



**Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.,
National Executive,
Discussion Paper for the adequate recognition of
ADF and Police Service for NWLS Peacekeeping Operations Overseas**

Introduction.

1. Peacekeeping service is one of the most difficult and frustrating operations to conduct. Given the restrictive nature of the Rules of Engagement (ROE); and the Orders or Opening Fire (OFOF); dependant upon agreed protocols within Chapter VI of the UN Charter, or within the Protocol of the Peace Accord or Agreement by the host country and warring factions.

Aim.

2. The aim of this paper is to convince the reader of the requirement to consider the dynamic nature of Modern Military and Police Operations, particularly since 1964 onward. The specific nature of Peacekeeping Operations (PKO), particularly by Australian Defence Force and Police Force members, needs a unique award in the form of a proposed Australian Peacekeeping Service Medal.

General.

3. Whilst the award of the ADF Australian Service Medal (ASM) and the Police Overseas Service Medal (POSM) recognises the nature of service as Non-Warlike Service, Peacekeeping Service or Hazardous Service; the ASM and POSM do not particularly recognise, through the ADF, AFP and Australian Honours and Awards System as specific to the difficult and special nature of Peacekeeping Keeping Operations (PKO)

4. In Canada, the recognition of the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal (CPSM) is cognisant of the special nature of PKO. Not long after the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to all United Nations Peacekeepers in 1988 in recognition of their collective efforts in the cause of peace. This inspired the creation of the to acknowledge the unique contribution to peace that Canadian peacekeepers have made since 1947.

5. In relation to the Canadian recognition it is conceded that Australia was not a major contributor at the time of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize, however significant numbers of ADF and Police Overseas Peacekeepers have increased in number, serving in some of the most dangerous places in the world. This is of particular note from 1989 to the present.

6. The current Minister of Veterans Affairs, Mr Alan Griffin, MP, has acknowledged the special nature of Peacekeeping Operations by stating: *“Our peacekeepers are often called upon to serve in situations of high risk, great instability and where the local population is traumatised through their experiences.”*¹

7. The Minister continues: *“They play a vital role in seeking to restore order and are respected for seeking to build relationships with the local people in the countries in which they are serving.”*²

8. The breadth of service of ADF members and Police Overseas Veterans required in which to conform to modern peacekeeping is of significant importance to the success of the operation. This service encompasses the difficulties, dangers and significant challenges that are the norm for NWLS PKO. It is simply a service that requires specific recognition.

9. Peacekeeping Service is classified for the purposes of the degree of the Incurred Danger test, which is used in deciding Conditions of Service and Veteran Entitlements. There are and will be NWLS PKO; and WLS PKO. NWLS PKO is noted as the following:

- a. PKO that are allotted under Schedule 3 of the Veteran Entitlement Act 1986 (VEA);
- b. UN PKO under Schedule 3 of the VEA;
- c. Multinational Force & Observers (MFO) Sinai;
- d. International Peace Monitoring Team (IPMT) Solomon Islands;
- e. South Pacific Peacekeeping Force (SPPKF) Bougainville;³
- f. Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) Bougainville;
- g. Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI);
- h. Commonwealth Monitoring Force – Rhodesia (CMF-R) Zimbabwe;

¹ DVA Media Release VA003 Wednesday 6 February 2008, PICTORIAL TRIBUTE TO AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS

² *Ibid.*

³ SPPKF has not been recognised for the award of the ASM (1975-)

- i. Commonwealth Training Team - Uganda (CTTU);
- j. UN Mine Clearance Training Team (UNMCTT) Peshawar/Afghanistan;
- k. Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC);
- l. International Security Force (ISF) OP ASTUTE; and
- m. UN Military Liaison Team (UNMLT) Cambodia.

10. The above operations are considered to have a lower degree of Military Threat, with probable Incurred Danger. The unique service of Peacekeeping Operations needs to be specifically recognised as Special Service, under NWLS conditions of service.

ASM and POSM.

11. It is noted that the ASM and POSM Clasps, whilst recognizing service of a NWLS nature and/or Peacekeeping nature, the ASM/POSM recognition becomes blurred with relation to the specific nature of Australians serving on PKO. The ASM/POSM will have a number of clasps that are not necessarily related to PKO; in fact a number of clasps will recognise other operations that are not PKO. Therefore the award of the ASM/POSM will not necessarily recognise Peacekeeping Service.

12. The intention of this proposed medal is to not eradicate the ASM/POSM, but to add to the significance of the service. Hence the ASM/POSM Clasps name the Countries served, within the auspices of NWLS, Peacekeeping Service, or Hazardous Service. With the “one-off” proposed Australian Peacekeeping Service Medal adding to an appropriate recognition for Peacekeeping service and the awarding of the ASM/POSM would be deemed as adequate recognition for such unique service.

Foreign Awards.

13. Notwithstanding the above, some would suggest that the awarding of the United Nations Medal is recognition for the PKO, with ASM/POSM. It should be noted that the UN Medals are in fact foreign awards and not awards that are under the auspices of the Australian Honours & Awards system for ADF and AFP recognition specific to peacekeeping. Government approval is required to officially wear these medals.

14. The proposed Australian Peacekeeping Service Medal is a relatively dynamic approach toward the recognition of specific service of Australians who have served on PKO. Not all PKO will have UN Medals awarded. The following have been noted as UN Medals or Foreign awards not awarded for the PKO, with specific recognition toward the proposed Australian Peacekeeping Service Medal:

- a. South Pacific Peacekeeping Force (SPPKF) – Bougainville;

- b. Truce Monitoring Group (TMG) – Bougainville;
- c. Peace Monitoring Group (PMG) – Bougainville;
- d. International Peace Monitoring Team (IPMT) – Solomon Islands;
- e. Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI); and
- f. International Security Force (ISF) – Timor Leste.

Warlike Service PKO.

15. As the reader will note, there are a number of areas that require specific recognition for PKO. It is also suggested that ADF and Police Overseas Service is eligible under the Service for NWLS in PKO, and that the proposed Australian Peacekeeping Service Medal is **not** available to ADF Service for Warlike Service (WLS), or Operational Service PKO Overseas. There is a separate issue with WLS where Operational Medals have been raised as a separate issue.

16. If the ADF veteran has eligibility for the proposed Australian Peacekeeping Medal and also with an Operational Medal for WLS PKO, the member would be deemed as eligible for both proposed awards.

Conclusion.

17. In conclusion, this paper has been written after wide consultation with current and ex-serving members of the ADF and Police Overseas Veterans. There is a strong desire to have an appropriate recognition for this proposed award. The Australian Peacekeeping Service Medal, in addition to the awarding of the ASM/POSM, would be the most appropriate method in recognizing this special and unique service.

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