CHAPTER 8

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE DECORATIONS

Introduction

8.1 Distinguished Service Decorations are awarded for distinguished service in warlike operations.\(^1\) Descriptions of Distinguished Service Decorations are contained in Volume 2, Chapter 13. Distinguished Service Decorations are:

a. **Distinguished Service Cross (DSC).** The DSC is only awarded for distinguished command and leadership in warlike operations.

b. **Distinguished Service Medal (DSM).** The DSM is only awarded for distinguished leadership in warlike operations.

c. **Commendation for Distinguished Service (CDS).** The CDS is only awarded for distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations.

Nomination and processing procedures

8.2 Nomination and processing procedures are detailed in Annex A.

Definitions

8.3 The following definitions apply:

a. **Minister** is the Minister for Defence.

b. **Warlike operations** are those operations declared by the Governor-General to be warlike.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Authority

8.4 The source documents for Distinguished Service Decorations are:


b. CAG S124 of 1 August 2012—Governor-General determination on award insignia.


Eligibility

8.6 Persons eligible to be awarded Distinguished Service Decorations are:

a. members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF); and

b. other persons determined by the Minister.

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\(^1\) The original requirement for service to be 'in action' was amended to 'in warlike operations' by Letters Patent signed 13 December 2011 and published in CAG S18 of 22 February 2012.
Awards to foreign defence force members serving on posting or exchange with the Australian Defence Force

8.7 Foreign defence force members serving on exchange or posting with the ADF may receive Distinguished Service Decorations.² However, no award may be made to a foreign defence force member without prior concurrence from the member’s government. If a nomination for an award is received for a foreign member on exchange or loan with the ADF, a recommendation can be made by the Minister through the Prime Minister to the Governor-General to offer the award to the foreign member through the relevant diplomatic channels. Once concurrence is received the Governor-General may approve the award.

Subsequent awards

8.8 Any subsequent award of the DSC or DSM to the same person shall be made in the form of a bar to the Cross or Medal, as the case may be. A subsequent award of a CDS is in the form of a warrant only.

Postnominal

8.9 Persons awarded the DSC or DSM are entitled to use the postnominal ‘DSC’ and ‘DSM’ respectively. Where a person has been awarded a bar to a decoration, the person is entitled to have placed after the letters ‘DSC’ or ‘DSM’ the words ‘and bar’ or ‘and bars’ as the case may be.

Quotas

8.10 Quotas do not apply to Distinguished Service Decorations.

Posthumous awards

8.11 Distinguished Service Decorations may be awarded posthumously.

Awards to missing personnel

8.12 Members who are missing in action may be nominated for a Distinguished Service Decoration. Nominations are to be forwarded through the operational chain-of-command to the Chief of Joint Operations (CJOPS). CJOPS will advise the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) of the details of the nomination and pass the nomination to the parent Service headquarters that will:

a. retain the details on file;

b. monitor the latest information available concerning the missing member; and

c. if the missing member subsequently returns to service or is confirmed killed, forward the nomination to the CDF for consideration.

Awards to prisoners of war

8.13 Prisoners of War (PW) may be nominated for decorations for actions or service prior to becoming captured, during captivity or as escaped PW. Such nominations are to be forwarded through the operational chain of command to CJOPS. CJOPS will advise the CDF of the details of the nomination and pass the nomination to the parent Service headquarters that will:

a. retain the nomination for further consideration at the end of the hostilities;

b. ensure that the nomination records the date that the member became a PW; and

c. monitor the latest information available and if the captured member returns to service or is confirmed killed, forward the nomination to the CDF for consideration.

Register of awards

8.14 An official register of awards is maintained by Government House. The Directorate of Honours and Awards updates members’ PMKeyS records and maintains a record of names of those who have been awarded decorations.

Cancellation and reinstatement of awards

8.15 The Governor-General may cancel an award, and may reinstate an award so cancelled, on the recommendations of both the CDF and the Minister. The policy and procedures relating to forfeiture and restoration of service awards is contained in Chapter 46—Forfeiture and restoration of Service Awards.

Precedence of awards

8.16 The precedence of honours and awards shall be in accordance with The Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards determined by the Governor-General. This can be found at http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au. A modified version is in Chapter 4, Annex A of this volume.

Post-operation nominations

8.17 End of War Lists (EOWL) have sometimes been compiled following a major conflict to provide the opportunity to review previously unsuccessful or downgraded nominations, or provide new nominations which could not be processed during the operation for a range of reasons including security. With the removal of operational award quotas, and the introduction of new procedures which allow awards to be made without breaching security, EOWLS are not expected to be required in future.

8.18 Nominations for distinguished service are to be submitted and considered no later than three years after the end of the conflict.

Annex:
A. Nomination and processing procedures for Distinguished Service Decorations