



DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE
decorations

OFFICE OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL



DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE
decorations



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A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Service in the Australian Defence Force is, by its nature, a commitment to something greater than self.

The people who put on our country's uniform strive to serve with honour, distinction and professionalism. They have inherited the legacy of our Anzac forebears and are entrusted with carrying it forward for future generations. That legacy – of courage, mateship, perseverance and sacrifice – speaks to who we are and the nation we aspire to be.

While our servicemen and women don't serve for recognition or reward, it is nonetheless important that, as a nation, we celebrate exceptional service and recognise the impact it has on the community and sometimes the individual.

Gallantry, Distinguished Service and Conspicuous Service decorations are an important part of the Australian honours system.

Recipients of these awards have gone above and beyond what was expected of them and their recognition through our awards system is the nation's way of celebrating that contribution.

On behalf of all Australians, I congratulate and thank all recipients of honours and awards for their outstanding contribution to our nation.

They are a source of inspiration and have helped make Australia the great country that it is.



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INTRODUCTION

In December 1986 the Minister for Defence, the Honourable Kim Beazley announced the winners in the open stage of the Defence Force Awards Design Competition. As a result, 11 new awards were designed to be added to the Australian honours system, including the Distinguished Service Decorations and the Meritorious Unit Citation.

The Distinguished Service Decorations and the Meritorious Unit Citation were approved by Her Majesty The Queen on 15 January 1991 and replaced a number of Imperial decorations.

The Distinguished Service Decorations were instituted for the purpose of recognising service in warlike operations. They are awarded primarily to members of the Australian Defence Force. There are three levels of awards:

- Distinguished Service Cross – awarded only for distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations
- Distinguished Service Medal – awarded only for distinguished leadership in warlike operations
- Commendation for Distinguished Service – awarded only for distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations

The Meritorious Unit Citation recognises sustained outstanding service in warlike operations by units of the Defence Force and by units of the defence forces of other countries.

The Governor-General makes the award of Distinguished Service Decorations and Meritorious Unit Citation on the recommendation of the Minister of State for Defence. These awards are normally set for announcement on Australia Day (26 January) and The King's Birthday (the second Monday in June) each year. The Governor-General may also make immediate awards on the recommendation of the Minister and these are announced as they occur. If the nominated person is not an Australian citizen, the Australian Government, in accordance with honours convention, may need to seek the agreement of the government of the country of citizenship before the award can be made.

Upon publication of their award, recipients are entitled to have the appropriate post nominals placed after their name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary. This is not applicable to the awards of the Commendation for Distinguished Service and the Meritorious Unit Citation which do not confer post nominals.

INFORMATION ABOUT AWARDS

About the Australian honours system

The Australian honours system recognises the outstanding service and contributions of Australians.

Recipients come from across the country and from all walks of life. While some are well-known, the majority are unsung heroes. While typically they haven't sought thanks or recognition, they deserve both. The Australian honours system gives the nation a chance to celebrate and acknowledge those who work tirelessly to improve local communities and to make Australia a better place.

Collectively, they showcase the best attributes of Australians – as His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) has said:

"Collectively, they speak to who we are as a nation. There are countless examples of selflessness, commitment and dedication. There is diversity and there are examples of exceptional achievement in almost every field imaginable."

The broad groups of awards are meritorious, bravery and gallantry, long service and good conduct, operational service, and commemoration.

The Australian honours system is administered by the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat which forms part of the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.

Responsibility for honours policy matters rests with the Honours and Symbols Branch of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

History of the Australian honours system

The Australian honours system formally began on 14 February 1975 with the introduction of the Order of Australia, the Australian Bravery Decorations, and the National Medal.

The Order of Australia is a multi-level "society of honour", recognising the merit of the service and achievements of its individual members. The Australian Bravery Decorations recognise individual or group acts of bravery. The National Medal is a long service and good conduct medal, awarded to members of recognised government and voluntary organisations which aid people and property in times of crisis.

Although the system formally began in 1975, uniquely Australian medals existed before then. Service during World War II by Australians was recognised through the Australia Service Medal 1939-45; and a Vietnam Medal was also established, in 1968.



