medals were dispatched to previously approved applicants before Christmas. To date, approximately 8 000 medals have now been issued.

The Directorate is awaiting a further shipment of 4 000 medals and will distribute them to eligible recipients when they are received.

Upgrade of OP TAMAR

Due to the recent reclassification of Operation TAMAR the service will now be recognised by the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM).

Each award of the Australian Service Medal (ASM) will need to be cancelled by the Governor-General and a new award of the AASM approved.

An AASM will not be issued to an individual unless the ASM is physically returned to the Directorate of Honours & Awards; the exception being in cases where other clasps to the ASM are held.

Reservists and Long Service Awards

Defence long service awards are awarded for 15 years aggregated, efficient service. This service must be actually rendered and according to certain requirements as detailed in Defence Instruction (General) 31-1 *Australian Awards for Long Service for Members of the Australian Defence Force and Officers and Instructors of Cadets*

To be awarded the Reserve Force Decoration or the Reserve Force Medal, the member is required to have completed 15 years efficient service prior to 19 April 1999. The Defence Long Service Medal replaced these awards on 20 April 1999.

The following criteria will apply, taking in to account the number of Reserve days a member is required to have completed in each enlistment year to be eligible.

⚡ Naval Reserves

- In the period up to and including 28 October 1991: 12 days per enlistment year.
- From 29 October 1991 up to and including 19 April 2000: 1 day per enlistment year.
- From 20 April 2000: completed 20 days per enlistment year.

⚡ Army Reserves

- In the period up to and including 30 June 1993: 26 days per year.
- From 1 July 1993 up to and including 19 April 2000: 14 days per year.
- Specialist consultants who have had service approved by a formation commander up to and including 19 April 2000: 7 days per year.
- From 20 April 2000: completed 20 days per enlistment year.

⚡ Air Force Reserves

- RAAF Active Reserve. Members who served up to and including 19 April 2000: 32 days per year;
- RAAF Specialist Reserve. Members who served from 1983/84 up to and including 19 April 2000: 7 days per year (note- RAAFSR enlistments started in 1983 for some groups and later for other groups); and
- RAAF General Reserve. Members who served up to and including 19 April 2000: 1 day per year.
- From 20 April 2000: completed 20 days per enlistment year.

The Directorate of Honours & Awards advises that all current serving Reserve members must apply through their CO/OC by completing form AC694. The CO/OC must sight written evidence of qualifying service.

Former serving Reserve members are to apply directly to the Directorate using the form AC694 which can be found on our website.

Supporting documentation must be in the form of certified true copies. Documents can include pay records and extracts of service.

In the absence of relevant supporting documentation, the Directorate will need to source documents from multiple areas. This may result in lengthy delays.

PMKeyS – a Timely Reminder

To all current serving ADF members: please ensure your **correct** unit and home address is displayed in your PMKeyS PSS profile to enable you to receive your medals in a timely manner.

If the information is incorrect please contact your career management agency and/or the service area responsible for your PMKeyS data to have any anomalies amended.

This is particularly important for those members who discharge. Please ensure your postal address is correct at time of discharge.

‘Supporting documentation must be in the form of certified true copies. Documents can include pay records, extracts of service.’

Contact Defence Honours & Awards

Website

Former ADF members and general public
www.defence.gov.au/medals/

Website

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

Telephone

1800 111 321 (toll-free)
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