



DEFENCE INSTRUCTIONS (ARMY)

Department of Defence (Army Headquarters)
CANBERRA ACT 2600

3 July 2008

Amendments to the Defence Instruction (Army) listed below is issued by my command pursuant to section 9A of the *Defence Act 1903*.

P.F. LEAHY
Lieutenant General
Chief of Army

ISSUE NO PERS 6/2008

Amendment

PERS 119-1 *Army Combat Badge*
AMDT NO 2
(Complete Revision)

Cancellation

DI(A) PERS 119-1 ISSUE NO PERS 8/2006 of 5 OCT 2006 (AL1) is cancelled.

Note: Instructions for filing and maintaining DI(A) are contained in DI(G) ADMIN 01-1 (filed as DI(A) ADMIN 1-3).

ARMY COMBAT BADGE

INTRODUCTION

1. The Army Combat Badge (ACB) is issued to any member of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) for service with an Army combat element in warlike operations. This badge does not replace the Infantry Combat Badge (ICB).

PURPOSE

2. The purpose of the ACB is to recognise any ADF member who was force assigned to an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer based combat team/battle group, or similar unit/sub-unit, and who has served for a specified period of time on warlike operations. The purpose of the ACB is not to recognise combat duties but to recognise service with a combat element through formal force assignment.

AIM

3. The aim of this Instruction is to detail the policy and procedures applicable for the issue of the ACB.

DEFINITIONS

4. **Approval Authority** unless otherwise stated is the Director-General Personnel—Army (DGPERS-A).

5. **Combat team/battle group** is a tactical grouping of combat arms, combat support and combat service support elements based on an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer headquarters (HQ).

6. **Member** in this Instruction means any full-time member of the ADF or part-time member of the ADF, who were on continuous full-time service at the time of deployment.

7. **Satisfactory service.** All service will be considered satisfactory unless deemed otherwise by the recommending officer. Unsatisfactory service is to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the recommending officer. All incidents of unsatisfactory service must be documented.

8. **Warlike operations** are defined as service in an operational area that has been declared warlike for the purposes of the award of the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM). The ACB will not be granted for deployments where the Australian Service Medal is awarded.

ELIGIBILITY

9. To be eligible to be issued the ACB, a member must be:

- a. force assigned to a combat team/battle group, or similar unit/sub-unit;
- b. have served either a continuous or an aggregate of 90 days satisfactory service on warlike operations for a single deployment or operation; and
- c. have not been previously issued the ICB or ACB.

Exceptional circumstances

10. The Approval Authority may approve the issue of the ACB to members on exchange/attachment duties for service with an allied unit, who meet the criteria detailed in [paragraph 9](#).

11. The Approval Authority may approve the issue of the ACB where a member satisfies the requirement of [paragraph 9.a](#). but fails to meet the requirement in [paragraph 9.b](#). due to being:

- a. killed in action (KIA);
- b. wounded in action (WIA);
- c. evacuated from the theatre of operations because of a disability (not self-inflicted) attributable to that service; or
- d. where the duration of the conflict was less than 90 days, but in all other circumstances, the nature of the conflict would qualify for the ACB.

12. The Approval Authority and the Army Capability Management Committee (ACMC) may approve the issue of the ACB where a member does not satisfy the requirement of [paragraph 9.a](#)., if the member or an association can prove that they were attached to an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer based combat team/battle group, or similar unit/sub-unit. The member is required to have met the requirement of [paragraph 9.b](#)., unless the circumstances described in [paragraph 11](#). apply.

13. The Chief of Army may alter the eligibility criteria depending on the operation or deployment.

Designated areas of qualifying service

14. Any area of operation, recognised by the award of an AASM is recognised to meet the eligibility criteria for the ACB. A list of currently recognised areas of operations is in [annex A](#).