Both medals were created within the British Imperial honours system then in use, but could only be awarded for service by members of Australian armed forces. Even after 1975, the Australian and British systems temporarily operated in parallel. Imperial honours were awarded less often as time went on, until 1992, when it was agreed with Queen Elizabeth II that Australian governments would no longer recommend such awards.

The Sovereign still establishes Australian awards through Letters Patent, exercising the Royal prerogative. However, in most cases the Governor-General approves recommendations for appointments or awards.

Since 1975, additional Australian awards have been established to enable the recognition of various types of service and achievements to continue while the British counterpart awards were phased out. The Australian honours system has developed to a point at which it is truly unique, and tailored to Australia's needs.

About Letters Patent, Regulations, Determination, and Wearing

The Letters Patent approved by The Sovereign institutes the medal and ordains that the medal is governed by the Regulations Governing the Award. These Regulations, approved by The Sovereign, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, set out the terms and conditions of an award, and states that the design, and manner of wearing, of the medal is determined by the Governor-General.

The Determination informs the design of the medal, its associated insignia, and that the order of wearing is in accordance with [*The Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards*](#) and the manner of wearing is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*. This guide assists recipients on appropriate wearing, outlining the manner in which insignia are worn and wearing in regard to different types of dress. The design of the medal and associated insignia must be in accordance with the relevant technical specifications.

The placement of the medal is approved by The Sovereign, and [*The Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards*](#) is the notification by the Governor-General of the positioning of all awards in the Australian honours system.

These instruments collectively inform the rules and conditions associated with the Distinguished Service Decorations and the Meritorious Unit Citation.

Frequently Asked Questions

How to nominate

The Governor-General issues Distinguished Service Decorations and the Meritorious Unit Citation on the recommendation of the responsible Minister.

Awards may be made posthumously and presented to the next-of-kin.

For further information see

www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/distinguished-service-decorations

Order of wear

Each medal is worn and approved by The Sovereign in accordance with [*The Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards*](#).

Care of medals

To ensure medals remain in good condition it is important to care for them. Always try to handle medals and components with cotton gloves or avoid direct contact with hands and fingers, as they can transfer acid onto medal surfaces.

Only clean/polish your medal, miniature medal and lapel badge with the polishing cloth supplied, or a leather chamois cloth. We do not recommend the use of any liquids, chemicals, abrasives or commercial cleaning agents on any metal components.

It is recommended that after use all medal components are cleaned, buffed and placed back into the original presentation box and stored in a dry area. Additional silica gel sachets may also be placed in the box for insignia stored in humid or coastal areas.

Ordering replica and replacement insignia or additional items

Replica Insignia

Replica medals are available from medal dealers. They can be a good option for displaying medals, or wearing at events.

Replacement Insignia

When medals have been damaged, lost or stolen the recipient may request a replacement.



Additional Items

Other items such as lapel badges, miniatures, ribbons bars or rosettes may be purchased. Recipients may purchase up to six lapel badges in one year.

For recommendations of current medal dealers, or to purchase additional items, please call the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat on (02) 6283 3604.



INSIGNIA DESIGN



The Distinguished Service Cross is a modified maltese cross of nickel-silver ensigned with the Crown of St Edward. The obverse bears a Federation Star on a disc of flames. The Distinguished Service Medal is a circular medal ensigned with the Crown of St Edward of nickel-silver. The obverse bears a Federation Star superimposed on a circle of flames. These awards have ribbons of different combinations of the silver-blue of the Australian bush and ochre-red of the rocks and earth, symbolic of timelessness and unchanging. The Commendation for Distinguished Service is a central Federation Star on a nickel-silver row of flames that taper at each end. The Commendation for Distinguished Service is mounted on a ribbon of plain ochre-red of the rocks and earth.

The Meritorious Unit Citation is a rhodium plated sterling silver rectangular frame, with a design of flames emanating from the edge to the centre. The frame surrounds a ribbon bar of old gold, which displays a rhodium plated sterling silver Federation Star on its centre.



THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (DSC)

Shall be awarded only for distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations.



THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (DSM)

Shall be awarded only for distinguished leadership in warlike operations.



**COMMENDATION FOR
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

Shall be awarded only for distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations.



MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

Shall be awarded to a unit only for sustained outstanding service in warlike operations.





