CHAPTER 12

CONSPICUOUS SERVICE DECORATIONS AND NURSING SERVICE CROSS

Introduction

12.1 The Conspicuous Service Decorations were introduced in 1989 to recognise outstanding performance, meritorious achievement or devotion to duty in a particular posting or activity by members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in non-warlike situations. Descriptions of Conspicuous Service Decorations and the Nursing Service Cross are contained in Volume 2, Chapter 15. The Conspicuous Service Decorations are:

a. **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC).** The CSC is awarded for outstanding devotion to duty or outstanding achievement in the application of exceptional skills, judgement and or dedication in non-warlike situations.

b. **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM).** The CSM is awarded for meritorious achievement or meritorious devotion to duty in non-warlike situations.

12.2 The Nursing Service Cross (NSC) was previously awarded to members of the ADF for outstanding devotion and competency in the performance of nursing duties or for an act of exceptional dedication in the performance of such duties and was available in both warlike and non-warlike circumstances. While the decoration remains within the honours system, the NSC is no longer awarded.\(^1\) Nursing service is recognised using the other honours and awards available for operational and non-operational service.

12.3 For the purposes of the NSC, nursing duties are defined as follows:

**Nursing duties.** Nursing duties are a patient-centred service and a discrete health care discipline. The focus of nursing is on the promotion of an optimal health state for the individual. Nursing encompasses the following aspects:

- the promotion of health;
- the prevention of health breakdown; and
- the care of the physically and mentally ill, and disabled and dying people of all ages in all health care settings.

Nursing duties are not immediate or short term paramedic and first aid care only.

Nomination and processing procedures

12.4 Nomination and processing procedures are detailed in Annex A.

Definition

12.5 For the purpose of this chapter a non-warlike situation is a situation in which ADF service involves all service that has not been declared to be warlike, including declared non-warlike and hazardous, and peacetime service.

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

Eligibility

12.6 Conspicuous Service Decorations may be awarded to:

a. members of the ADF;

b. other persons determined by the Minister for the purposes of the regulations. To date determinations have been made for the following categories:

1. members of a foreign defence force on loan or exchange to the Australian Defence Force; and

2. civilian employees of the Department of Defence.

Subsequent awards

12.7 In March 2012 the Chiefs of Service Committee (COSC) directed that Defence civilians would not be considered for recognition by awards of Conspicuous Service Decorations. Officers and Instructors of Cadets may be considered for Conspicuous Service Decorations if the service being recognised reflects significant contribution to Defence operations or operational capability. (COSC Agendum 5 of 12) The Ministerial Determination referred to above will be amended to reflect this direction.

12.8 Any subsequent award of the CSC or CSM to the same member shall be made in the form of a bar to the Cross or Medal as the case may be.

Authority


Postnominal

12.10 Persons awarded a Conspicuous Service Decoration are entitled to use the postnominal ‘CSC’ for the Conspicuous Service Cross and ‘CSM’ for the Conspicuous Service Medal.

12.11 Those who are awarded a bar to denote a second or subsequent award of a CSC or CSM are entitled to add ‘and bar’ or ‘and bars’ to the postnominal as the case may be.

Quotas

12.12 Regulations governing the awarding of Conspicuous Service Decorations do not stipulate a quota on the number that may be awarded. However, a self-imposed guidance figure equivalent to 125 per cent of the annual quota for appointments allowed for within the Military Division of the Order of Australia has been established by COSC for non-operational service. This figure may be varied at the discretion of CDF or COSC. There is no restriction on the number of awards that may be made for operational service.

12.13 Service allocations. Service chiefs are advised of the number of Conspicuous Service Decorations that have been allocated to their Service for the following calendar year. Service chiefs will then determine the breakdown of awards for their Service between the Australia Day and Queen’s Birthday Honours Lists.

Posthumous awards

12.14 Conspicuous Service Decorations may be awarded posthumously.

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Register of awards

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

Cancellation and reinstatement of awards

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

Precedence of awards

12.17 The precedence of honours and awards is 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, based on the official version, is in Chapter 4, Annex A.

Annex:

A. Nomination and Processing Procedures for Conspicuous Service Decorations