AUTHORISATION AND APPROVAL TO WEAR THE BADGE

15. **Approval under normal circumstances for current operations.** The following responsibilities apply in granting authority to wear the badge where the criteria is clearly met:

- a. **Recommending authority.** Where the issuing of the badge to an individual clearly lies within the eligibility requirements outlined in [paragraph 9.](#), the unit Commanding Officer (CO) of the deployed force recommends the issue of the ACB.
- b. **Approval authority.** Where the criteria in [paragraph 9](#). are clearly met, the Commander Australian Contingent (COMASC) of the deployed force may approve the issue of the ACB. In circumstances where COMASC is not an Army officer, DGPERS-A is the Approval Authority.

16. **Approval under exceptional circumstances.** The following responsibilities apply in granting authority to wear the badge where exceptional circumstances may apply:

- a. **Recommending authority.** As follows:
 - (1) For personnel with service on exchange/attachment with an allied unit who meet the criteria detailed in [paragraph 9.](#), the CO of the member's current unit is to make a recommendation and forward the application to the Approval Authority.
 - (2) For current serving members who are making a retrospective claim for the award of the ACB and were not force assigned, but were attached to an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer based combat team/battle group and who believe they may be entitled to the award of the ACB, the CO of the member's current unit is to make a recommendation and forward the application to the Approval Authority.

- (3) Ex-serving members who were not force assigned, but were attached to an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer based combat team/battle group and who believe they may be entitled to the award of the ACB are to submit their application to their Corps association (if a member) for forwarding to their respective Heads of Corps (HOC). If the member is submitting a claim for the ACB as an individual, they are to forward the application direct to their HOC. The HOC is to make a recommendation and forward the application to the Approval Authority.
- b. **Approval authority.** DGPERS–A is the Approval Authority for all applications that meet the exceptional circumstances criteria, outlined in [paragraph 10.](#) and 11. Applications for the award of the ACB under the exceptional circumstances criteria outlined in [paragraph 12.](#) will be vetted by DGPERS–A and where the criteria is met, forwarded by DGPERS–A to the ACMC for consideration.

17. The application form to be used for the issue of the ACB for personnel on current operations is in [annex B.](#) The application form to be used for the issue of the ACB for personnel with service on exchange/attachment with an allied unit is in [annex C.](#) The application form to be used by current serving members who are making a retrospective claim for the award of the ACB and were not force assigned, but were attached to an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer based combat team/battle group is in [annex D.](#) The application form to be used by ex-serving members who were not force assigned, but were attached to an infantry, armour, artillery, aviation or combat engineer based combat team/battle group is in [annex E.](#)

RETROSPECTIVITY

18. **Eligibility.** The issue of the ACB is retrospective to Malaya 1948. The ACB will only be issued retrospectively to applicants who were members of the Australian Army at the time of their eligible service. The badge will not be issued to deceased members unless the member was KIA or died of wounds. A non-exhaustive list of operations, combat elements and units which are recognised as meeting the ACB eligibility requirements are listed in [annex A.](#)

Application for service prior to 1989

19. Corps associations have been requested to provide the respective HOC with a list of eligible persons for endorsement using the format in [annex F,](#) noting the requirement for the list to contain members of all corps who served with the appropriate unit.

20. Respective HOC are to provide a recommendation and forward the list to the Approval Authority. After approval, DGPERS–A will dispatch the requisite number of badges to the Corps association. Corps associations are responsible for distributing the ACB to eligible members including postage and handling costs.

Application for retrospective service from 1989 onwards—ex-serving members

21. Ex-serving and all Standby Reserve members who believe they fulfil the eligibility criteria listed in [paragraph 9.,](#) may apply for the ACB using the application form in [annex E.](#) The application form is to be sent to the member's HOC for a recommendation prior to the application being sent to the Approval Authority. Applications which do not contain a recommendation from the HOC will not be processed. The application form must contain proof that the member served on an eligible operation for the required period by providing supporting documentation such as a certified true copy of the record of service (usually attached to the Certificate of Discharge) or a Statutory Declaration.