LETTERS PATENT,
REGULATIONS
and
DETERMINATION
OF THE
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
DECORATIONS





DISTINGUISHED SERVICE DECORATIONS LETTERS PATENT



ELIZABETH R

AUSTRALIA

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the grace of God Queen of Australia and Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth:

TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING:

WHEREAS it is desirable that there be instituted certain decorations for the purpose of according recognition to members of the Defence Force and certain other persons for distinguished command and leadership in action or distinguished leadership in action or distinguished performance of their duties in warlike operations:

KNOW YOU that We do by these Presents institute three Australian decorations to be designated and styled, respectively, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal and the Commendation for Distinguished Service:

AND WE DO ordain that the award of the decorations so instituted shall be governed by the Regulations set out in the Schedule.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.



Given under the Great Seal
of Australia at Our Court at
St. James's on 15 January 1991

By Her Majesty's Command,

BOB HAWKE
Prime Minister



ELIZABETH R

AUSTRALIA

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the grace of God Queen of Australia and Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth:

TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING:

WHEREAS, by Letters Patent dated 15 January 1991 given under the Great Seal of Australia, We instituted three Australian decorations, to be designated and styled, respectively, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal and the Commendation for Distinguished Service, for the purpose of according recognition to members of the Defence Force and certain other persons for distinguished command and leadership in action or distinguished leadership in action or distinguished performance of their duties in warlike operations:

AND WHEREAS the Letters Patent ordained that the award of the decorations be governed by the Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations set out in the Schedule to the Letters Patent:

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that certain amendments of the Regulations be made so that the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal may be awarded, respectively, for distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations and distinguished leadership in warlike operations:

KNOW YOU that We do, by these Presents, declare Our pleasure that the Letters Patent dated 15 January 1991 be amended, but without prejudice to anything lawfully done under them, as set out in the Schedule.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.



Given under the Great Seal
of Australia at Our Court at
St. James's on 13 December 2011

By Her Majesty's Command,

Prime Minister

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE DECORATIONS REGULATIONS

AS AMENDED

made under

LETTERS PATENT

This compilation was prepared in November 2023 taking into account amendments to the *Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations* – 2011.



SCHEDULE

Short title [see note 1]

- 1 These Regulations may be cited as the Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations.

Interpretation

- 2 In these Regulations –

“decoration” means:

- (a) the Distinguished Service Cross;
- (b) the Distinguished Service Medal;
- (c) the Commendation for Distinguished Service; or
- (d) a bar to the Cross or Medal.

“Defence Force” has the same meaning as in the *Defence Act 1903*.

“Minister” means the Minister of State for Defence.

Conditions for award of decorations

- 3
 - (1) The Distinguished Service Cross shall be awarded only for distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations.
 - (2) The Distinguished Service Medal shall be awarded only for distinguished leadership in warlike operations.
 - (3) The Commendation for Distinguished Service shall be awarded only for distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations.
- 4 Each decoration may be awarded posthumously.
- 5 The persons to whom a decoration may be awarded are –
 - (a) a member of the Defence Force; and
 - (b) other persons determined by the Minister for the purposes of this regulation.
- 6 Any subsequent award of the Distinguished Service Cross or the Distinguished Service Medal to the same person shall be made in the form of a bar to the Cross or the Medal, as the case may be.

Making of awards

- 7 Awards of a decoration shall be made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister.

Making of immediate awards

- 8 An immediate award of a decoration may be made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister.

Designations

- 9 (1) A person to whom the Distinguished Service Cross has been awarded is entitled to have the letters "DSC" placed after the person's name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.
- (2) A person to whom the Distinguished Service Medal has been awarded is entitled to have the letters "DSM" placed after the person's name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.
- (3) Where a person has been awarded a bar to a decoration, the person is entitled to have placed after the letters prescribed by this Regulation in respect of that decoration the words "and Bar" or the words "and Bars", as the case may be.

Design of decorations

- 10 The design of each decoration shall be as prescribed.

Wearing of decorations

- 11 The manner of wearing of each decoration shall be as determined by the Governor-General.

Registrar of Awards

- 12 (1) There shall be a Registrar of Awards appointed by the Governor-General who shall maintain a Register of the names of persons to whom decorations have been awarded.
- (2) The Registrar shall keep such other records relating to the award of decorations as the Governor-General directs.



