



GALLANTRY
decorations



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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.

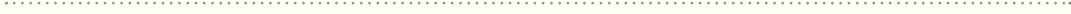
While our servicemen and women don't serve for recognition or reward, it is nonetheless important that, as a nation, we celebrate exceptional service and recognise the impact it has on the community and sometimes the individual.

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.



Contents

INTRODUCTION	6
INFORMATION ABOUT AWARDS	8
INSIGNIA DESIGN	11
VICTORIA CROSS FOR AUSTRALIA	15
GALLANTRY DECORATIONS	23
UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY	39
CONTACT INFORMATION	52



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 awards for Gallantry, the Victoria Cross for Australia and the Unit Citation for Gallantry.

Australia's highest-ranking military award is the Victoria Cross for Australia which was introduced into the Australian honours system by Letters Patent on 15 January 1991, along with the Gallantry Decorations and the Unit Citation for Gallantry.

The Victoria Cross for Australia is the pre-eminent award for acts of bravery in wartime and Australia's highest military honour. It is awarded for the most conspicuous gallantry, or daring or pre-eminent acts of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.

The Gallantry Decorations were instituted for the purpose of according recognition to members of the Defence Force and certain other persons who perform acts of gallantry in action.

There are three levels of gallantry awards for members of the country's armed forces, as well as an award to recognise a collective endeavour. The awards, commencing with the highest are:

- Star of Gallantry – awarded only for acts of great heroism or conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of great peril
- Medal for Gallantry – awarded only for acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances
- Commendation for Gallantry – awarded for other acts of gallantry in action which are considered worthy of recognition

The award to recognise gallantry in action by units of the Defence Force and by units of the defence forces of other countries is known as the Unit Citation for Gallantry. It shall be awarded to a unit only for acts of extraordinary gallantry in action.

The award of a Gallantry Decoration shall be made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence. The Governor-General may also make immediate awards on the recommendation of the Minister and may also delegate the authority to make immediate awards on the recommendation of the Minister. The award of the Victoria Cross for Australia shall be made, with the approval of the Sovereign, by Instrument signed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister.

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.

These awards are normally set for announcement on Australia Day (26 January) and The King's Birthday (the second Monday in June) each year:

Upon publication of their award, recipients are entitled to have the appropriate post nominals placed after their names on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary. This is not applicable to the award of the Unit Citation for Gallantry which does 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 Gallantry Decorations.

Frequently Asked Questions

How to nominate

The Governor-General issues Gallantry Decorations and Unit Citation for Gallantry on the recommendation of the responsible Minister; while the Sovereign approves the Victoria Cross for Australia by Instrument signed by the Governor-General.



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

For further information see

www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/gallantry-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 Victoria Cross is a Maltese Cross cast in bronze from cannons captured during the Crimean War (1854–1856). The obverse of the Victoria Cross bears a crowned lion standing on a Royal Crown. The words 'FOR VALOUR' are inscribed on a semicircular scroll beneath the crown. It is suspended by a crimson ribbon.

The Star of Gallantry is a gold-plated silver federation star ensigned with the Crown of St Edward. The obverse of the award displays a smaller Federation Star, which is surrounded by stylised flames. This image represents action under fire. The Medal for Gallantry is a gold-plated silver circular medal ensigned with the Crown of St Edward. The obverse of the medal bears a Federation Star, which is superimposed on a circle of flames. This image represents action under fire. Each of these awards have ribbons of different combinations of light-orange and deep orange of the outback sand; the deep orange occurs when a drop of water, symbolic of life, strikes light orange sand and changes its character. The reverse chevron shape suggests the 'A' of Australia. The Commendation for Gallantry is a Federation Star superimposed centrally on a gold-plated silver row of flames which is mounted on a ribbon of plain orange colour.

The Unit Citation for Gallantry is a device which is a gilt sterling-silver rectangular frame surrounding a deep-green ribbon bar with a Federation Star in its centre. Flames emanate from the frame's outer edges to the centre.



THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR AUSTRALIA

Shall only be awarded for the most conspicuous gallantry, or a daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.



THE STAR OF GALLANTRY

Shall be awarded only for acts of great heroism or conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of great peril.



THE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY

Shall be awarded only for acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances.



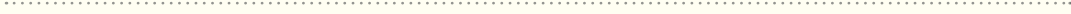
COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY

May be awarded for other acts of gallantry in action which are considered worthy of recognition.



UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY

Shall be awarded to a unit only for acts of extraordinary gallantry in action.





LETTERS PATENT,
REGULATIONS
and
DETERMINATION
OF THE
VICTORIA CROSS
FOR AUSTRALIA





VICTORIA CROSS FOR AUSTRALIA 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:

KNOW YOU that it is Our will and pleasure that the Victoria Cross for Australia be the highest decoration for according recognition to persons who, in the presence of the enemy, perform acts of the most conspicuous gallantry, or daring or pre-eminent acts of valour or self-sacrifice or display extreme devotion to duty:

AND WE DO ordain that the award of the Victoria Cross shall be governed by the Regulations set out in the Schedule.

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

L.S.

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



VICTORIA CROSS REGULATIONS

SCHEDULE

Short title

- 1 These Regulations may be cited as the Victoria Cross Regulations.

Interpretation

- 2 In these Regulations –
“decoration” means –
 - (a) the Victoria Cross; or
 - (b) a bar to the Victoria Cross.“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 The decoration shall only be awarded for the most conspicuous gallantry, or a daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.
- 4 Each decoration may be awarded posthumously.
- 5 The persons to whom the decoration may be awarded are –
 - (a) members of the Defence Force; and
 - (b) other persons determined by the Minister for the purposes of this regulation.
- 6 Any subsequent award of the Victoria Cross to the same person shall be made in the form of a bar to the Cross.

Making of awards

- 7 Awards of the decoration shall be made, with the approval of The Sovereign, by Instrument signed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister.



Designations

- 8 (1) A person to whom the Victoria Cross has been awarded is entitled to have the letters “VC” placed after the person’s name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.
- (2) Where a person has been awarded a bar to the Victoria Cross, the person is entitled to have placed after the letters prescribed by sub-regulation (1) the words “and Bar” or the words “and Bars”, as the case may be.

Design of the decoration

- 9 The design of the decoration shall be as prescribed.

Wearing of the decoration

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

Registrar of Awards

- 11 (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 the decoration has been awarded.
- (2) The Registrar shall keep such other records relating to the award of the decoration as the Governor-General directs.

Cancellation and reinstatement

- 12 (1) The Governor-General may cancel an award of the decoration and may reinstate an award so cancelled.
- (2) Where an award of the 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.

VICTORIA CROSS DETERMINATION

I, Sir Peter Cosgrove, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting in pursuance of regulations 9 and 10 of the *Victoria Cross Regulations*, revoke the *Victoria Cross Determination* made on the eleventh day of November 1991, and hereby determine as follows:

VICTORIA CROSS

Medal Design

- 1 The Victoria Cross is a bronze cross with each axis measuring 35 millimetres. The arms of the Cross have raised edges. The obverse bears a Crowned Lion standing on the Royal Crown with the words "FOR VALOUR" inscribed on a semi-circular scroll below the Crown. The reverse bears raised edges on the arms of the cross and the date of the act for which the Cross is awarded is engraved within a circle in the centre.

Medal Ribbon

- 2 The Victoria Cross is suspended from a crimson ribbon 38.5 millimetres wide.

Medal Miniature

- 3 The miniature of the Victoria Cross is a half-size replica of the Cross suspended from a miniature ribbon 16 millimetres wide.

Ribbon Bar

- 4 The ribbon bar of the Victoria Cross consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 41 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres high, and is worn with an emblem which is a representation of the Cross, each axis measuring 9 millimetres.