22. HOC are to send the completed applications for the ACB to the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) Ceremonial—Army for consideration by the Approval Authority.

23. Approved applicants will be sent their ACB entitlement to their nominated postal address.

Retrospective application for service from 1989 onwards—serving members

24. Serving Australian Regular Army and Active Reserve members who believe they are eligible to receive the ACB are to apply using the application form in [annex D](#). The claim for the ACB must be validated by the unit using either PMKeyS, unit records, posting history or in the last resort, a Statutory Declaration and recommended by the CO of the member's current unit, before being forwarded to the Approval Authority.

25. Once approved, members can draw their ACB entitlement from their supporting clothing store.

26. **Approval of retrospective claims.** The Approval Authority can approve all retrospective claims, with the exception of those applications by members who were not force assigned and are seeking approval under exceptional circumstances. These applications are vetted by the Approval Authority and where the eligibility criteria contained in [paragraph 12](#) is met, are forwarded to ACMC for consideration.

ADMINISTRATION

Recording on PMKeyS

27. A Systems Change Request has been submitted by Army to allow for the data entry of a recipient's ACB into PMKeyS. This functionality should be available in July 2008. DGPERS–A is responsible for developing a process for recording member's details on PMKeyS once this functionality becomes available. In the interim unit HQ are responsible to create a consolidated list of ACB recipients as per [annex G](#).

Description

28. The badge, finished in burnished bronze, is in the form of two crossed swords surrounded by a laurel wreath. It is approximately 30 mm wide and fixed to the uniform by means of pins and clutch grips. A miniature of the badge is worn on mess dress.

Basis of issue

29. Each eligible serving member will be issued two full-size ACB. Officers and senior noncommissioned officers (SNCO) are also entitled to one miniature ACB at public expense. Ex-service members are entitled to one full-size ACB. Ex-serving officers and SNCO are also entitled to one miniature ACB at public expense. Replacement ACB are at individual expense. Units can indent for the number of ACB required through the Q system using NSN 8455–66–154–1815. For future operations, the ACB should be issued to eligible members prior to their return to Australia.

Wearing of the badge

30. The ACB is to be worn by eligible serving members of the Australian Army whilst in uniform. The Badge may be worn by eligible ex-service members, who subsequently join other uniformed organisations whose dress regulations permit the wearing, in uniform, of military awards. Eligible retired members may also wear the ACB, with the appropriate uniform, when attending military functions. On those occasions where medals may be worn on civilian clothes, the ACB may also be worn. Members of Services other than Army are to apply to their Service Chief for permission to wear the ACB once issued.

31. The badge is worn on the left breast, centrally placed one centimetre immediately above the medal ribbons or medals, with all orders of dress. On mess dress and mess dress white jacket a miniature of the badge is to be worn in the same location. For members entitled to wear another award badge, ie Badges Flying/Parachute Instructor, on the left breast, the ACB is to be worn one centimetre above the Badges Flying/Parachute Instructor. Only the ACB or the ICB may be worn, not both.

Forfeiture and restoration

32. Should any member forfeit campaign stars or medals, then the ACB shall also be forfeited. Upon restoration of forfeited campaign stars or medals, the forfeited ACB shall also be restored.

Infantry Combat Badge

33. The ACB does not replace the ICB. The ICB Instruction [Defence Instruction \(Army\) PERS 97-5—Infantry Combat Badge](#) remains extant.