Cancellation and reinstatement

- 13 (1) The Governor-General may cancel an award of a decoration and may reinstate an award so cancelled.
- (2) Where an award of a decoration is cancelled, the name of the person to whom the award was made shall be erased from the Register and the person shall return the decoration to the Registrar.
- (3) Where an award that has been cancelled pursuant to sub-regulation (1) is reinstated, the Registrar shall restore the entry or entries in the Register that had been erased.

Notes to the *Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations*

Note I

The *Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations* (in force under *Letters Patent*) as shown in this compilation are amended as indicated in the Tables below.

Table of Instruments

Title	Date of notification in <i>Gazette</i>	Date of commencement	Application, saving or transitional provisions
Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations	4 Feb 1991 (see <i>Gazette</i> 1991, No. S25)	15 Jan 1991	—
Amendments of the Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations – 2011	22 Feb 2012 (see <i>Gazette</i> 2012, No. S18)	13 Dec 2011	—

Table of Amendments

ad. = added or inserted | am. = amended | rep. = repealed | rs. = repealed and substituted

Provision affected	How affected
R. 3	am. 2011



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE DECORATIONS DETERMINATION

I, General the Honourable David Hurley, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting in pursuance of regulations 10 and 11 of the *Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations*, revoke the *Distinguished Service Awards Determination* made on the sixth day of July 2012, and hereby determine as follows (see note):

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

Main Piece

- 1 The Distinguished Service Cross is a modified Maltese Cross of nickel-silver ensigned with the Crown of St Edward in nickel-silver. Each axis of the cross measures 41 millimetres. The cross is surmounted by a plain nickel-silver suspender bar. The obverse of the medal bears a central device of a Federation Star superimposed on a disc of flames. The reverse bears as the central device a horizontal panel 29 millimetres wide and 8 millimetres high to allow for engraving of the recipient's name. The central panel is superimposed on a plain background.
- 2 The Distinguished Service Cross is suspended from a ribbon 32 millimetres wide and has a vertical stripe 16 millimetres wide of ochre-red flanked by two silver-blue stripes each 8 millimetres wide.
- 3 The medal thickness is 3 millimetres. The height from the top of the suspender bar to the bottom of the medal is 58 millimetres. The total height of the Main Piece is 95 millimetres.

Miniature Piece

- 4 The Miniature Piece of the Distinguished Service Cross is a half-size replica of the Main Piece suspended from a miniature ribbon 16 millimetres wide. The medal thickness is 1.5 millimetres. The height from the top of the suspender bar to the bottom of the medal is 29 millimetres. The total height of the Miniature Piece is 47.5 millimetres.

Ribbon Bar

- 5 The Ribbon Bar of the Distinguished Service Cross consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 32 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres high, with no emblem.

Lapel Badge

- 6 The Lapel Badge of the Distinguished Service Cross is a replica of the Cross 10 millimetres in diameter.

Further Awards

- 7 Second and subsequent awards of the Distinguished Service Cross are recognised by the presentation of a nickel-silver bar 35 millimetres wide and 6 millimetres high. The Bar has a central replica of a Federation Star 6 millimetres in diameter superimposed on a horizontal row of flames 32 millimetres wide. The Bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the original award. A half-size replica of the Bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the Miniature Piece. An Emblem in the form of a miniature Federation Star of nickel-silver, 9 millimetres in diameter, is attached to the Ribbon Bar.

Wearing

- 8 The Distinguished Service Cross is worn on the left breast whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Miniature Piece is worn whenever miniatures of orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Ribbon Bar is to be worn at all times with service dress. The Lapel Badge may be worn at any time with civilian dress. The manner of wearing the Distinguished Service Cross is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*.



THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Main Piece

- 9 The Distinguished Service Medal is a circular medal, 38 millimetres in diameter, of nickel-silver ensigned with the Crown of St Edward in nickel-silver. The medal is surmounted by a plain nickel-silver suspender bar. The obverse of the medal bears a Federation Star superimposed on a circle of flames. The reverse bears a horizontal panel 28 millimetres wide and 8 millimetres high to allow for engraving of the recipient's name. The central panel is superimposed over a design of fluted rays of varying lengths.
- 10 The Distinguished Service Medal is suspended from a ribbon, 32 millimetres wide by means of a narrow nickel-silver bar. The ribbon has alternating vertical stripes of equal width, four of silver-blue and three of ochre-red.
- 11 The medal thickness is 3 millimetres. The height from the top of the suspender bar to the bottom of the medal is 55 millimetres. The total height of the Main Piece is 97 millimetres.

