CHAPTER 17

AUSTRALIAN ACTIVE SERVICE MEDAL

Introduction

17.1 The Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) provides recognition for members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), and certain other persons who may be determined by the Minister, who rendered service in operations declared to be a prescribed warlike operation on or after 14 February 1975. A description of the medal is contained in Volume 2, Chapter 16.

Nomination and processing procedures

17.2 AASM nomination and processing procedures are detailed in Annex A.

Definitions

17.3 The following definitions apply:
   a. Minister is the Minister for Defence.
   b. A warlike operation is an operation that has been declared to be a prescribed warlike operation by the Governor-General.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Authority

17.4 AASM Regulations are detailed in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette (CAG) S335 of 2 November 1998.

Clasps

17.5 The AASM is initially awarded with an appropriate clasp which identifies the service being recognised. Subsequent qualifying service in different prescribed warlike operations is recognised by the awarding of additional clasps. Additional service in a prescribed warlike operation for which a medal or a clasp has already been awarded does not attract any additional award entitlements. Clasps issued with the AASM are listed in Annex B.

Eligible persons

17.6 Medals and clasps may be awarded to the following personnel who served in a prescribed warlike operation:
   a. a member or a former member of the ADF; and
   b. a person, included in a class of persons determined by the Minister.1

Qualifying service

17.7 Qualifying service for the medal and clasps are determined on an operation by operation basis. Annex B details the applicable start and end dates, the required period of qualifying service and the CAG reference for the relevant regulations and determinations.

1 Normally, medals are only awarded to members of the ADF. However, Regulations allow the Minister to make a determination that other persons are eligible for the medal and/or a particular clasp. On occasions when the Minister has made a determination, eligibility has generally been extended only to foreign defence force personnel on exchange or posting with the ADF and Defence accredited members of approved philanthropic organisations.
Regulations and determinations

17.8 CAGs and determinations detailed in this manual can be viewed at www.defence.gov.au/medals.

Wearing of medals

17.9 When wearing uniform, medals are to be worn in accordance with single-Service dress regulations. The order of wearing of medals is detailed in Chapter 4, Annex A.

Record keeping

17.10 The regulations for the AASM require that a register of awards is maintained. Directorate of Honours and Awards (DH&A) maintains this register and also records the details of members’ awards on their personal records (PMKeyS).

Cancellation and reinstatement

17.11 The regulations provide that the Governor-General may cancel the award of a medal and may reinstate an award so cancelled. Any proposal under this provision that a medal award should be cancelled or that a cancelled medal award should be reinstated is to be submitted to DH&A for consideration and action in accordance with the provisions detailed in Chapter 46—‘Forfeiture and restoration of Service Awards’.

Annexes:

A. Nomination and processing procedures for the Australian Active Service Medal
B. Eligibility for Australian Active Service Medal clasps issued to date
C. Maps of Qualifying Areas