Lapel Badge

- 5 The lapel badge of the Victoria Cross is a replica of the Cross, with each axis measuring 10 millimetres.

Further Awards

- 6 Second and subsequent awards are recognised by the presentation of a bar, the dimensions of which are 38.5 millimetres wide and 6 millimetres high, worn attached to the ribbon of the full-size Cross. A half-size replica of the bar is worn attached to the ribbon of the miniature Cross. An additional emblem is worn on the ribbon bar for each further award.

Wearing

- 7 The Victoria Cross is worn on the left breast whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn. The miniature Cross is worn whenever miniatures or orders, decorations and medals are worn. The ribbon bar may be worn at any time with service dress. The lapel badge may be worn at any time with civilian dress.

Order of Wear

- 8 The Victoria Cross is worn in accordance with the *Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards* as approved by The Sovereign.

Dated 28th August 2017

Original Signed by Sir Peter Cosgrove

GOVERNOR-GENERAL



LETTERS PATENT,
REGULATIONS
and
DETERMINATION
OF THE
GALLANTRY
DECORATIONS





GALLANTRY 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 who perform acts of gallantry in action:

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

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 by Letters Patent dated 15 January 1991 We instituted certain decorations for the purpose of according recognition to members of the Defence Force and certain other persons who perform acts of gallantry in action:

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that certain amendments be made to the Regulations, set out in the Schedule to Our aforesaid Letters Patent, governing the award of the Star of Gallantry, the Medal for Gallantry and the Commendation for Gallantry, so as to enable each of the decorations to be awarded for an act in operations in circumstances similar to armed combat or actual operations:

KNOW YOU that We do, by these Presents, declare Our pleasure that the Gallantry Decorations Regulations set out in the Schedule to Our aforesaid Letters Patent be amended, but without prejudice to anything lawfully done thereunder, as set out in the Schedule hereto and with effect on and from 29 July 1994:

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

L.S.

Given under the Great Seal
of Australia in Canberra on
17 October 1996

By Her Majesty's Command,

Prime Minister

GALLANTRY DECORATIONS REGULATIONS

AS AMENDED

made under

LETTERS PATENT

This compilation was prepared on 22 May 2009
taking into account amendments to the *Gallantry Decorations Regulations* – 1996.

Prepared by the Office of Legislative Drafting and Publishing,
Attorney-General's Department, Canberra



SCHEDULE

Short title [see note 1]

- 1 These Regulations may be cited as the Gallantry Decorations Regulations.

Interpretation

- 2 In these Regulations –

“decoration” means –

- (a) the Star of Gallantry;
- (b) the Medal for Gallantry;
- (c) the Commendation for Gallantry; or
- (d) a bar to the Star 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 Star of Gallantry shall be awarded only for acts of great heroism or conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of great peril.
- (2) The Medal for Gallantry shall be awarded only for acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances.
- (3) The Commendation for Gallantry may be awarded for other acts of gallantry in action which are considered worthy of recognition.

Decorations may be awarded in certain other circumstances

- 3A A decoration referred to in regulation 3 may be awarded for an act of a kind mentioned in relation to the particular decoration, although the act did not occur in action, if it occurred in circumstances similar to armed combat or actual operations and those concerned were deployed under military command.

-
- 4 Each decoration may be awarded posthumously.
 - 5 The persons to whom a decoration may be awarded are –
 - (a) members of the Defence Force; and
 - (b) other persons determined by the Minister for the purposes of this regulation.
 - 6 Any subsequent award of the Star of Gallantry or the Medal for Gallantry to the same person shall be made in the form of a bar to the Star 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 (1) An immediate award of a decoration may be made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister.
- (2) The Governor-General may delegate the authority to make immediate awards on the recommendation of the Minister.