Miniature Piece

- 12 The Miniature Piece of the Distinguished Service Medal is a half-size replica of the Main Piece suspended from a miniature ribbon 16 millimetres wide. The medal thickness is 1.5 millimetres. The height from the top of the suspender bar to the bottom of the medal is 27.5 millimetres. The total height of the Miniature Piece is 48.5 millimetres.

Ribbon Bar

- 13 The Ribbon Bar for the Distinguished Service Medal consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 32 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres high, with no emblem.

Lapel Badge

- 14 The Lapel Badge of the Distinguished Service Medal is a replica of the medal 10 millimetres in diameter.

Further Awards

- 15 Second and subsequent awards are recognised by the presentation of a nickel-silver bar 35 millimetres wide and 6 millimetres high. The Bar has a central replica of a Federation Star 6 millimetres in diameter superimposed on a horizontal row of flames 24 millimetres wide. The Bar is worn attached to a ribbon of the original award. A half-size replica of the Bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the Miniature Piece. An Emblem in the form of a miniature Federation Star on a disc of nickel-silver, 9 millimetres in diameter, is attached to the Ribbon Bar.

Wearing

- 16 The Distinguished Service Medal is worn on the left breast whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Miniature Piece is worn whenever miniatures of orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Ribbon Bar is to be worn at all times with service dress. The Lapel Badge may be worn at any time with civilian dress. The manner of wearing the Distinguished Service Medal is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*.

THE COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Main Piece

- 17 The insignia of the Commendation for Distinguished Service is a central Federation Star 7 millimetres high on a nickel-silver row of flames 22 millimetres wide tapering to a height of 3 millimetres at each end.
- 18 The insignia is attached to a plain ochre-red ribbon 32 millimetres wide and 90 millimetres high. The centre of the Federation Star is 19 millimetres from the bottom of the ribbon and 16 millimetres from either edge.
- 19 The insignia thickness is 2 millimetres. The total height of the Miniature Piece is 90 millimetres.



Miniature Piece

- 20 The Miniature Piece of the Commendation for Distinguished Service is a half-size replica of the Commendation for Distinguished Service, 3.5 millimetres high and 11 millimetres wide tapering to a height of 1.5 millimetres at each end, attached to a miniature ribbon 16 millimetres wide. The insignia thickness is 1.5 millimetres. The total height of the Miniature Piece is 45 millimetres.

Ribbon Bar

- 21 The Ribbon Bar of the Commendation for Distinguished Service consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 32 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres high. An Emblem in the form of the miniature Commendation is attached to the ribbon, horizontally.

Lapel Badge

- 22 The Lapel Badge of the Commendation for Distinguished Service is a half-size replica of the insignia of the Commendation.

Further Awards

- 23 Second and subsequent awards for the Commendation for Distinguished Service are recognised by the presentation of an additional insignia of the Commendation, 7 millimetres high and 22 millimetres wide tapering to a height of 3 millimetres at each end, which is worn attached to the ribbon of the original award, above the first Commendation. A half-size replica of the Commendation is worn attached to the ribbon of the Miniature Piece. An Emblem in the form of a miniature Commendation is attached to the Ribbon Bar, along with previous awards.

Wearing

- 24 The insignia of the Commendation for Distinguished Service is worn on the left breast whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Miniature Piece of the Commendation for Distinguished Service is worn whenever miniatures of orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Ribbon Bar is to be worn at all times with service dress. The Lapel Badge may be worn at any time with civilian dress. The manner of wearing the Commendation for Distinguished Service is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*.

ORDER OF WEAR

- 25 The Distinguished Service Decorations are worn in accordance with *The Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards*.