Sponsor: DGPERS-A

Annexes:

- A. [Army Combat Badge—Qualifying Service since 16 June 1948](#)
- B. [Application for current serving members to be issued the Army Combat Badge](#)
- C. [Application to be issued the Army Combat Badge for service on exchange/attachment with an allied unit](#)
- D. [Application to be retrospectively issued the Army Combat Badge current serving members](#)
- E. [Application to be issued the Army Combat Badge— ex-serving members](#)
- F. [Application through a Corps Association to be issued the Army Combat Badge—ex-serving members](#)
- G. [Unit consolidated list of Army Combat Badge recipients](#)

**ARMY COMBAT BADGE—QUALIFYING SERVICE SINCE
16 JUNE 1948**

Serial	Campaign	Medal Awarded	Eligibility	Units
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1	Malaya	GSM—clasp Malaya	16 June 1948–31 July 1960 (Malaya) 16 June 1948–31 January 1959 (Singapore)	1 RAR Bn Gp 2 RAR Bn Gp 3 RAR Bn Gp
2	Korea	Korea Medal	01 July 1950–27 July 1953	1 RAR Bn Gp 2 RAR Bn Gp 3 RAR Bn Gp
3	Borneo	GSM (1962)—clasp Borneo	24 December 1962– 11 August 1966	3 RAR Bn Gp 4 RAR Bn Gp 1 SAS Sqn 2 SAS Sqn
4	Malay/Thai border	AASM—clasp Thai/Malay	01 August 1960–16 August 1964	1 RAR Bn Gp 2 RAR Bn Gp 3 RAR Bn Gp
5	South Vietnam	GSM (1962)—clasp South Vietnam Vietnam Medal	24 December 1962– 28 May 1964 29 May 1964–27 January 1973 (Eligibility terminates 20 December 1972)	1 Armoured Regt 3 Cavalry Regt 1 APC Sqn 4/19 PWLH APC Tp 1 Fd Regt 4 Fd Regt 12 Fd Regt 131 Div Loc Bty 1 Fd Sqn 161 Ind Recon Sqn 161 Recon Flt 1 SAS Sqn 2 SAS Sqn 3 SAS Sqn AATTV 1 ATF Def Pl 1 RAR Bn Gp 2 RAR Bn Gp 3 RAR Bn Gp 4 RAR Bn Gp 5 RAR Bn Gp 6 RAR Bn Gp 7 RAR Bn Gp 8 RAR Bn Gp 9 RAR Bn Gp 21 Engr Spt Tp
6	Malaysia	GSM (1962)—clasp Malay Peninsula	17 August 1962–12 June 1965	3 RAR Bn Gp
7	Kuwait	AASM—clasp Kuwait	17 January 1991– 28 February 1991	Exchange pers serving in zone
8	Somalia	AASM—clasp Somalia	UNITAF 10 January 1993–21 May 1993 UNOSOM2	1 RAR Bn Gp Elm of SASR

Serial	Campaign	Medal Awarded	Eligibility	Units
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
9	Rwanda	AASM—Rwanda	OPERATION TAMAR and ending as part of United Nations Assistance Mission	A Coy 2/4 RAR B Coy 2 RAR
10	East Timor	AASM—clasp East Timor OP Warden—60 Days to Qualify	OP Faber/Stabilise 16 September 1999– 23 February 2000 OP Warden 16 September 1999– 10 April 2000 OP Tanager 20 February 2000– 19 May 2002 OP Citadel 20 May 2002– 18 August 2003	2 Cav Regt Tp 2/14 LHR Tp B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt Tp 3 CER Elm 1 Avn Regt Elm 5 Avn Regt 1 RAR Bn Gp 2 RAR Bn Gp 3 RAR Bn Gp 4 RAR Bn Gp 5/7 RAR Bn Gp 6 RAR Bn Gp SASR
11	Afghanistan	AASM—clasp ICAT For service only within Afghanistan	OP Slipper 02 December 2001– 05 December 2002 OP Slipper 19 July 2005 onwards	Avn Element SOTG's RTF
12	Iraq	AASM—clasp Iraq 2003 OP Falconer— 30 Days to Qualify OP Catalyst—90 Days to Qualify For service only within Iraq	OP Falconer 20 March 2003– 15 July 2003 OP Catalyst 16 July 2003	SECDT AMTG AATT-I IED Teams SASR Gp OBG-W

I certify that the personnel whose names are listed above have met the criteria for the Army Combat Badge (ACB) in accordance with [Defence Instruction \(Army\) PERS 119-1—Army Combat Badge](#) and are recommended to be approved to be issued the ACB.