Designations

- 9 (1) A person to whom the Star of Gallantry has been awarded is entitled to have the letters “SG” placed after the person’s name on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.
- (2) A person to whom the Medal for Gallantry has been awarded is entitled to have the letters “MG” 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 the 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 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 Gallantry Decorations Regulations

Note I

The *Gallantry Decorations Regulations* (in force under *Letters Patent*) as shown in this compilation is 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
Gallantry Decorations Regulations	4 Feb 1991 (see <i>Gazette</i> 1991, No. S25)	15 Jan 1991	—
Amendment of the Gallantry Decorations Regulations – 1996	6 Nov 1996 (see <i>Gazette</i> 1996, No. S420)	17 Oct 1996	—

Table of Amendments

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

Provision affected	How affected
R. 3A	ad. 1996 No. S420



GALLANTRY DECORATIONS DETERMINATION

I, General the Honourable David Hurley, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting in pursuance of regulations 9 and 10 of the *Gallantry Decorations Regulations*, revoke the *Gallantry Decorations Determination* made on the sixth day of July 2012, and hereby determine as follows (see note):

THE STAR OF GALLANTRY

Main Piece

- 1 The Star of Gallantry is a gold-plated silver Federation Star, ensigned with the Crown of St Edward in gold-plated silver. Each axis of the star measures 37 millimetres. The star is surmounted by a gold-plated suspender bar of fixed configuration, with the raised words 'FOR GALLANTRY' running the width of the bar on the obverse. The obverse of the star bears a superimposed central device of a smaller Federation Star with each axis measuring 22 millimetres. The reverse of the star bears a central horizontal panel 25 millimetres across and 9 millimetres high to allow for engraving of the recipient's name. This central panel is superimposed on a stepped background.
- 2 The Star of Gallantry is suspended from a ribbon 32 millimetres wide and has a design of chevrons of deep orange 3.25 millimetres wide alternating with chevrons of light orange 1.75 millimetres angled at 60 degrees. The ribbon's chevron pattern is a stylised 'A' with the points facing upwards when viewed with the obverse apparent. The apex of a deep orange chevron should coincide with the top of the ribbon when mounted for wearing.
- 3 At the highest point, the central device, the thickness is 3.5 millimetres and from the edge of the central device to the medal's edge the thickness is 2.5 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 96 millimetres.

Miniature Piece

- 4 The Miniature Piece of the Star of Gallantry is a half-size replica of the Main Piece suspended from a miniature ribbon 16 millimetres wide. At the highest point, the central device, the thickness is 2 millimetres and from the edge of the central device to the medal's edge the 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 48 millimetres.

Ribbon Bar

- 5 The Ribbon Bar of the Star of Gallantry 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 Star of Gallantry is a replica of the star 10 millimetres in diameter.

Further Awards

- 7 Second and subsequent awards of the Star of Gallantry are recognised by the presentation of a gold-plated silver Bar 35 millimetres wide and 6 millimetres high. The Bar has a superimposed central replica of the Federation Star 6 millimetres in diameter 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 on the ribbon of the Miniature Piece. An Emblem in the form of a Federation Star of gold-plated silver, 9 millimetres in diameter, is worn on the Ribbon Bar.

Wearing

- 8 The Star of Gallantry is worn on the left breast whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn. The Miniature Piece is worn whenever miniatures of orders, decoration 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 Gallantry Decorations is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*.



THE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY

Main Piece

- 9 The Medal for Gallantry is a circular medal, 38 millimetres in diameter, of gold-plated silver ensigned with the Crown of St Edward in gold-plated silver. The medal is surmounted by a gold-plated silver suspender bar of fixed configuration, with the raised words 'FOR GALLANTRY' running the width of the bar on the obverse. The obverse bears a central device of a Federation Star superimposed on a circle of flames representing action under fire. The reverse bears a horizontal panel 28 millimetres across and 8 millimetres high to allow for engraving of the recipient's name. This panel is superimposed over a design of fluted rays of varying lengths.
- 10 The Medal for Gallantry is suspended from a ribbon 32 millimetres wide and has a design of chevrons of light orange 3.25 millimetres wide alternating with chevrons of deep orange 1.75 millimetres angled at 60 degrees. The ribbon's chevron pattern is a stylised 'A' with the points facing upwards when viewed with the obverse apparent. The apex of a light orange chevron should coincide with the top of the ribbon when mounted for wearing.
- 11 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 97 millimetres.