NOTE

- 26 The Letters Patent approved by The Sovereign institutes the Decorations and ordains that the Decorations are governed by the *Distinguished Service Decorations Regulations*. These Regulations, approved by The Sovereign, set out the terms and conditions of the Decorations, and states that the design, and manner of wearing, of the Decorations are determined by the Governor-General.
- 27 This document is known as the Determination and it informs the design of the Distinguished Service Decorations, its associated insignia, and that the order of wearing is in accordance with *The Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards* and the manner of wearing is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*. The design of the Distinguished Service Decorations and associated insignia must be in accordance with the relevant technical specifications.
- 28 The placement of the Distinguished Service Decorations is approved by The Sovereign, and *The Order of Wearing of Australian Honours and Awards* is the notification by the Governor-General of the positioning of all awards in the Australian honours system.
- 29 These instruments collectively inform the rules and conditions associated with the Distinguished Service Decorations.

Dated this 17th day of November 2023

A handwritten signature in brown ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line and a large loop.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL



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LETTERS PATENT,
REGULATIONS
and
DETERMINATION
OF THE
MERITORIOUS UNIT
CITATION





MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION LETTERS PATENT



ELIZABETH R

AUSTRALIA

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the grace of God Queen of Australia and Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth:

TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING:

WHEREAS it is desirable that there be instituted certain decorations for the purpose of recognising gallantry in action or outstanding service in warlike operations by units of the Defence Force and by units of the defence forces of other countries:

KNOW YOU that We do by these Presents institute two Australian decorations to be designated and styled, respectively, the Unit Citation for Gallantry and the Meritorious Unit Citation:

AND WE DO ordain that the award of the decorations so instituted shall be governed by the Regulations set out in the Schedule.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.



Given under the Great Seal
of Australia at Our Court at
St. James's on 15 January 1991

By Her Majesty's Command,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Bob Hawke'.

BOB HAWKE
Prime Minister



ELIZABETH R

AUSTRALIA

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the grace of God Queen of Australia and Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth:

TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING:

WHEREAS We, by Our Letters Patent dated 15 January 1991, instituted two Australian citations, designated and styled the Unit Citation for Gallantry and the Meritorious Unit Citation, for the purpose of recognising gallantry in action or outstanding service in warlike operations by units of the Defence Force and by units of the defence forces of other countries:

AND WHEREAS the Letters Patent dated 15 January 1991 ordained that the award of the citations be governed by the Regulation set out in the Schedule to those Letters Patent:

AND WHEREAS it is desired to amend that Regulation for the following purposes:

- providing conditions for the forfeiture of the medal;
- providing a condition that the award of citations is for service on or after 15 January 1991:

KNOW YOU that We do, by these Presents, declare Our pleasure that the Regulation set out in the Schedule to the Letters Patent dated 15 January 1991 be amended as set out in the following Schedule:

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.



Given under the Great Seal
of Australia at Our Court at
St. James's on 13 July 2020

By Her Majesty's Command,

Prime Minister

UNIT CITATIONS REGULATIONS

AS AMENDED

made under

LETTERS PATENT

This compilation was prepared in November 2023 taking into account amendments to the *Unit Citations Regulations* – 2020.



SCHEDULE

Short title [see note 1]

- 1 These Regulations may be cited as the Unit Citations Regulations.

Interpretation

- 2 In these Regulations –

“Australian law” means:

- (a) an Act of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory; or
- (b) a Norfolk Island enactment; or
- (c) a rule of common law.

“citation” means:

- (a) the Unit Citation for Gallantry; or
- (b) the Meritorious Unit Citation;

“Defence Force” has the same meaning as in the *Defence Act 1903*;

“extraordinary gallantry” means exceptional courage or courageous endurance above expectations while in action;

“inaction” means the physical involvement of members of a unit of the Defence Force as a part of a force engaged in conflict with an opposing force;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for the administration of Defence honours and awards;

“sustained outstanding service” means service or support performed by a unit which is substantially above the unit's normal capacity and which is for an extended period;

“unit” means either of the following:

- (a) a force element of the Defence Force assigned for operational tasking;
- (b) an allied foreign defence force unit in direct contribution to a Defence Force operation.

Conditions for award of citations

- 3 (1) The Unit Citation for Gallantry shall be awarded to a unit only for acts of extraordinary gallantry in action on or after 15 January 1991.
- (2) The Meritorious Unit Citation shall be awarded to a unit only for sustained outstanding service in warlike operations on or after 15 January 1991.

Form of citations

- 4 Each citation shall consist of:
 - (a) a certificate of citation to the unit signed by the Governor-General; and
 - (b) insignia according to the prescribed design.