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

CO Signature
CO Signature Block

Date:

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

COMASC Signature
COMASC Signature Block

Date:

**APPLICATION TO BE ISSUED THE ARMY COMBAT BADGE FOR
SERVICE ON EXCHANGE/ATTACHMENT WITH AN ALLIED UNIT**

PMKeyS Number:

Army Number:

Last Name:

Given Names:

Rank:

Operation Name or Acronym:

Dates deployed: From to

Combat Element/Unit served with:

Justification for permission to be issued the Army Combat Badge (ACB):

Based on the stated service and the justification given, I propose that the above member be eligible to wear the ACB under the provisions of [Defence Instruction \(Army\) PERS 119-1—Army Combat Badge](#).

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

CO Signature
CO Signature Block

Date:

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

DGPERS-A Signature
DGPERS-A Signature Block

Date:

APPLICATION TO BE RETROSPECTIVELY ISSUED THE ARMY COMBAT BADGE CURRENT SERVING MEMBERS

PMKeyS Number:

Army Number:

Last Name:

Given Names:

Rank:

Operation Name or Acronym:

Dates deployed: From to

Unit deployed with:

Combat element you were force assigned or attached to:

Justification for permission to be issued the Army Combat Badge (ACB):

The following supporting documents are attached:

PMKeyS printout of your operational service record (circle one)?	Yes	No
Copy of the Operational Manning Document (circle one)?	Yes	No
Posting order to the operation (circle one)?	Yes	No
Statutory declaration detailing your operational service history (circle one)?	Yes	No

Based on the stated service and the justification given, I propose that the above member be eligible to wear the ACB under the provisions of [Defence Instruction \(Army\) PERS 119-1—Army Combat Badge](#).

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

CO Signature
CO Signature Block

Date:

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

DGPERS-A Signature
DGPERS-A Signature Block

Date:

**APPLICATION TO BE ISSUED THE ARMY COMBAT BADGE—
EX-SERVING MEMBERS**

Identifying You

PMKeyS Number/Army Number:

Last Name:

Given Names:

Rank on Discharge:

Identifying the Operation

Operation Name or Acronym:

Unit deployed with:

Combat element you were force assigned or attached to:

Dates deployed: From to

If a certified copy of you record of service attached (circle one)? Yes No

If No, is a Statutory Declaration attached? Yes No

Where do we send the ACB or correspondence?

Address line 1 or PO Box:

Address line 2:

Suburb:

State: Post Code:

Contact Details

Telephone:

Mobile Telephone:

Email address:

I, (insert full name), declare that I have read the [Defence Instruction \(Army\) PERS 119-1—Army Combat Badge](#) and that I fulfil all of the eligibility requirements and declare that the above information is true and correct.

Your Signature

(Printed Name)

Date:

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

HOC Signature

HOC Signature Block

Date:

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

DGPERS-A Signature

DGPERS-A Signature Block

Date:

**APPLICATION THROUGH A CORPS ASSOCIATION TO BE ISSUED
 THE ARMY COMBAT BADGE—EX-SERVING MEMBERS**

Service Number	Rank on Discharge	Initials	Name	Deployed Unit	Operation or Deployment	Dates of Deployment	Record of service provided
							Yes/No
							Yes/No
							Yes/No
							Yes/No
							Yes/No
							Yes/No

Submitted by Association

Contact name and address

Telephone number

RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED

Head of Corps Signature
Head of Corps Signature Block
 Date:

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

DGPERS-A Signature
Approved/Not Approved
 Date:
 (quantity) Badges dispatched by
 Date

