



MINUTE

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DGNPT (R8-9-020)
DGPERS-A (R8-9-019)
DGPERS-AF (R8-9-025)

For Information:

Navy News (Garden Is)
Army News (R8-LG-X029)
Air Force News (R8-LG-042)

AWARD OF THE AUSTRALIAN SERVICE MEDAL (ASM) WITH CLASP 'MIDDLE EAST' FOR NORTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN DEPLOYMENTS

1. Following recent reviews, service in RAN ships in the North West Indian Ocean deployments from 1 September 1980 to 31 July 1986 has been approved for the award of the ASM with Clasp 'Middle East'. The qualifying period is 30 days in the area of operations which is defined as, 'the area north of 10 degrees north and west of 75 degrees east, that is, the Arabian Sea including the Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf'. A list of eligible deployments is enclosed.

2. The approval was made on the basis that the units involved were directed to provide a Naval presence and participate, as required, with the United States Navy and Royal Navy forces in the waters of the Middle East. This service was equally, if not more, hazardous than that for which the ASM 1945-75 with Clasp 'FESR' was awarded for RAN service with the Far East Strategic Reserve 1955-71. Accordingly, this meets with Principle No 3 of the 1993/94 Committee of Inquiry into Defence and Defence Related Awards which states,

To maintain the inherent fairness and integrity of the Australian system of honours and awards care must be taken that, in recognising service by some, the comparable service of others is not overlooked or disregarded...

3. Any serving or former ADF members who consider they may be eligible for the ASM with Clasp 'Middle East' for this service will need to apply to the relevant Service Medals Section as follows (awards will not be made automatically):

- a. **Navy and Army.** ADF Medals Section, R1-1-D005, Department of Defence, CANBERRA, ACT, 2600; or
- b. **Air Force.** Staff Officer Medals (Air Force), Queanbeyan Annex, Department of Defence, CANBERRA, ACT, 2600.

Application may be made in writing by letter, or by use of the form 'Application for the Issue or Replacement of Defence Force Medals and Awards'. These forms are available on the Defence Web site under the resources area of Honours and Awards at address www.defence.gov.au/dpe/. All applications must reflect the applicant's Service number, rank, full name, date of birth and current postal address.

4. Request that this information be given wide promulgation.

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DHA

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10th Oct 01

Enclosure:

1. List of RAN deployments to the North West Indian Ocean

LIST OF RAN DEPLOYMENTS TO THE NORTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN

Sep – Nov 1980	HMAS STALWART HMAS SUPPLY HMAS DERWENT HMAS MELBOURNE HMAS OTAMA HMAS PERTH
Jan – May 1981	HMAS PERTH
Mar – Aug 1981	HMAS BRISBANE
Jul – Dec 1981	HMAS HOBART
Mar – Aug 1982	HMAS PERTH
Aug – Nov 1982	HMAS ADELAIDE
Mar – Jun 1983	HMAS CANBERRA
May – Jul 1984	HMAS BRISBANE
May – Jul 1985	HMAS ADELAIDE HMAS SYDNEY
May – Jul 1986	HMAS PERTH HMAS CANBERRA