Wearing of insignia

- 5 (1) Each person who was a member of a unit to which a citation is awarded at the time of an action, or during the period to which that citation relates, is entitled to wear the insignia of the citation on all occasions on which the wearing of such insignia is customary.
- (2) A person, other than a person to whom sub-regulation (1) applies, who is at any time a member of a unit to which a citation has been awarded is entitled, while the person remains a member of the unit, to wear the insignia of the citation on all occasions on which the wearing of such insignia is customary.
- (3) The manner of wearing the insignia of a citation shall be as determined by the Governor-General.

Posthumous awards

- 6 Insignia of a citation may be awarded posthumously.



Application of Regulations to persons other than members of the Defence Force

7 Where:

- (a) a citation is awarded to the unit; and
- (b) a person other than a member of the Defence Force was engaged in the performance of services with that unit at the time of the action, or during the period to which that citation relates;

these Regulations apply, on the determination of the Minister, to that person as if the person had been a member of the unit at that time or during the period, as the case may be.

Individual awards not affected

8 Award of a citation to a unit does not affect the making of awards to individual members of the unit in recognition of individual gallantry or service.

Making of awards

9 Awards of a citation shall be made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister.

Registrar of Awards

- 10 (1) There shall be a Registrar of Awards appointed by the Governor-General who shall maintain a Register of the names of the units to which citations have been awarded and of the persons to whom insignia of those citations have been issued in accordance with sub-regulation 5 (1).
- (2) The Registrar shall keep such other records relating to the award of citations as the Governor-General directs.

Cancellation and reinstatement

- 11 (1) The Governor-General, on recommendation of the Minister or the Chief of the Defence Force, may cancel the following.
 - (a) The Unit Citation.
 - (b) The right of a person to wear the insignia of a citation.
- (2) Where the Unit Citation is cancelled, the name of the unit and the name of each person to whom the insignia has been issued shall be erased from the Register and both of the following apply.
 - (a) The Unit shall return the Unit Citation to the Registrar.
 - (b) Each person shall return the insignia of a citation to the Registrar.
- (3) Where the right of a person to wear the insignia of a citation is cancelled, the name of the person shall be erased from the Register and the person shall return the insignia to the Registrar.
- (4) The Governor-General, on recommendation of the Minister or the Chief of the Defence Force, may reinstate a right so cancelled under subregulation (1).
- (5) Where a right that has been cancelled under subregulation (1) is reinstated under subregulation (4), the Registrar shall restore the entry or entries in the Register that had been erased and the Registrar will do the relevant of the following.
 - (a) The Registrar shall return Unit Citation to the Unit.
 - (b) The Registrar shall return the insignia of a citation to the person.

Forfeiture and reinstatement

- 12 (1) The right of a person to wear the insignia of a citation is forfeited if the person is convicted under Australian law for any of the following.
 - (a) Treason and related offences.
 - (b) Mutiny and related offences.
 - (c) Sabotage of Australian and allied assets.



- (d) Aiding the enemy, including assisting prisoners of war, and related offences.
 - (e) Serious terrorism related offences.
 - (f) Any other offence determined by the Governor-General.
- (2) The insignia of a citation is forfeited if the Governor-General, on the recommendation of the Minister or the Chief of the Defence Force, determines that either of the following applies.
- (a) The person is convicted of an offence which is considered to be so disgraceful or serious that it would be improper for the person to retain the award.
 - (b) The person obtained the award by making a false declaration.
- (3) The Governor-General may issue directions for the purpose of subregulation (2).
- (4) The Governor-General, on the recommendation of the Minister or the Chief of the Defence Force, may reinstate the right of a person to wear the insignia of a citation which has been forfeited under subregulation (2).
- (5) Where the right of a person to wear the insignia of a citation is forfeited, both of the following apply.
- (a) The name of the person to whom the award was made shall be erased from the Register.
 - (b) The person must return the insignia to the Registrar.
- (6) Where the right of a person to wear the insignia of a citation that has been forfeited is reinstated under subregulation (4), the Registrar must do both of the following.
- (a) Restore the entry or entries that had been erased in the Register.
 - (b) Return the insignia to the person.

Notes to the Unit Citations Regulations

Note I

The *Unit Citations Regulations* (in force under *Letters Patent*) as shown in this compilation are amended as indicated in the Tables below.