Miniature Piece

- 12 The Miniature Piece of the Medal for Gallantry is a half-size replica of the Main Piece suspended from a miniature ribbon 16 millimetres wide. The medal thickness is 2 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 48.5 millimetres.

Ribbon Bar

- 13 The Ribbon Bar of the Medal for Gallantry 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 Medal for Gallantry is a replica of the medal 10 millimetres in diameter.

Further Awards

- 15 Second and subsequent awards are recognised by the presentation of a gold-plated silver Bar 35 millimetres wide and 6 millimetres high. The Bar has a central replica of the 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 Federation Star on a disc of gold-plated silver 9 millimetres in diameter is worn on the Ribbon Bar.

Wearing

- 16 The Medal for Gallantry 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 Gallantry Decorations is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*.

THE COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY

Main Piece

- 17 The insignia of the Commendation for Gallantry is a Federation Star 7 millimetres at each axis superimposed centrally on a gold-plated silver row of flames 22 millimetres wide tapering to a height of 3 millimetres at each end.
- 18 The insignia is attached to an orange 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 medal thickness is 1.5 millimetres. The total height of the Main Piece is 90 millimetres.



Miniature Piece

- 20 The Miniature Piece of the Commendation for Gallantry is a half-size replica of the Commendation for Gallantry attached to a miniature ribbon 16 millimetres wide. The medal thickness is 1.2 millimetres. The total height of the Miniature Piece is 45 millimetres.

Ribbon Bar

- 21 The Ribbon Bar of the Commendation for Gallantry consists of a strip of full-size ribbon, 32 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres high, with an Emblem of the miniature Commendation for Gallantry attached to the ribbon, horizontally.

Lapel Badge

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

Further Awards

- 23 Second and subsequent awards of the Commendation for Gallantry are recognised by the presentation of an additional Commendation 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 Gallantry 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 Gallantry Decorations is in accordance with the *Guide to the Wearing of Insignia*.

ORDER OF WEAR

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

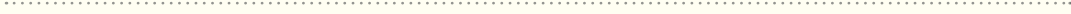
NOTE

- 26 The Letters Patent approved by The Sovereign institutes the Decorations and ordains that the Decorations are governed by the *Gallantry 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 Gallantry 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 Gallantry Decorations and associated insignia must be in accordance with the relevant technical specifications.
- 28 The placement of Gallantry 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 Gallantry Decorations.

Dated this 17th day of November 2023



GOVERNOR-GENERAL





LETTERS PATENT,
REGULATIONS
and
DETERMINATION
OF THE
UNIT CITATION
FOR GALLANTRY





UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY 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.

L.S.

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.

L.S.

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.



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- (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 <i>Gazette</i>	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

Award of Unit Citation for Gallantry

- 1 The Unit Citation for Gallantry 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

- 2.1 The insignia of the Citation is a gilt sterling silver rectangular frame 32 millimetres wide and 15 millimetres deep surrounding a deep-green ribbon bar 28 millimetres wide and 10 millimetres deep with a design of flames emanating from the frame's outer edges to the centre.
- 2.2 A gilt sterling silver Federation Star 7 millimetres in diameter is placed at the centre of the ribbon bar in accordance with paragraph 3.1.

Entitlement to Wear Insignia

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The insignia of the Citation and Federation Star may be worn by those members mentioned in paragraph 3.1 whenever full-size orders, decorations and medals are worn.

-
- 3.3 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

- 4 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

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

Further Awards

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

THE MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

- 7 The Meritorious Unit Citation Determination can be found in the Distinguished Service Decorations Booklet.

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

