CHAPTER 11

HONORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (MILITARY DIVISION)

Introduction

11.1 Members of the armed forces of a country, other than Australia, may be appointed as honorary members of the Military Division of the Order of Australia (the Order). These appointments may be in the grades of Companion (AC), Officer (AO) or Member (AM). The Medal of the Order does not constitute an appointment to the Order and therefore honorary appointment is not available.

Nomination and processing procedures

11.2 Nomination and processing procedures are detailed in Annex A.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Eligibility criteria

11.3 In keeping with the prestige and integrity of the Order, nominated personnel will be expected to have clearly demonstrated eminent service in duties of great responsibility, distinguished service in responsible positions or exceptional service or exceptional performance of duty in relation to Australia or Australia’s interests. Examples could include distinguished service by a foreign service commander who works with or commands Australian Defence force personnel, or a foreign service commander who has played a major role in strengthening Australia’s military alliances.

Recommending authorities

11.4 The Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) may recommend to the Minister for Defence an honorary appointment to the Order. This recommendation will usually be made following a recommendation from a Service Chief, the Vice Chief of the Defence Force or the Chief of Joint Operations.

Foreign Government notification requirements

11.5 Some governments require their permission in advance of any honour being bestowed on their citizens. As a matter of courtesy, and to avoid any potential embarrassment, all foreign governments are to be given advance notice and asked for their concurrence to any proposed Australian honour for one of their citizens. This is organised by the Directorate of Honours and Awards (DH&A) after the Governor-General has given approval for the award.

Quotas

11.6 Honorary awards are not subject to a quota and do not have any effect on quotas for normal appointments to the Order.

Presentation of award

11.7 Once the necessary agreements have been obtained, Government House is to be advised by DH&A to enable the honorary appointment to be gazetted.

11.8 DH&A staff will liaise with the Governor-General’s staff to determine whether the Governor-General will be able to present the award. If this is not possible, a suitable representative will be identified and appropriate presentation arrangements made.
Termination of honorary appointments and cancellation of awards

11.9 The *Termination and Cancellation Ordinance* of the Constitution of the Order of Australia, approved by the Governor-General (Commonwealth of Australia Gazette S177 of 13 September 2007), specifies a number of grounds for terminating an appointment to the Order.

11.10 In general terms any appointment to the Order may be terminated as a result of:
   a. a conviction for a crime or offence under a law of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory or a law of a foreign country;
   b. imposition of a civil penalty under a law of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory or a foreign country; or
   c. a finding of a court, tribunal or other body exercising judicial or administrative power under a law of the Commonwealth, a State or a foreign country that is adverse to the holder of an honorary appointment.

11.11 The Governor-General may also terminate an appointment if:
   a. in the opinion of the Governor-General the holder of the appointment has behaved in a manner that has brought disrepute on the Order;
   b. the Governor-General is satisfied that any information on which a recommendation to make an appointment was based on false or misleading information; or
   c. the Governor-General is satisfied that it would not have been desirable to make the appointment because of any information that was not available to the Governor-General or to the Minister for Defence when the recommendation to make the appointment was made (whether or not the information existed when the recommendation or decision was made).

11.12 Where there are grounds for termination, CDF may write to the Minister requesting the Minister to recommend to the Governor-General that a particular honorary appointment be cancelled.

Annex:

A. **Nomination and processing procedures for honorary appointment to the Order of Australia (Military Division)**