Table of Instruments

Title	Date of notification in Gazette	Date of commencement	Application, saving or transitional provisions
Unit Citations Regulations	4 Feb 1991 (see <i>Gazette</i> 1991, No. S25)	15 Jan 1991	—
Amendments of the Unit Citations Regulations – 2020	5 Aug 2020 (see <i>Gazette</i> 2020, No. C2020G00629)	13 Jul 2020	—

Table of Amendments

ad. = added or inserted | am. = amended | rep. = repealed | rs. = repealed and substituted

Provision affected	How affected
R. 2	am. 2020
R. 3	am. 2020
R. 11	rs. 2020
R. 12	ad. 2020



UNIT CITATIONS DETERMINATION

I, William George Hayden, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, having received the approval of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for the designs of the Unit Citation for Gallantry and the Meritorious Unit Citation, and acting under regulations 4 and 5 of the Unit Citation Regulations, determine as follows:

THE UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY

- I The Unit Citation for Gallantry can be found in the Gallantry Decorations booklet.

THE MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

Award of Meritorious Unit Citation

- 7 The Meritorious Unit Citation comprises an award of a Certificate of Citation to a unit signed by the Governor-General and insignia of the Citation worn by members of the unit.

Insignia Design

- 8.1 The insignia of the Citation is a rhodium plated sterling silver rectangular frame 32 millimetres wide and 15 millimetres deep surrounding a ribbon bar of old gold 28 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres deep with a design of flames emanating from the frame's outer edges to the centre.
- 8.2 A rhodium plated sterling silver Federation Star 7 millimetres in diameter is placed at the centre of the ribbon bar in accordance with paragraph 5.

Entitlement to Wear Insignia

- 9.1 When a unit is awarded a Citation, each person who was a member of the unit at the time of the action for which a Citation is awarded, or during the period to which the Citation relates, is entitled to wear the Federation Star.

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- 9.2 The insignia of the Citation and Federation Star may be worn by those members mentioned in paragraph 5 whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn.
- 9.3 A person who joins the unit after the time for which a Citation has been awarded may be entitled, while the person remains a member of the unit, to wear the insignia of the Citation without the Federation Star according to the relevant Service dress regulations.

Wearing of Insignia Dress

- 10 The Chief of Staff or the delegate of the Chief of Staff of each arm of the Defence Force may determine eligibility to wear the insignia of the Citation and its manner of wearing in accordance with:
- (a) the custom of wearing on the left breast honours and awards instituted by The Sovereign; and
 - (b) the relevant Service dress regulations.

Insignia Miniature

- 11.1 The insignia miniature is a two-thirds size replica of the insignia of the Citation surrounding a miniature ribbon bar 18 millimetres wide.
- 11.2 The miniature is worn in accordance with the appropriate Service dress regulations whenever miniatures of orders, decorations and medals are worn.

Further Awards

- 12.1 Second and subsequent awards are recognised by the presentation of a further Certificate of Citation to the unit signed by the Governor-General.
- 12.2 Only one insignia of the Citation may be worn by a member.

Dated 31st October 1991

Original signed by Bill Hayden

GOVERNOR-GENERAL



Contact INFORMATION

Administering Australia's honours

There are three organisations with primary responsibility for administering Australia's system of honours. They are the:

- Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat, Government House, Canberra;
- Honours and Symbols Section, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and
- Directorate of Honours and Awards, Department of Defence.

Government House

The Australian honours system was introduced in 1975. At that time the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat was established as part of the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General at Government House in Canberra.

The contact details are:

Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat
Dunrossil Drive, Government House
CANBERRA, ACT 2600
Phone: 02 6283 3604
Email: honours@gg.gov.au
Website: www.gg.gov.au

If you have a hard copy of this booklet, please visit our website for notification of changes since publication.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

The Honours and Symbols Section, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provides policy advice on the operation of the Australian honours system.

Phone: 02 6271 5601
Email: itsanhonour@pmc.gov.au
Website: www.pmc.gov.au/honours-and-symbols/australian-honours-system

Department of Defence

The Directorate of Honours and Awards of the Department of Defence provides policy advice on defence honours and awards. The Department is also responsible for administering defence awards.

Phone: 1800 333 362
Email: honoursandawards@defence.gov.au
Website: www.defence.gov.au/medals

